Guide to Completing SAR Membership Applications
11 November 2016

The following information is provided to guide you in researching and preparing a Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) membership application.

All SAR applications are to be coordinated through the local chapter Registrar. When the chapter and the applicant are both satisfied that an application is complete, the Registrar will print the final application form on the required SAR watermarked, legal size application paper and will mail the printed application form to the applicant for signature and return to the chapter Registrar along with checks for local chapter, state society and national fees and current year dues. The chapter Registrar will mail the signed application form, supporting documentation confirming information shown on the application fo1·m, a cover letter and the applicant provided checks to the California SAR Registrar to begin the application review process (the review process is about 2-3 months).

The SAR application requires that you show and provide SAR acceptable supporting documentation proving: 1) you are who you say you are, 2) you are a direct line descendant of your patriot ancestor and 3) that your patriot ancestor provided an SAR acceptable "patriotic service." These are the same basic membership application requirements of Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution and Sons of the Revolution (SR).

A photocopy of your birth certificate is required to prove you are who you say you are and also proves you are the child of your parent who is in the direct ancestral line to your patriot ancestor.

To prove you are a direct line descendant of your patriot ancestor, for each generation you must provide SAR acceptable supporting documentation confirming that each person in your direct ancestral line is the child of their parent who is a direct line descendant of your patriot ancestor. The supporting documentation for eac.h generation should also confirm, as much as possible, birth dates and locations of birth, death dates and locations of death and marriage dates and locations of marriage. Complete birth, death and marriage dates and locations are not required to obtain SAR membership approval but the more information provided the better in order to confirm the essential direct lineage information. For membership approval, SAR does not require proving birth, death and marriage date and location in formation for spouses of those in your direct ancestral line to your patriot ancestor (it is understood that DAR Registrars do ask for supporting documentation for information on spouses not in the direct ancestral line). Acceptable supporting documentation includes birth certificates, birth records, death certificates, death records, marriage certificates and marriage records, family bibles, published obituaries, newspaper articles, credible family genealogies (that are well documented as to the source of information included), published town histories, published histories, 1850 and more recent census records showing a child in the household of the child's parents, land records and deeds that include parent-to-child relationships, probate records, wills, pension records and other credible records. Previously approved SAR and DAR membership applications stamped as "Record Copy" or "Copy" obtained from the SAR or DAR may be used to prove single or multiple generation child-to-parent relationships (DAR memberships that were approved prior to 1985 are not accepted as full proof and additional supporting documentation may be required to be submitted to confirm the accuracy of the information on the "Record Copy").

To prove "patriotic service" of the patriot ancestor, SAR acceptable supporting documentation may include published lists of Revolutionary War soldiers and sailors, Revolutionary War pension file pages, credible family genealogies, published town histories, published histories, previo111Sly approved SAR and DAR membership applications ("Record Copies").

On the applications, the dates and locations must be in the following form: 04 Jul 1776 and City/County/State (example: Sunnyvale/Santa Clara/CA). If you don't know the county the form would be: Sunnyvale//CA. If you don't know the city but y-0u do know the county the form would be: /Santa Clara/CA. If you only know the state, the form would be: //CA.

For the first three generations, if possible, please include the first, middle and last name of each individual and the city/town, county and state in which they were born.

An applicant can start entering the necessary data for their application form by going to the NSSAR Online Application Form Data Entry System: https://members.SAR.org. Click on "Sign Up", create a login (your email will be your "user name") create an account password, wait to receive an account creation confirmation email, from the confirmation email login again to your account, click on "My Applications," and "Start" an application form. A step by step pdf file guide to entering data into the system can be provided by the chapter Registrar.

Most Commonly Provided Supporting Documentation for an SAR Membership Application

A Photocopy (not a certified copy) of the applicant's birth certificate naming his parents is almost always submitted and required. Social Security Numbers can be blacked-out on the photocopy of the birth certificate.

The most common SAR acceptable supporting documentation for child-parent relationships after the applicant and for direct line ancestors born after 1830 are:
- Birth certificates naming parents.
- Death certificates naming parents.
- US Federal Census Records from 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 as these list children living in the households of their parents.
- Wills and/or probate records naming children.
- Published obituaries naming parents and children.
- SAR and DAR "Record Copies" of applications approved after January 1, 1985.
- Well source documented published family genealogies and local histories that include genealogies (provide title page and applicable pages that prove child-parent relationships).

