



GENEALOGY GUIDELINES

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Revised June 2014 (1006-5000-PS)

PREFACE

This publication assembles four informational pamphlets that are intended to guide chapter registrars in the performance of their official duties. *Application Papers: Instructions for Their Preparation* (Document No. RGG-2000) was last revised in September 2012. *Guide for Chapter Registrars* (Document No. RGG-3003) was last revised in December 2010. *Is That Service Right?* (Document No. RGG-3000) and *Is That Service Right?* (Document RGG-3001) were both revised in 2005.

All of these materials are newly edited to reflect recent modifications in the verification procedure and in the types of evidence that may be considered in support of DAR applications. This pamphlet therefore supersedes all of the previous publications under the titles given above. Following the guidelines in the following pages will ensure the timely approval of applications submitted for review at National Headquarters.

Washington, D. C.

June 7, 2014

GUIDE FOR CHAPTER REGISTRARS

Introduction

This section has been prepared to summarize the major functions of the chapter registrar. All instructions are in conformity with the *DAR Handbook and National Bylaws* of the organization. Familiarize yourself with the duties and requirements of your office by studying the *DAR Handbook and National Bylaws*. Printed copies are available from the DAR Store; however, digital copies may be downloaded from the Members Website: <http://members.dar.org> A copy of the *DAR Handbook* will help you to answer questions from other members of your chapter.

In the following sections you will find specific duties of the chapter registrar, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses you will need, and a calendar which will assist you in meeting due dates.

Chapter Duties, General

The chapter registrar keeps the membership record of her chapter including the application and supplemental papers of its members. The registrar brings to the chapter the names of all prospective applicants and, once an individual has been voted upon by the chapter, assists in completing the application process. The chapter registrar sees that all application papers and supplemental papers are prepared in accordance with the instructions set forth in this guide as well as on the Members Website, and that they include the required proof and all necessary signatures. More complete instructions will follow in the “Applications Instructions” chapter that follows this one.

Registrars serve as a liaisons between the Office of the Registrar General and applicants. It is your responsibility to see to it that applications and supplementals submitted from your chapter are done in the correct format and sent with sufficient documentation to prove all facts stated therein. In the event that an application requires additional documentation, it is the responsibility of the registrar to assist the applicant with research to locate whatever documentation is needed in order to complete her application for admission to the Society. However, you are not alone! Trained DAR volunteers are available throughout the country to

assist registrars. If you need help, you just have to ask. Specifically, the Lineage Research Committee and the Volunteer Genealogist Committee serve to provide research assistance and training to those who need it. Look for links to the national level committee pages under “Committees” on the Members Website. Familiarize yourself with the work of each committee. Also, feel free to reach out to your state registrar and committee chairs.

Verification

We’ll talk more about preparing applications in the next chapter. Once an application is ready to be mailed to National, it should be sent to the Office of the Registrar General. Be advised that all mail sent to NSDAR is picked up from the Post Office by our mail room staff. Once collected, it is sorted by department then delivered. When mailing items via express services such as Priority Mail or Fedex overnight, it still may take 2-3 additional days for the mail to reach the Office of the Registrar General. Once the new application is received in Data Entry, a number of steps take place:

- First the mail is opened.
- The application, supporting documentation and check are placed in a folder. If more than one application on the same ancestor, (called “multiples”), is received, all are placed in the same folder.
- Folders are grouped together in batches of 10 applications
- Records are created for each applicant in the membership database, known as iMIS.
- Applications are reviewed for correct signatures, check amount and payee, completeness and correct format
- The application, check and supporting documentation are digitized
- If data entry personnel identify any issues with the application at this point, a “pre-verification” letter is sent to the chapter explaining what needs to be corrected
- If no letter is needed, the application folder is sent to genealogy for review.

For supplementals, the process is essentially the same, however, there is less information that has to be entered since the member’s information is already on file. From start to finish, the data entry process may take from just 1 day to several days depending on the volume of mail received. Incorrectly prepared applications may result in delays in processing. Once data entry is complete and the application has been forwarded to genealogy, it may be 6 weeks to 2 months before the paper is reviewed by a genealogist. Aside from a few exceptions, applications (and supplementals) are reviewed in the order in which they are received. The exceptions are:

- Applications for organizing chapters are automatically given priority
- Charter applicants for recently organized chapters are automatically given priority (for 1 year after the date of the chapter's organization).
- Applicants who are 90 years old or older are automatically given priority by data entry
- Applicants suffering catastrophic illness
- Applications from chapters with 15 members or fewer who have had priority status requested by the State Registrar.

In addition to these, if two or more applications on the same ancestor are received at different times and are awaiting review by a genealogist, when the first application is assigned to a genealogist, the second (or however many applications are pending) will be assigned to the same genealogist. However, during busier times, the genealogists may be authorized to set aside the paper(s) received at the later date.

If the application can be verified, a second genealogist will review the first genealogist's work. The second genealogist does NOT look at all of the documentation again. This is just a cursory review to help ensure that department procedures are being followed. Once the 2nd review is complete, the application is returned to Data Entry for final processing. All documentation submitted with the application is discarded. For security reasons, vital records and other sensitive materials are shredded. Non-sensitive materials, (census records, wills, deeds, etc.) are recycled.

In the event that an application cannot be verified, the genealogist will write the applicant for additional documentation. These letters are known as "have writtens" and will be discussed later. **No original research or pre-examination of applications will be undertaken by the Office of the Registrar General. It is the responsibility of the applicant to furnish sufficient documentation to prove the paper.**

If the application cannot be verified within the two-year limit established by the National Board of Management, the application fee will be applied toward the expense of the Office of the Registrar General in attempting to verify the application, and the dues and papers submitted shall be returned to the applicant via the chapter registrar, or directly to the applicant, if applying as a Member-at-Large. In the event that the two year time period is nearly up and the applicant or those helping her are actively conducting research on the application, registrars may request an extension. This should only be done after a 6 month warning letter has been sent from the Office of the Registrar General. Requests for extensions may be sent to genealogy@dar.org and will be evaluated on a case by case basis. A one-time extension of not more than 6 months may be granted.

Sometimes it is easier to substitute an application for another ancestor than to try and resolve a research problem. Substitute applications are permitted with new member

applications, but NOT supplemental applications. There is no additional fee for a substitute application. The steps for submitting the new paper are easy:

- Prepare a new application with the lineage, references and service for the new ancestor.
- Print out pages 2, 3 and 4 on legal size paper, in legal size format on acid free, 25% rag content paper.
- Mail the new paper along with any documentation that was not included with the original submission.
- Written permission from the applicant to change the ancestor on the original page 1 is required and should be included with the submission or may be emailed to the verifying genealogist directly.
- If changes are needed for Member 4 Member credit, a new page 1 must be submitted. NSDAR personnel CANNOT write in or make any changes to these fields. Please do not ask.
- Submit all necessary paperwork, including the “have written” letter.

If submitting a new page 1, be advised that all new signatures must be obtained: applicant, (including attestation or notarization), chapter officers and endorsers. Failure to adhere to this will result in further delays as the new page will be returned for signatures.

Have Writtens

A Have Written is simply a letter from the verifying genealogist requesting additional documentation and/or clarification. For new applicants, a copy is mailed to the applicant and to the chapter registrar listed in the records of the Office of the Organizing Secretary General. For supplementals, a copy is mailed to the member only. Letters are also viewable as PDF documents in eMembership. For applicants, see the Pending Member List under reports. For supplementals, see the Supplemental Status Report.

The Chapter Registrar should assist the applicant when a request for further documentation is made by the Office of the Registrar General. When replying, please include the letter (a copy is fine). This will help to match the new documentation up to the correct application or supplemental. The staff corresponds only with the applicant and Chapter

Registrar. Please keep the applicant informed of the status of her application and communicate with her when the Office of the Registrar General requests further information or proof.

Common reasons for receiving a Have Written include:

- **Unacceptable documentation was submitted from online sources.** For more information on how to evaluate online sources for acceptability, watch the video presentation, Online Sources, which was given at the Registrar General's Forum in 2012 and is available through the Members' Website.
- **The dates do not make sense.** Consider the ages of each individual at marriage and the date the child was born; the ages of the parents and whether they lived long enough to accommodate the child's birth. Carefully scrutinizing the dates listed can reveal incorrect lineages on applications and supplementals before they are submitted to National.
- **The places do not make sense.** For instance, parents who were born, married and died in Maine with a child born in Georgia could be problematic.
- **There is more than one person of the same name in the area.** Consider how you will distinguish between the two. Merging of identities can be problematic for your lineage and future lineages, so make sure your lineage is properly documented.
- **Step-parents and adopted parents in any generation are listed on page two.** The lineage must reflect true bloodline, which includes both parents in each generation. Remember that at adoption, original birth certificates are sealed and new ones issued by the court. It is extremely difficult to distinguish between an original birth certificate and an amended one.
- **Parents were married after the applicant was born.** This often indicates that one or both parents may be adoptive. When information of this kind is entered on an application form, an explanation must be included with the documentation. Such explanations need not go into excruciating detail. The person making the statement must be speaking from first-hand knowledge.

- **Published family history was submitted which does not meet our guidelines.** The guidelines are published on the Members' Website at this link: <http://members.dar.org/apps/submit/acceptdoc.cfm> Scroll down to Family Genealogies and County Histories. Following is a listing of the criteria, but please refer to the Members' Website for more complete information.
 - It cites acceptable sources and the sources support the compiler's conclusions.
 - It includes both dates and places for births, marriages and deaths.
 - It provides historical perspective by giving biographical details about family members.
 - It contains information given to the author by living relatives who had personal knowledge of the people and events.
 - It contains information in either the introduction or bibliography that indicates that acceptable sources were used to gather the stated facts.
 - The author had personal knowledge of people discussed in the book.
 - Available documentation does not contradict information found in the book.

In the March 2013 Webinar titled "My APP goes to Washington," common reasons for Have Writtens are discussed:

http://members.dar.org/committees/training/webinar_2013_03.htm

We strongly encourage all members to review this presentation prior to submitting applications or supplementals.

Notification of Membership

In January 2014, the National Board of Management began accepting approved applications on a monthly basis. On the 5th of each month, newly approved members are admitted. Depending on which day of the week the 5th falls, the list of new members and their National Numbers will be available in eMembership either on the 5th or the next business day. It is the responsibility of the Chapter Registrar to notify chapter members of the status and verification of supplemental applications. The member will not receive direct notification of the receipt or verification of any supplemental application (except in the case of a member-at-large).

The new member packets and certificates are mailed from the Office of the Registrar General as soon as possible after the date of admission.. It is not necessary to contact the Registrar General's Office concerning non-receipt of certificates until one month after acceptance by the National Board of Management. If a member certificate is in error, please

contact the Registrar General's Office directly for a replacement. Information for member certificates is taken primarily from page 1 of the application. If the error was made by data entry staff, we will replace the certificate. If the information was incorrectly typed on the application by the person who prepared it, there will be a charge.

A copy of the verified application paper is available on eMembership for chapter members and prospective organizing Members-at-Large. Chapter Registrars may print copies of the verified papers or keep them in electronic form for the chapter's records. A copy of an application for a Member-at-Large is mailed directly to the member. Because copies are no longer mailed, the Registrar is strongly encouraged to share a copy with the member.

Submitting Corrections to Genealogy

When previously unknown information is found that causes the service or a verified lineage(s) of an established ancestor to be questioned, the ancestor's record in the GRS will be coded to indicate that the service or lineage is no longer accepted as previously verified. The line will remain closed to new applications and supplementals until the issue is resolved. If errors are found in the lineage or the service record of an accepted ancestor, they should be brought to the attention of the Corrections Genealogists. Instructions for submitting corrections are published in the Overview & Help Section of the GRS. They are also posted on the Members Website in the Applications/Supplementals FAQs. We cannot accept corrections documentation via email.

eMembership

As Chapter Registrar, you will find that access to e-Membership is essential. To gain access to this database, you will want to contact the Office of the Organizing Secretary General at Organizing@dar.org. You will be required to complete and submit a non-disclosure agreement before you can gain access to e-Membership.

The reports tab will assist in you accessing the following reports, among others:

- Chapter List: This will have all Chapter members; you may have some editing rights.
- Pending Members List: The receive date and status of pending applications. This is an important report because this is where you can view a Have Written.
- Supplemental Status Report: This has the same data and options as the Pending

Members List, but for pending supplementals, including a status report and Have Written viewing capabilities.

- Online Chapter Applications & Supplementals: This is where your Chapter Records copies are. To view the applications you will click the 'See Apps' link. Dates available range from August 2009 until present and you can also see the latest add volume for supplemental applications. Remember to look at your Chapter record copies within the first 6 months to spot any errors and alert the Registrar General's Office.

eMembership is one of many topics covered in the Genealogical Education Program (GEP). Lesson 8 of the second course is devoted to eMembership. For an overview of the GEP courses, please visit the Volunteer Genealogist Committee page on the Members' Website: <http://members.dar.org/committees/genies/gep.htm>

Other Membership Terms

Associate members may be elected by a chapter provided that any member so elected shall be a chapter member in good standing of a primary chapter. A member may be an associate member in no more than two chapters in a state at the same time. Before being enrolled as an associate member and annually thereafter, evidence of membership in good standing in another chapter is required (a letter from the chapter stating that national dues for the current year have been paid) by the chapter granting the associate membership. An associate member is not counted toward representation and does not have the right to vote or to hold an office in the chapter in which she holds associate membership. The associate members are updated by the chapter leaders through e-Membership, Chapter Reports and Chapter Associates. This data is maintained on the member's record and readily available to approve the Associate Member pin and bars.

Chapters often classify membership as resident and nonresident, but the National Society recognizes no such classification.

The bylaws of the National Society do not provide for honorary members not regularly admitted to the National Society.

Junior members are chapter members between 18 and 35 years of age. Junior members

enjoy full privileges and rights of membership and are eligible for any chapter, state or national office.

Transfers in Membership Status

A member in good standing may transfer from one chapter to another, provided she is accepted by the chapter, or may transfer to member-at-large. A member-at-large in good standing may transfer to a chapter provided she is accepted by the chapter.

When a member is admitted or reinstated, she is eligible to transfer into a chapter or to member-at-large immediately upon request. No other member is entitled to more than one transfer in a twelve-month period of time. To count a reinstatement as a membership gain for the Chapter Achievement Awards, a member must have been dropped or resigned for more than two years.

Instructions for Transferring: Select the procedure which best describes your situation.

Transfer from one chapter to another chapter:

1. Member contacts receiving chapter.
2. Receiving chapter elects her to membership according to its bylaws, pending verification of active membership status.
3. The chapter registrar of the receiving chapter notifies the chapter registrar of the losing chapter that the member has been elected to membership in the chapter.
4. The registrar of the losing chapter sends the application paper (and supplemental application papers, if any) of the member to the receiving chapter. In the event that the applicant's application is available to the chapter via e-Membership, the electronic copy will automatically be available to the new chapter upon completion of the transfer process. The losing chapter may contact the state treasurer or registrar for assistance. The e-Membership website <http://members.dar.org>, lists the state officers. They may be accessed once the chapter membership data are displayed by selecting state officers and scrolling to the state treasurer or registrar.
5. For transfer requests during August, September, October, and November, the losing chapter must send a refund to the member of any fees collected by the losing chapter for the coming year.

6. The registrar of the losing chapter should retain for the chapter records the following information concerning the transferring member: national number, full name, last address, name of ancestor, date admitted or transferred into chapter, date transferred out, name of chapter and state to which transferred. The chapter may retain, at its own expense, a photocopy of the application and supplemental papers.
7. The registrar or a current leader of the receiving chapter completes and mails, e-mails or faxes to the Office of the Organizing Secretary General a Membership Change Form requesting transfer of the member into the chapter.
8. During the months of August, September, October, and November a Remittance Form (Chapter Dues and Fees Control Sheet) and a check or money order for the national dues for the coming year must accompany all transfer requests.
9. The transfer is effective on the date a transfer request is received from the receiving chapter by the Office of the Organizing Secretary General.
10. The losing chapter **does not** notify the Office of the Organizing Secretary General of a member transferring out of the chapter.
11. The chapter may at any time obtain an active chapter roster from the e-Membership Web Site or by e-mail request to organizing@dar.org. This provides a ready means to assure both chapters that any processing requested has taken place.

