Revolutionary War Research: Tracing Patriot and Loyalist Ancestors

Class 5: Applying to Revolutionary War Lineage Societies

David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist
Credit: Lindsay Fulton

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

American Ancestors
by New England Historic Genealogical Society

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Meet today's presenter

David Allen Lambert
Chief Genealogist

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OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (60 mins.)
  - Introduction to Rev War lineage societies
  - Verifying your line and applying
- **Q&A** (30 mins.)

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Popular Rev War Lineage Societies

- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
- Sons of the American Revolution
- Sons of the Revolution
- The Society of the Cincinnati
- The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America
- Boston Tea Party Descendants Program

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National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

- Founded in 1890
- Women 18+ years who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution
- Application approved on national level; membership through local chapter
- *dar.org/natsociety*

DAR Daughters of the American Revolution

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National Society Sons of the American Revolution

- Founded in 1889
- Men 18+ years who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution
- Application approved by the Registrar General; membership through local chapter
- By invitation only
- *sar.org*

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Sons of the Revolution

- Different than SAR; Founded in 1890
- Males who are lineal descendants of one who served as a soldier, sailor, or marine under the colonies or Continental Congress
- Descendant of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, member of Continental Congress, or Colonial Congress
- www.sr1776.org

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The Society of the Cincinnati

- Founded in 1783
- Male descendants of commissioned officers who served in the Continental Army or Navy and who served to the end of the war or who had resigned with honor after a minimum of three years' service as a commissioned officer
- Representation often limited to one current member per eligible officer
- Application approved on the state level
- *societyofthecincinnati.org*

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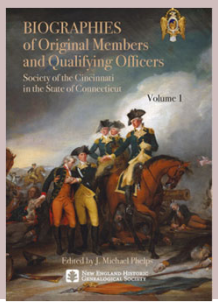
Published Volumes



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Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

- Founded in 1896
- Men 18+ years with proven descent from an ancestor who settled in the colonies before 13 May 1657 *and* whose ancestor (same line) served in the Revolution
- Application approved by the Registrar General; membership through constituent state society
- *ofpa.org*

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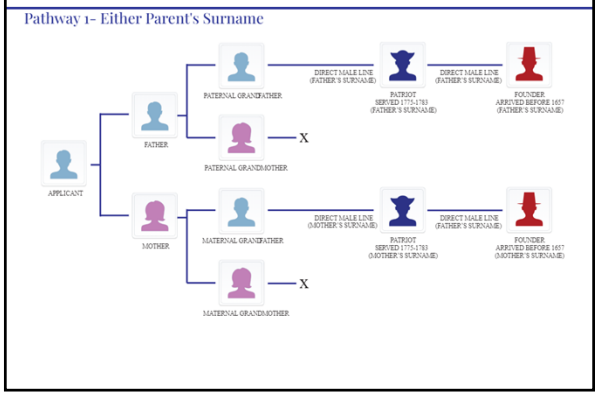

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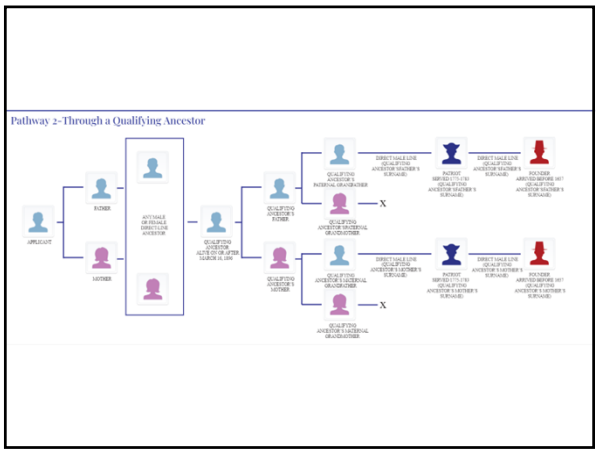

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Boston Tea Party Descendants Program

- Founded 2023
- **Boston Tea Party Participants**
  - Loyal Nine
  - Boston Sons of Liberty
  - North End Caucus
  - St. Andrew's Lodge
  - Ship guard volunteers
  - Signers of November 1773 petitions to town selectmen
- **Eyewitness to History**
  - Inhabitants of Boston in 1773
  - Eyewitnesses to History (documented family lore)
- **Co-Conspirators**
- *bostonteapartyship.com/boston-tea-party-descendants*

