

Guide to completing an SAR membership application

18 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 not known but the county is 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/login> . 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.

Repositories for the above information include:

www. Ancestry. com including digitized publications found through it's 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)

SAR[®] SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Application Type: Regular **ACN:** 1485534485 **National Number:** _____
State Society: California SAR **Chapter:** Silicon Valley **State Number:** 0
NAME OF APPLICANT: Application Sample Example2 **Age:** 62
Address: 123 Main Street, Hometown, California 95000-0123
Phone: (408) 222-3333 **Email:** Application.Example@gmail.com
Name as you wish it to appear on SAR Certificate: Application Sample Example2

REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOT ANCESTOR

I hereby apply for membership in this Society by the right of bloodline descent from Albert Thomas Jones Gen # 8 who assisted in establishing American Independence while acting in the capacity of:

(enter description of the patriotic service of the patriot ancestor in the "Finalize" data entry section) (EXAMPLE:) Private, Battle of Camden, SC, 1779-1780; drafted August-November 1781 served his time out Wilmington, Colonel Marion's Brigade, commanded by General Pulaski.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(enter description of the SAR acceptable supporting documentation that confirms the patriotic service of the patriot ancestor in the "Finalize" data entry section) (EXAMPLE:) U.S. Revolutionary War Pension file #987654321. SAR Record Copy #070500, patriot ancestor Albert Jones.

STATEMENT OF BLOODLINE TO PATRIOT ANCESTOR

	DATE	CITY/COUNTY/STATE
1 - I am <u>Application Sample Example2</u>	born	<u>01 Nov 1954</u> <u>Carmel/Monterey/CA</u>
and my 1st spouse <u>Nancy Ann Washington</u>	born	<u>06 Dec 1959</u> <u>Sunnyvale/Santa Clara/CA</u>
NSDAR# _____	died	_____
	married	<u>11 Jun 1988</u> <u>Los Gatos/Santa Clara/CA</u>
and my 2nd spouse <u>Stephanie Ellen Adams</u>	born	<u>01 Jun 1962</u> <u>Banning/Riverside/CA</u>
NSDAR# _____	died	<u>01 Feb 2008</u> <u>San Jose/Santa Clara/CA</u>
	married	<u>25 Jan 2004</u> <u>San Jose/Santa Clara/CA</u>

References:

(enter here the description of the SAR acceptable supporting documentation that confirms that Generation 1, Application Sample Example2 is the son of Generation 2, Susan Jane Smith and optionally, but recommended, descriptions of supporting documentation that confirm dates and locations of birth, death and marriage for individuals of Generation 1).

(EXAMPLE:) 1954 birth certificate naming parents. 1988 marriage certificate. 1994 birth certificate of Margaret Elizabeth Example. 2004 marriage certificate.

2 - I am the son of <u>William John Example2</u>	born	<u>20 Oct 1930</u> <u>San Francisco/San Francisco/CA</u>
NSSAR# _____	died	_____
and his wife <u>Susan Jane Smith</u>	born	<u>27 Jan 1929</u> <u>Pleasanton/Contra Costa/CA</u>
NSDAR# _____	died	_____
Who is the son ___/daughter <u>X</u> of	married	<u>19 Jun 1955</u> <u>Oakland/Alameda/CA</u>

References:

(enter here the description of the SAR acceptable supporting documentation that confirms that Generation 2, Susan Jane Smith is the daughter of Generation 3, John William Smith and optionally, but recommended, descriptions of supporting documentation that confirm dates and locations of birth, death and marriage for individuals of Generation 2).

(EXAMPLE:) 1930 U.S. Federal Census Pleasanton, Contra Costa, CA, John W Smith head of household. 1955 marriage certificate. 1930 birth certificate.

3 - Grandson of John William Smith	born	<u>14 Mar 1893</u> <u>Bedford/Lawrence/IN</u>
NSSAR# <u>070500</u>	died	<u>04 Nov 1971</u> <u>San Carlos/San Mateo/CA</u>
and his wife <u>Jane Louise Jefferson</u>	born	<u>22 Nov 1900</u> <u>Anderson//IN</u>
NSDAR# <u>200101</u>	died	<u>25 Aug 1979</u> <u>Reno/Washoe/NV</u>
Who is the son <u>X</u> /daughter ___ of	married	<u>05 Aug 1924</u> <u>Indianapolis//IN</u>

References:

(enter here the description of the SAR acceptable supporting documentation that confirms that Generation 3, John William Smith is the son of Generation 4, Marcus Todd Smith and optionally, but recommended, descriptions of supporting documentation that confirm dates and locations of birth, death and marriage for individuals of Generation 3).

(EXAMPLE:) 1893 birth certificate naming parents. 1971 San Francisco Chronicle obituary naming parents. 1924 marriage certificate. 1979 death certificate of Jane Smith.

4 - Great Grandson of <u>Marcus Todd Smith</u>	born	<u>13 Apr 1871</u> <u>Bedford/Lawrence/IN</u>
NSSAR# _____	died	<u>15 Aug 1955</u> <u>Madison//IN</u>
and his wife <u>Margaret Ellen Madison</u>	born	<u>17 Mar 1870</u> <u>Bedford/Lawrence/IN</u>
NSDAR# _____	died	<u>11 Jul 1959</u> <u>Greencastle//IN</u>
Who is the son <u>X</u> /daughter ___ of	married	<u>18 May 1892</u> <u>Bedford/Lawrence/IN</u>

References:

(enter here the description of the SAR acceptable supporting documentation that confirms that Generation 4, Marcus Todd Smith is the son of Generation 5, James Hillson Smith and optionally, but recommended, descriptions of supporting documentation that confirm dates and locations of birth, death and marriage for individuals of Generation 4).