B. Transfer from a chapter (losing chapter) to member-at-large:

1. The member requests in writing that the chapter transfer her to member-at-large.
2. Chapter registrar completes and mails, e-mails or faxes a Membership Change Form indicating a transfer to member-at-large to the Office of the Organizing Secretary General.
3. During the months of August, September, October, and November, the chapter must include annual national dues with the Membership Change Form if the member's national dues for the coming year have not already been sent to national. The member can remit the member-at-large dues payment in a personal check or money order payable to Treasurer General, NSDAR with the request to be transferred to member-at-large.
4. The chapter gives the member her application paper and any supplemental papers.
5. The chapter registrar should retain the following information concerning the member: national number, full name, current address, name of ancestor, date admitted or transferred into chapter, date transferred out. The chapter may retain at its own expense

a photocopy of the application papers and any supplemental papers.

C. Transfer for a member-at-large into a chapter:

1. The member-at-large contacts the chapter.
2. The chapter elects the member-at-large to membership in the chapter according to the chapter bylaws.
3. Member-at-large gives the chapter a copy of her application papers. If the application papers have been lost or misplaced, the member is responsible for requesting a record copy of her application for membership at

http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/record_copy/?Tab_ID=10&Action=home.

However, if the application was approved since the applications have been made available in e-Membership, this step is not necessary. The application will be available to the chapter in e-Membership upon completion of the transfer process.

4. The chapter registrar completes and mails, e-mails or faxes a Membership Change Form to the Office of the Organizing Secretary General requesting the transfer into the chapter. Or, an e-mail requesting a transfer may be sent to their office at organizing@dar.org.

Resignations

A member in good standing may resign from membership in the National Society. A member desiring to leave a chapter, but not the National Society, should transfer to member-at-large instead of resigning.

To resign, a member of a chapter must send a written letter of resignation to the chapter. The chapter must immediately send a notice of the intent to resign to the Office of the Organizing Secretary General. A chapter leader (regent, vice regent, registrar, or treasurer) can also resign the member using the updates function of e-Membership. An electronic notification is automatically sent to Office of the Organizing Secretary General and to the State Registrar. A resignation takes effect on the date notice from the chapter is received in the Office of the Organizing Secretary General. The chapter should retain the written letter of resignation with the chapter records.

If a chapter receives a request for resignation in the month of November, it is extremely important that this request be processed using the updates function of e-Membership or be

received by the Office of the Organizing Secretary General postmarked on or before **November 30**. Failure to submit a resignation in a timely manner will result in the member being dropped for non-payment of dues and the chapter being responsible for paying additional fees.

When considering resignation, remember that only active members are eligible for the DAR insurance programs or to purchase and to wear pins. Also remember that once resigned, a member must reinstate before any action can be taken on their record.

Deaths

Deaths must be reported as soon as possible by a chapter leader to the Office of the Organizing Secretary General by sending a Membership Change Form via the postal services or other carrier, by e-mail at organizing@dar.org, or by using the updates function in e-Membership.

The Office of the Historian General grants permission to the chapter regents to authorize the purchase of a DAR insignia grave marker to be placed at the site of a DAR member's interment. Members should contact their chapter regent for permission to purchase a DAR marker. The procedures, permission form and authorized firms are included in the National Information packet (NIP) and on the Members' Web Site at <http://members.dar.org>, under forms and Historian General.

Member-For-Member Program

The Member-for-Member Program became effective October 12, 1996. Every member has an opportunity to share her commitment to NSDAR by promoting membership through the Member-for-Member Program. To be eligible for member-for-member credit, a member must do one of two things:

- a. identify and invite a prospective member to the chapter;
- b. research and document **significant** portions of the lineage or of the service for the prospective member's application papers.

The member who identifies and invites a prospective member to a chapter **MUST** sign the application as an endorser to receive member-for-member credit. The member who does research does NOT have to be a member of the chapter the applicant is joining. If the member who is doing the research is a member of the chapter, then she may serve as the second

endorser, but is not required to do so. **Simply typing or computer generating an application does not constitute providing research and does not qualify for member-for-member credit.**

Preparing the application from the applicant's research is part of the job of a chapter registrar and does not qualify for member-for-member credit. The chapter registrar can sign for member for member credit ONLY if she has done significant research in completing the application paper or invites the prospective member.

A member assisting the applicant may receive member-for-member credit regardless of the chapter the applicant joins or whether she joins as a member-at-large. No more than two members can take credit for a new member. If more than two members' names are typed in the member for member section, then **NO ONE WILL RECEIVE CREDIT**. For example, credit may be given to the member who introduces the prospective member to the chapter and also to the member who researches her application papers. The names of those receiving member-for-member credit MUST be typed on the application before the prospective member signs the application. The signature of the applicant provides her approval of those to receive member-for-member credit. Nothing should ever be added to an application after the signatures are obtained. Member-for-member credit is NOT given for supplemental applications. The current member for member policy became effective on 8 February 2012.

APPLICATION PAPERS: INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR PREPARATION

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded October 11, 1890 for historic, educational and patriotic purposes. "Any woman is eligible for membership in the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution who is not less than eighteen years of age, and who is lineally descended from a man or woman who, with unfailing loyalty to the cause of American Independence, served as a sailor, or a soldier or civil officer in one of the several Colonies or States, or in the United Colonies or States as a recognized patriot, or rendered material aid thereto: provided the applicant is personally acceptable to the society." (NSDAR Bylaws; ARTICLE III. Sec. 1)

THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL examines all applications for membership, approves those meeting eligibility requirements, and presents them to the National Board of Management for election into membership.

The chapter accepting a prospective member is responsible for assisting her in completing her application paper. Application papers are to be prepared according to the directions and information contained in this booklet as well as on the Members Website. The Office of the Registrar General does not do original research, NOR does this office "pre-judge" the acceptability of lineage, service or documentation.

Tools That Each Chapter Needs

CURRENT DAR HANDBOOK AND NATIONAL BYLAWS

This is published once during each Administration and is available on the Members' Website. The answers to most membership related questions are found in this compilation.

THE GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SYSTEM

The GRS ANCESTOR DATABASE contains the names of Revolutionary War Patriots whose service and identity have been established by the NSDAR. The GRS replaces the previously published editions of the Patriot Index. Revolutionary ancestor records are constantly reviewed and revised as better documentation is received. This website reflects current documented information and should be reviewed before submitting an application. Unless providing **new documentation**, applications and supplementals should be prepared using the information available in the Ancestor Database. For further information about the content of the GRS, please see the Genealogy section of the Members Website under Applications/Supplementals.

GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

In 2012, the DAR launched an online education program. This series of online courses replaces field classes and in-house classes that were led by DAR Staff Genealogists. These courses provide far more detailed instructions on documenting and completing DAR applications and supplementals. All registrars are encouraged to take these courses. More information is available on current courses, their content and fees on the Members Website under the Volunteer Genealogist Committee page at:

<http://members.dar.org/committees/genies/gep.htm>

Upon completion, trained volunteers may conduct workshops to help others learn the proper methods in preparing DAR applications and supplementals. Conducting workshops count toward the Volunteer Field Genealogist Pin. In addition, trained volunteers may be assigned to a chapter to assist with applications and teach chapter members how to properly prepare them.

RECORD COPY

You may request copies of application papers for information on the lineage of DAR members, or on patriots established by these members.

Application and supplemental application papers of active, deceased, resigned, or dropped DAR members may be ordered for a nominal fee. Online ordering provides near instantaneous delivery of orders via the Internet at a lesser fee than orders obtained through mail. Please consult the Library webpage on the DAR website for current fees.

Online Orders.

Using a credit card, customers may order a record copy electronically and will receive almost instantly a link to a pdf for printing the record copy at home once the payment has been authorized. The link will be valid for one week after the date of the order. Use the DAR's online **Genealogical Research System** (GRS) to help choose the record copy you wish to order. The GRS supersedes the old *DAR Lineage Books* (166 volumes) and the various published versions of the *DAR Patriot Index* (most recent: red cover, 2003, 3 vols.).

Mail Orders

Complete one copy of the Request for Record Copy (PDF) form <http://members.dar.org/darnet/forms/LGL-1000.PDF> for each paper you wish to order. Include a check in the proper amount made payable to "Treasurer General NSDAR" with your order. If you are requesting a copy of more than one application or multiple copies of one application, you may pay with one check for the total amount and include all of the forms in the same envelope. All orders are processed in order of their receipt. Mail record copy orders to: Library

Copy Services, DAR Library, 1776 D Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-5303. Please do not address the order only to the DAR Library.

Faxed Orders

You may also order record copies by fax using the Request for Record Copy (PDF) form at <http://members.dar.org/darnet/forms/LGL-1000.PDF>. Payment may be made with Visa, MasterCard, or Discover Card. Faxed orders will be processed in order of their receipt along with mail order requests. Fax record copy orders to: (202) 777-2372

The checks should be made payable to Treasurer General, NSDAR. If the record is not available, the fee is applied to the cost of the search, and is NOT refundable nor may it be transferred to another record copy request.

When using the Record Copy Request Form for information about the patriot, provide the name of the revolutionary ancestor, birth and death dates, or state of service, and the child through whom you descend (if known). If no one has joined the Society through that particular line, you will be sent a copy of the latest long-form application on the requested patriot. You may determine whether an application has been verified for a specific patriot by using the DAR's online **Genealogical Research System** (GRS).

When requesting a member's paper, please provide as much information about the individual as possible. If you want a copy of your own paper, please provide your national number. To order a copy of a specific member's paper, include her full name and national number, if known. If you request a specific national number or member's name, you could receive the short form application paper if that is what they originally submitted.

This office does not assume responsibility for the completeness of any paper. Photocopies of papers are the best available, if the original copy is poor, the duplicate will be poor. Do not include a request for any other information or department with your order for application papers. Requests for documentation used to verify an application must be requested through the DAR Library Search Service, not the Office of the Registrar General.

Preparation of Application Papers

This is an expanded version of the STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING DAR APPLICATION PAPERS accompanying each application form. "STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS" is a quick, succinct guide but is not complete.

The application paper is the Society's permanent record of membership. It must be typed or computer generated. Application Blank Forms may be computer generated using the **current** PDF version of the application form. Applications generated with the DAR application software are no longer acceptable. The application software is no longer supported so it is strongly recommended that you convert any files created using the application program to the PDF file format. A conversion utility is available on the Members' Web Site from the Application/Supplemental page.

The application must **be printed on acid-free, 25% rag content legal size paper** as specified by the DAR. Blank paper may be purchased from The DAR Store. When buying paper from a vendor other than the DAR Store, it is imperative that you verify the paper is acid-free and contains at least 25% rag content. Care should be taken to ensure that computer generated papers have the same spacing and printed appearance as the standard blank forms. The pages must also be in the correct order.

One copy of the application is to be prepared. The applicant must sign her own application. The applicant's two endorsers must be active members of that chapter and personally know the applicant. The applicant's signature may be notarized or have the attest of one of the following chapter officers: Regent, First Vice Regent, Recording Secretary, Treasurer or Registrar.

After examining the completeness of the application the Chapter Regent and Registrar must sign on page one of the application. If one or both of the above officers are not available to sign the application papers, the chapter first vice regent, recording secretary or treasurer may sign the application. If this is done, the officer should sign her name, followed by her office title. If her signature is not legible, her name may be typed or printed below the signature line. These signatures indicate that the application has been examined and the applicant has been voted into membership in the chapter, pending verification of the application by the Office of the Registrar General.

Officers signing an application paper must be current officers of the same chapter, and endorsers must be members in good standing of the chapter, as of the date of the applicant's signature. All signatures must be inscribed with a pen, not photocopied. The application paper must be submitted with a chapter check in the appropriate amount for fees and dues payable to the Treasurer General, NSDAR, and mailed together with proof data to the **Office of the Registrar General, NSDAR**, for processing.

The names of those receiving Member for Member credit must be typed in the correct spaces before the prospective member signs. Endorsements may not be added after obtaining the other signatures.

An applicant may elect to join the National Society as a Member-at-Large (without chapter affiliation.) The application must be endorsed by two members in good standing of the same state, to whom the applicant is personally known, and be signed by the State Regent of one of the endorsing member's states (See Bylaws, Article III, Section 2b). Applicants are encouraged to join chapters in order to participate more fully in the work of the Society.

It is recommended that you consult the checklist for applications and supplementals, included in the National Information Packet (NIP) and also available on the Members' Web Site (<http://members.dar.org>, under Forms, Registrar General, Application Checklist), to be sure that all necessary items and signatures are included. This should be retained with chapter records and not submitted to National.

The Application

Page One is the official record of DAR membership. Copies of this page are not provided to the public in record copies.

- State—state in which the chapter is located.
- City—city or town in which the chapter is located.
- Name of Chapter—full name, for member-at-large write “member-at-large.”
- Computer Code Number—assigned by the National Society. This can be found on the computer printout from the Treasurer General or on e-Membership.
- DAR National Number—leave blank. This will be assigned by the Office of the Registrar General after the National Board of Management has elected that applicant into membership. A national number, once granted to a member, is always reserved for that member, even if her chapter affiliation changes.
- Name—use full name, not initials (first, middle, maiden, last). This name and applicant’s signature should be identical.
- Single—Wife—Widow—Divorced—check the appropriate square. Give the husband’s full name, not initials. Documentation regarding previous marriages must be submitted to explain name changes.
- Residence—give Post Office box number and street address if you have both.
- E-mail and Telephone Number—provide if available.
- Print or type the name **exactly** as you wish it to appear on the DAR Certificate. This name need not agree with the name above or with the applicant’s signature. NSDAR is not responsible for typographical errors made by those preparing the application. It is the responsibility of the chapter and applicant to proofread this information.
- Revolutionary Ancestor—provide his or her complete name, if known. Don’t use initials. Please don’t add titles, rank or state of service on this line.
- Signatures—all signatures should be in black ink. Sign your first, middle or maiden name and your surname.
- Member for Member—Two DAR members may receive Member for Member Credit. The name and national number of each person **MUST BE** typed on the form in order to receive credit. Handwritten information will not be processed. DAR staff cannot add this

information. No exceptions will be made. In the event that more than two names are given, no one will receive credit.

- Endorsed in Handwriting by —The endorser fills in her DAR national number, and signs her given name, middle or maiden name and surname.
- Residence—City or town and state (street address is not necessary).
- Chapter—The full name of the chapter must be the same as above. Endorsers must be members in good standing of this chapter to whom the applicant is personally known. They recommend her for membership.

Notarization

The DAR accepts the attest of the Chapter Regent and Chapter Registrar to the applicant's signature on the application form. If one or both of these officers are unavailable, the Chapter Vice Regent, Recording Secretary or Treasurer may sign in their place, putting their title after their signature. The applicant is stating that the information she has provided is true to the best of her knowledge and that the proof she has provided is accurate. This oath should not be made lightly.

If the applicant is unable to sign in the presence of the chapter officers, her signature must be notarized. Applications for membership in an organizing chapter must be notarized because the chapter has no elected officers. When it is impractical to have a copy of a record certified by a notary, the National Society will accept a copy attested to and signed by the applicant in the presence of the Chapter Registrar and another Chapter officer. The Chapter Registrar and other Chapter officer sign in lieu of the notary.

Eligibility Clause

Applicants should read the Eligibility Clause on page one of the application as quoted from the DAR Bylaws, Article III, Section 1.

The applicant affirms that she is eligible for membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution through the ancestor named on the application paper and that the statements set forth are true to the best of her knowledge. Her signature on the application is indication that she has proofread the application. Any typographical errors made during the preparation of the application are the responsibility of the chapter and applicant.

If she is a United States citizen, she pledges allegiance to the United States of America and agrees to support its Constitution.

