

LINEAGE SOCIETIES

1. What are lineage societies?

Lineage societies are organizations whose members have some characteristic in common, such as all descending from a specific group like the descendants of those who settled at Jamestown or arrived on the Mayflower.

2. Some lineage societies are:

Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, the Colonial Dames, the Founders & Patriots Society, the Sons of Union Veterans, etc.

3. Websites:

- National SAR web site is www.sar.org
- Wisconsin Society of SAR web site is www.wissar.org

4. About us:

- Origins of SAR
 - San Francisco, CA - 1876; 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; Sons of Revolutionary Sires
 - SAR formed as a national organization April 30, 1889- the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington
 - Chartered by an Act of Congress on June 9, 1906 and the Charter was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a member
- Our Goals:
 - Historical Conceived as a fraternal & civic organization
Commemorate & Provide Memorials
Preserve Records
 - Patriotic Help carry out the Promises of the Preamble of the Constitution
Provide Recognition for Public Service
Honor, Respect & Support Veterans
State SAR Color Guards
 - Educational Sponsor Contests
SAR Magazine
- Our Membership:
 - Currently about 28,000
 - Approximately 179,000 since 1889
- Our Governance:
 - 1 National Trustee from each State & International Society
 - 15 Regional Vice Presidents (WI, IL & MI form Great Lakes Region)

- 10 National General officers
 - Two leadership Workshops with meeting of all Committees are held annually at Headquarters in Louisville, KY (Generally in March & September)
 - One National Congress is held annually at various cities around the country rotating from one region to another. (June or July)
 - The WISSAR Officers are President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Chancellor, Genealogist, Registrar, Historian, Sergeant at Arms, National Trustee & an Alternate Trustee.
- Our Library at 809 West Main St. in downtown Louisville, KY
 - Our Museum in Louisville, KY on 4th St. but eventually will be in the same building as the Library downtown and will be known as the Center for Advancing America's Heritage.

5. Membership:

A. Who can join?

- Any male 18 years of age or more who can trace their lineage to an ancestor who supported the cause of American Independence during the years of 1774 to 1783.
- There are a number of forms and brochures listed on the National SAR web site. These are shown on the left side of the web page under the Membership tab.
 - Worksheet Application Form (8 ½" x 14" paper)
 - PDF version of the application form
 - Informational Brochure about costs & types of membership (Form 0910)
 - Instructions for completing the application (Form 0912)
 - What's SAR (Form 0913)

B. Why join:

- To participate in activities such as Color Guard, Poster Contest, Essay Contests, Oration Contest, Eagle Scout program, Good Citizen Award program, Grave Marking Ceremonies or just fellowship
- To receive the National SAR magazine
- Attend National, State & local Chapter meetings

C. Getting Started

- Worksheet application form - a two sided legal size sheet with personal information and the family lineage on page one. The second page shows the place of burial, if known, a list of documents that prove the noted lineage & the proof of Patriotic Service, the applicant's occupation along with the applicant's and sponsor's signatures. The remainder of the space is for administrative use only.

D. The Process:

- Qualifications (18 yrs of age, good citizen & descendant of a Patriot Ancestor. A Patriot is a person who:
 - served in the Continental Army or a Militia of one of the 13 colonies or
 - was a signer of the Declaration of Independence or
 - was a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence or
 - was a member of a Continental, Provincial or Colonial Congress or Legislature or

- performed patriotic service or overt acts against Great Britain during the time from 1774 to 1783.

E. Acceptable Service:

- Applicant must be able to show proof of patriotic service, whether it be for providing beef to the troops, boats for troops to cross a river, signing an Oath of Allegiance, paying the Supply Tax or actual military service.

F. Documenting your line:

- Find documents linking the parents to children from one generation to the next. Current Genealogical Standards of Proof are the criteria used by the SAR reviewers to judge the adequacy of proof of lineage. The best documents are Birth, Marriage & Death Certificates, US Census images between 1850 & 1930, Wills, Probate files, Family Bibles, Church Records, Biographies from County Histories or Obituaries. Include copies of all these documents with the application form. This will include 7 to 10 generations depending on the age of the applicant. All application forms in Wisconsin are to be submitted to the State Genealogist.

G. Costs:

- Regular membership: Application fee=\$80.00 (one time fee)
- National Dues=\$30.00 / year
- State Application fee=\$20.00 (one time fee)
- State dues=\$22.00/year
- Chapter dues=\$6.00/year
- Supplemental Application=\$40.00 (one time fee)
- Family Discount: \$50.00 discount for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th etc. family members applications using the same lineage submitted at the same time.

H. Types of Membership:

- Regular: anyone 18 years or more
- Junior: under 18 years of age, pays reduced dues, may hold office, except president.
- Youth: under 18 years of age, pays no dues, may not hold office.
- Supplemental: a regular membership with another Patriot
- Transfers: A member can transfer from one state to another anytime they desire.
- Dual Membership: A member can belong to the SAR in multiple states at the same time.

6. Chapters: There are five chapters of the SAR in Wisconsin

1. Nathaniel Ames Chapter meets in Madison 8 times/year (dinner meetings)
2. Elisha Raymond Chapter meets in Racine 4 times/year (lunch meeting)
3. Captain Hendrick Aupaumut Chapter meets in various cities 4 to 6 times/year (some lunch meetings)
4. Morgan - Kosciuszko Chapter meets in Milwaukee 2 times/year (dinner meetings)
5. Stephen Tainter Chapter meets in Eau Claire

7. Sources of Information:

- Heritage Quest, www.heritagequestonline.com, available through Madison Public Library with a

library card from your home computer. This is a source for Revolutionary War Pension records, U.S. Census from 1860 to 1920 and for Book Searches.

- Ancestry, www.ancestry.com, available at the WI Historical Society, all Madison branch libraries and at home by subscription. This is a source for the U.S. Census from 1850 to 1930 and for some state military record such as “Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors in the Revolutionary War”.
- Footnote, www.footnote.com, available at the Family History Centers, the WI Historical Society and at home by subscription. Footnote includes all of the Revolutionary War Pension Records, the Rev. War Muster Rolls and the Rev. Service Records. It also contains all of the records from the Pennsylvania Archives from Colonial times.
- DAR Library, www.dar.org/library/onsite/databases.cfm, available on any computer. This is a good guide for finding Patriots and their descendants. It cannot be used for proof of lineage for the SAR. There is a statement at the top of each page stating this is an index and is not considered proof of lineage or proof of patriotic service.
- SAR web site, www.sar.org, available on any computer. The Patriot Search feature is a good place to look for already proven Patriots and to find their burial locations. All Patriots are not listed, only those proven by previous SAR applications or identified by some source provided to SAR by an associated organization, such as DAR or a state veterans organization.

8. Revolutionary War Patriots Gravesites

- There are 40 proven Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Wisconsin. This year Historical Grave Markers will be dedicated for Salmon Childs in Racine County on May 14 and for Levi Holcomb & Gershom Noyes in Dodge County on May 28. That will leave only three without a historical grave marker at his gravesite. The last three are expected to be placed later in 2011.

Presented to Dane County Area Genealogical Society

By Bob Stone

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