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Step 1
Establish your ancestral line

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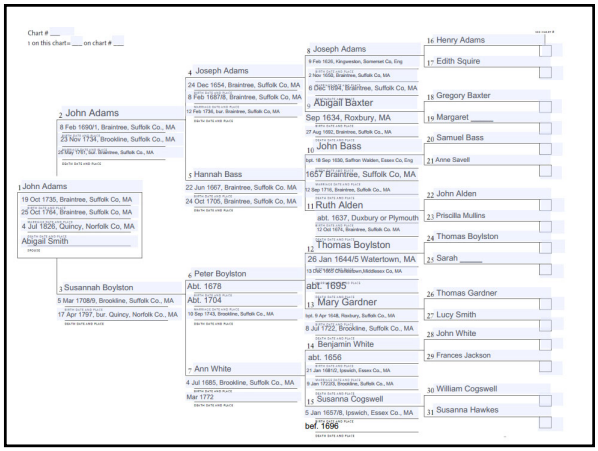

17

Ask yourself . . .

- What societies does your lineage qualify for membership?
- Why do you want to join a particular society?
- Do you want to be active in your community?
- Is a local chapter of the society near your home?
- How often do they meet?

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Step 2
Contact the membership liaison

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Who to Contact

Local Chapter	State Society	Society
Daughters of the American Revolution	Sons of the Revolution	Boston Tea Party
National Society Sons of the American Revolution	Society of the Cincinnati	Order of Founders and Patriots

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Step 3
Organize and document your ancestral line

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To Organize

- ✓ Create a qualification outline using vital records and vital record substitutes
- ✓ Gather and properly mark documents
- ✓ Provide scholarly citations for each document

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Qualification Outline

Generation 1

Your name, b. in [town/city, county, state][1] on [day, month, year]. He/she married in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year], **name of spouse**.

Name of spouse, b. in [town/city, county, state] [2] on [day, month, year].

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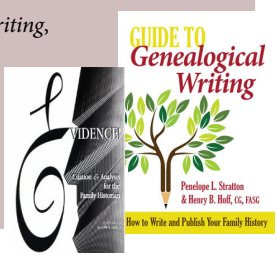
Citations and Footnotes

- *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* (Genealogical Pub. Co., 1997)
- *Guide to Genealogical Writing*, 3rd ed. (NEHGS, 2014)



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Qualification Outline

Generation 2

Name of your Father, b. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year];[3] d. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year].[4] He married in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year], **name of spouse**.[5]

Name of your Mother, b. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year];[6] d. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year].[7]

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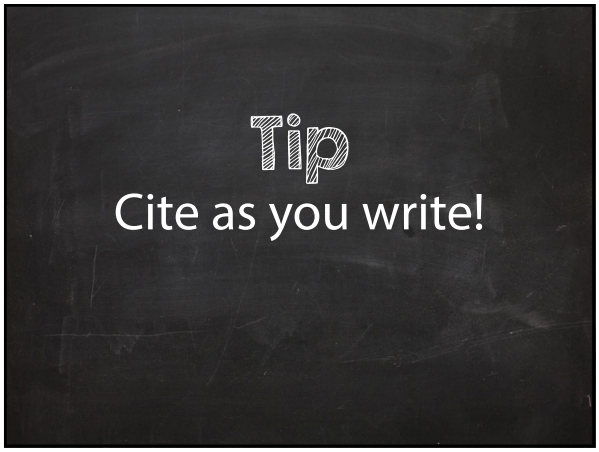

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Qualification Outline

Generation 3

Name of your Grandfather, b. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year];[8] d. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year].[9] He married first in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year],[10] **name of first spouse**. He married second in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year],[11] **name of second spouse**.