Lineage

Page Two

- **Under no circumstances should any information be typed with parentheses around it.** Fields for which information cannot be documented should be left blank. Be advised that applications with a large amount of blanks will be returned to the chapter for additional research and documentation.
- **Applicant's Name**—Full name of applicant, first, middle, maiden, last. (No initials, please.)
- **Born on**—day, month, year (*e. g.*, 1 Jan 1940); **at**—City/Town/Township, County, State (*e.g.* Sullivan Sullivan Co IN NOT Sullivan Sullivan IN or Sullivan/Sullivan/IN). Commas are optional; however for long place names, omitting them will save space.
- **Married on**—date in same format as above; **at**—place in same format.
- **To**—Full name of husband, again with no initials; **Born on**—date in same format; **at**—place of birth in same format; **died or divorced**—if either has occurred, type the word, and state the date and place. If the applicant has been married more than once, she is encouraged to send proof of any marriages not listed on the lineage paper. Specifically, please explain any name changes. Be aware that if documentation is not included for a marriage, (this includes the husband's complete birth information) resulting in children, daughters or granddaughters wishing to join the DAR will be required to submit the documentation.
- **I am the daughter of**—Name of birth father, not adoptive father. (The male name is on the first line throughout the lineage.) **Born on**—date of father's birth; **at**—City/Town/Township, County, State.
- **Died at**—City/Town/Township, County, State; **on**—Date of Death; **and his () wife**. A number may be entered between the parentheses to designate the number of the husband's marriage. This is acceptable in every generation but required only for the patriot and the patriot's child.
- Name of applicant's birth mother—not adoptive mother. Use maiden name, not

married name.

- **Born on**—date of birth; **at**—City/Town/Township, County, State.
- **Died at**—City/Town/Township, County, State; **on**—date of death; **Married**—date; **at**—place. The location, County, and State should be accurate as of the time of the event.
- This procedure is to be followed for each succeeding generation, including that of the Revolutionary ancestor. **It is necessary to complete all generations from the applicant to the Revolutionary War ancestor.**

The applicant should give complete dates and places for the first three generations—herself, her parents and grandparents—as well as appropriate documentation to support these data. The applicant must provide a copy of her birth certificate or equivalent document naming both parents. Vital records or obituaries are preferred for these generations. Estimated ages and places of birth and death from census records are not acceptable if more complete information may be obtained from the aforementioned records or their equivalents. In rare cases, when such proof truly cannot be obtained, a statement should accompany the paper showing steps taken to acquire the data and the reason it is not provided. **Personal letters stating that such records are “not available” are not acceptable reasons for not providing the documents.** Most states allow close family members access to recent vital records. Newspaper announcements of births, marriages and deaths; funeral home records and church records are examples of alternative sources of information that are typically publicly available. For living individuals, the fields for death date and death place must be left blank.

Information for individuals in generation 4 and earlier should be filled in **as completely as possible**, and proof should be submitted for each name, date, and place given. If individuals in these generations lived in a time and place when vital records are readily available, incomplete information will not be accepted. When dates or places of birth, marriage or death cannot be documented, leave the space provided blank. No application will be accepted with a large amount of data lacking for these generations. An application cannot be accepted without documentation for at least one place and date reflecting the age of each person in each generation.

The terms Jr. and Sr, I, II, III etc.. are not to be used on page two. The Society reserves these terms to distinguish between father and son of the same name when both were of an age to have provided service during the Revolution. Omit professional and military titles such as Dr., Rev., and Col.

Dates and places of birth and death must be given for the Revolutionary War ancestor. When exact dates cannot be given, approximate dates, such as those based upon the date of marriage, the dates of wills, deeds, etc. should be provided. In all cases, it must be shown that the place the ancestor resided is consistent with the place where the service is claimed, and that the ancestor was of sufficient age to have performed the service claimed for him or her.

The Revolutionary ancestor is always the last generation in the line of descent. Please do not go beyond the Patriot in your lineage.

References for Lineage

Page Three

The National Society reserves the right to determine the acceptability of all documentation provided for lineage. **Data submitted as proof are subject to NSDAR standards and interpretation.**

The applicant's birth date and place **MUST** be supported by a copy of her birth certificate or other documentation naming both parents and the child's full date of birth. Many states issue a short form birth certificate, which does not include the names of parents. Check the completeness of the applicant's birth certificate. Documentation is required for all dates, places and relationships given in the lineage, if not previously furnished. For example, the applicant's mother or grandmother may have been a DAR member who was not required to furnish documentation of birth or marriage. In such a case, the applicant does need to submit that data. Additional documentation will be needed to prove location of events when connecting to an early DAR application where dates of birth and death and/or locations were not listed.

Lineage papers from other organizations, family group sheets and family tree charts, are not acceptable as documentation. Undocumented lineages found on the Internet do not meet DAR standards. Some Internet items may be acceptable as proof, but they must be evaluated on an individual basis. Consider the citation of the source used to substantiate the claim made.

Examples of acceptable documents are birth, death, and marriage certificates, Bible records—with the title page and date of publication if available, church and cemetery records, census records 1850 or later, wills, deeds, estate papers, diaries, old letters, and school records. **County histories and family genealogies may be acceptable documentation in some instances.** They must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in context with the lineage. Just because a book is in the DAR Library does NOT mean it is automatically accepted. In all instances, provide enough evidence to prove beyond question that the name, date, place and relationship, on the document refer to the correct person in the applicant's lineage.

Copies of the relevant pages for all documents cited must be submitted with the application. Failure to do so may result in a request for the documentation. Only one copy of each document should be submitted. Do not send original documents, as all documentation becomes the property of the DAR and is not returned to the applicant or chapter. Do not send multiple copies of any documentation that applies to more than one generation of the lineage. Instead, list all the appropriate generations on the back of a single copy. File all pages of a multi-page document together. Please keep a copy of everything you send for your records.

On the reverse side of each piece of documentation, write the name of the applicant, the name of the Revolutionary ancestor, the name of the DAR Chapter, the date submitted and the number of the generation for which it is used as evidence. Photographs of tombstones should

include a transcription of the information on the tombstone as well as the name and location of the cemetery where the grave is located. If the photo is in digital format, print it on acid photo quality paper and identify the name and location of the cemetery. Print the inscription below the photo. Please note the following on the popular website, Findagrave.com:

We do not accept Findagrave Memorials. This includes data on relationships (spouses, parents and children); maiden names; and places of birth and death. We do accept information that is visibly legible on tombstone photos when the tombstone clearly dates from the time of the subject's death. In the event that images of other records, such as vital records and obituaries have been digitized and attached to memorials, we may accept those. Some memorials have transcriptions of obituaries. These may be acceptable provided it is clear that the transcription has not been annotated. We reserve the right to request a copy of the published obituary in lieu of a transcription.

The above also applies to other similar websites such as BillionGraves.com and Ancestry.com's "Findagrave.com" indexes.

Arrange all documents by generations from the applicant to the Revolutionary ancestor. Send clear, readable copies of documents that can be digitized. Do not mark documents with highlighter. Highlighted text often cannot be reproduced when filmed or scanned. You may underline the pertinent information with a red pen or pencil. Please do not staple any pages.

In the References for Lineage area of the application paper, in the space allotted, list the documentation you use for each generation, including documents to prove the relationship between generations. If using another application paper to prove some generations, cite the national number, plus the add volume with the ancestor's name if a supplemental. For unpublished material, such as deeds, probate records, et cetera, note the source—such as county, state, and book with page number. Do not glue or staple a separate sheet onto the application. When using census records, give complete citations. For example, 1850 US Census Jackson Co, MS, p 50; NOT just "1850 census".

Remember that page three is reserved for source citations. It is not only unnecessary, but counterproductive to summarize the information in this section. If a fuller description is needed to aid in the sources' interpretation and analysis, it should be printed separately and filed in the supporting documentation.

Example:

Gen1: BC, BC, MC

NOT

Gen1: birth certificate of applicant naming both parents, date and place of birth; birth certificate of husband naming parents, date and place of birth; marriage certificate of applicant and husband identifying date and place of marriage

For additional examples, please refer to the Members' Website.

Ancestor's Service

Page Four

On page four, give the complete place of residence: town, (if applicable) county and state of the ancestor during the Revolutionary War, his highest rank (Revolutionary War service only), the state of service and a brief description of his or her service(s). For references in published military records, give the title, author, volume, and page of the source you are citing. If using the Build-An-App utility, the information that is available in the GRS will automatically be included on the electronic application. If the source for service is listed in the GRS, it is not necessary to include a copy with the new application.

The place of residence during the Revolution must be given as fully as possible. Sources used to prove his/her residence may not be the same source as that used to prove service. For instance if you have proof of your ancestor's service on a jury, you should find another document, such as a tax record, to prove residence. Residence must be shown to be consistent with other life events for the person. For example, if an ancestor was born and died in Massachusetts, but residence and service in New Jersey are claimed, documentation must be provided to show that the person moved from Massachusetts to New Jersey and then back to Massachusetts. If there is more than one person of the same name, in the same place, it must be CONCLUSIVELY proved that the service belongs to the ancestor the applicant claims. When the service can be clearly identified with the ancestor in some other way, such as a pension or bounty land application, the exact residence may not be required.

The Ancestor Number is the computer number assigned by NSDAR for every established patriot. The number is included in the ancestor's record in the GRS. Please do not leave it blank. For new ancestors, there is obviously no number so leave it blank. The Build-an-App utility automatically includes the Ancestor Number.

It must be demonstrated that the ancestor, with unfailing loyalty to the cause of American Independence, served as a sailor, soldier, civil officer or rendered acceptable patriotic service. It must also be proven that the service claimed belonged to the ancestor named.

The best evidence possible should be used to prove Revolutionary War service. Federal records, such as the compiled military service records and Papers of the Continental Congress, are acceptable when it can be demonstrated that the referenced sources pertain to the ancestor claimed. Original petitions are often available in the courthouse of the counties in which they were made. Records of military and other service may be obtained from state and county accounts.

Contemporary letters from the persons serving, or from someone receiving the information directly from the person who performed the service, may be proof of service.

If unpublished sources are used, photocopies of the original record should be submitted

and must contain the date and place of record, i.e. town or county and state.

Reference to published records must give the name of the author, title of the book, date of publication, volume and page number. To expedite the review of the application, include copies of references for service if not already listed in the patriot's record in the GRS. Failure to do so may result in delays in the verification of the application. Keep in mind that the DAR Library may not have a copy of the source you are citing. Include a copy of the title page, which shows the copyright date, and pages that contain pertinent information. Examples of works often used as proof of Revolutionary War service are:

1. Lists of Revolutionary War soldiers or accounts compiled entirely from official sources
2. Records of the various states or of the Federal Government
3. Records taken from a town or county giving the exact entry for service as it appears in the record of that town or county

Family genealogies stating that a person performed Revolutionary War service are not acceptable as proof. Such claims must be documented using acceptable records. A grave marked as that of a Revolutionary soldier is NOT proof of service. **Do not cite the DAR Patriot Index or a national number as the source for service.** If the service source is not listed in the GRS, proof of service must be submitted with the application. In the event that service cannot be verified, the line may be closed to membership. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide proof of her ancestor's service. Prior to any submission, it is in the best interest of applicants and members to carefully review the GRS for other individuals of the same name who may have been credited with the same service. In this event, applicants will have to provide conclusive evidence of which man performed the service claimed. For expanded discussion of acceptable sources for Revolutionary War service, see Chapter 3, ["Is That Service Right?"](#)

Spouses of Revolutionary War Ancestor

All information on page four pertaining to the names of the Revolutionary War ancestor's spouses and children may be included for informational purposes. Such information does not constitute proof of any lineal descent except for the spouse and child who carry the lineage forward on page two.

The applicant may name the spouse(s) of the Revolutionary War ancestor with date and place of marriage, if known. The listing of spouses should agree with that found in the GRS, unless new documentation is being provided. Verification of all known spouses is required on a New Ancestor.

Children of Revolutionary War Ancestor

Name all children, if known, with dates of birth and the name of the child's spouse(s). When

the ancestor's children are from more than one marriage, please indicate in some way which children are from which spouse.

The list of the patriot's children may be helpful as a guide; It is not necessary to prove children of the ancestor other than the one through whom the applicant descends. Acceptable documentation is required to prove descent when the lineage through a new child has not already been verified.

Note: Should you have in your possession a will, a Bible or other definite proof of children of the Revolutionary ancestor, we would appreciate a photocopy for our records. This will help other applicants.

Starter Application: Build an App

The Starter Application, aka Build an App, is a utility that is built into the Descendants Database that can be used to generate an application using the lineage data from a specific application. The lineage data are used to populate the appropriate fields on the PDF application. The application is formatted as an Adobe "Reader Enabled" and can be modified as necessary once downloaded. It also can be shared with prospective members to expedite the application process. In order to protect the privacy of members and their families, the most recent generations may not be included. The utility is included in both the e-Membership and the Members' Web Site versions of the GRS. It is NOT included in the public website version of the GRS. For more information on how to use this feature, please see the Members' Web Site. An archived webinar on the DAR Leadership Training page provides step-by-step instructions on how to use Build an App. There are a few important reminders:

- This will create a working copy of an application form. It will **NOT** give you a finished product.
- If the National Number that is used to generate the application does not meet current genealogical standards, additional documentation will be required in order to ensure the current applicant's paper is completed according to current guidelines.
- Always look at more recent applications, as these may contain more complete information which can eliminate the need for additional research.
- Use the Descendants Database search to look to see if portions of the lineage appear on other applications, either on the same ancestor or a different ancestor.

Multiple Applications

When two or more members of the same family wish to join the DAR through the same Revolutionary War patriot, the applications should be submitted together. Only one set of documentation needs to be included for shared generations. Send the applications in the same package. One chapter check is sufficient for the total amount due depending on the number of

applications. Unless otherwise requested applications will be verified in the order of the age of the applicants, beginning with the oldest applicant. The Office of the Registrar General strongly discourages family members joining on different lines at the same time. Consecutive numbers cannot be guaranteed in these cases, and multiple applications on the same ancestor can be processed more quickly

Admission from C.A.R. to DAR

Admission from C.A.R. to DAR is not automatic. A Certificate of Good Standing from the C.A.R. should be obtained through the C.A.R. Senior Society officers and is accepted in lieu of the DAR application fee. The completed DAR application paper, together with the Certificate of Good Standing and a check for one year's DAR dues made payable to Treasurer General, NSDAR, must be submitted prior to the applicant's twenty-second birthday.

Application papers should be prepared exactly as for any new DAR member, following DAR requirements for the forms, and complete with all required documentation. Documentation should be submitted to connect the C.A.R. member to a DAR national number. C.A.R. does not routinely require or retain documentation for the first three generations. When accepted by NSDAR, the C.A.R. member becomes a new member, not a transferred member. It is permissible for a young woman to hold dual membership in NSDAR and N.S.C.A.R. between the ages of 18 and 22.

Supplemental Papers

Supplemental papers are submitted by members who wish to record lines of descent from patriots other than that of their original application. Papers are prepared in the same manner as applications and requirements for documentation are identical. Supplemental papers go through the same process of examination as applications. The records they establish are of equal importance and require the same care and research.

Requirements for page one of the supplemental differ slightly from application papers. It is not necessary that the paper be signed by the Chapter Regent, or be endorsed by two members of the chapter. The Chapter Registrar (or State Regent for a member-at-large) must sign, and the member's national number should be given, with the name and location of the chapter. If the Chapter Registrar is not available to sign the supplemental application, it may be signed by the Chapter Regent, First Vice Regent, Recording Secretary or Treasurer. If this is done, she signs her name, followed by the title of her office.

Supplemental papers do not need to be notarized or have the member's signature attested by the Chapter Registrar. However, the member is affirming that the named ancestor is her ancestor and that the statements set forth in the paper are true to the best of her knowledge

and belief. Before signing, the registrar must review the supplemental to make sure that it has been completed correctly and that the lineage and service meet current standards.

For a supplemental, the member pays the same processing fee as for an application. The National Society retains this fee, whether or not the supplemental paper can be verified. The fee cannot be transferred to prove an ancestor other than the one originally submitted.

Lineage Research Committee

The Lineage Research Committee was established in 1961 to assist prospective members to prove their lineage. The committee does not work on supplemental lines.

