

Guide to Completing SAR Membership Applications

16 May 2020

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

All SAR applications are to be coordinated through and submitted for review and approval by the local SAR chapter Registrar (or in a few locations the SAR state or SAR country society). When the chapter Registrar and the applicant are both satisfied that an application is complete (as described below), 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 application fees and current year membership dues. The chapter Registrar will mail the signed application form, supporting documentation confirming information shown on the application form, a cover letter and the applicant provided checks to the state SAR Registrar to begin the application review process (the review process is about 2-3 months from the date the Registrar mails a complete application to the state Registrar).

The SAR application requires that the applicant show and provide SAR acceptable supporting documentation proving: 1) the applicant is who they say they are, 2) the applicant is a direct ancestral line descendant of their Revolutionary War patriot ancestor (the applicant's Revolutionary War patriot ancestor must be a great-great grandfather or great-great grandmother of some degree) and 3) that the applicant's Revolutionary War patriot ancestor provided an SAR acceptable "patriotic service." These are the same basic membership application requirements of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) and Sons of the Revolution (SR).

A photocopy of the applicant's birth certificate is usually required to prove the applicant is who the applicant says they are and also should prove that the applicant is the child of the applicant's parent who is in the direct ancestral line to the applicant's Revolutionary War patriot ancestor.

To prove that the applicant is a direct line descendant of the applicant's Revolutionary War patriot ancestor, for each generation, the applicant must provide SAR acceptable supporting documentation confirming that each person in the applicant's direct ancestral line is the child of their parent who is a direct line descendant of the applicant's Revolutionary War patriot ancestor. The supporting documentation for each 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 information for spouses of those in the applicant's direct ancestral line to the applicant's patriot ancestor.

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 sources of information included), published town histories, published histories, 1850 and more recent U.S. Federal 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

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credible records. Previously approved SAR and DAR membership applications stamped by the SAR or DAR 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 and SAR memberships that were approved prior to 1985 are not accepted by the SAR as full proof and additional supporting documentation may be required to be submitted to confirm the accuracy of the information on a pre 1985 SAR or DAR "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, tax payment records for Revolutionary War support taxes, receipts for the provision of supplies or services in support of the Revolutionary War effort, records of service on Revolutionary War support committees and service in public offices, credible family genealogies, published town histories, published histories, previously approved SAR and DAR membership applications ("Record Copies").

On the application, the dates and locations must be entered in the following form: **04 Jul 1776** and **City/County/ST** (state) (example: **Louisville/Jefferson/KY**). If the county is not known the form would be: **Louisville/ /KY**. If the city is known but the county is not known the form would be: **/Jefferson/KY**. If only the state is known the form would be: **/ /KY**. Always include two digits for the day of the month. For states, always enter the two character abbreviation (example: KY as the abbreviation for Kentucky), never enter the full state name. Never include the word "County."

Only names, dates and places that are confirmed by supporting documentation that will accompany the complete submitted membership application are to be entered on the SAR membership application form. Do not enter on the SAR membership application form any name, date or place that is not confirmed by the application supporting documentation.

Start Your SAR Membership Application Form

An applicant can start entering the necessary data for their SAR membership 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 online application form. A step by step pdf file guide to entering data into the system can be provided by the chapter Registrar. Once an applicant has started an SAR online application form and designated an SAR chapter, the designated chapter Registrar will be able to view online the applicant entered application names, dates, places and reference citations and will be able to provide guidance to the applicant and collaborate online with the applicant to achieve a complete SAR membership application.

Some SAR chapters and SAR state societies do not use the *NSSAR Online Application Form Data Entry System* and instead use the PDF, Microsoft Word or SAR APAID SAR membership application forms described on the "Join Now!" "Start Your Application" page of the SAR . org website.

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 1835 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 membership 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.
- Church birth, marriage and death records.
- Family Bibles that record births, marriages and deaths of family members.
- Military pension records that state child-to-parent relationships.
- 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 membership 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.
- Published records of transactions for materials or services rendered in support of the Revolutionary War.
- 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 can provide access to Revolutionary War pension files.
- Fold3. 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 DAR "Record Copies" of applications approved before 1985 may not be accepted as a sole source of supporting documentation for current SAR membership applications. Some pre 1985 SAR and DAR "Record Copies" are useful in that they may list acceptable sources for information that can be obtained again.

The SAR website provides summaries of Qualifications, Acceptable Service. SAR "record copies" can be ordered by the SAR chapter Registrar or any SAR or DAR member. DAR "record copies" can be ordered online from the DAR Genealogical Research System. 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 Genealogy Policy Committee Manual*, the most current versions can be viewed and downloaded as pdf files for free from the SAR . org website.