Name of your Grandmother, b. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year];[12] d. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year].[13]

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Vital Records

- Birth, Marriage, and Death Records
- Often provide the names of the individual's parents and/or spouse
- Depending on the state, records may be held on the state, county, and/or town/city level
- Privacy restrictions may limit access
- Certified vs. Genealogical or Informational copies

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Vital Records: Resources

- *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 6th ed. (NEHGS, 2021)
- *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources,* 3rd ed. (Ancestry Publishing, 2004)
- *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, 3rd ed. (Ancestry Publishing, 2006)
- FamilySearch Wiki

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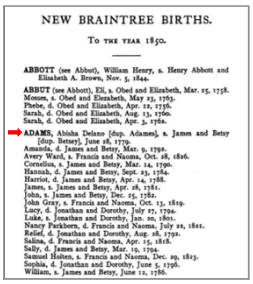
Gather Documents



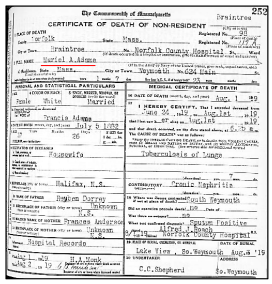
NEW BRAINTREE BIRTHS.

TO THE YEAR 1850.

ABBOTT (see Abbot), William Henry, s. Henry Abbott and Elizabeth A. Brown, Nov. 5, 1844.

ABBUT (see Abbott), Eli, s. Obed and Elizabeth, Mar. 25, 1758.
Moses, s. Obed and Elizabeth, May 23, 1763.
Phebe, d. Obed and Elizabeth, Apr. 12, 1756.
Sarah, d. Obed and Elizabeth, Aug. 13, 1760.
Sarah, d. Obed and Elizabeth, Apr. 3, 1762.

ADAMS, Abiah Delano [dup. Adams], s. James and Betsy [dup. Betsey], June 28, 1779.
Amanda, d. James and Betsy, Mar. 9, 1792.
Avery Ward, s. Francis and Naoma, Oct. 28, 1826.
Cornelius, s. James and Betsy, Mar. 14, 1790.
Hannah, d. James and Betsy, Sept. 23, 1784.
Harriot, d. James and Betsy, Apr. 14, 1788.
James, s. James and Betsy, Apr. 28, 1781.
John, s. James and Betsy, Dec. 25, 1782.
John Gray, s. Francis and Naoma, Oct. 13, 1819.
Lucy, d. Jonathan and Dorothy, July 27, 1794.
Luke, s. Jonathan and Dorothy, Jan. 20, 1801.
Nancy Parkhorn, d. Francis and Naoma, July 22, 1821.
Relief, d. Jonathan and Dorothy, Aug. 28, 1792.
Salina, d. Francis and Naoma, Apr. 15, 1818.
Sally, d. James and Betsy, Mar. 19, 1796.
Samuel Holten, s. Francis and Naoma, Dec. 29, 1823.
Sophia, d. Jonathan and Dorothy, June 5, 1798.
William, s. James and Betsy, June 12, 1786.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts — Braintree
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH OF NON-RESIDENT
Registered No. 38
Braintree
Norfolk County Hospital
Married
Daniels Adams
Farmer
Tuberculosis of Lungs
Halifax, N.S.
Stephen Darroy
Unknown
Syphilis
Unknown
Norfolk County Hospital
Alfred J. Bosch
Lake View, So. Weymouth
C.C. Shepherd
So. Weymouth

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Tip

Include explanation of discrepancies found in documents

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Step 4

Complete your application, submit, and wait!

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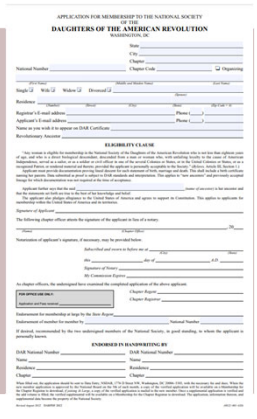
DAR Application

- Page 1
  - Contact Information
  - Eligibility Clause
  - Signatures
  - Member For Member Credit
  - Membership Approval Endorsements
  - Chapter Member Endorsements



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WASHINGTON, DC

ELIGIBILITY CLAUSE

ENDORSED IN HANDWRITING BY

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DAR Application

- Page 2
  - Lineage Information
  - Generations:
    - Mother & Father
    - Birth
    - Death
    - Marriage
    - Generational Linkage

Shift Generations Up
Shift Generations Down
LINEAGE

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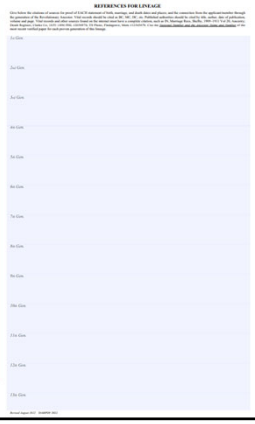
DAR Application

- Page 3
  - References for Lineage
  - Citations for the evidence submitted


REFERENCES FOR LINEAGE

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DAR Application

- Page 4
  - References for Lineage
  - Citations for the evidence submitted

ANCESTOR'S SERVICE
CHILDREN OF REVOLUTIONARY ANCESTOR (This section is OPTIONAL)

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How long will the review process take?