After exhausting all readily available resources, a specific request can be entered on the Lineage Research Lookup (LRL) Board. For instructions on how to request help from the Lineage Research Lookup (LRL) Board go to the DAR Members' Web Site, at the link given below. This page can also be accessed through the Lineage Research Committee page on the Members' Web Site. This service is available for prospective applicants only.

<http://members.dar.org/committees/lineage/lrboard/lvlrba.cfm>

The Lineage Research Committee also has a Facebook group which performs Image Access lookups upon request as well as answering general questions about documentation and application preparation.

IS THAT LINEAGE RIGHT?

The previous chapters focused on the duties of the registrar and preparing and submitting applications and supplementals. *Is That Lineage Right?* provides more detailed information on researching and interpreting evidence for DAR applications.

When an application for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution is prepared, it will be examined by the registrar of the chapter that the prospective member wishes to join. The Chapter Registrar will ensure that the application is filled out properly. The following information will help the registrar evaluate the application.

All names are to be listed fully: William Henry Harrison is preferable to W.H. Harrison or William Harrison. Jr. and Sr. are not to be used as the Society reserves these terms to distinguish father and son of the same name, when both could have provided service in the Revolution.

Dates should be completed in the format of Day, Month and Year (DD MMM YYYY) whenever known. If dates of birth, marriage or death are truly unknown, leave the space blank, but documentation must be submitted to show that the person was living at the time of the birth of the child through whom the applicant descends. When exact dates are not known, a date of birth may be estimated by subtracting a recorded age from the date of the record. Let's look at an example.

Mary Smith's complete date and place of birth and death are not known. In 1860, she was living in Erie Co, PA. Her age was reported as 25 and her place of birth was given as PA. On the application, her date of birth should be entered as "c 1835" and her place of birth as "PA." Her date of death should be listed as "p 1860" and her place of death should be listed as either "liv Erie Co PA" or just "Erie Co PA." If the applicant descends from Mary's daughter Elizabeth and Elizabeth was born in 1862, then the 1860 census should NOT be used as proof of her death date and place. Remember that it must be shown that Mary was alive when Elizabeth was born. Since the 1860 census is two years before Elizabeth's birth, another record must be used. This could be the 1870 census or other records such as deeds and probate records so long as they show Mary was alive when Elizabeth was born.

Dates given for each generation should be logical. Scrutinize marriages contracted at very early ages. Beware of extreme longevity and the birth of a child late in a mother's life. Care must be taken to insure that extra generations have not been added, nor generations omitted. The application must be reasonable and biologically possible.

All locations should be expressed in the preferred format: City, County, State; for example, Columbus, Muscogee Co, GA. Commas to separate the location elements are optional, but the county must always be designated with the abbreviation Co. The use of the current two-letter postal abbreviations for U. S. states is also encouraged.

The Chapter Registrar will determine that all information given on the lineage paper can be supported by documentation. Photocopies should be provided from any printed sources in the DAR Library that are used for documentation. If a previously accepted application is to be used, give the name of the member, her National number if known, and ancestor number from the DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS).

References must be condensed to fit the generations field on page three. All published and unpublished items that are sources to verify the dates, names, locations and relationships on page two are to be cited on page three. (See [Citation of Sources](#).) It is recommended that the applicant submit no more documentation than necessary to establish all of the names, dates, locations, and relationships that are described on page two. Please do not cite sources for the patriot's service and residence on page three.

The Chapter Registrar will examine the service claimed for the ancestor of the prospective member. The dates on which the service was rendered must fall within the guidelines set by the Society. The type of service and the source must be acceptable to the Society. Service will be discussed in much more detail in the next chapter, *Is That Service Right?*

If the application does not pass the above scanning procedure, the Chapter Registrar will advise the applicant. She should make specific suggestions concerning the changes required on the paper and specific requests for additional data which may be needed. After the application is found acceptable by the Chapter Registrar, it will be submitted to an additional verification process by the National Society. Make sure the applicant understands that a request for further documentation does not mean the National Society disapproves her application.

The verifying genealogist at National will compare the lineage portion of the application with the documentation submitted by the applicant to be sure that no typographical or factual

errors have been made. Beginning with the applicant and working toward the Revolutionary War ancestor, each reference given on the paper will be checked to see that all names, dates, and places are correct and that documentation is presented to show that the persons listed in each generation actually were the parents of the child through whom the applicant claims descent.

If no contradictions can be found on the information given on the application, the lineage is presumed to be correct and the paper may be accepted.

If it is determined that an error, or possible error, has been made, the applicant will be notified of the problem and further documentation will be requested, or the applicant may be asked to apply using a substitute ancestor.

When an incomplete paper (with few dates and places, and no references given for lineage or service) is used as a basis for a new application, the applicant must furnish sufficient information to adequately identify each person named in the line of descent. She must produce such additional documentation as needed to conform to our requirement that her application show “one date and place” for every individual in the lineage. She must also document the Revolutionary War ancestor with his place of residence and service during the Revolution.

DOCUMENTATION

DAR Standards of Acceptability

The National Society requests that application papers be proven by the *best possible documentation*. Vital records—documents made for the purpose of officially recording a birth, death, or marriage—and baptismal records are usually the best documentation to verify parentage for recent generations, and to document exact dates and places. Exact dates of birth and death are required for the first three generations of the lineage.

Photocopies of all supporting documents should be submitted with an application paper. The applicant should not submit original records or certified copies. Documentation submitted in support of an application will not be returned to the applicant. Please provide the best copy of the document and do not alter the photocopy. When an original cannot be

photocopied due to fragile condition or when a repository does not allow for photocopies or digital copies to be made, provide a transcript of the original. Be sure to copy *exactly*, using spelling and punctuation identical to the original. Before such a document may be used for a DAR application paper, it may be notarized. (See [Notarization](#).)

Include copies of all sources, including copies of documents within the DAR Library and DAR databases. The verifying genealogist will not pull these records. All of the pertinent pages must be copied, as well as the title page and the page containing the copyright date.

Some readily available sources are not acceptable forms of documentation. Such sources include online family pedigree charts from *Ancestry.com*, International Genealogical Index (IGI) entries from *Family Search*, *RootsWeb* and *USGenWeb* trees that are user submitted entries, and message board entries with genealogy database generated charts. More information on acceptable online documentation appears on the Members' Web Site:

- Acceptability of Documentation, under Internet Sources:
<http://members.dar.org/apps/submit/acceptdoc.cfm>
- Registrar General's Forum, 2012, video presentation:
<http://www.youtube.com/embed/MdLojciT8Xw>

We do not accept lineage papers from any other hereditary society as proof of lineage. Please do not cite or submit them.

When several documents must be used to prove a single point, attach an explanation of the problem to be solved, and the documents proving the conclusion reached. For DAR purposes, this procedure is called an Analysis. The Society genealogist does not have time to work out complex problems, and the burden of proof falls upon the applicant to make her case. Guidelines for submitting an analysis are posted on the Members Website under Acceptability of Documentation. In addition, the first half of GEP 3 is devoted to compiling an analysis.

Revolutionary War service should be proven by the best documentation obtainable. Photocopies of original pay vouchers or muster rolls, as kept in state archives, are best to prove military service. Lists of these soldiers have been published, and some are acceptable to the Society if the lists appear to have been compiled from reliable sources by accurate copyists.

Town and county records are the sources usually used to prove civil and patriotic service. Photocopies of such records should contain the date and place of record. Civil lists and abstracts of court minutes in some locations have been published; such sources are generally accepted by the Society as proof of service. However, we may not accept civil and patriotic service based on sources that originate in areas that were under British occupation and control during the Revolution.

Reviewing the Documentation

Each generation will need to be documented to place each individual accurately within the family, and based on reliable evidence. When providing documents for the lineage, evaluation of said documents is done by the registrar, applicant or member to see if it will meet DAR criteria. Terminology used by the DAR Genealogy department that will be useful to know:

Documentation: The written material that conveys genealogical information.

Evidence: The piece of information in a document that answers a genealogical question.

Original Records: Documents that are in the form in which they were originally recorded at the time the event occurred.

Derivative Records: Documents that are not in the original form in which they were recorded.

Primary Evidence: Information that was recorded at the time the event occurred. *Both primary and secondary evidence might be found in the same document.*

Secondary Evidence: Information recorded in a document regarding an event that occurred prior to the creation of the document. *Both primary and secondary evidence might be found in the same document.*

Direct Evidence: Primary or secondary evidence that specifically states a date, place or relationship. *Both direct and indirect evidence might be found in the same document.*

Indirect Evidence: Either primary or secondary evidence that implies, but does not specifically state, a date, place or relationship. *Both direct and indirect evidence might be found in the same document.*

Forms of Documentation

Vital Records

The words “vital records” are commonly used to indicate birth, marriage and death records kept by town, county, or state officers. They do not refer to dates obtained from church, Bible or cemetery records. Many indexes or digitized entries of the originals are now available online at websites. Some of these are accepted as if they reproduce the appearance of the original records, or were compiled from the originals by accurate copyists.

The availability of vital records varies by location. In most states, they were first recorded on a statewide basis around 1910. In New England, from the establishment of a town until state registration began, vital records were kept in the towns. Many of the Massachusetts town records of birth, marriage and death prior to 1850 have been published. The vital records of Connecticut towns prior to 1870 are mostly assembled into a single compilation known as the Barbour Collection. There are also a growing number of compilations of town vital records from the other New England states.

Outside New England, there was usually no general registration of births or deaths prior to state requirements, except occasionally for brief periods. The maintenance of state records was begun at times widely varying from state to state. Reference works, such as *Handybook for Genealogists* and the *Red Book*, indicate the date from which records may be available from a state. It also gives the name and address of the agency where a request should be submitted. Many states now have web sites providing current information on how to obtain vital records.

Vital records constitute the official record of the events that resulted in their creation and are considered authoritative unless proven in error. This may be the case with any information recorded incidentally, such as the birth date and parentage on a death certificate. It must be remembered that the information was furnished to the public authorities by members of the family, or others, and is only as accurate as the source of that information.

Vital records indexes, including those found in online databases, provide only a small fraction of the information in the originals. They are best used as guides to assist in obtaining the originals. Original vital records are recommended, to provide complete chronological information and other internal data that indicates the record's reliability. The genealogists reserve the right to request copies of the original records in lieu of the index entries. Not all index entries contain sufficient detail to be used on their own.

Online Sources

Databases on commercial and non-profit genealogical websites may be useful in establishing dates and locations of birth and death. The staff of the Office of the Registrar General are most likely to accept them when they clearly reflect the contents of original records. For example, among the memorials on *Find a Grave* <www.findagrave.com>, we accept information that is clearly visible on the tombstone when a photo is attached to the memorial. We do not accept the user-submitted dates, places and relationships. In some cases, the memorial may include images of records other than the tombstone, such as a death certificate or obituary. Even then, the inscription or obituary must be recognizably of a date and style that are consistent with the ancestor's date of death.

The same requirement applies to compiled online sources. Some datasets at FamilySearch.org give extracts from vital records, most notably the earliest death certificates of the states of Alabama (through 1974), Illinois (through 1947), and Washington (through 1960). These databases do not include photographic copies, but they reflect an effort to show the complete contents of the entire record series. They generally render the records fully and accurately enough to support lineage applications. However, they are not full transcriptions and may omit important clues that could still be useful.

Not all online compilations are acceptable. Family group sheets and pedigree charts are not acceptable sources, whether printed from a genealogical database program, a personal website, or an online service such as Ancestry.com. We also do not accept message board submissions, and compiled databases that make no clear references to original records. Examples include: Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File, both formerly at FamilySearch.org; *U. S. and International Marriage Records* and *Family Data File*, both at Ancestry.com.

Censuses

Censuses, as a general rule, provide a snapshot into the life of a household on a given day, with the information provided by an unknown informant. For DAR verification purposes, we assume that the information was provided by a relative with knowledge of the relationships provided. Pre-1850 censuses do not identify individuals within the household, but provide indirect evidence that could be combined with other evidence in an evaluation to possibly establish relationships. U.S. federal censuses from 1880 forward state each person's relationship to the head of household, *but not to the spouse of the head of household*.

Some states took their own censuses at irregular intervals. For example, New York took them every ten years from 1825 to 1875, then in 1892, and finally resumed the decennial schedule from 1905 to 1925. The 1855 and 1865 returns are especially valuable for listing counties of birth for each person born in New York.

The federal and state census bureaus both took non-population schedules in some years. They mostly record economic and social statistics, but mortality schedules may serve as substitutes for vital records. Mortality schedules were begun in 1850. These listed, by name, all persons who died within the year preceding the official date of the census, giving the age of the deceased person, sex, place of birth and other pertinent information. Some years ago the Census Bureau received permission to return these Mortality Schedules to the states concerned.

Non-population schedules in the 1890 census included a special census of Union veterans of the Civil War. Family data were not included in this schedule. It nevertheless records some of the information that otherwise would have been lost when most of the 1890 population schedules were destroyed.

Court Records

Court records are frequently submitted to DAR verifying genealogists for review. They come in many different types. Regardless of the time period, an ancestor's appearance in a court record may support claims concerning residence, approximate or exact dates of birth and death, and genealogical relationships. Most court records are filed at the county level and may be consulted at the courthouse.

Deeds are the official records that document ownership of land within the county boundaries. In some states—notably Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont—deeds are also, or primarily, recorded by individual towns. Sometimes a land owner will make a direct grant of land to his or her children in exchange for lifetime support, or for consideration of love and affection. Sometimes the property of a land owner who has died is passed as undivided interests that are conveyed in a later deed by the owner's heirs.

In states that were not formed from the federal domain, *entries of public land* are normally filed in the state or county archives. In these cases, the land holder took possession as the result of a direct grant from the state.

Probate is a category of records that document the disposition of property upon the owner's death. The probate file for each decedent commonly includes an inventory of the estate and its division among the heirs at law. If the decedent left a last will and testament, this document is also filed in the probate records. Decedents sometimes died leaving minor children as their heirs. Such heirs were often subject to the appointment of a guardian to represent their interest until they came of age.

Civil proceedings were also conducted at the county level. Suits at law that concerned inheritances, or debts and agreements left unsettled at the death of a contracting party, are especially likely to provide genealogical details. Just as today, cases originating at a local level may result in an appeal to a higher court. Appealed cases may also be found in state or even federal records.

Some court records have been compiled into published books. Published transcriptions and abstracts are usually considered accurate and evaluated in the same manner as official records.

Pension and Bounty Land Records

Several groups of federal military pensions are being digitized and made available online. For instance Revolutionary War pensions are available on several websites. These websites enable you to search by the names of the soldier, widow or heirs. Abstracts of some pensions are available under the Resources tab in the DAR GRS. Pension records can contain a wealth of information including vital dates, locations, data on heirs and possibly Bible records submitted as proof of relationship to the Pension Bureau. Pension payment publications and

final payment vouchers are available on several websites. Benefits differed under the various laws governing eligibility for federal pensions. The Revolutionary War pension acts provided for the payment of a final installment upon the death of the pensioner, whether the soldier or his widow. Vouchers and claims for the final payment are often included in the pension file, but not always. If a separate voucher exists, it can assist in narrowing down a date of death or establishing a connection between generations.

Virgil D. White has published an extensive series of indexes of pension claims from later military engagements. Websites such as *FamilySearch.org*, *Fold3.com*, and *Ancestry.com* carry digital images of pension indexes, and growing collections of pension files from the War of 1812, the Indian Wars, the Mexican War, and the Civil War.

Bounty land was issued as early as 1776 and continued until after the Mexican War. The number of acres received would depend on the rank of the soldier or officer.

Bible Records and Unpublished Sources

Bible records cannot be used for the first three generations. The Office of the Registrar General reserves the right to not use them if submitted. Bible records are evaluated on a case by case basis. Bible entries for events considerably predating the publication of the Bible and altered documents are not acceptable. Make a photographic copy of all handwritten family entries within the Bible and, on a separate page, submit a brief description of its provenance. This should include: 1. The name and place of residence of the Bible's original owner; 2. The names of its subsequent owners, if known, and 3. The name and address of its current owner.

If the records were copied at some time in the past, and the current whereabouts of the Bible is unknown, make a statement concerning the circumstances under which the Bible was copied, and the name and address of the owner of the Bible at the time it was copied. The information will be evaluated within the context of the lineage on the application and a decision will be made as to its acceptability.

