



# National Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Genealogy Committee

Policies

(Reflects changes up to 27 Sep 2014)

# Introduction

The Genealogy Committee of the NSSAR is responsible for forming the genealogy policies of the organization. Policies are formed by official action of the Committee during its meetings. A policy becomes effective upon adoption and remains in effect until the policy has been completed or rescinded.

The Genealogy Committee works closely with the Genealogist General and the NSSAR Genealogy Staff in the administration of the policies.

This on-line document is updated each time policy changes are adopted by the Committee so users are encouraged to download updated copies frequently.

## NSSAR Constitution and Bylaws

The complete text of the Constitution and Bylaws of the NSSAR may be found in volume I of the SAR Handbook. The Handbook is on-line at **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** . Some important excerpts include:

**Constitution, Article III:** Any male shall be eligible for membership in the Society being a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unflinching in loyalty to, and rendered active service in the cause of American Independence either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman or minuteman, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress of any one of the several Colonies or States, as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence, as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature, as a foreign national of, but not limited to, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden or Switzerland who rendered service in the cause of American Independence or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain, provided, however, that no person advocating the overthrow of the Government of the United States by use of force or violence shall be eligible for membership in the Society.

**Bylaw No. 1, Section 5:** Whenever an applicant for membership in the Society is a genetic (bloodline) relative of a present or former member of the Society whose application contains references to authorities or sources for the ancestor of that present or former member having been eligible as a Son of the American Revolution as provided in Article III of the Constitution, it shall only be necessary to establish applicant's relationship to present or former member and to include present or former member's National Number; provided that proofs satisfactory to the Genealogist General are on file at NSSAR Headquarters to establish the line of descent from the patriot ancestor to the present or former member.

As an exception to the above paragraph, close relatives of present or former member, limited to brothers, sons, grandsons, nephews and great nephews, may apply using only a copy of the present or former member's approved SAR membership application and acceptable documentation of his relationship to present or former member, even if one or more of present or former member's links back to the patriot ancestor are not documented sufficiently to satisfy current requirements. No additional proof may be required of the applicant provided the ancestor's patriotic service is not in question and is fully documented. If applicant does not provide acceptable new documentation for the links that are deficient, his application may be approved; but it will be annotated as "grandfathered." When the applicant's membership certificate is sent to him, he may be requested to submit additional information about deficient links.

Until and unless any such requested additional proofs are provided, an application annotated as "grandfathered" may not be used by third parties for either original applications or supplemental applications.

**Bylaw No. 9:** The Genealogist General shall examine all applications for membership in the Society and shall approve those applications found to be in accordance with the policies, criteria and procedures established by the Genealogy Committee and the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws.

In the event there is an appeal of the Genealogist General's decision concerning an application for membership in the Society, the Genealogist General shall re-examine the application and then report his findings with evidence supporting his position to the President General within thirty (30) days from the time the appeal was submitted. The President General may, before rendering an opinion on the matter, seek advice and counsel of the Genealogy Committee. This committee shall respond to the President General within thirty (30) days from the date the matter was referred to them. The decision of the President General concerning the application shall then be communicated to the applicant and/or the member who appealed the decision of the Genealogist General.

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# Policies of the NSSAR Genealogy Committee

Policy Number

2003-05

Policy Title

Vital record data available in electronic format

Policy

NSSAR will accept vital record data that is available on the Internet or sold on a CD-ROM, which have been compiled from reputable sources and would otherwise be acceptable to the NSSAR as documentation. In all cases of Internet documentation a hard copy that identifies the URL and/or source of the document shall accompany the submission so its authenticity can be verified if necessary.

Adopted

Revision-1

Revision-2

Rescinded

9/23/2003

Indexing Terms

Application proofs; electronic media

Policy Number

2005-01

Policy Title

Acceptance of Direct Evidence or Proof Arguments In a Lineage

Policy

On any given application, direct evidence or a compelling proof argument meeting all of the elements of a standard genealogical proof is required for each genealogical link between any two generations. Any link in an application may be accepted by the SAR Genealogy Staff if they determine that the link has been sufficiently established based on primary evidence or by a genealogical proof argument for that link. A genealogical proof argument can be made to build a case using indirect evidence of lineage, to resolve inconsistencies in available evidence, or to differentiate between persons of the same name and should include the following elements: 1) a reasonable search of available evidence, 2) complete and accurate source citations, 3) an analysis and correlation of the collected evidence, 4) resolution of any conflicting evidence, and 5) a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion. A discussion of the reliability of any evidence that is open to question or in conflict with other evidence is needed as part of the proof argument.