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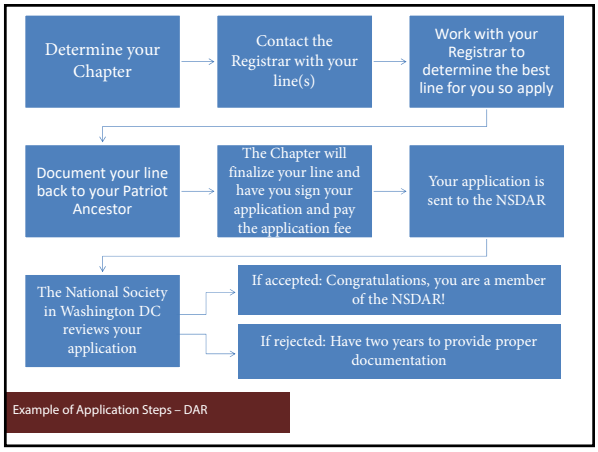

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Vital Record Alternatives

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Bible Records

- Rare, but helpful
- Maintained by local historical societies, archives, or genealogical society (American Ancestors)

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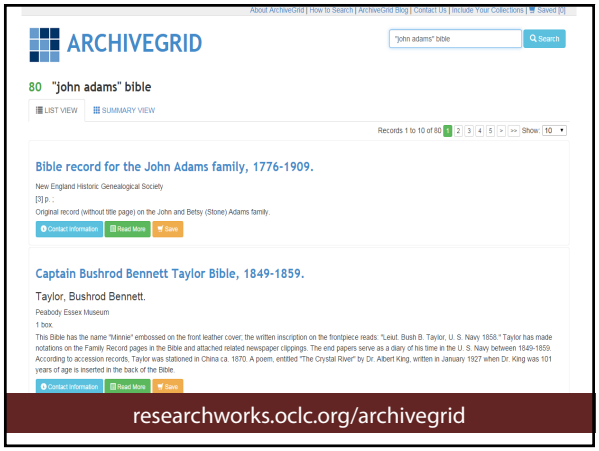

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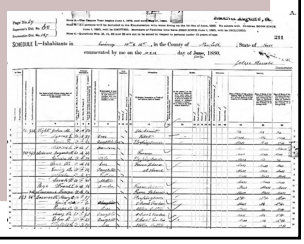
Census Records (*Federal and State*)

- U.S. Federal Census available 1790–1950
- Before 1850, U.S. Federal Census did not name each member of household
- Online resources:
  - *AmericanAncestors.org*
  - *familysearchg.org*
  - *fold3.com*
  - *ancestry.com*



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Cemetery Records and Inscriptions

- Include a clear photo of marker with surrounding stones
- Societies do NOT accept modern memorials
- Online resources:
  - *findagrave.com*
  - *billiongraves.com*
  - *interment.net*
  - *locateagrave.org*

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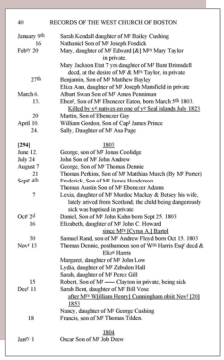
Church Records

- Baptisms, marriages, confirmations, burials
- To find, identify your ancestor's religion and church
- Sources:
  - Church archives
  - NEHGS library
  - *AmericanAncestors.org*
  - *familysearch.org*