Other unpublished sources, such as family letters or other papers, must be identifiable. Copies of old letters should contain: 1. The signature of the writer; 2. The date the letter was written; 3. The name of the person to whom it was written.

A statement should accompany the letter giving the full names of the writer and recipient, and their relationship, if any. Be sure to give the name and address of the present

owner of the letter. Since documentation is judged on a case by case basis, following the above procedures does not guarantee that the Bible will be accepted, but it will be easier for the verifying genealogist to review the evidence in context.

Church Records

The church records that are most commonly used for genealogical purposes are sacramental records, which document baptisms, marriages, and burials. Confirmation and membership records can also be cited in conjunction with evidence that establishes age. Bear in mind that, in some religious traditions, baptism did not immediately follow birth. As with other types of events, sacraments are evaluated on when the record was made relative to the event, and judged most likely to be correct when recorded by a person with firsthand knowledge.

Endowments by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) are also evaluated on a case by case basis. The verifying genealogist is most likely to accept an endowment when performed for a living person, or at the instance of a proxy who had been personally acquainted during the life of the deceased person.

Published Family Histories and Local Histories

For DAR verification purposes, each published family history and local history must be evaluated on a case by case basis. Some of these local history and family histories are available in digital format on websites such as *Google Books*, *Internet Archive*, *Heritage Quest*, and *HathiTrust*. These types of publications are commonly sought early in the research process. There is a tendency to assume that printed statements must be true. Unfortunately, errors were often and easily made, especially in the absence of pre-published review. Each publication should be evaluated on its merits, and with a concern for how much of the lineage depends on its accuracy. When documenting a lineage, it is important to consider a variety of sources. It is also important to consult original records, especially if they are cited in a family genealogy. Authors may misinterpret key information. Errors may be introduced during the editing or even publication. Trust, but verify! Published family histories are rarely used to connect more than two generations of a lineage. The following factors are taken into consideration by the DAR verification genealogist:

- It cites acceptable sources and the sources support the compiler's conclusions.
- It includes complete dates and places for births, marriages and deaths.
- It provides historical perspective by giving biographical details about family members.
- It contains information given to the author by living relatives who had personal knowledge of the people and events.

- It contains information in either the introduction or bibliography that indicates that acceptable sources were used to gather the stated facts.
- The author had personal knowledge of people discussed in the book.
- Available documentation does not contradict information found in the book.

That a genealogy was used previously does not automatically mean that it will be acceptable for a new lineage. It is not uncommon for a genealogy to be well documented for one generation or for one part of the family, but not at all for another generation or individual. Unfortunately most modern genealogies do not meet the above criteria. Those that are acceptable are usually published in the 19th or very early 20th centuries.

DNA Evidence

For a long time, DAR has used the results of DNA-based paternity tests to verify member-related applications. At the October 2013 National Board of Management meeting, the Executive Committee adopted a policy for the use of Y-DNA evidence as well, subject to specified conditions. This policy can be accessed at the Members' Web Site, DNA Evidence. As of January 2014, applications based on Y-DNA may be submitted for review if they meet the criteria stated in the policy statement.

Citation of Sources

Cite what you send and send what you cite! Adherence to this principle will help the verification process go smoothly and quickly, and ease the process even more in submitting future membership and supplemental applications on the same families. Page 3 is reserved for source citations. When preparing page 3, make sure it reflects all of the sources used, and that they are cited adequately. Incomplete citations on page 3 hamper these endeavors. It is not necessary to provide full bibliographic citations. Future researchers may want to locate the same documents so it is important to cite them in a manner that will make it easier to locate the records again. Describe the contents of the sources only under special circumstances. If a detailed explanation of a record or records is in order, do so on a separate sheet of paper and include it with the supporting documentation. Abbreviate as much as possible.

Citing Vital Records

Certificates of birth, marriage, and death may be abbreviated respectively as BC, MC and DC.

An acceptable reference for a vital record might look like this:

BC Mary Smith; BC John Jones; DC John Jones; 1st MC; BC William Thompson; 2nd MC

Growing numbers of vital records are available in online collections, such as *Ancestry.com* and *FamilySearch.org*. When the online record is virtually a photocopy of the original, we recommend that you submit a printout, and note on page 3 that it comes from one of these websites.

An acceptable reference for a vital record from an online source might look like this:

BC-Ancestry.com Mary Smith; DC-John Jones, FamilySearch.org

Citing Censuses

A census record should never be cited only by the year and record type. In addition to the year, a census reference must list the state, county (or equivalent, such as parishes in Louisiana and judicial districts in South Carolina through 1868), township or other division if applicable, and page number. References to state census records should once again include the year, state, county, township or other county division, page, and any household designation that may designate each individual household. A single census record is unlikely to provide complete documentation for any generation of the lineage. Semicolons should be used to separate each reference from other references, as in the vital records example above. We do not generally require copies of every census record pertaining to the line of descent proposed by the applicant.

An acceptable reference for a federal census record might look like this:

1900 census Parke Co, IN, Florida Twp, E.D. 1 p 1A. Sarah Jones hh#115-115

Not 1900 census

Citing Court Records

The location, series name, and book, page, and file numbers must be cited. Books of wills, deeds, and court orders may be abbreviated respectively as WB#, DB#, and OB#, whether

the books are individually designated by numbers or letters. The relevant pages from each book must also be cited.

An acceptable reference for a deed within a book might look like this:

Russell Co VA DB 9 pp 151-152.

Some county records are not held in books, but as files of loose papers, some of which have been microfilmed by county or outside agencies. When citing such records, it is acceptable to cite the file series name and the number of the individual file. If such documents are cited only by the record type or file series name, it may be more difficult for researchers to locate the documentation of interest.

An acceptable reference for a court record at another repository might look like this:

Logan Co KY Equity Case 25-606, Logan Co Hist Soc.

Citing Pension Records

Pension records are generally cited on page 4 to verify the service, but may contain genealogical data that establishes a connection from patriot to child. DAR references differ slightly from the National Archives. As between the eligible soldier (S), widow (W), and heirs (H), we mention all the parties who collected pension, not only the last, and denote the last pension recipient with an asterisk (*). The example here pertains to a pension that was awarded to both a soldier and his widow.

An acceptable reference for a pension record:

S*W1234

Citing Bible Records

Bible record citations should be short and concise. It is not necessary to include bibliographical information for the original publication on page 3. This should be reserved for a statement of provenance to accompany the documentation.

An acceptable reference for a family Bible:

Citing Published Records

Published records should include the author, compiler or editor, where applicable; the title, the year of publication and edition if other than the first; and page number(s). The edition is important as information may have changed from one edition to another. It is also helpful to note if the source is available in the DAR Library.

An acceptable reference for a published family history the first time:

Weik, History of Putnam Co, IN, 1910, p 414

An acceptable reference for a published family history in a subsequent generation:

Weik, p. 415

Citing DAR Documentation Files

Applicants may refer to supporting documents that have been retained in support of previously verified applications as part of our Genealogical Research System. If she refers a document in the GRS, then she must cite its document number on page three **and** submit a computer-printed paper copy.

An acceptable reference for a DAR Documentation:

National No. 123456, A000001, Supp. Doc. #8592391

Citing Multiple Sources

The references for the relevant generations might look like this:

4th Gen. DC James Jones; 1900 census, Parke Co, IN, Florida Twp, ED 1 p 1A. Sarah Jones
hh#115-115; DC Margaret Jones; William Brown Family Bible; MC

5th Gen. William Brown Family Bible; obit of William Brown, Waveland Independent, 20 Mar 1880; 1850 census, Bracken Co, KY, p 1, John Hunter hh#51-56; ts photo Sarah Brown, Indian Creek cemetery, Montgomery Co, IN; MC; Weik, History of Putnam Co, IN, 1910, p 421

6th Gen. National No. 123456, Julia Brown Williams; Rachel Williams will, Bracken Co, KY WB 4, p 91; ts photos, Charles and Rachel Williams, Williams Family Cemetery, Bracken Co, KY; 1860 census, Bracken Co, KY, p 1, Charles Williams hh#46-47

Note that one document, the William Brown Family Bible, is cited as a reference for more than one generation of the lineage. When arranging the documentation, one complete copy of the record should be inserted in sources for generation 4, the first place at which the genealogist is expected to refer to it. All data within the source that is relevant to any generation of the lineage may be indicated by underlining with a red pen or pencil. Duplicate copies should not be enclosed.

Problems Frequently Encountered

Name Variations and Identity

Patriots with closely related surnames are generally entered in DAR records under the most common spelling, which serves as the standard for DAR purposes. No other spellings may be entered on page 2 or page 4, but a member may enter the spelling that she prefers on page 1, which transfers to her membership certificate, and her ancestor bar. On page 2, the standard spelling of the Patriot's surname is used mainly for the Patriot's generation, and for established children of other Patriots in the early part of the lineage.

Researchers should be aware that surnames in their ancestry may have variants or origins in languages other than English. Researchers are known to have confused families by identifying as their ancestors persons bearing identical or translated surnames which had the same meaning, but different origins. Think of the sound, rather than the spelling, and place that sound against the background of dialect in the locality in which the record was made. Familiarity with the nicknames of the period will also be helpful. For instance, the Seeley family of upstate New York was originally the French Usilié; the Carpenter family of Philadelphia was the German

Zimmerman, which means carpenter; and a number of Baker families translated their name from Becker (Bäcker, meaning baker). Some modern Louisiana families with French-sounding names actually have German origins. The German name Zweig, from the word for branch, translates to Labranche in French. The German Vogel can vaguely be recognized in the French Fauquel. British names have also undergone unusual transformations, such as the Scottish Stephenson which occasionally is Stebbins, Phimister-Phemister which is Feamster in Virginia, and the Welsh family Parry which is the contraction of Ap Harry (from son of Harry).

Extreme care must be exercised with respect to the old Dutch names of New York. A modern family of Cooper may not have had an English origin but a Dutch one: Kuyper. Many a Johnson family will be found to have been Jansen. On the other hand, English families often settled in the Dutch colony and spelled their names according to the practice of their Dutch neighbors, such as Lake which became Leak in New Amsterdam, and Cole which became the Dutch Cool, with the same pronunciation.

During the preparation of a lineage paper, problems of establishing identity may arise. These must be solved before that lineage can be considered proven. Such problems vary in difficulty; some solutions will be easy and others may be exceedingly complex. Care must be taken to make sure that several individuals of the same or similar names are not erroneously merged into one composite identity. Separating out these individuals, and proving a given lineage, often involves the use of various types of records: federal and state censuses, wills, estate records, deeds, tax lists, court records, church records, etc. It is wisest to work backwards in time, from the applicant's generation back to the patriot, starting with what is known and easily documented. This helps to place generations in given locales at different times throughout history, and document the family's migration.

Researchers should always pay close attention to the names of the individuals with whom their ancestors were closely associated with in the historical record. Census records and tax lists often show unrelated families in proximity with one another. Neighbors also associated with one another in numerous ways; by joining the same church, or serving as a witness to legal documents and deeds. When a landowner sold property in the community, the buyer was usually a neighbor, or soon to become a neighbor. When one family migrated, neighbors often followed. It is sometimes possible to track an ancestor's movement by comparing records in two different communities at different times.

Tax lists can help to determine parentage, differentiate persons by the same name, and serve as useful alternatives to missing census and deed records. More than merely a list of assessments, they may document when an ancestor moved into or left a county. In cases where no death records exist for an individual, they may also establish an approximate year of death. The year after a landowner has died, taxes on the same property may be charged to the landowner's heirs. Tax lists often include descriptions, such as the amount of acreage and a nearby watercourse, that aid in tracking the same property from one year to the next.

Proof of Dates

Events recorded closer to the date of a specific event carry more weight during the verification process. Secondary evidence, recorded later, will carry less weight relative to the length of time that passed between the event and the date of the record.

Complete dates are desired on page two along with acceptable documentation to verify them. For the first three generations, complete dates are required. For generations earlier than the first three, records may not exist for some life events. For example, birth records for people born in the late 1800s are not very common outside of New England. However, the person may have applied for a delayed birth certificate later in life. Such records usually are created by courts instead of vital records offices and are usually not subject to privacy restrictions. If life events were not recorded through vital records, alternative sources such as newspaper accounts (obituaries, marriage announcements, etc), tombstone photos, church records, family Bibles and court records may exist.

Often, census records can be used to establish rough, or appropriate dates if the exact dates cannot be documented. We use the following terminology to denote approximate dates on page 2: c = circa; a = ante (before); and p = post (after).

Calendar Changes

The Gregorian Calendar was adopted by Catholic countries in 1582. The Julian Calendar had been instituted at the time of Julius Caesar, and modified at the First Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. The Julian Calendar added three days every 400 years, producing a difference of ten

days by the seventeenth century. In 1700, the difference between the two calendars increased by an additional day; that was a leap year for the Julian Calendar, but not for the Gregorian. Most countries of Continental Europe had adopted the New Style Calendar by the turn of the eighteenth century. The British Empire did not make the change until 1752.

At the same time, the British instituted another reform of their calendar, moving New Year's Day nearly three months earlier, from March 25 to January 1. By tradition March, not January, had been considered the first month of the year, but by 1752 the newer reckoning of dates had achieved a wide enough practice for British officials to accommodate it through a system of double dating. Many pre-1752 records give dual years for dates that fell between January 1 and March 24. For example, a date such as February 24, 1695 might be written as February 24, 1695/6. When the British Empire, including the American colonies, adopted its New Style Calendar in 1752, it ceased all double dating and adjudged to the Gregorian Calendar by dropping eleven days from the year. Some Americans adapted to the calendar conversion by adding eleven days to their dates of birth. For example, George Washington was born on February 11, 1731/2 in Old Style, or February 22, 1732 in New Style.

Transcriptions of double dates can be misleading. Some copyists have omitted the final year; others omitted the first year. When the Massachusetts vital records were prepared for publication, the practice varied from town to town, and one cannot be certain which date was actually meant without consulting the original records.

Errors can occur because of the change in the beginning of the year from March 25 to January 1. In Quaker records, for instance, months were stated numerically. An unthinking copyist might fail to take the change in month numbering into account when converting Old Style numerical dates into New Style nominal dates: 9th mo., 1, 1741 might be translated as September 1, 1741 instead of November 1, 1741, Old Style. DAR applications do not require full conversion of Quaker dates to New Style, but *all months must be converted from numbers to the correct name*. It is a general requirement that dates on DAR applications, particularly for the Patriot's birth and death, must follow the original records as closely as practicable. This can be difficult because not all Quaker congregations made the change at the same time.

Proof of Marriage

The DAR does not require proof that a person was born of a legal or lawful marriage to verify an application. Marriage records are still valuable pieces of evidence that should not be ignored. If a marriage took place, it is recommended that the applicant provide proof of marriage if it exists. In preparing a lineage paper, evidence of marriage may be supplied if no records are extant to prove the date and place of marriage. For example the 1900 and 1910 census records recorded the number of years married and how many times a person had been married. The 1930 census includes the age at which each married person was *first* married. Care must be used with this information because it may not reflect the marriage of the current spouses to each other.

Proving a marriage can be a challenge if no marriage record exists. There were many ways a marriage could be contracted; these varied from place to place and century to century. In some localities, the practice of requiring a “marriage bond” was instituted. This was an agreement by the groom, and a male representative of the bride, that there was no impediment to the marriage. When a marriage was performed in the Established Church, the announcement of intentions (“calling the banns”) was made orally by the minister and no record was made of it. On the other hand, in the New England states the town clerks were charged with notifications of marriage intentions, and these were routinely recorded, but a record of the marriage did not always follow. When the ceremony was later performed, it was supposedly entered in the parish record, but sometimes was not. In many instances, the parish register is not known to exist. Marriages could be performed by a civil officer, as well as by a minister, or by mutual contract of the parties. After the Revolution, marriages by a Justice of the Peace were common, particularly in areas where there were few churches. Records of a Justice of the Peace were not public records, but merely notations made by him for his own information.