Adopted

Revision-1

Revision-2

Rescinded

2/25/2005

9/30/2011

3/2/2012

Indexing Terms

Application proofs; Proof arguments; Indirect proof



Policy Number			
2005-03			
Policy Title			
Application completeness			
Policy			
<p>Documentation of applicant's bloodline descent is required; other information and documentation is requested and encouraged. All proof documentation must be cited on the reverse page of the application form to the extent that space allows. The citations should provide sufficient information to indicate the source and the location of the document. A third page may be utilized for citing documentation for which space was unavailable, as long as SAR-watermarked bond paper is utilized. A birth certificate containing parents' names, place of birth, and date of birth must be presented by the applicant when available.</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
9/30/2005	9/27/13		
Indexing Terms			
Application requirements;			

Policy Number

2005-06

Policy Title

Militia Fines

Policy

1. The payment of a fine in itself shall not be considered evidence of service.
2. A militia fine, whether or not there is record payment, shall be considered as evidence of service if the record shows that (a) the soldier must have been on duty in order to commit the offense for which the fine was imposed, and (b) the offense was not one that SAR deems so great that it amounts to disloyalty or an egregious failure of duty, i.e., of sufficient gravity to flag previous service as no longer qualifying a descendant for SAR membership.
3. Prior service that is acceptable on its own merits shall not be disqualified by a subsequent militia fine where the offense for which the fine was imposed cannot be determined.
4. Appearing as a defendant in a court-martial shall not be deemed return to service if the defendant is found guilty.
5. Records regarding the exoneration of a fine may be considered on a case by case basis.

Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
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9/30/2005	3/2/2012		
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Indexing Terms

Acceptable service; Militia fines

Policy Number											
2006-01											
Policy Title											
Use of DNA in SAR Applications											
Policy											
Neither the autosomal or the Y-DNA tests prove a descent from a specific individual and can only be used as one element of a proof argument that includes additional conventional proof of the lineage.											
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2/24/2006	3/6/2009	3/1/2013	2009-01								
Indexing Terms											
Application requirements; DNA											

Policy Number

2007-01

Policy Title

Multiple Lines of Descent from the Same Qualifying Ancestor

Policy

Occasionally, a member may be able to demonstrate that he is descended from the same patriot ancestor through more than one line of descent. It shall be the policy of the SAR that while we will accept supplemental applications from members demonstrating more than one line of descent from a patriot ancestor, the SAR shall not issue more than one certificate per qualifying ancestor, nor may the member wear more than one SAR insignia representing the same ancestor.

Example No. 1: Compatriot Jim is approved for membership based on a line of descent from John Q. Patriot through the patriot's daughter Sally. Compatriot Jim subsequently submits a supplemental application based on a second line of descent from John Q. Patriot through the patriot's son, Tom.

The supplemental application may be reviewed and approved by the SAR Genealogy Department Staff so that the genealogical record is preserved in the SAR's files. Compatriot Jim may wear the SAR member badge based on his primary application based on his descent from John Q. Patriot, but Compatriot Jim may not wear a supplemental star on his member badge drape or neck ribbon based on his second line of descent from John Q. Patriot. Example

No. 2: Compatriot Jim is already a member of the SAR, and submits a supplemental application based on a line of descent from John Q. Patriot through the patriot's daughter Sally. Compatriot Jim subsequently submits a second supplemental application based on a second line of descent from John Q. Patriot through the patriot's son, Tom.

The second supplemental application may be reviewed and approved by the SAR Genealogy Department Staff so that the genealogical record is preserved in the SAR's files. Compatriot Jim may wear a supplemental star on his member badge drape or neck ribbon based on his first supplemental application based on his descent from John Q. Patriot, but Compatriot Jim may not wear a second supplemental star on his member badge drape or neck ribbon based on his second line of descent from John Q. Patriot.

Fees: The application fee for supplemental applications based on additional lines of descent from a previously approved patriot ancestor for a member, is the same as any other supplemental application fee, and is non-refundable.