The most common SAR acceptable supporting documentation for child-parent relationships for ancestors between the patriot ancestor and ancestors born before 1835 are one of the following:
- Death certificates naming parents.
- Wills and/or probate records naming children.
- Local town birth, marriage and death records.
- Well source documented published family genealogies and local histories that include genealogies (provide title page and applicable pages that prove child-parent relationships).
- SAR and DAR "Record Copies" of applications approved after January 1, 1985.

The most common SAR acceptable supporting documentation for the patriot ancestor's patriotic service are frequently one of the following:
- State published records of those who served in the Revolutionary War from their states (MA, NH, PA Archives).
- Pension records of those who served in the Revolutionary War.
- Well source documented published family genealogies and local histories that include genealogies (provide title page and applicable pages that prove the ancestor's patriotic service).
- SAR and DAR "Record Copies" of applications approved after January 1, 1985.
- The National Archives, including the branch in San Bruno, can provide access to Revolutionary War pension files.
- FoJd3. com, a subscription service and a subsidiary of Ancestry. com specializes in military records.

NOTE: Because SAR and DAR application standards and application approval standards have changed over time, SAR and DA R "Record Copies" of applications approved before 1985 may not be accepted as a sole source of supporting documentation for current SAR applications. Some pre-1985 SAR and DAR "Record Copies" are useful in that they list acceptable sources for information that can be obtained again.

The above and more are nicely covered in the NSSAR website: www.sar.org "Meet SAR" ⇒ "Become a Member" ⇒ "Membership Process". The SAR website has useful information and guidance on the SAR membership application process including an on-line system for entering application data for the SAR membership application form. The SAR website provides summaries of Qualifications, Acceptable Service and Documenting your Line.
Also under the "Genealogy" ⇒ "Genealogical Copy Services" ⇒ "Record Copy Request Form" you can download the form to request SAR "Record Copies" (previously approved SAR membership application forms). Patriot Searches, Document Searches and Research Services can also be requested from the SAR website. Also helpful are an SAR Membership Application Preparation Manual and the documented SAR application review and approval policies, the most current versions can be provided as pdf files by your local chapter Registrar upon request.

Repositories for the above information include:

- www.Ancestry.com including digitized publications found through its catalog and pre-1970 approved SAR membership applications. Subscription service.
- Fold3.com (formerly called footnote.com, now a subsidiary of Ancestry. com specializing in military records). Subscription service.
- www.MyHeritage.com.Subscription service.
- www. SAR.org "Record Copies", Library and research services (click on Genealogy and/or "Membership")
- www. DAR. org Genealogical Research System (GRS) at DAR.org
- DAR Library and research services
- FamilySearch.org (LDS genealogical research website and Library - free)
- GoogleBooks. com (digitized local histories and genealogies)
- Newspapers.com Subscription service.
- www. AmericanAncestors.com (New England Historical & Genealogical Society - Library, journal and research services)
- www.Vitalchek.com (for fee service for obtaining birth, death & marriage certificates)
- www. HeritageQuest.com
- www.RootsWeb.com
- www.USGenWeb.org
- www.Genealogy.com
- www.GenForum.com
- www.CaliforniaHistoricalSociety.org
- National Archives, 1000 Commodore Dr., San Bruno, CA, 700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC (pension records, birth, death and marriage records) www.archives.gov locations
- City of Santa Clara, Central Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara, CA - Genealogy Room (home of the Santa Clara County Historical Society) Ancestry.com Library Edition can be used for free at the library (catalog online)
- California State Library, Sutro 1630 Holloway Avenue, 5th Floor, San Francisco in the J. Paul Leonard Library at San Francisco State University (catalog online)
- California State Library, 900 N St., Sacramento, CA Room 200 & 914 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA (catalog online)
- California State Archives, 1020 "O" St., Sacramento, CA
- www.CaliforniaHistoricalSociety.org
- LDS Family History Centers (multiple locations, see telephone directory or search on-line)
- State departments of vital records (birth, death and marriage records)
- Ancestry.com (online information subscription service -census records, published books and genealogies)
- Local historical societies (use web search engine to find)
- Local libraries (use web search engine to find)
- Local town and county clerks (use web search engine to find)
- Local church records (use web search engine to find and/or FamilySearch.org)
- www.SARSAC.com/html/ResourceBiblio.htm (bibliography to sources)