Genealogists not familiar with the laws and customs in effect at various times in the past sometimes fall into the error of assuming that a marriage did not exist because of a reference in a church record questioning it. Even though marriage outside the Established Church was legal, such churches did not relinquish their rights over marriage. At various times the church governing body would seek to enforce that right by prescribing penalties or denying privileges to persons who had contracted such marriages. The action was usually initiated by the vestry, charging that the couple was living together without marriage (i.e., without a marriage by a minister of the Established Church) and calling them to account. (The various state laws governing marriages are discussed in Noel C. Stevenson’s *Genealogical Evidence*, 1979, p 93 ff.)

Shifting State and County Boundaries

One of the difficulties confronting genealogists is the problem of changing state and county lines. A family may have passed a whole generation in the same house on the same plot of ground, and yet, during the course of thirty years, it may have resided in two states and several counties! For example, the area that is now eastern Tennessee was settled in the 1770s, just before the Revolutionary War. These wilderness settlements were not recognized by the royal governors of either Virginia or North Carolina because they were not considered legal. When the war broke out, eventually North Carolina agreed to protect and provide for the settlers. Throughout the war and until 1790, the area was considered part of North Carolina. In 1790, the area became a separate territory, known as the Territory Southwest of the Ohio River. In 1796, the territory entered the Union as the state of Tennessee. However, in the intervening years, an attempt was made to create a state known as "Franklin." The attempt failed. For DAR purposes, the area is treated as North Carolina until 1790; the Southwest Territory ("SO") until 1796 and then Tennessee from the date of Tennessee's admission into the Union.

Some states impose special problems. For example, certain parts of Pennsylvania were claimed, in pre-Revolutionary times, by three other colonies: the northern part by Connecticut, the southern border by Maryland, and the southwestern area by Virginia. Each of these provinces sent settlers into their claimed portions. Many northern Pennsylvania families are descended from early settlers of Connecticut. In the southern and southwestern parts of Pennsylvania numerous families trace their lineage to Maryland and Virginia. In fact, that part of Pennsylvania that includes Pittsburgh came under Virginia's jurisdiction during the French and Indian War and was known as the District of West Augusta. The Augusta County records at Staunton, Virginia, contain many deeds for lands presently in Pennsylvania.

Researchers are encouraged to consult publications such as the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* series, under the editorship of John H. Long, to determine the proper historically accurate location for an individual within the lineage. The digital version of this can be seen at <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>. Unlike the printed books, the website covers every state.

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IS THAT SERVICE RIGHT?

Introduction

It is essential that each Chapter Registrar reads and understands the verification process and what criteria the National Society uses to evaluate applications and supplementals. *Is that Service Right?* is a reference tool for training and to inform chapter registrars and DAR applicants of the type of military, civil and patriotic service acceptable to the National Society. Not every acceptable service source is listed here. This publication emphasizes, books, articles, and manuscript collections that provide statewide coverage. Some of the sources listed here are not acceptable sources of service, or contain a mix of acceptable and unacceptable materials.

The National Society offers these publications to assist the researcher in the absorbing pursuit of genealogy and the search for one's roots. As a lineage society and as Americans, we believe that lineage connects us to the history of this nation.

THE VERIFICATION PROCESS

When an application for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution is prepared, it will be examined by the registrar of the chapter which the prospective member wishes to join. The Chapter Registrar will ensure that the application is filled out properly. The following information will help the registrar evaluate the application. (See The Verification Process in *Is That Lineage Right?* for a discussion on the lineage portion.)

When an incomplete paper (with few dates and places, and no references given for lineage or service) is used as a basis for a new application, the applicant must furnish sufficient information to adequately identify each person named in the line of descent. She must also document the Revolutionary War ancestor with his place of residence and service during the Revolution.

The second portion of the application deals with the service of the Revolutionary War ancestor. His place of residence at the time of the Revolution must be proven. If, for instance,

civil service is claimed, the man must necessarily have been a resident of the town or county in which the civil service was performed. In the case of military service, it should be demonstrated that the man lived in the locality from which the military unit was recruited. **If it is said that he served from some other geographical area, evidence is needed to conclusively identify the man with the service.**

Once his place of residence has been determined, it must be shown that

1. the man was living at the time the service was performed;
2. he was of an age suitable to have performed the service;
3. it is reasonable to assume that he, and not another man of the same name, actually performed the service.

The applicant and chapter registrar, or member assigned to assist the applicant, must develop the lineage to the Revolutionary War period, determining exactly where the ancestor lived between 1775 and 1783. The ancestor must have lived within the town, township, precinct or hundred where the civil or patriotic service was performed, or state militia was activated. By studying the battles that occurred in the area, the dates on which the various committees were appointed (Patriotic Service), or the dates civil government was in effect, you will know whether the service claimed was possible.

Men who served in the Continental Line may have served in all major battles from Canada to Yorktown. **You must prove that the service claimed belonged to the ancestor named.** Men between the ages of sixteen and sixty were generally obligated to serve in the military. These ages may vary as each state passed its own law or laws regulating military service.

Military Service and pension records are available at both the National Archives and Records Administration and websites such as *Ancestry.com*, *Fold3.com*, and *FamilySearch.org*. The State Archives in the state where the soldier lived may have additional records. In 2012, the DAR Genealogical Education Program was launched and it offers education on military, civil and patriotic service during the Revolutionary War.

SERVICE ACCEPTABLE FOR DAR MEMBERSHIP

Signers of the Declaration of Independence

On 1 July 1776, Richard Henry Lee presented to Continental Congress a resolution proposed by Virginia: “*That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.*”

On 4 July 1776, by the unanimous vote of twelve colonies, Congress voted to accept the Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson. Most delegates signed the document on 12 August.

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See also biographies of the individual signers.

Military Service

Military service in the Revolution began, with a few exceptions, with the Battle of Lexington, 19 April 1775 and ended on 26 Nov 1783, the date that the British evacuated New York. The National Society recognizes military service rendered by officers and men of the Continental Army, Navy, Marines, State and Local Militias, State Navies, the French Army and Navy.

A soldier is credited with the highest rank achieved during the Revolution. When proof of service with the regular forces exists, but details of the service are unknown, the man is credited as a soldier.

The Continental Army

In June 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the establishment of military companies which became the Line or Continental Army.

The soldiers of 1775 and 1776 are often identifiable with their place of residence. The companies were formed in the same fashion as the militia and there is a relationship between members of a company and the town, township or county from which it was drawn. By 1777, the Continental Army was composed of men from different colonies making proof of service, other than residence, necessary. Some enlistees joined regiments of states offering the most attractive terms, bonus, or bounty land. Continental units recruited replacements in the area where the need arose. For this reason it is necessary to identify Continental service by some other means, such as pension or bounty land claims, local histories, or depositions of persons who knew the soldier.

The Continental Navy

On 13 October 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the establishment of the Continental Navy as proposed by Rhode Island delegates. By December merchant ships had been purchased and converted to warships to protect the coasts and commercial shipping. The construction of additional ships was authorized.

The Continental Navy reached its maximum strength in 1776 but never had more than thirty ships at one time. Its purpose was to support land troops, protect the coasts and capture enemy supply ships.

National Archives records include payrolls of the Continental Ship *Confederacy* 1780-1781; photocopies of rosters of the officers and crew of the *Bonhomme Richard*, commanded by John Paul Jones; the *Dallas*, and the *Vengeance*, 1779; and photocopies of the log of the Continental Ship, *Ranger*, 1778-1780.

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The Marines

On 10 November, the Continental Congress authorized the formation of the Marines. Never a large force, the Marines served throughout the war.

The National Archives and Records Administration holds service records for some Marines who served during the Revolution.

State and Local Militia

Militia units were organized during the early settlement of the colonies for the protection of the colonists from Indian attacks. The militia was called for emergency duty, usually within the boundaries of the colony or state. Service may have been for a few hours or several days.

It is necessary to provide proof that the ancestor was living in the place where the militia company was formed. Companies were formed in specific towns, townships or locations within a county. When service is claimed for a man who resided in a place different from other members of the company, specific evidence needs to be submitted to show that the claim is valid.

State Navies

In July 1775, the Continental Congress authorized each colony, at its own expense, to provide armed vessels to protect its harbors and navigation of its seacoasts. Although some colonies commissioned the building of armed vessels, most state navies were composed of converted merchant ships. Their fleet size and effectiveness varied from colony to colony. New Jersey, Delaware and Vermont did not maintain a state navy (armed vessels).

Privateers

Privateers were privately owned, armed trading vessels, commissioned or issued letters of marque from either the Continental Congress or from the individual provisional government (sometimes by both) to capture enemy ships and goods. The bounty or prize was divided between the officers and seamen and the governing body that authorized the privateering. Bounties made privateering very profitable and provided much needed supplies to the American

forces. The Continental Congress officially authorized privateering for the war on 23 March 1776, although some states had already initiated privateering prior to that date.

Civil Service

Civil service is credited to those individuals who conducted public business under the authority of the new federal, state, county and town governments and displayed evidence of loyalty to the cause of political separation from England.

In New England, the business of ordinary government was conducted by the towns. The principal officers were selectmen and moderator. Additional officers were added to suit the needs of the particular town. Outside New England, business was conducted at the county level and the types of offices held varied with the needs of the counties. Some states, notably New York, used both town and county forms of government.

Applicants seeking to establish civil service for an ancestor must first prove his place of residence. If the government unit was a town, the ancestor must have lived in that town at the time the service was performed. If the unit was a county or state, he must have resided in the place where the service was rendered. It was the law in all states during the Revolution that office holders be vested in the government they served.

Civil service began in the new American states when (1) the royal governor was removed from power and (2) a form of statewide American government was established. Credit is not given for civil service in cities or states which were occupied by the British. Civil service is credited only when the Americans regained control of the locality.

Some offices classified as civil service include: State officials (other than governor and members of the legislature), county and town officers, Town Clerk, Selectman, Town Treasurer, Judge, Juror, Sheriff, Constable, Jailer, Overseer of the Roads, Justice of the Peace, Moderator, Overseer of the Poor, etc.

Patriotic Service

Patriots of the Revolution are considered to be those men and women who by an act or series of actions demonstrated **unfailing loyalty to the cause of American Independence from England**. Patriotic service might begin as early as April 1774. We depend upon recorded actions to give us an indication of patriotism. What was the purpose of the action? What were the risks?

The consequences? Answers to these questions can determine whether the action actually applied to an attempt to further the cause of independence or demonstrated loyalty to that cause.

Evidence of patriotic activity may be found in town, county, state, and federal records. Many records kept by the states have been indexed and often a letter to the state archives will be sufficient to determine if evidence exists to show that a person contributed supplies or made some other contribution to the war effort. Town and county records have usually not been indexed and a personal search of town minutes and court minutes is required. Minutes of the Continental Congresses have been published. *Old letters, diaries, and other family and personal papers can often be used as evidence of patriotic intent, provided the record was made at the time of the event described.*

Not all actions illustrating patriotism are mentioned here. Many others exist. When it is considered desirable to establish another type of patriotic service, proof of the action taken must be submitted with the application paper, together with historical justification to show that the action did indeed imply patriotic intent.

Committees of Correspondence: These committees facilitated communication among the colonial assemblies; they represent a first step toward united action by the colonies, which eventually led to the call for a general Congress.

The Provincial Congresses, State Governors, Legislators: The Provincial Congresses met in each of the colonies in 1774 and continued to meet until the new state governments were established. Minutes for many of these meetings have been published. DAR does not accept royal governors.

Continental Congress: The First such gathering convened on 5 September 1774 in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, with delegates from every colony except Georgia. The Second Congress met from May 1775 until March 1781. It became the governing body of the United States and continued to meet until the Articles of Confederation were ratified in 1781. The minutes of the Continental Congress have been published, along with the correspondence of its members. Its business papers are microfilmed, with a five-volume printed index.

Committees of Safety: The Committees of Safety at the state level were successors to the Committees of Correspondence. Appointed by the Provincial Congresses or Conventions, they served as interim state governments until new state constitutions were implemented. Their primary focus was on security and defense, often including command of the militia.

Revolutionary Committees: The committees at the county and town level had a number of different names: Committee, General Committee, or Committee of Safety, or Inspection or Observation (or some combination thereof). The members of these committees were elected, as specified in the First Continental Congress' Articles of Association in October 1774. Their main duty was to encourage compliance with the terms of the Association.

Signers of the Oaths of Allegiance: Most states required their adult male inhabitants to swear (or, for certain groups, affirm) an Oath of Allegiance to the new state government. For example, Virginia enacted such a law in May 1777, which applied to all free males above the age of sixteen. The men who took these oaths qualify for patriotic service. Some lists of names have been published, usually at the town or county level. Statewide compilations are available for Delaware and New Hampshire.

Signers of Petitions to the new provincial and state governments acknowledged the new government's right to represent the people. The content and wording of the petition must demonstrate loyalty to the cause of American independence. Petitions having to do with religious issues do not qualify.

Defenders of Forts and Stations were individuals who lived on the frontier, from the great northern lakes to Georgia, and who actively defended the western frontiers against British forces and their allies, the Indians.

Doctors, nurses and others who rendered aid to the American wounded, other than their immediate families, qualify for patriotic service.

Ministers who gave patriotic sermons and encouraged patriotic activity.

Prisoners of War or **refugees** from occupying forces.

Prisoners on the British Ship New Jersey and other prison ship: Since there is no positive residence or unit identification of these lists of names, the applicant must supply documentation which proves without a doubt that the prisoner is indeed the person from whom the applicant descends.

Those who rendered material aid, such as furnished supplies, with or without remuneration, loaned money or provided munitions or guns. Some states enacted special tax laws to raise money for supplies. Payment of such "supply" taxes is considered patriotic service.

Loyalists, or Tories

Loyalists were those Americans who remained loyal to the Crown during the Revolution. Those individuals, also known as Tories, were opposed to the Revolution. The colonies were administrated by royal governors appointed by the Crown. Only Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut supported the Americans throughout the war. The others fled, or were deposed and replaced.

Most of the colonists' loyalties were clearly divided: those who demanded that the British Parliament honor the rights granted by charter (patriots), and those loyal to the Crown (loyalists or Tories).

Membership in the National Society is based on strict adherence to the cause of independence through military service in the continental line, state lines, militia, navy, marines, privateers, etc., or rendered civil and/or patriotic service.

An application based on the service of a loyalist or Tory is not acceptable.

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Pacifists

As the colonists became increasingly hostile to the acts of the British Parliament and war seemed inevitable, loyalties were divided. Many favored separation from England, while others were loyal to the Crown, and still others, called pacifists, believed that disputes between nations should and could be settled peacefully. Opposition to the war was demonstrated by refusal to participate in military action. Some pacifists refused on principle to take oaths, including Oaths of Allegiance, but could subscribe to documents that “affirmed” the same principles. Some pacifists did provide medical aid, food, goods or financial aid to the cause.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut residents held a statewide convention in Hartford in 1774 at which time the delegates agreed to support the American Revolutionary cause and formed a State Committee of Correspondence. By May 1776, the Colony had renounced King George III.

Support for the Revolution in Connecticut was very strong due to her strategic geographical location and large population. One of the supporters who embraced the cause was Jonathan Trumbull, the Royal Governor of Connecticut. He was the only Colonial Governor remaining in the United States to do so. Military participation in the state began when militiamen from a number of towns answered the Lexington Alarm on 19 April 1775. Men from Connecticut were among the leaders at some of the first battles of the Revolution such as Ticonderoga and Quebec. Connecticut forces fought throughout the war at many other battles including the final one at Yorktown in October 1781.

Both the Connecticut Navy, formed in the summer of 1775, and a coast guard were of particular importance to Connecticut. They enabled her to interrupt Loyalist traffic from Long Island across Long Island Sound into the western parts of the State, particularly Fairfield County, where some supporters of the royal government resided.

In October 1776, Connecticut approved an Act for prescribing Oaths of Fidelity. In 1777 and 1778, legislation was passed by the General Assembly requiring all towns to clothe their non-commissioned officers and soldiers. In addition to supplying their own men, many residents of Connecticut loaned money to the United States Continental Loan Office.

A group of settlers from Connecticut, who located in the Wyoming Valley area of the present State of Pennsylvania contributed two independent companies to the army.