Adopted

Revision-1

Revision-2

Rescinded

9/28/2007

Indexing Terms

Supplemental ancestor requirements; Multiple lines of descent

Policy Number			
2008-01			
Policy Title			
Pended Applications			
Policy			
<p>Applications that have been pended will remain on file for three years, after which the Genealogy Department Staff will contact the State Society Point of Contact and determine whether an extension is warranted, or if the pended application should be returned. An affirmative response must be received within 90 days or the application window will expire.</p> <p>Pended supplemental applications may be transferred to another patriot only once without paying an additional application fee. Any application that has been pended for over three years can no longer be transferred to another patriot.</p> <p>Applications that have been pended for five years will be returned unless the applicant has an appeal of the pended status in progress.</p> <p>Applications returned may not be resubmitted without payment of an additional application fee. Applications to be returned may be returned to the state at the state's expense, held for pickup by the state or shredded, as the state directs</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
9/26/2008	3/2/2012		
Indexing Terms			
Pended applications; Operating procedure			

Policy Number			
2009-02			
Policy Title			
Grandfathering DAR Applications			
Policy			
<p>1. The SAR shall extend to applicants who are related to members of the DAR the same courtesy that we extend to applicants who are related to members of the SAR, as found in SAR Bylaw No. 1, Section 5.</p> <p>2. Pursuant to this policy, in order for an SAR application to be grandfathered by the SAR based on a DAR application, the lineage and service set forth on the DAR application must be currently acceptable to both the NSDAR and the NSSAR. If either Society questions the lineage or the service, the application cannot be accepted until such time that the applicant provides such additional proofs as may be required to address any questions that have been raised by the SAR or the DAR.</p> <p>3. Grandfathering based on a DAR application shall be limited to two degrees of kinship, as currently recognized by the SAR, to include the following relationships of SAR applicants to DAR members: sons, grandsons, fathers, grandfathers, brothers, nephews, grandnephews, uncles, granduncles.</p> <p>4. Per SAR Bylaw No. 1, Section 5, “Until and unless any requested additional proofs are provided, an application annotated as ‘grandfathered’ may not be used by third parties for either original applications or supplemental applications.”</p> <p>5. An SAR application based on a DAR application only needs to be grandfathered if the DAR application is not sufficiently documented in accordance with current SAR genealogy criteria and policies, as set forth by the NSSAR Genealogy Committee.</p> <p>6. As with all SAR applications that cite DAR applications, the SAR applicant is asked to fill in any genealogical data that may be missing on the DAR application, and to provide such proofs as may be necessary. When applications are based on old SAR or DAR papers that did not provide spaces for dates and places, the applicant shall complete those spaces and provide acceptable documentation. Each paper will be judged on its merit, and all such applications are subject to review and updating of proofs, if necessary.</p> <p>7. Short form DAR applications and DAR “Legacy” applications cannot be used as proof of lineage or service for an SAR application, even under this SAR/DAR grandfather policy.</p> <p>8. If an SAR application, based in whole or in part on a DAR application, is “grandfathered,” a letter may be sent to the applicant requesting additional proofs so that the SAR application may be considered to be sufficiently documented in accordance with current SAR genealogy criteria and policies. This is consistent with SAR Bylaw No. 1, Section 5, which states, “When the applicant’s membership certificate is sent to him, he may be requested to submit additional information about deficient links.”</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
9/24/2009	3/2/2012		
Indexing Terms			
Application requirements; Grandfathering applications			

Policy Number			
2009-03			
Policy Title			
Pended Application Correspondence and Review Policy Revised			
Policy			
<p>New applicants whose applications have been pended awaiting additional supporting documentation may have ready access to that information and thus be able to respond to a question quickly rather than having to go through a lengthy research process.</p> <p>To avoid an unnecessarily long delay of membership approval for new members in this circumstance, it shall be the policy of the SAR Genealogy Department that responses containing additional information addressing the specific concerns raised by the SAR Genealogy Staff, and which are provided back to the Staff within 45 days of notification of the pended status, will be re-reviewed by the Staff as if the pended application were the next application in the queue. Responses with additional information that are received after this grace period shall be handled as new correspondence, and placed in the back of the queue, in accordance with the National Society Headquarters policy for treating incoming correspondence.</p> <p>Responses received within the grace period, but which on a preliminary review, do not appear to address the specific concerns raised will be moved out of this re-review and handled according the Headquarters policy. To provide higher priority to new memberships, responses to concerns raised on Supplemental applications will also be handled according to the Headquarters policy.</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
9/24/2009			
Indexing Terms			
Operating procedure; Pended applications			

