



# WILLIAMSBURG

*Sons of the American Revolution*

WILLIAMSBURG CHAPTER  
*of the* VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF THE  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

## ABOUT US

### WHAT WE DO

#### *Supporting our Community Members*

We support our community by hosting commemorative events and acknowledging members of the community who are doing commendable works that support our organizations ideals, such as citizenship and patriotism.

Among those recognized are (1) Boy Scouts, (2) secondary school oration, essay, and history students, (3) ROTC/JROTC cadets, (4) school teachers, (5) police, fire and other emergency responders.

#### *Commemorative Events*

We help the community celebrate many patriotic events including Memorial Day, Independence Day, Yorktown Day, and Veterans Day just to name a few. Several commemorations of key battles of the Revolutionary War are celebrated as well, and we participate in patriotic events with other SAR chapters.

#### *Monthly Chapter Luncheon Meetings*

We get together almost each month out of the year to socialize with our fellow compatriots, listen to guest speakers, and address chapter activities.

### NATIONAL HISTORY

#### *NSSAR for over 100 years*

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized on April 30, 1889 -- the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as our nation's first President. We have used the acronym SAR to identify ourselves for over 100 years.

#### *Act of US Congress, June 9, 1906*

The SAR was conceived as a fraternal and civic society composed of lineal descendants of the men who wintered at Valley Forge, signed the Declaration of Independence, fought in the battles of the American Revolution, served in the Continental Congress, or otherwise supported the cause of American Independence. The National Society was chartered by an Act of the United States Congress on June 9, 1906.

## CHAPTER HISTORY

### *1969 - Application of Charter at VASSAR Annual Meeting*

Application for a “Williamsburg Chapter” charter was made at the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Annual meeting on February 22, 1969, in Richmond, VA. On April 15, 1969 we received our charter having at that time 11 members, 15 applicants processing papers and 23 prospects. Out of this small band of men has grown an active and viable chapter of today with a membership strength of around 200 members.

**JOIN US**

## WHY JOIN?

### *To Honor the Patriots of the American Revolution*

The purpose of the Sons of the American Revolution is “to perpetuate the memory of those who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people.”

You may be qualified to become a member of an active organization of patriotic men brought together by their heritage and dedicated to the preservation of the Constitutional freedoms established by the founders of our nation.

### *To Preserve Your Family Heritage*

Becoming a member of the Sons of the American Revolution preserves your family heritage for the ages and allows future generations to similarly qualify for membership.

### *Become Active in Your Community*

As a member you may serve your community, to whatever degree your time permits, in furthering patriotic education and in generating and preserving understanding and appreciation of the principles of government that our forefathers established. Joining the SAR affords you the opportunity to become acquainted with men in your community who possess common interests and love of their country.

## RESOURCES TO GET STARTED

### *Williamsburg Chapter Registrar*

We highly recommend and encourage you to contact our chapter registrar at the very beginning of your research. The registrar can steer you towards the best resources and away from common pitfalls of research.

### *Family Members*

Utilize your living family members as a starting point. Ask them what they know about your family tree, and write down specific names, dates and locations they might share. Family members who are or who have been SAR or DAR members have records on file that might simplify your research.

## ***Official Records***

County, State and National Records can be found at government offices (such as the County Clerk) and public libraries. Online resources, books and memberships to organizations that provide genealogical resources can also be very helpful.

## **BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Eligibility***

A male of good repute in the community, who is a lineal descendant of an ancestor who rendered active military service or as a civilian provided material support in the cause of American independence.

### ***Documentation***

You will need documentation to prove your lineage. This documentation includes certified birth, marriage and death certificates, wills, federal census and other records. It is best to rely on primary documents. For example, a birth certificate clearly showing parents' names or a will in which the writer clearly identifies a child through whom the applicant's lineage is traced.

### ***Application Form***

The SAR application worksheet is attached to the end of this document.

### ***Annual Dues and Registration Fees***

When you submit your application for membership you will need to include your annual dues and registration fees. Three separate checks will be needed to pay the fees associated at the national, state, and chapter levels.

## **QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

### ***Establishing Bloodline Descent***

The SAR does not restrict membership based on race, color, religion, national origin or nation of citizenship or residency. Marriage (and its documentation) for the generations going back to the Patriot Ancestor is desired; however, it is not a requirement. Legitimacy in any generation is not a requirement; nor are descendants of plural marriages excluded from SAR membership. Bloodline descent, legitimate or illegitimate, from a Patriot Ancestor is what is required and must be documented in accordance with application guidelines.

### ***Additional Information***

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution offer similar memberships to women and children respectively. Additional information regarding eligibility can be found at [www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org).