In July 1778, combined British and Indian forces attacked the Wyoming Valley settlement. Many of the patriotic settlers were massacred or forced to flee. Records pertaining to Wyoming Valley residents may also be found in Pennsylvania sources.

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DELAWARE

Until 11 September 1776, Delaware was under the jurisdiction of the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania with the lower three counties referred to as the “tail on the kite.” Councils of Safety were established in each county responsible to the government of Pennsylvania. These counties laid down regulations for their own militia and held meetings in Dover in 1775.

Delaware men served with military distinction in major battles from New York to Yorktown. They were nicknamed “Blue Hen’s Chickens.” Others who were lukewarm to the Revolution were often grouped with the loyalists, but were “hesitants” and “pacifists,” like the Quakers.

Delaware began statehood with a population of thirty-seven thousand: two-thirds were of English descent, the remainder consisting of Scots-Irish, Swedes, Welsh, Dutch and Black slaves. This helps to explain Delaware’s allegiance to the British. Loyalist backed insurrections broke out in Sussex County in 1776, 1777 and 1780 as well as Kent County in 1776 and 1778. An Act of 26 June 1778 pardoned many of the inhabitants who had given aid to the British, and tended to quell the outbreaks of violence, which had occurred. New Castle County, with a sizable minority of Presbyterian Scots-Irish showed the greatest support in favor of American independence. Delaware, prosperous at the beginning of the Revolution, ended in poverty.

Original military records of Delaware are at the Hall of Records, Dover.

With the exception of the Oaths of Allegiance, which have been published, many sources of civil and patriotic service are found in microfilms issued by the State.

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GEORGIA

On 17 January 1775, the Georgia Assembly convened in Savannah. The Provincial Congress met the following day. Radical and conservative Whigs continued to vie with the British for control of the government. A Second Provincial Congress was held 4 July 1775 that resulted in the Whigs gaining control and the removal of the British. The British returned later to regain control and occupy Savannah from December 1778 through July 1782. They also gained sporadic control of Augusta and other outlying areas causing the economy of the colony to weaken to a desperate level. The struggle to maintain a state government in the Whig controlled areas of Georgia continued after the return of the British. Political factions developed among the Whigs, as well, further complicating the situation. Civil and patriotic service may be established, however, when the activity can be proven to have been in support of the Whig movement and clearly was against the Tory elements in Georgia. Candler's *Revolutionary Records of Georgia* documents the efforts to re-establish the government in Georgia.

The key when using Georgia bounty land grants to establish Revolutionary service is to look for the person originally entitled to the land. Military service is recognized according to military rank and unit. Patriotic service is recognized by NSDAR for a refugee, refugee-citizen, or citizen who was issued a voucher or certificate signed by the Commanding Officer of the Military District, or a certificate signed by the Governor of the state of Georgia, entitling that person to enter public land as per the Act of 20 August 1781. The statement "as per the Act of 20 August 1781" must appear on the document.

Vouchers and certificates are the documents that indicate that the person was originally entitled to the land. These are the documents needed to prove Revolutionary service for NSDAR. They may be requested from the Georgia Archives. The researcher may also use *Georgia Revolutionary Bounty Land Records* by O'Kelley and Warren, pages 1-44, 48-89, as a source. Evidence exists that the original vouchers and certificates could be used as specie and transferred to another person who could then petition for and receive the land grant. As a result, the person who actually received the grant was not necessarily the person originally entitled to it. For this reason, petitions for land warrants, the bounty land warrants and land grants issued in 1784-85 may not be used as proof of Revolutionary Service.

Certain Georgia land lotteries gave preference to Revolutionary War soldiers. The laws establishing the requirements for the land lotteries of 1820, 1827, and 1832 gave Revolutionary soldiers the right to an extra draw or draws if they met the other requirements for the lottery.

A Certificate, obtainable from the Georgia Archives, is the primary documentation that will indicate whether the lottery winner was a Revolutionary soldier. The results of the land lotteries have been published. The published records may be used for proof of service, if the record indicates that the man was a Revolutionary Soldier.

The above land records show only those persons who actually won land in the land lotteries, not all who were eligible and/or applied. In addition, not all the persons who received land in these three land lotteries were Revolutionary Soldiers. In order for a man to be credited with Revolutionary Service, "R.S." or "Rev. Sol." must follow his name on the certificate or in the published records of the land lotteries. A good publication on this subject is *Authentic List of All Land Lottery Grants Made to Veterans of the Revolutionary War by the State of Georgia*, by Alex M. Hitz. This may also be used as a citation for service.

The Hitz list does not include the names of the widows of Revolutionary Soldiers who won land in the 1827 and 1832 Lotteries. A "W.R.S." appearing after the woman's name serves as a citation for the Revolutionary Service of her husband.

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publication have not been evaluated by staff genealogists and copies would need to be submitted.

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LOUISIANA

Service is accepted for Spanish troops led by Don Bernardo de Galvez and for the Louisiana Militia after 24 December 1776. The classification is patriotic service.

The date is derived from the Royal Order signed by Jose de Galvez, Minister of the Indies, and sent to Luis de Unzaga, the Spanish governor of Louisiana. While Spain had allowed some material aid to flow to the American colonies previous to this date, the Royal Order gave open support to the American effort to free the Mississippi River Valley of British domination.

Patriotic service, rather than military service, is awarded because Spain did not have a treaty with the American colonies and Spanish troops did not serve with colonial military units. Sources for establishing service acceptable for NSDAR applications are listed in the bibliography.

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MARYLAND

Maryland organized an effective system to deal with the grievances imposed by Great Britain long before the hostilities began. This action culminated in the formation of the Provincial Government, 1774–1776, known as the “Maryland Convention.” On 26 July 1776 the Convention circulated a document, *The Association of Freemen of Maryland*, which resolved that the colony be put in a state of defense.

Complying with directives of the Continental Congress, Maryland organized the Flying Camp militia that reported for service in June 1776. Maryland troops served from New York to the Southern Campaign. The State also provided a training area for several distinguished foreign military experts among them the Marquis de Lafayette, Count Casimir Pulaski and Baron Johannes de Kalb.

29 August 1776 marked the first meeting of the Council of Safety, which served as the executive branch of the government. Its representatives were elected from the western and eastern shores. The Committees of Observation reported to this body and kept watch at the county level for those who were disloyal. In February 1777, a formal government, the General Assembly, was created. One of its first acts was to require all men not serving in a military capacity, over the age of eighteen years, to sign an Oath of Fidelity or Allegiance. The oaths, taken at the county level, were reported to the General Assembly beginning in February 1778.

Maryland’s economic contributions to the Revolution were as important as its military ones, providing such items as food, wheat, clothing, and munitions. The operation of iron forges, lumber production, and shipbuilding were important industries.

Due to its geographic location Maryland became a thoroughfare for both the Americans and the British, traveling by land or water, as they went up and down the Atlantic Seaboard.

Annapolis was the site of some of the sessions of the Continental Congress, was host to the signing of the Treaty of Paris, and the city where General George Washington resigned as General of the Army.

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Massachusetts

During most of the ten years preceding the Lexington alarm of 19 April 1775, Massachusetts was in a state of unrest due to oppressive legislation passed by the British Parliament.

The colonists had begun forming Committees of Correspondence in early 1772 and in December 1773 retaliated to the infamous Tea Act by staging the Boston Tea Party.

In October 1774, towns and cities throughout the state sent delegates to the First Provincial Congress held in Concord.

In 1778, Massachusetts was reorganized and the District of Maine was created with the counties of York, Cumberland and Lincoln. Military, civil and patriotic service for men who served from those counties will be found in Massachusetts' records.

Several Provincial Congresses were held during the War, and in 1780 the State Constitution, which is still in force today, was adopted. During the Revolutionary War, town governments were the most important forms of government in Massachusetts, although certain judicial matters were handled by the county courts. On 5 April 1775, Massachusetts passed the first of several resolutions regarding the establishment of an army. In late April, the Provincial Congress approved legislation calling for an army of thirty thousand men. Massachusetts remained in the military forefront throughout the Revolution supplying nearly one-third of all the colonial forces. Her troops participated primarily in the campaigns of the Northern Army, the defenses of New York and various battles in New Jersey and Pennsylvania; however, some Massachusetts men were engaged in the southern campaigns.

The Massachusetts economy was based heavily on maritime interests. To safeguard those interests, in November 1775, she passed the first of several resolves regarding the protection of her seacoast. The Maine coastline was especially vulnerable to British naval forces based in Canada. Due to the above circumstances, Massachusetts formed a state navy in January 1776.

Massachusetts, like her sister colonies, required Oaths of Allegiance from her citizens and the State's residents loaned money to the Continental Loan Office. Her provincial congresses passed several resolves to provide blankets and clothing for Massachusetts' forces. The first of such was the Coat Roll Resolution approved only a few days after the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Loyalists in eastern Massachusetts were well organized and established the first loyalists corps in the American colonies at Freetown in 1774. Another group of loyalists was centered in the Penobscot area of Maine.

Boston was a haven for loyalists from surrounding towns and the neighboring colonies, especially during the British occupation of the city from May 1774 to March 1776.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire General Assembly authorized a Committee of Correspondence in May 1774 to correspond and meet with representatives of the other colonies, Governor John Wentworth retaliated by dissolving the Assembly in June 1774.

All thirty-four members of the House were expelled from their chambers, but met as an “extra-legal” provincial congress in a nearby public house. Wentworth fled in the summer of 1775. Representatives from most of the one hundred fifty-five towns in the State continued to meet in five successive Provincial Congresses at Exeter. The Congress adopted a written constitution in January 1776, making the congress the House of Representatives and authorized an upper legislative body, the Council.

In response to the attack at Lexington in April 1775, the Third Provincial Congress sent twelve hundred men to Massachusetts. Two New Hampshire regiments fought at Bunker Hill on 17 June. By the end of the first year of the war, New Hampshire had almost five thousand men in arms, or six percent of the entire population of the state. In September 1776, an act was passed which created a new state militia. New Hampshire commissioned only two naval vessels, however, the State Committee of Safety initiated a system of privateering that thrived throughout the war.

This patriotic fervor was also reflected in the response to the Association Test of April 1776 requiring men over twenty-one to pledge their allegiance. As of November 1777, all civil and military officers, barristers and attorneys were required to either sign the Test or be suspended from office. Some of the few loyalists who lived throughout the state refused to sign. Their names were reported to New Hampshire’s General Assembly and Committee of Safety.

As in other New England colonies, patriotic contributions and civil service were recorded in the minutes of the town councils. Some extracts or lists are published in various town histories.

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NEW JERSEY

At the onset of the Revolution, the State of New Jersey consisted of two politically distinct areas, divided roughly along a diagonal line from the northwest to the southeast. A turbulent East Jersey teemed with loyalists and anti-British sentiment manifested itself in civil disobedience over land title disputes with the proprietors. In contrast, sparsely settled West Jersey, with its concentration of Quakers, was less impacted by oppressive British laws, and did not exhibit dissatisfaction as dramatically as East Jersey.

In February 1774, Essex County leaders called for a Provincial Congress and Committees of Correspondence were established. On 21 July 1774, delegates to the First Continental Congress were elected by a Provincial Congress held at New Brunswick.

By July 1776, the Provincial Congress, representing all counties, had ordered the arrest of Governor William Franklin, adopted a state constitution, and resolved to support independence. On 27 August 1776, the Legislature convened under the new Constitution. Despite British occupation from August to December 1776, the Revolutionary government, consisting of the Council of Safety, Legislature and Assembly, remained in control.

In this State, where loyalists comprised fully one-third of the population, the Revolution took on the semblance of civil war. By an Ordinance passed at the February-March 1776 session of the Provincial Congress, voters were required to take an Oath of Allegiance. Anyone who can be proven to have voted between March 1776 and 26 November 1783 may be credited with patriotic service. Oaths of Allegiance were required of all civil and military officers as of 19 September 1776.

Militias were formally raised in June 1775, and by October 1775 men were recruited for the continental forces. In 1776, a standing army of state troops was created.

British ships closely patrolled New Jersey's coastline, limiting her naval operations to privateering, chiefly from Little Egg Harbor.

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NEW YORK

New York had the unenviable position of being a politically and emotionally divided colony. Loyalists representing a large percent of the merchant and land owning population, maintained strongholds in Westchester County, as well as New York City, Staten Island, and Long Island.

For several reasons, the control of New York was regarded as the key to the military situation in America: (1) New York lay at the gateway of the Hudson whose long valley extending northward close to the waters of Lake George and Lake Champlain formed a line straight through the heart of the country. It separated rebellious New England from the Southern Colonies. If the British could secure this line, the colonies would be cut in two, and each section could be crushed. (2) New York had the best harbor on the coast, which would afford a splendid base for the landing of troops and supplies. Great Britain's powerful navy could aid and support her army in capturing the city. (3) There were thousands of Tories or loyalists in New York who could be relied on to aid the cause of the King.

On 15 September 1776, the British regained control of New York City where they remained in power until their troops were evacuated in November 1783. During that time, most civil offices were held by men loyal to the King. Many loyalists signed Oaths of Allegiance before Royal Governor Tryon to King George in 1778.

Concurrently, the patriots were petitioning for fair representation and were organizing Committees of Correspondence. The Albany Committee called for representatives from each county to meet in New York City in September 1774 as a Provincial Congress. Acting independently of the loyalist New York Assembly, the Provincial Congress sent delegates to Philadelphia in April 1775 and passed numerous resolutions regarding the treatment of loyalists.

In May 1775, one hundred members vowed to "associate and to adopt and endeavor to carry into execution whatever measures may be recommended by the Continental Congress or resolved upon by this Provincial Congress, bound by all the ties of Religion, Honor and Love of our Country." Lists of Signers or Associators from New York towns and counties are published in the Calendar of Historical Manuscripts.

Despite the strong loyalist ties in New York, thousands of men served in American forces. Military service was divided into three classes: the militia, the levies and the Line. The militia served primarily within New York but could be called upon to go outside the colony for as long as a three-month tour. The levies were drafted from the militia units and from the public at

large to serve outside of New York for their entire tour of duty. The Line was composed of nine regiments, including the artillery and the Green Mountain Boys, in continental service under George Washington.

Because the British occupied New York City and surrounding waters throughout most of the war, New York's navy was never large or effective. The New York Provincial Congress commissioned only four privateers.

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NORTH CAROLINA

The First Provincial Congress that met in August 1774 at New Bern recommended that each county elect a Committee of Safety.

In April 1775, the Second Provincial Congress met.

In May 1775, the Mecklenburg Resolves were adopted at a public meeting at Charlotte declaring null and void all commissions granted by the King and making provisions for a new government. At New Bern, the Committee of Safety called for a union of all colonies and pledged support for the Continental Congress. Governor Martin fled the state; royal rule ended.

On 12 April 1776, the Fourth Provincial Congress met at Halifax, unanimously adopting a resolution to Continental Congress known as the Halifax Resolves. This resolution gave the delegates of North Carolina the power to concur with delegates of other colonies to declare independence.

In addition to the continental forces, North Carolina organized Military Districts – Edenton, Halifax, Hillsborough, New Bern, Wilmington, Salisbury and eventually Morgan. Three areas of North Carolina had heavy concentrations of loyalists; the Cape Fear Region with its wealthy merchants and plantation owners; the Piedmont whose Scottish highlanders had received land in exchange for an oath of loyalty to the King; and the western counties whose German and Quaker populations did not sympathize with the war.

Because of the shortage of money in all of the colonies, various types of “notes of credit” were devised. In North Carolina, those who provided goods or services were given slips of paper, official forms, or handwritten scraps of paper. These slips were to be redeemed for cash with interest. In 1780, these vouchers were recalled and new notes were issued, cut from its stub in a curved manner called “indented” for later identification. Not all vouchers were records of Revolutionary War military service. Only forty to fifty thousand of the vouchers have been saved. These vouchers were registered in the Revolutionary Army Account books. An explanation of the types of records contained in each volume in which the researcher is interested should be consulted.