Policy Number			
2010-01			
Policy Title			
Desertion, Missed Muster, Absence Without Leave			
Policy			
<p>Soldiers who are listed as having deserted, having missed a muster, or having been absent without leave shall not be considered to be qualifying patriot ancestors, unless evidence exists that such soldiers rendered qualifying military or patriotic service for the American cause after the date of the desertion, missed muster or absence. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, a muster roll or pay stub dated after the earlier desertion, missed muster or absence. Evidence of subsequent military or patriotic service may also include a state or Federal pension or bounty land warrant, given for service rendered during the Revolution.</p> <p>In some cases, a soldier may have rendered good and long service, but may miss a muster or be reported as deserted or absent without leave late in the Revolution, such as sometime after the Siege of Yorktown, or even after the Treaty of Paris. In such cases, the SAR Genealogy Staff will evaluate the circumstances of the soldier's absence from service, and may approve the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•If the soldier had rendered good and long service throughout much of the Revolution, but missed a single muster after Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown</li> <li>•If the soldier served in the military or naval forces of France or Spain in support of the American cause, and deserted the French or Spanish military so as to remain in the United States</li> <li>•Prior non-military service by members of religious denominations whose doctrine forbade the bearing of arms shall not be disallowed for failure to perform military service.</li> <li>•If there is sufficient and compelling evidence that the soldier remained loyal to the American cause, even though he was absent from service</li> <li>•If there are such other circumstances as may seem compelling to the SAR Genealogy Staff.</li> </ul> <p>If the SAR Genealogy Staff withholds approval of an application for the descendant of a soldier who deserted, missed a muster, or was absent without leave, and if the applicant believes there is good cause to justify or overlook the soldier's absence from service, the applicant may appeal the decision of the SAR Genealogy Staff to the Genealogist General.</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
9/24/2010	3/2/2012		
Indexing Terms			
Acceptable Service; Desertion			

Policy Number			
2011-01			
Policy Title			
Direct and Indirect Proof Sources for Providing Revolutionary War Service of a Patriot Ancestor			
Policy			
<p>Patriotic service must be provided using reliable sources showing the Revolutionary ancestor mentioned by full name. When two or more individuals of the same name are in the same area, there must be evidence that the service claimed was performed by the person for whom it is being claimed. Acceptable sources may be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) contemporary sources created between 1775 and 1783 such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- muster rolls,</li> <li>-records and journals of the Continental Congress,</li> <li>-state and local records naming local soldiers or those who signed oaths of allegiance, were elected officials, committee members, served on juries, provided material aid, or performed other types of qualifying service. Or</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) records produced later that confirm service such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-federal and state pension records,</li> <li>-bounty land records,</li> <li>-final payment vouchers,</li> <li>-state public claims records,</li> <li>-compiled military service records,</li> <li>-officially published compilations such as the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Archives series, and other reliable compilations listing Revolutionary War service.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Unsupported statements in prior applications, town and county histories which are not contemporary, biographical dictionaries, family histories, and genealogies may not be accepted as proof of service. Information found in these sources that can be attributed to credible witnesses who were living at the time may be considered.</p> <p>In the absence of such a record directly stating a service or providing the full name, or if such a record may be open to reasonable question, SAR may consider on a case-by-case basis credible presentations of evidence that indirectly demonstrate that the ancestor was a supporter of the patriot cause. Indirect proof of service should include the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) a reasonable search of available evidence,</li> <li>2) complete and accurate source citations,</li> <li>3) an analysis and correlation of the collected items,</li> <li>4) resolution of any conflicting evidence, and</li> <li>5) a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.</li> </ol>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
3/11/2011	9/28/12	9/27/13	2005-01
Indexing Terms			
Application requirements; Indirect proof			