## **PATRIOTIC ANCESTOR ACCEPTABLE SERVICE**

Ancestors of the Revolutionary War period in our country's history may be declared a Patriot through genealogical research that proves the individual performed actual service by overt acts of resistance against England's rule. This is not limited to military service.

### ***Provided Official Service to the Cause***

Service as a soldier, sailor, Marine, militiaman or Minuteman, a member of the Continental Congress or the government service of a colony or state applies.

### ***Provided Material Aid to the Cause***

A person who is documented as having provided material aid to the cause of the revolution, such as furnishing supplies (food, firearms, animals) with or without remuneration qualifies. Munitions makers, gunsmiths and money lenders likewise may qualify. These many times can be documented by written histories, biographies and claims for post-war bounty benefits of persons and/or their wives/widows.

### ***Other Acceptable Forms of Service to the Cause***

Of course those brave men who signed the Declaration of Independence, were members of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence or similar duties unquestionably qualify as Patriots. Similarly, members of the Boston Tea Party, medical and clerical personnel assisting the cause, signers of specific petitions and declarations, and those taking an Oath of Allegiance would qualify.

### ***Review Process***

Family tradition in regard to the services of an ancestor will not be considered. No preliminary decision will be given on line of descent, service or evidentiary value of proposed evidence. SAR's application review procedure thoroughly examines each applicant's lineage and supporting documentation; determination of a Patriot is approved at the national organization level.

### ***Using Other Family Member's Lineage***

Thousands of men have become SAR members through the years and their Patriot ancestors are acceptable for use, without additional documentation, by a new applicant using the same lineage, as explained in procedures for application. Daughters of the American Revolution previously approved applications may also be used as documentary evidence.

## **PROCEDURES TO APPLY**

Once you believe you have an ancestor who would qualify as a Patriot and you would like to become a member of the Sons of the American Revolution you should conduct some genealogical research to connect yourself back through the generations to the selected ancestor.

### ***Documenting Your Lineage***

Many times you or others in the family have already researched the lineage and you need only to document the findings with proof the research is valid. We've all heard tales from Great Aunt Minnie that we have a grandfather who was George Washington's aide. If these were all true, George would have had ample manpower to end the war more rapidly than he did. The SAR provides an application worksheet to assist in organizing the information you accumulate. With the arrival of computers genealogists have found voluminous files are easily available to search for information. Ancestry.com is a common research tool. Much information obtained from many Internet sources cannot be verified and therefore are not acceptable for use; yet many items such as census records are solid documentary evidence and can be copied from a computer.

The key to a successful application is the ability to connect each generation back to the ancestor with names, dates and locations correlating, and supporting documents acting as evidence of the lineage entries.

Previously submitted SAR and DAR applications by others that have resulted in approved Patriots can be used for those generations applicable, with no additional documentation required. A "record copy" of those applications can be obtained from the national SAR or DAR headquarters for a nominal cost.

### ***Contacting the Chapter Registrar /Genealogist***

Once the worksheet is completed and documentary evidence accumulated to support the lineage entries, you should contact the Williamsburg Chapter Genealogist/Registrar. He is available to provide you advice and assistance at any time throughout your research efforts. He will meet with you to obtain the worksheet you have completed and within a few days review your lineage and documentation to determine its compliance with the SAR application requirements.

### ***Official Application and Review for Final Approval***

After converting your information to an official SAR application form, obtaining appropriate signatures and collecting application and membership fees, the Chapter Registrar will submit the application to the Registrar of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for further review. Upon his review the application will be forwarded to the National Headquarters (NSSAR) in Louisville, Kentucky for review and final approval. The SAR application worksheet is attached to the end of this document.

## **RESEARCH RESOURCES**

Applicants from the Williamsburg area searching for family history have literally thousands of resources available.

### ***Daughters of the American Revolution Library, D.C.***

Probably the preeminent source for genealogical research is the Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington, D.C. The Tidewater Genealogical Society [www.tgs.org](http://www.tgs.org) offers several chartered bus trips a year at a nominal cost for members and non-members. The bus also stops at the National Archives for those who desire to research there.

### ***Rockefeller Library of Colonial Williamsburg***

One of the finest collections of Colonial period and Revolutionary War history is the Rockefeller Library of Colonial Williamsburg. It is open to the public and contains a variety of references, not only about Virginia and the colonial period, but also duplicate sources from the DAR Library, Library of Congress and National Archives.

### ***Swem Library at the College of William and Mary***

The Swem Library at the College of William and Mary contains some family research material and is open to the public also.