40 RECORDS OF THE WEST CHURCH OF BOSTON

January 9th	Sarah Kendall daughter of Mr Bailey Cushing
16	Nathaniel Son of Mr Joseph Foodick
Feby 20	Mary, daughter of Mr Edward [&] Mrs Mary Taylor in private.
	Mary Jackson Etat 7 yrs daughter of Mr Bant Brimsdell decd, at the desire of Mr & Mrs Taylor, in private
27th	Benjamin, Son of Mr Matthew Bayley
	Eliza Ann, daughter of Mr Joseph Mansfield in private
March 6.	Albert Swan Son of Mr Amos Pennimun
13.	Eben[r], Son of Mr Ebenezer Eaton, born March 5th 1803. Killed by x[r] natives on one of x[r] Seal islands July 1823
20	Martin, Son of Ebenezer Guy
April 10.	William Gordon, Son of Capt James Prince
24.	Sally, Daughter of Mr Asa Page
	1803
[294]	
June 12.	George, son of Mr Jonas Coolidge
July 24	John Son of Mr John Andrew
August 7	George, Son of Mr Thomas Dennie
21	Thomas Perkins, Son of Mr Matthias Murch (By Mr Porter)
Sept 4th	Frederick, Son of Mr James Henderson
	Thomas Austin Son of Mr Ebenezer Adams
7	Lexia, daughter of Mr Murdoc Mackay & Betsey his wife, lately arrived from Scotland; the child being dangerously sick was baptised in private
Oct[r] 2[d]	Daniel, Son of Mr John Kahn born Sept 25. 1803
16	Elizabeth, daughter of Mr John C. Howard since Mrs [Cyrus A.] Hartel
30	Samuel Rand, son of Mr Andrew Floyd born Oct 15. 1803
Nov[r] 13	Thomas Dennie, posthumous son of Wm Harris Esq[r] decd & Elie[r] Harris
	Margaret, daughter of Mr John Low
	Lydia, daughter of Mr Zebulon Hall
	Sarah, daughter of Mr Peter Gill
15	Robert, Son of Mr —— Clayton in private, being sick
Dec[r] 11	Sarah Brett, daughter of Mr Bill Vose after Mrs William Henry] Cunningham obiit Nov[r] [20] 1853
	Nancy, daughter of Mr George Cushing
18	Francis, son of Mr Thomas Tilden
	1804
Jan[y] 1	Oscar Son of Mr Job Drew

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Tip

Include title page for published records

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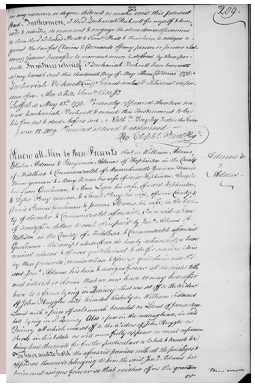
Deeds & Land Records

- May identify relationship between grantor (seller) and grantee (purchaser)
- Sources:
  - American Ancestors library
  - *familysearch.org*
  - Family History Library



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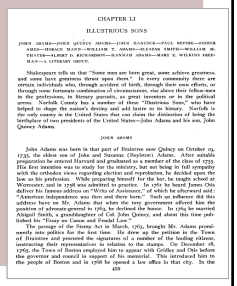
Local Histories & Well-Documented Genealogies

- Unacceptable as singular proof
- Properly cited material can provide supplemental proof
- Online resources:
  - *archive.org*
  - *books.google.com*
  - *books.familysearch.org*



CHAPTER LI

ILLUSTRIOUS SONS

JOHN ADAMS—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS—JOHN HANCOCK—PAUL REVERE—FISHER AMES—SERGT. JASPER—WILLIAM T. ADAMS—ELIZABETH SMITH—WILLIAM H. FRYER—ALBERT D. RICHARDSON—LANSTON ADAMS—MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN—A LITERARY GROUP.

Shakespeare tells us that "Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." In every community there are certain individuals who, by reason of their birth, their achievements, or a fortunate combination of circumstances, rise above their fellow-men in the professions, in literary pursuits, as great inventors or in the political arena. Norfolk County has a number of these "Illustrious Sons," who have helped to shape the nation's destiny and add lustre to its history. Norfolk is the only county in the United States that can claim the distinction of being the birthplace of two presidents of the United States—John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams.