Policy Number			
2011-02			
Policy Title			
Qualifying Patriotic Service Rendered by Clergy and Chaplains			
Policy			
<p>Ministers or clergymen of any religious denomination, and known to be in sympathy with the Colonies either by sermon, speech, or action may be considered as qualifying patriot ancestors.</p> <p>In compliance with Article III of the SAR Constitution, for a minister to be considered as a qualifying patriot ancestor, there must be evidence that he engaged in an overt act of resistance to the authority of Great Britain.</p> <p>In accordance with the Genealogy Committee's genealogical proof standards, a An applicant must provide acceptable proof and credible documentation that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minister ancestor was a military chaplain in the regular army, militia or navy on the American side during the Revolution;</li> <li>The minister ancestor was a civilian chaplain who openly ministered to, or otherwise supported, the officers, soldiers, seamen, marines, militiamen or minutemen of any one of the several Colonies or States;</li> <li>The minister ancestor preached support for the American cause from the pulpit or in his published writings during the Revolution;</li> <li>The minister ancestor was arrested, jailed or executed by British or Tory forces during the Revolution for inciting insurrection, rebellion or treason against the crown; or</li> <li>The minister ancestor signed an Oath of Allegiance (patriotic service) or bore arms against the British during the Revolution.</li> <li>Other acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain by the minister ancestor may be considered on a case by case basis.</li> <li>Other acts of providing support for the spiritual needs of known American patriots may also be considered on a case by case basis, provided it can be demonstrated by acceptable proof and credible documentation that the minister ancestor himself was also a patriot, or</li> <li>Other services unique to clergy may be considered on a case by case basis in accordance with the standards described in the Indirect Evidence of Service Policy.</li> </ol> <p>A minister or clergyman may not qualify for patriotic service simply because he was an ordained minister or connected to a particular faith or local church during the American Revolution, even if he came from an area or was affiliated with a church known to be populated by people who supposedly were aligned with the American cause.</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
3/11/2011			
Indexing Terms			
Application requirements; Clergy; Patriotic service			

Policy Number

2011-03

Policy Title

Acceptable Revolutionary Services

Policy

Acceptable Revolutionary service includes service in the cause of the American Independence either in a military capacity, a civil capacity, or by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain, including support for the Revolutionary governments. Service must have been rendered between April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775 and November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1783 except as noted below.

#### Military Service

Military service is service in the army, navy, or marines. Service can be at the Continental, provincial/state, or local level. Both active duty and inactive duty service is acceptable service. Active duty service in the army includes service not only in the populated areas of the 13 original states, but also participation in such activities as the invasion of Quebec, service on the frontiers such as the Cherokee Expedition and the capture of Vincennes, Kaskaskia, and Cahokia and garrison duty at Ft. Laurens and Ft. McIntosh. In addition to service between April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775 and November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1783, the following military service qualifies:

- Service at the Battle of Point Pleasant, October 10, 1774 (this day and location only).

#### Civil Service

Civil Service is the conduct of public business other than military under government authority. Civil Service can be at the Continental, provincial/state, or the local government levels, but must be for a Revolutionary government and not an occupying British government. The service can be rendered in an elected or appointed capacity, with or without remuneration. Service must have been rendered between April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775 and November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1783 except for earlier service in the Continental Congress or a provincial government as noted below.

Persons in the following positions are not considered to perform a civil service that qualifies as a Revolutionary service:

- Fiduciaries, such as bondsmen for marriages; executors and administrators of estates, conservators, guardians, and those appointed to similar positions; and witnesses.

In certain states, serving in some of the above positions required swearing or affirming allegiance and may provide evidence that can be used in an indirect proof of Patriotic Service. A witness can qualify for Patriotic Service if his testimony supports the government against activity against it, such as the sale of arms to the enemy.

Examples of Civil Service at the different levels of government include:

#### Continental

- Membership in the Continental Congress, including the first Continental Congress held in 1774. Membership in Congresses subsequent to November 26, 1783 is post-Revolutionary and not in support of American independence.
- Diplomatic service for the Continental Congress.

#### Provincial or State Service

- Membership in a provincial or state legislature. Provincial congresses and conventions held in defiance of a royal authority as early as April 1774 are acceptable.
- Governorship of a state. Royal governors of colonies are not acceptable.
- Holding any position elected or appointed by a provincial or state executive or legislature, such as a tobacco inspector, paymaster, messenger, state land office employee, or state tax commissioner.