### ***Public Libraries and Offices***

Public libraries, usually operated by counties throughout the country, contain a wealth of information and many contain dedicated sections for genealogical research. County Clerk offices many times contain original records of necessary documents and are cooperative in providing copies for a small fee. State libraries and state historical and genealogical societies also provide genealogical sources and assistance. Most have Websites and can be found online.

### ***Online Subscription Resources***

Online resources are excellent for in-home research, with [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) being the most comprehensive and credible. Many other similar websites are also being used to support genealogical research; however, the applicant should be selective in choosing information obtained because SAR application guidelines emphasize that some data may be incorrect or unacceptable.

## **DOCUMENTING YOUR RESEARCH**

### ***Reliable Records***

Some of the most reliable sources include birth, death or marriage certificates; wills, probate records; deeds; censuses; diaries; old letters; pages from family Bibles; military records; and bounty applications. Original pages should be copied if possible; courthouse records certified by a county official, and pages of copies from books, to include family records, should be accompanied by copies of the title page and date of publication.

### ***Properly Citing Your Research***

When the reference is to a published record, the author, title, date of publication, volume number and page must be given. Photocopies of title page and pages cited must be supplied.

Example: Virginia, Virginia Revolutionary War Soldiers, Vol 3 (1856) p 555.

A certified copy of a handwritten record/document must be an exact transcript of the complete text. Although properly sourced family histories and genealogies may be accepted as evidence, when they are authored by the applicant or any member of his immediate family, copies of the sources used for compilation must be furnished.

### ***Applicant Birth Certificate***

A copy of the applicant's birth certificate showing parentage must be furnished, if available. If not available a hospital record or baptismal certificate may suffice. Other possible sources should be discussed with the chapter Registrar.

An applicant who is a blood descendant of a qualifying ancestor, but who has been adopted by another family, must provide proof of the adoption procedure. The relationship of the father or mother to the son must be explicit in the lineage section of the application for each generation.

### ***Documents Not Accepted***

Family Group Sheets, Family Tree Charts, LDS, IGI or Family Search records, Broderbunds World Family Tree Records, Ancestry.com World Family Tree, and items attributed to oral or family history will not be accepted.

### ***Using a Family Member's SAR/DAR Documentation***

When an "old" SAR or DAR approved application of another family member is used as evidentiary proof of generational connections or Patriot ancestor service, if the papers did not include spaces for dates or places, the applicant shall complete those spaces and provide acceptable documentation.

Only a "record copy" marked by a DAR genealogical researcher is acceptable from an applicant who is a lineal descendant of a DAR member or former member.

Record copies obtained from the DAR headquarters in Washington, D. C. can be used to document generations and may be used as proof of the Patriot ancestor's service.

### ***Verification of Documentation***

All applications receive thorough scrutiny and are subject to query by Registrars and NSSAR reviewers prior to approval. The SAR Registrar's Manual can be found under the Genealogy category of the SAR website and can clarify most questions you might have regarding acceptability of evidence. The SAR website is at [www.SAR.org](http://www.SAR.org).

#### **DUES AND FEES**

<i>Annual Membership Dues:</i>		<i>Registration Application Fees:</i>	
National Society	35	National Society, SAR	135
Virginia Society	25	Virginia Society, SAR	9
Williamsburg Chapter	<u>20</u>	Williamsburg Chapter, SAR	<u>40</u>
	80 due every January		184 with application

### ***Monthly Luncheon***

The Williamsburg Chapter of the SAR hosts a monthly luncheon for members, spouses and guests January – November.

## LINKS

### **SAR**

National Society (NSSAR): [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

Virginia Society (VASSAR): [www.virginia-sar.org](http://www.virginia-sar.org)

Williamsburg Chapter: [www.williamsburgsar.org](http://www.williamsburgsar.org)

### **RESEARCH**

Ancestry [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com)

Swem Library [www.swem.wm.edu](http://www.swem.wm.edu)

Rockefeller Library:

[www.research.history.org/idr/library.cfm](http://www.research.history.org/idr/library.cfm)

### **DAR and CAR**

National Society DAR: [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)

Williamsburg Chapter DAR:

[www.williamsburgdar.org](http://www.williamsburgdar.org)

National Society CAR: [www.nscar.org](http://www.nscar.org)

Virginia Society CAR: [www.vscar.org](http://www.vscar.org)

### **LOCAL**

Yorktown NPS Battlefield: [www.nps.gov/york](http://www.nps.gov/york)

Colonial Williamsburg: [www.history.org](http://www.history.org)

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation:

[www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org)

Historic Triangle: [www.historictriangle.com](http://www.historictriangle.com)

### **GENEALOGY RESOURCES**

National Archives: [www.archive.gov/research/genealogy](http://www.archive.gov/research/genealogy)

DAR Library: [www.dar.org/library](http://www.dar.org/library)