JOHN ADAMS

John Adams was born in that part of Braintree now Quincy on October 19, 1735, the eldest son of John and Susanna (Boylston) Adams. After suitable preparation he entered Harvard and graduated as a member of the class of 1755. He then taught school for a time at Worcester, but, not being in accord with the orthodox views regarding election and reprobation, he decided upon the law as his profession. While preparing himself for the bar, he taught school at Worcester, and in 1758 was admitted to practice. In 1761 he heard James Otis deliver his famous address on "Writs of Assistance," of which he afterward said: "American independence was then and there born." Previous to this time Mr. Adams had taken the town's part in every controversy, and had even offered his services as advocate-general in 1763, he declined the honor. In 1764 he married Abigail Smith, a granddaughter of Col. John Quincy, and about this time published his "Essay on Canon and Feudal Law."

The passage of the Stamp Act in March, 1765, brought Mr. Adams prominently into politics for the first time. He drew up the petition in the Town Meeting of Braintree instructing their representative in relation to the stamps, and instructing their representative in relation to the stamps. On December 18, 1765, the Town of Boston employed him to appear with Gridley and Otis before the governor and council in support of his memorial. This introduced him to the people of Boston and in 1768 he opened a law office in that city. In the

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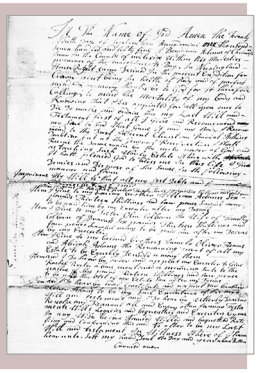
Probate Records

- Identify heirs: spouse, children, grandchildren, and siblings
- May include death information
- Sources:
  - American Ancestors library
  - *AmericanAncestors.org*
  - *familysearch.org*
  - Family History Library



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DAR
Daughters of the American Revolution
JOIN
GRS
GIVE
MEMBERS
National Society
Constitution Hall
Museum
Research Your Family History
Are you just starting out on your journey to discover your family roots…or are you one document away from solving a mystery of on
your genealogical process, DAR is here to help. The DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS) includes free online databases cont
ancestors, descendants of those patriots, as well as the vast array of genealogical resources from the DAR Library.
www.DAR.org

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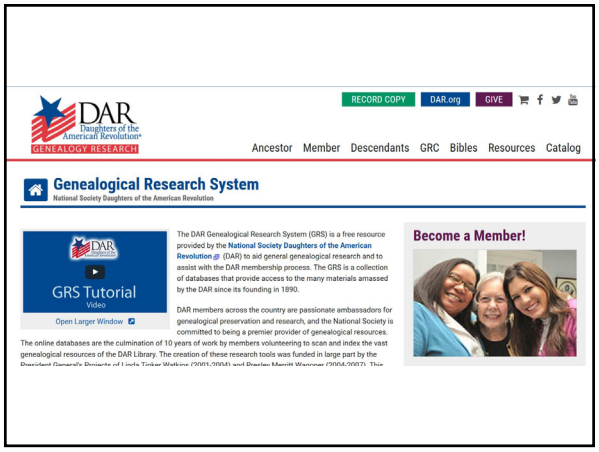
DAR
Daughters of the American Revolution
GENEALOGY RESEARCH
RECORD COPY
DAR.org
GIVE
Ancestor
Member
Descendants
GRC
Bibles
Resources
Catalog
Genealogical Research System
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
GRS Tutorial
Video
Open Larger Window
The DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS) is a free resource provided by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to aid general genealogical research and to assist with the DAR membership process. The GRS is a collection of databases that provide access to the many materials amassed by the DAR since its founding in 1890.
DAR members across the country are passionate ambassadors for genealogical preservation and research, and the National Society is committed to being a premier provider of genealogical resources.
The online databases are the culmination of 10 years of work by members volunteering to scan and index the vast genealogical resources of the DAR Library. The creation of these research tools was funded in large part by the
Become a Member!