### Local Service

- Membership in a county, township, city or town governing body.
- Any position elected or appointed by a local government's executive or governing body, or elected by the people. Town treasurers, tax collectors, constables, surveyors of county boundaries, road crew members, harbor masters, and jurors are examples. Juries are not limited to grand and petit juries, but also include juries to render such services as appraising estates, laying off a widow's dower, or assessing the impact of erecting a mill dam.

### Other Service

- Participation in the formation of a Revolutionary government, such as signing the Cumberland Compact of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1780 or serving as a delegate to the Vermont Constitutional Convention of 1777.

### Patriotic Service

Patriotic Service is service rendered to the Revolution that is not in a military or civil capacity. In essence, it covers contributions to the cause of independence that are neither Military Service nor Civil Service. Patriotic Service can be either by material support or by word. It can be with or without remuneration. Service must have been rendered between April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775 and November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1783 except as noted below.

Patriotic service by material support can take the form of providing goods or supplies, money, or labor. Examples include:

- Serving on committees made necessary by the violation of colonial rights by England or the War, such as committees of safety, observation, inspection, and correspondence. Service on such committees as early as April 1774 is acceptable.
- Furnishing a substitute for military service.
- Rendering aid to wounded or sick soldiers, sailors, or marines.
- Manufacturing or repairing munitions, including gunsmiths and workers in arms factories or gunpowder mills.
- Providing storage or transportation for public property.
- Furnishing supplies.
- Donating or loaning money to support the War.
- Paying taxes to support the War or to address a request of the Continental Congress, provided that no penalty fee was assessed.
- Owning or serving on a vessel sailing under a letter or commission of marque and reprisal issued by the Continental Congress or one of the thirteen provincial or state governments.
- Defending the frontiers and forts to provide protection against British or Indian attack between 19 April 1775 and 26 November 1783 in support of the Continental, provincial or state, or county governments in revolution against Great Britain. Defenders include:

- Combatants regardless of age or gender.
- Males 12 and over who manned forts, blockhouses, and stations on the frontier.
- Providing support to defenders, regardless of age or gender. This includes providing Supplies and intelligence. The women at Bryan Station who fetched water when within range of the Indians provided support. Record of the specific support provided is required. For example, merely assuming the wife cooked for the husband is not sufficient.
- Scouts and members of rescue parties.
- Messengers between settlements.
- Guides
- Armed escorts for civilian parties.
- Indian allies of the patriots who performed an overt act.
- Participants in the Boston Tea Party on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1773 (this day only) and the taking of gunpowder and munitions from Ft. William and Mary, December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 1774 (these two days only).
- Conduct or activity that resulted in being taken prisoner of war by the British authorities Or their Indian allies.
- Service performed by French nationals within the 13 states and surrounding waters in support of the American cause.
- Any member of the Army or of a Spanish colonial militia who served, as shown by contemporary rosters, in a Presidio or garrison in the Spanish territories, bounded by the area now included in the present day United States of America, and which Presidio or garrison is shown to have provided military or material support, such as a Contribution of the donativo or participation in the cattle drive, to the cause of American Independence, may be considered to have performed qualifying military service in support of the Patriot cause. Any member of the Spanish Navy who served in the Spanish Navy in support of Galvez, in the Gulf of Mexico, from Texas to Florida between December 24, 1776 and November 26, 1783, may be considered to have performed qualifying military service in support of the Patriot cause. Any resident of the Spanish territories bounded by the area now included in the present day contiguous United States of America, who provided material aid or contributed to the donativo requested by King Carlos III in 1780 to fund Spanish involvement in the war effort, may be considered to have performed qualifying patriotic service. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.

Patriotic service by word can be either by writing or speaking. Examples include:

- Pledging to Articles of Association or similar documents, such as the Edenton Resolves and the Fincastle Resolutions. These documents include those proclaiming the unacceptability of British violations of constitutional rights of the colonists, resolving to boycott trade with Great Britain, and declaring intent to abstain from consuming imports from Great Britain. This service is acceptable as early as April 1774.