A designation of patriotic service is given to any person who entered a land claim for a land grant between 1 January 1778 and 26 November 1783 (the date of the law and the latest date accepted by NSDAR for any service). The law states (State Records of North Carolina, vol. 24, p. 44) “That every person . . .before he shall enter a claim for any of the lands aforesaid, shall take and subscribe the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and Abjuration prescribed by the law of

this state.” Many of the entries for vacant land in individual counties have been abstracted and published by Albert B. Pruitt, Weynette Parks Haun, and others.

During the revolution, the area now known as Tennessee was claimed and loosely administered by North Carolina. The settlers in southeastern Tennessee, in the area around the Watauga River, drew up a compact of government called the Watauga Association. This association petitioned the North Carolina Legislature in August 1776 requesting annexation to North Carolina. In May 1780, persons from a settlement on the Cumberland River in Middle Tennessee drafted the Cumberland Compact. Signers of both of these documents are considered to have patriotic service as a signer of a petition. Men from the area that is now Tennessee served in North Carolina units.

North Carolina gave military bounty warrants to its continental line soldiers. The Military Land District, where these grants were to be located was in Middle Tennessee mainly in the area of then Davidson and Sumner Counties. No military bounty land was given within the present boundaries of North Carolina. These military warrants could be sold or assigned so the person receiving the grant was not necessarily the person who performed the military service. Not all land grants in Tennessee at this time period were given for military service. The North Carolina Archives may be able to help in determining the person to whom a revolutionary military bounty land warrant was awarded.

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PENNSYLVANIA

Benjamin Franklin described the composition of pre-Revolutionary Pennsylvania as one-third Quaker, one-third German and one-third mixed ethnicity, chiefly Scots-Irish, who dominated the western frontier. Pennsylvania was the host of the First Continental Congress, 5 September 1774 in Philadelphia. Her provisional government, in large measure reflecting its Quaker constituency adopted a conservative and conciliatory approach toward problems with England.

Indian attacks on the western frontier forced a convening of the Assembly in 1774, which approved participation in a Continental Congress. Local Committees of Correspondence sprang up, giving the radical element an effective forum for popularizing their desire for independence. Ultimately, Pennsylvania agreed to the non-importation plan of the First Continental Congress.

On 24 July 1776, the Committees of Correspondence, formed a Constitutional Convention, authorized a state constitution and established a Committee of Safety to manage affairs until the constitution could be implemented. In September 1777, Philadelphia fell to the British army, which occupied the city until 18 June 1778.

Continental line soldiers from Pennsylvania served in battles from Quebec to Yorktown. Additionally, many fought with continental regiments, which were not raised exclusively in the state, such as Hazen's 2nd Canadian regiment, Armand's Partisan Legion and Pulaski's Legion. Men who fought in the Wyoming Valley are credited with Connecticut service. Sources for that service can be found in the Connecticut section.

Soldiers were recruited for continental service beginning in June 1775, but militias were not formalized until March 1777 when it became apparent that the volunteer Associators, forerunners of the militia since 1775, could not provide the large dependable force needed.

Pennsylvania militia companies were composed of eight classes, each class being called into service in rotation to protect its local community from devastating loss. These men are considered soldiers, provided they were not fined for non-attendance. Other state controlled organizations included the "Flying Camp" and "Rangers." A state navy was officially authorized on 13 October 1775, although it had been active informally prior to that time guarding the Delaware River.

A law passed 13 June 1777 required all men over the age of eighteen to sign an Oath of Allegiance, rejecting allegiance to King George. All signers and those citizens who paid the

“Supply Tax,” which was levied to fund the war effort are credited with patriotic service. Many of the supply taxes have been published in the “Pennsylvania Archives” series. However, not all tax lists published in these series are considered supply taxes.

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RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island General Assembly set the stage for future independence on 15 June 1774 when it declared that a firm union of the colonies was necessary to preserve their rights and liberties. On 22 April 1775, it passed a resolution calling for an army of observation after receiving the news of the Battle of Lexington. This army, to be comprised of fifteen hundred men, was responsible for the protection of the people of Rhode Island, and if needed, to march and join with neighboring colonies for their safety and protection. In February 1778, every able-bodied minority male was permitted to enlist and was entitled to full wages and benefits.

In March 1776, one hundred ten men and officers were included in the fifteen hundred to outfit two armed vessels, chartered by the colony to protect its trade. This inauspicious beginning of the Rhode Island navy was subsequently augmented by acts commissioning privateers and procuring men and vessels.

On 4 May 1776, the General Assembly renounced allegiance to King George, and removed his name from all commissions for offices and writs and processes in law.

As in other colonies, there was opposition. The loyalist element in Rhode Island reflected both commercial and conservative elements that rejected armed rebellion on economic and moral grounds. In June 1776, tests or affirmations of allegiance were required by all men over the age of sixteen who were suspected of being hostile to the American colonies.

An act passed in Rhode Island on March 1777, required a military census of all men over the age of sixteen. The surviving lists indicate age groups and the ability to bear arms, but are not to be considered proof of military service during the Revolution.

Minutes of town meetings include committee members, civil officers, and patriotic contributions made during the Revolution. Town minutes recorded after the war also contain information on pensioners.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

There were many factional disputes in the colony of South Carolina at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. There were dedicated loyalists living on the up country frontier as well as Scots and Germans who had endured enough fighting in Europe. The low country rebels could not support the revolution alone and needed to involve the frontiersmen.

In June 1775, the Provincial Assembly authorized the raising of troops and the creation of a Committee of Safety. In this way both factions of the colony served together in military units at the direction of the Committee. The reduction of Charleston on 12 May 1780 placed South Carolina under British martial law. Until the General Assembly reconvened on 2 January 1782, few records were kept.

While Revolutionary War service for South Carolina residents is found under the common heading of military, civil and patriotic, there are some unusual sources to consult for proof.

South Carolinians served in the continental establishment, in state troops, with militia companies and in the navy. Proof of service in the continental line may be found at the National Archives and Records Administration. The South Carolina Archives is the source for all other service, including pensions granted by the State. However, some militia muster rolls are in the collections of the South Carolina Library.

The best source for proof of South Carolina service will be found in the Audited Accounts. When a claim was made between 20 August 1783 and 31 August 1786, it was audited and an account was established as an "audited account." The Audited Account was approved or disapproved by the Auditor General. After final approval by a legislative committee, an "Indent" was completed for payment of the claim. The Indents were negotiable and often were sold.

South Carolina also granted bounty land to its veterans and their survivors. A continental soldier was eligible to receive one hundred acres from the Federal Government and one hundred acres from the state. All land was located in South Carolina. Certificates or Oaths of Allegiance were not required to receive land grants.

The Thomas Sumpter Papers in the Draper Collection are a valuable tool for documenting up country Revolutionary War service. References to the support provided to the United State by the Catawba Tribe may also be found in the Draper Collection.

The jury lists which prove civil service for many of the state's residents have been published.

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VERMONT

The area that is now Vermont was claimed at various times by Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York. The conflict over proprietorship resulted, first in the formation of Town Committees of Safety and then statewide conventions that were responsible for raising troops, defending the frontiers, and sending delegates to Continental Congress. On 15 January 1777, the Westminster Convention assumed responsibility for the whole territory and declared it a free and independent state. Even this remarkable declaration did not end the controversy and despite appeals to Continental Congress, Vermont's sovereignty was not recognized until 1791 when it became the fourteenth state. As a result of the prolonged dispute, many references to Vermont in the Revolution are found in the state papers of New York and New Hampshire.

In September 1776, the General Convention at Dorset requested all males over sixteen to sign the Association Test pledging to take up arms against the British, if needed. At the same time, the Convention voted to build a jail to confine Tories. In July 1777, the Council of Safety voted to confiscate and sell at public auction, the properties of proven Tories as a means of raising money for the defense of the state.

Vermont was the home of one of the most famous military units of the Revolution, the Green Mountain Boys. Under the leadership of Ethan Allen and Seth Warner, they captured Ticonderoga and Crown Point in May 1775. The Continental Congress recognized their services by authorizing their pay, allowing them to choose their own officers, and assigning them to the Convention of New York. In July 1775, New York ordered the Green Mountain Boys to be an independent body of troops of not more than five hundred men and officers. They were engaged in the invasion and defense of Canada, and the Battles of Saratoga and New York.

After Vermont declared itself an independent state, the General Assembly passed legislation to regulate a state militia. The Act of February 1779 divided the state into several militia districts from which 5 regiments were to be organized.

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VIRGINIA

The colony of Virginia extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River during the era of the American Revolution. Within this vast territory were residents who encouraged the movement for independence in a variety of ways.

The names of the vast majority of Virginians who supported the Revolution are found in military records. To better understand the structure of the armed forces of Virginia it may be helpful to consult a *Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution 1774-1787*, compiled by E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra. There were several types of military service. They were: continental, state line, navy and militia.

Virginians became attached to continental line regiments soon after the Revolution developed into a military action. While the units were raised in the state, they came under the control of Continental Congress and the records created are found in the National Archives. Claims against the Federal government for compensation for continental service were being processed as late as 1852. Additional information can be found in the Virginia Half Pay and other Revolutionary War pension files. These payments started as a benefit for Virginia officers who would remain on duty until the end of the Revolution. When the federal government absorbed the state pension system, the Half Pay recipients were included in the transfer authority. Many documents and depositions appear in the Half Pay files that are not found in the regular pension files despite the fact that the same man may have applied for both benefits.

In theory, the Virginia state line was raised to defend the state but the men often became attached to continental forces. In addition to guarding Virginia, their duties included the movement of prisoners and security of supply lines. While serving in the state line, officers and men were directed by the General Assembly and the records are in the State Library and Archives of Virginia.

Forming the militia was a function of the counties and was a steady source of drafted soldiers and officers to fill state and continental units. Officers maintained the enlistment and muster rolls. Quite often, those records did not reach a county or state repository. There are a few Virginia militia rolls in the collection of the National Archives, but the majority of available information will be found in the State Archives. County histories and genealogical periodicals contain some militia lists. Other sources for not only military service, but civil and patriotic service as well, are the county court order and minute books. Most militia companies did not

serve more than a few days at a time. However, it was necessary for a man to have been on active duty for eight days in order to receive any payment from the state.

Largest of all the Revolutionary state navies, the Virginia navy was an important part of the defense of Virginia. At least seventy- seven commissioned vessels and about one hundred privateers were on patrol duty in the local waterways. The crews for these vessels were made up of men who lived in the coastal areas and along the rivers. In February 1776, a State Marine Corps was formed to man the gunnery positions of the State Navy.

Additional sources for military service for a Revolutionary ancestor may be found in the Virginia State Archives bounty land warrants and military certificates, rejected claims, auditors' pay accounts and Virginia Revolutionary War state pensions. No bounty land was awarded in the confines of the present state of Virginia. The land was located in the military districts of Ohio and Kentucky. Some veterans settled on the land; however, many warrants were sold to speculators.

To the west, Virginians defended forts, kept the rivers open for the delivery of supplies and held the frontiers against British and Indian attacks. In 1777, Indian raids into Kentucky increased, backed by the British who wished to create a diversion on the frontier. In 1778, Virginia Governor Patrick Henry authorized Lieutenant Colonel George Rogers Clark to attack the British held outposts in the Illinois country that were supplying Indians with arms. Kaskaskia and nearby outposts, including Cahokia fell in the summer of 1778 and in February 1779, Clark and his men recaptured Vincennes. The vast number of records generated by the Clark expedition include the names of men who signed the Oath of Allegiance to the United States at Vincennes on 20 July 1778. Kaskaskia and Cahokia residents and their support of the Revolutionary effort are well documented in the printed collections of the Illinois State Historical Society. Actual military service in the western areas is credited as such; but Oaths and material support are classified as patriotic service. Care must be taken when researching the records of Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes to be sure an activity actually took place under American authority and supported the Revolution.

Among the various valuable sources of information that document the western Revolutionary activity are collections held by various state archives and historical societies. Another key source is the Draper Papers, a collection of historical manuscripts gathered in the mid-1800s and grouped into topical series. Not all volumes include Revolutionary era material.

Patriotic service can apply to the elderly, the infirm and females in addition to able-bodied men who may not appear on any military list. Many people can qualify as Patriots because they provided provisions, livestock or services to benefit the armed forces. At the end

of the Revolution, claims were filed for compensation by a majority of the Virginians who were eligible. An extensive collection of Virginia Revolutionary public claims dating mostly from 1780-1783 has been compiled and abstracted. The collection is based on records held by the Virginia State Archives.

In 1779 and 1790, a large number of Virginians turned in their paper money to the Continental Loan Office to aid an economy flooded with counterfeit notes. These people, including a few women, qualify as Patriots. The lists are kept by the State Archives and are arranged alphabetically with county of residence designation. This list is often referred to as a Short Census of Virginia.

Throughout the Old Dominion, citizens were busy signing petitions for various reasons. The substance of these petitions has been presented in Virginia Legislative Petitions, 6 May 1776 to 21 June 1782. Patriotic service can be established if an ancestor signed a petition that was compiled to further the Revolutionary cause.

In 1779, the General Assembly enacted legislation allowing settlers to make legal claims on unpatented lands in nine western counties. Actual recipients who obtained a certificate granted for Settlement or pre-exemption rights also qualify for patriotic service, as the Oath of Fidelity had to be taken at the time the certificate was received. The records of Land Office Preemption Certificates, 14 October 1779 through 26 November 1783 are available in the Land Office in Richmond.

Personal property tax or land tax in Virginia in the year 1783 is an acceptable form of patriotic service. At the October 1782 session of the Virginia General Assembly, the supply tax law was amended where it stated that a portion of the property tax collected would be for the defense of the state.

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FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS

Thousands of troops from France made their contribution to the American effort. The French Navy, under the command of Comte de Grasse and Comte D'Estang, pursued the British fleet along the Atlantic coastal waterways. In 1780, fifty-five hundred men arrived with the military leader, Comte de Rochambeau, providing much needed supplies. The Marquis de LaFayette took part in several campaigns including Williamsburg and Yorktown.

Other countries whose citizens aided the American cause were Sweden, Poland, Germany, Portugal, and the Netherlands. Hessian soldiers arrived in America as mercenaries for the British. Some of these switched sides and remained in America after the war.

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CANADIAN PARTICIPANTS

Several groups of sympathizers from Canada supported the American patriots, known as “Bostonians,” in Canada. Among those sympathizers were Nova Scotians who had been born in New England, Nova Scotian Indians, Acadians, French-Canadians and a group of merchants from Montreal who had roots in the United States, principally New England and New York.

Many of those individuals fled Canada when the British took firm control of that country. Others joined the American army and stayed in the United States after the war. Ultimately, most of the refugees settled in the Maine District of Massachusetts, were granted refugee land in New York or returned to the colonies of their origins.

Some French speaking American supporters did remain in Canada. Among them were a few Acadians and some families who resided along the banks of the St. Lawrence River.

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SPAIN

Although Spain did not formally recognize the United States until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the Spanish Empire assisted the American colonies in their struggle for independence. Carlos III of Spain authorized Bernardo de Galvez, the Governor of Louisiana, to discretely supply the American colonists with supplies from Havana.

On 21 June 1779, Spain declared war on Great Britain, as obligated by the Bourbon Compact, which Carlos III had signed with France on 15 August 1761. Bernardo de Galvez immediately began his military campaigns in which the British were ultimately driven out of the Mississippi Valley and West Florida. (See also [LOUISIANA](#).)

Ranchers from Spanish Texas provided cattle to the Spanish forces, thus qualifying them for Patriotic service.

Spain also supplied critical financial support to the French forces, which were fighting alongside the Americans. In one instance, the French fleet under the Comte de Grasse was not able to pay its sailors. Spain provided de Grasse with the needed funds, thus enabling the fleet to sail to Yorktown and prevent Cornwallis from escaping by sea.

In order to recover some of the expenses of the war, Carlos III issued a Royal Order on 17 August 1780 asking for a one time, *voluntary* donation from his subjects in America. The extent to which the order was distributed is not currently known; however, there is documentation proving that it was collected in what is now New Mexico, Arizona and California.

Those women who can prove lineal descent from individuals who participated in any of the activities described above are eligible to join the NSDAR. The membership requirements are the same as for any other applicant.

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