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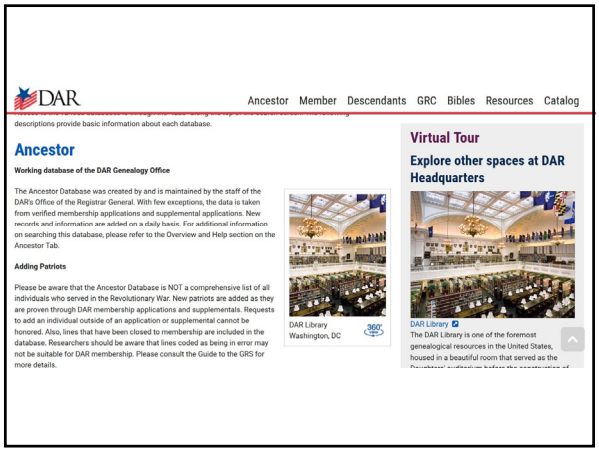
DAR
Ancestor
Member
Descendants
GRC
Bibles
Resources
Catalog
descriptions provide basic information about each database.
Ancestor
Working database of the DAR Genealogy Office
The Ancestor Database was created by and is maintained by the staff of the DAR's Office of the Registrar General. With few exceptions, the data is taken from verified membership applications and supplemental applications. New records and information are added on a daily basis. For additional information on searching this database, please refer to the Overview and Help section on the Ancestor Tab.
Adding Patriots
Please be aware that the Ancestor Database is NOT a comprehensive list of all individuals who served in the Revolutionary War. New patriots are added as they are proven through DAR membership applications and supplementals. Requests to add an individual outside of an application or supplemental cannot be honored. Also, lines that have been closed to membership are included in the database. Researchers should be aware that lines coded as being in error may not be suitable for DAR membership. Please consult the Guide to the GRS for more details.
DAR Library
Washington, DC
360°
Virtual Tour
Explore other spaces at DAR Headquarters
DAR Library
The DAR Library is one of the foremost genealogical resources in the United States, housed in a beautiful room that served as the

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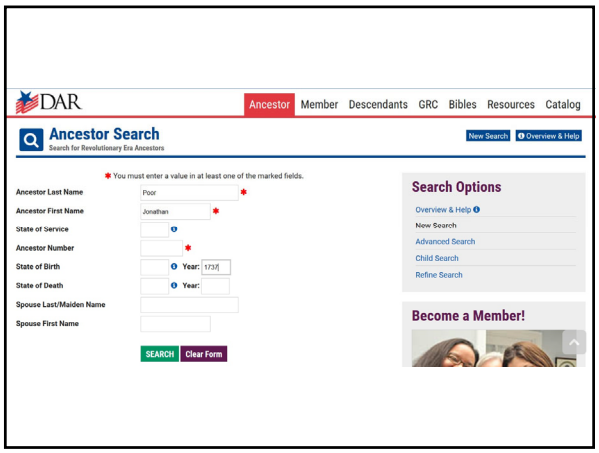
DAR
Ancestor Member Descendants GRC Bibles Resources Catalog
Ancestor Search
Search for Revolutionary Era Ancestors
New Search
Overview & Help
You must enter a value in at least one of the marked fields.
Ancestor Last Name
Poor
Ancestor First Name
Jonathan
State of Service
Ancestor Number
State of Birth
Year: 1737
State of Death
Year:
Spouse Last/Maiden Name
Spouse First Name
SEARCH
Clear Form
Search Options
Overview & Help
New Search
Advanced Search
Child Search
Refine Search
Become a Member!

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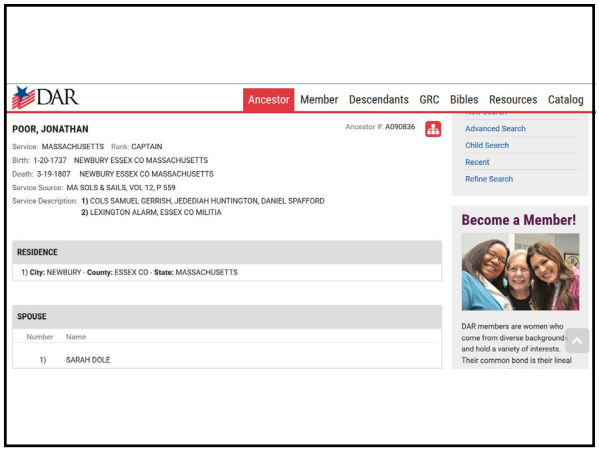
DAR
Ancestor Member Descendants GRC Bibles Resources Catalog
POOR, JONATHAN
Ancestor #: A090836
Service: MASSACHUSETTS Rank: CAPTAIN
Birth: 1-20-1737 NEWBURY ESSEX CO MASSACHUSETTS
Death: 3-19-1807 NEWBURY ESSEX CO MASSACHUSETTS
Service Source: MA SOLS & SAILS, VOL 12, P 559
Service Description: 1) COLS SAMUEL GERRISH, JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON, DANIEL SPAFFORD
2) LEXINGTON ALARM, ESSEX CO MILITIA
RESIDENCE
1) City: NEWBURY - County: ESSEX CO - State: MASSACHUSETTS
SPOUSE
Number Name
1) SARAH DOLE
Advanced Search
Child Search
Recent
Refine Search
Become a Member!
DAR members are women who come from diverse backgrounds and hold a variety of interests. Their common bond is their lineal