- Swearing or affirming allegiance or fidelity to the revolutionary governments, renouncing allegiance to the King of Great Britain, or declaring independence from Great Britain, such as signing the Declaration of Independence, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, or the Albemarle Declaration of Independence.
- Clergy providing spiritual support for the independence of the colonies and states by sermon or prayer. Note: Those holding the rank of Chaplain in the armed forces performed Military Service.
- Petitioners recognizing the authority of revolutionary governments, regardless of the level of government, Continental, provincial/state, or local. Petitions on any subject can be accepted. This includes, but is not limited to, petitions on military processes, locations of county boundaries, and the relationship between church and state. However, petitions of British sympathizers recognizing the power, but not the authority, of the revolutionary government are excluded.
- Being established as a friend of the cause at the time of the Revolution. For example, the 1777 commission to address claims arising from the burning of Norfolk and Portsmouth Identified a number of people as friends of the cause.

In all cases, subsequent activity disloyal to the American cause disqualifies service as acceptable for membership in the SAR.

Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2 & 3	Rescinded
9/30/2011	3/2/2012	3/1/2013 & 3/27/13	2001-01; 2003-01; 2005-04; 2005-05; 2010-02
Indexing Terms			
Acceptable Services			

Policy Number			
2011-04			
Policy Title			
Use of Family and Local Histories			
Policy			
<p>Properly annotated published family histories and genealogies, including biographical sketches included in published local histories, may be accepted as evidence. When the family history or genealogy is authored by the applicant or any member of his immediate family, copies of the sources used for the compilation must be furnished. When sources are not properly annotated in a family history, genealogy, local history, or SAR, DAR, or C.A.R. Record Copies more than 20 years older but where the author was in a position to personally know information regarding the persons described in the bloodline, that evidence may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
9/30/2011	9/27/2014		
Indexing Terms			
Family Histories; Application Proofs			

Policy Number			
2011-05			
Policy Title			
Expedited Applications			
Policy			
<p>From time to time, expedited review of an application may be in the best interests of the Society. Expedited review means the application will be granted immediate genealogical review as an exception to nominal first-in/first-out rules applied to other applications. Expedited review of an application may be requested by the applicant, the sponsor, or the president of the submitting society.</p> <p>Expedited review of an application may be authorized upon written approval by a sufficient number of members from the following group: Executive Director, Genealogist General, and Chairman of the Genealogy Committee with the number of agreeing members required as indicated:</p> <p>a. Active duty military applicants currently serving in a war zone or facing imminent deployment to a war zone. (One member)</p> <p>b. Applicants who are nearing the end of their lives (in hospice care, extreme advanced age, etc.) (One member)</p> <p>c. Applicants of very high social or governmental status, such as governors or above, royalty, ambassadors, etc. (Two members)</p> <p>d. All other cases (Three members)</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
9/30/2011			
Indexing Terms			
Operating procedure; Expedited Review			

Policy Number			
2011-06			
Policy Title			
Applications from other lineage organizations			
Policy			
<p>The NSSAR shall accept as proof official record copies of applications from the Daughters of the American Revolution and Children of the American Revolution, with respect to related sections of the SAR application that contain citations to source documentation that meets current SAR documentation standards and conforms to SAR standards regarding checkmarks next to each datum shown (names, dates, locations). When the documentation cites the original sources used, copies of that actual documentation need not be included with the DAR or CAR record copy. If the source cited is an earlier DAR or CAR record copy, that official record copy must also be provided showing the actual sources used and also conforming to the same criteria regarding documentation and checkmark standards.</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
9/30/2011	3/1/2013		
Indexing Terms			
Lineage Organizations; Daughters of the American Revolution; Children of the American Revolution			

Policy Number			
2012-01			
Policy Title			
Administrative Requirements for Submitting Applications			
Policy			
<p>NSSAR membership application forms must be prepared as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forms must be typed or computer-printed forms using black print. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. Application forms printed before 1990 will not be accepted.</li> <li>Applications must be a single-page form printed on both sides and printed on official, SAR-watermarked, bond paper.</li> <li>Applicants must submit the original application form containing all necessary signatures. Photocopies of applications will not be accepted.</li> <li>Nothing may be attached to the application form by staple, glue, tape, pin, thread, or other means.</li> <li>Adults (18 and over) who apply for membership must sign their application, unless they are incapacitated. Exceptions may be approved by the Genealogist General. Junior Members (under age 18) may sign their application or an adult family member (parent or legal guardian) may sign on their behalf.</li> </ol>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
3/2/2012	9/27/13		
Indexing Terms			
Application requirements			