(EXAMPLE:) 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Bedford, IN, James H. Smith head of household. SAR record copy #070500, patriot ancestor: Albert Jones. 1959 Indiana Times obituary of Margaret Smith.

5 - Great ² Grandson of James Hillson Smith
 NSSAR# _____
 and his wife Lillian Mary Monroe
 NSDAR# _____
 Who is the son X /daughter _____ of

born	11 Jun 1833	Springville//IN
died	12 Oct 1909	Liberty//IN
born	21 Jun 1829	Louisville//KY
died	04 Mar 1912	/Lawrence//IN
married	11 Oct 1860	//IN

References:

(enter here the description of the SAR acceptable supporting documentation that confirms that Generation 5, James Hillson Smith is the son of Generation 6, Etta Alice Jones and optionally, but recommended, descriptions of supporting documentation that confirm dates and locations of birth, death and marriage for individuals of Generation 5).

(EXAMPLE:) 1833 Springville, IN vital records for birth of James Hillson Smith naming his mother, Etta Alice Jones. SAR record copy #070500, patriot ancestor: Albert Jones. 1912 death certificate of Lillian Smith.

6 - Great ³ Grandson of Morgan Ellsworth Smith
 NSSAR# _____
 and his wife Etta Alice Jones
 NSDAR# _____
 Who is the son _____ /daughter X of

born	02 Apr 1805	//TN
died	26 Sep 1840	Springville//IN
born	12 Nov 1805	/Duplin/NC
died	30 Jun 1872	Springville//IN
married	17 Nov 1825	//IN

References:

(enter here the description of the SAR acceptable supporting documentation that confirms that Generation 6, Etta Alice Jones is the daughter of Generation 7, Jesse Tobin Jones and optionally, but recommended, descriptions of supporting documentation that confirm dates and locations of birth, death and marriage for individuals of Generation 6).

(EXAMPLE:) Duplin County, NC vital records for birth of Etta Alice Jones naming her parents. SAR record copy #070500, patriot ancestor: Albert Jones.

7 - Great ⁴ Grandson of Jesse Tobin Jones
 NSSAR# _____
 and his wife Eunice Alice Harrison
 NSDAR# _____
 Who is the son X /daughter _____ of

born	17 Jul 1780	/Duplin/NC
died	23 Oct 1841	Springville//IN
born	27 Dec 1783	/Randolph/NC
died	04 Oct 1863	Paris//IL
married	Abt Mar 1799	Paris//IL

References:

(enter here the description of the SAR acceptable supporting documentation that confirms that Generation 7, Jesse Tobin Jones is the son of Generation 8, Albert Thomas Jones and optionally, but recommended, descriptions of supporting documentation that confirm dates and locations of birth, death and marriage for individuals of Generation 7).

(EXAMPLE:) The History of the County of Duplin, North Carolina, 1910, pg. 110 & 119 showing Jesse Tobin Jones as the son of Albert Thomas Jones. SAR record copy #070500, patriot ancestor: Albert Jones. Town marriage records of Paris, IL.

8 - Great ⁵ Grandson of Albert Thomas Jones
 NSSAR# _____
 and his wife Mary Jackson
 NSDAR# _____
 Who is the son X /daughter _____ of

born	1756	/Duplin/NC
died	Bef 28 May 1782	/Duplin/NC
born	02 Sep 1758	//NC
died	08 Mar 1848	/Scotland/IN
married	20 Jun 1777	/Duplin/NC

References:

(enter here the description of the SAR acceptable supporting documentation that confirms that Generation 8, Albert Thomas Jones was living during the time that he performed his patriotic service and optionally, but recommended, descriptions of supporting documentation that confirm dates and locations of birth, death and marriage for individuals of Generation 8).

(EXAMPLE:) The History of the County of Duplin, North Carolina, 1910, pg. 110. U.S. Revolutionary War Pension file #987654321, SAR record copy #070500, patriot ancestor: Albert Jones. 1777 Duplin, NC marriage bond.

APPLICATION CERTIFICATION

I, Application Sample Example2 the applicant, assert that, I have examined this completed application and its proofs (documentation) and the facts and statements herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

SPONSOR CERTIFICATION

SPONSOR (New Member Only)

Printed Name: (name obtained by the chapter Registrar) _____ NSSAR# _____ Signature: _____

CO-SPONSOR (New Member Only)

Printed Name: (name obtained by the chapter Registrar) _____ NSSAR# _____ Signature: _____

STATE SOCIETY CERTIFICATION

State Registrar: _____ Approved: _____
 State Secretary: _____ Approved: _____
 Accepted by the State Board of Management (optional): _____ Accepted: _____
 Sent to National Headquarters: _____ Date: _____

NATIONAL SOCIETY CERTIFICATION

Received at National Headquarters: _____ Date: _____
 Staff Genealogist: _____ Approved: _____
 Registrar General: _____ Registered on: _____