Policy Number			
2012-02			
Policy Title			
Patriotic service by children taken as prisoners			
Policy			
<p>Determination of whether children taken prisoner with their Patriot parents also qualify as Patriots must be handled on a case by case basis and must include a proof argument (Policy 2005-01). Factors considered should include: At what age was the child taken and imprisoned? What was the child doing at the time? What was the time duration of the child's imprisonment, and what was the child's age at the time of release. These are just some of the several factors that should be looked at to determine whether the child performed overt acts of resistance as required by Article III, SAR Constitution.</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
3/2/2012			
Indexing Terms			
Acceptable service;			

Policy Number			
2012-03			
Policy Title			
Proof of Relationship Required to Link SAR Member to Grandchildren			
Policy			
<p>The NSSAR shall require a birth certificate or other acceptable proof of relationship between a SAR member and his child through which one or more of his grandsons are applying for membership.</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
3/2/2012			
Indexing Terms			
Application requirements			

Policy Number			
2012-04			
Policy Title			
Proof documents written in foreign languages			
Policy			
English is the language of use for SAR applications. A document in a foreign language may be submitted provided that it is accompanied by an English translation, and attested to as an accurate translation by a competent translator.			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
3/2/2012			
Indexing Terms			
Application requirements			

Policy Number			
2012-05			
Policy Title			
Bible records and other original family documents used as proof documents			
Policy			
<p>The Genealogist General will evaluate Bible records and other original family documents, such as old letters and journals, on a case-by-case basis. To prove lineage, the relationship between two generations must be explicit, or used with other documentation to reasonably prove a parent-child relationship. If possible, a photo or scanned image of all the pages showing the family information must be submitted, and in the case of a Bible, a photo of the Bible's title page, to give an indication of the Bible's age and genealogy presented. He will examine not only the apparent age of the document, but also the handwriting and ink used, and evidence that the events were recorded soon after they occurred. If the writer can be identified through the handwriting (through old letters, etc.), that proof should be included. Bible entries apparently entered long after the event will reduce their usefulness. The Genealogist General will also evaluate transcripts of Bible records, though having less value, on a case-by-case basis. As much as is known, the document's provenance, to include its present location, should be cited in the "References" block on page 2 of the application.</p>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
3/2/2012			
Indexing Terms			
Application proofs			

Policy Number			
2012-06			
Policy Title			
Revolutionary Service Based on Payment of Taxes			
Policy			
<p>A. Payment of a tax to a state or a local jurisdiction during the Revolution shall be deemed Patriotic Service by virtue of providing material aid if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a. the title and/or authorizing language of the tax addresses a request of the Continental Congress, whether or not the request was explicitly attributed to the Congress, or</li> <li>    b. the title and/or authorizing language for the tax gives as the purpose the support of the War and/or achieving independence; and,</li> <li>2. the taxpayer was not charged a penalty rate or fee imposed for breaking the law and/or the taxpayer was not on record for having broken a law entailing a penalty such as a higher rate, penalty fee, fine, or seizure of property.</li> </ol> <p>Amendments to laws are to be considered in determining whether a tax meets conditions 1 and 2 of this section.</p> <p>B. Payment of a tax or fee to a state or local jurisdiction shall not be deemed Patriotic Service if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the title and/or authorizing language for the tax gives only general purposes or specific purposes not meeting the conditions stated in Section A1, even if all or part of the revenue was subsequently appropriated to address a request of the Continental Congress, support the War, or achieve independence; or</li> <li>2. the payment was a fee for a license or specific governmental service, even if called a tax. This includes, but is not limited to, marriage licenses, writs, and the inspection or storage of commodities.</li> </ol> <p>C. The burden of proof is on the applicant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a record such as a tax assessment roll, payment list, or a receipt is required. Evidence merely that a person had a legal obligation to pay a tax is not sufficient to establish service; and,</li> <li>2. the record must include evidence identifying the tax law under which the tax was levied, normally including the title page or certifications of officials from a tax list; and,</li> <li>3. evidence that the statute or ordinance authorizing the tax meets the conditions specified in Section A1 above is required.</li> </ol>			
Adopted	Revision-1	Revision-2	Rescinded
9/28/2012			
Indexing Terms			
Acceptable Service; Taxes			