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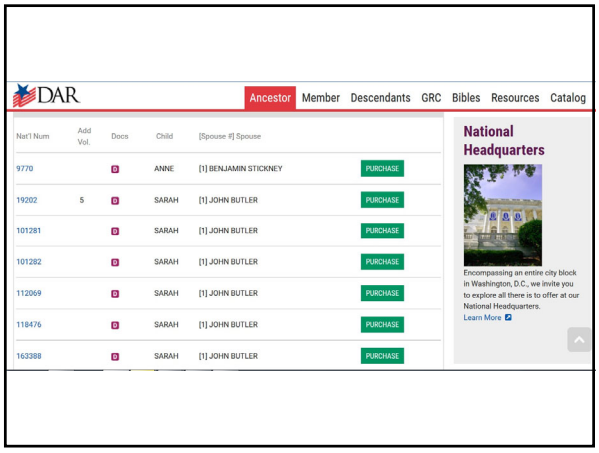
DAR
Ancestor Member Descendants GRC Bibles Resources Catalog
Nat'l Num
Add Vol.
Docs
Child
[Spouse #] Spouse
9770 ANNE [1] BENJAMIN STICKNEY PURCHASE
19202 5 SARAH [1] JOHN BUTLER PURCHASE
101281 SARAH [1] JOHN BUTLER PURCHASE
101282 SARAH [1] JOHN BUTLER PURCHASE
112069 SARAH [1] JOHN BUTLER PURCHASE
118476 SARAH [1] JOHN BUTLER PURCHASE
163388 SARAH [1] JOHN BUTLER PURCHASE
National Headquarters
Encompassing an entire city block in Washington, D.C., we invite you to explore all there is to offer at our National Headquarters.
Learn More

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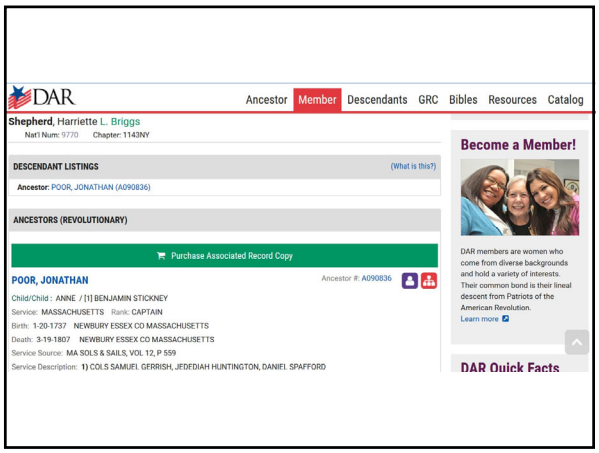
DAR
Ancestor Member Descendants GRC Bibles Resources Catalog
Shepherd, Harriette L. Briggs
Nat'l Num: 9770 Chapter: 1143NY
DESCENDANT LISTINGS (What is this?)
Ancestor: POOR, JONATHAN (A090836)
ANCESTORS (REVOLUTIONARY)
Purchase Associated Record Copy
POOR, JONATHAN
Ancestor #: A090836
Child/Child : ANNE / [1] BENJAMIN STICKNEY
Service: MASSACHUSETTS Rank: CAPTAIN
Birth: 1-20-1737 NEWBURY ESSEX CO MASSACHUSETTS
Death: 3-19-1807 NEWBURY ESSEX CO MASSACHUSETTS
Service Source: MA SOLS & SAILS, VOL 12, P 559
Service Description: 1) COLS SAMUEL GERRISH, JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON, DANIEL SPAFFORD
Become a Member!
DAR members are women who come from diverse backgrounds and hold a variety of interests. Their common bond is their lineal descent from Patriots of the American Revolution.
Learn more
DAR Quick Facts

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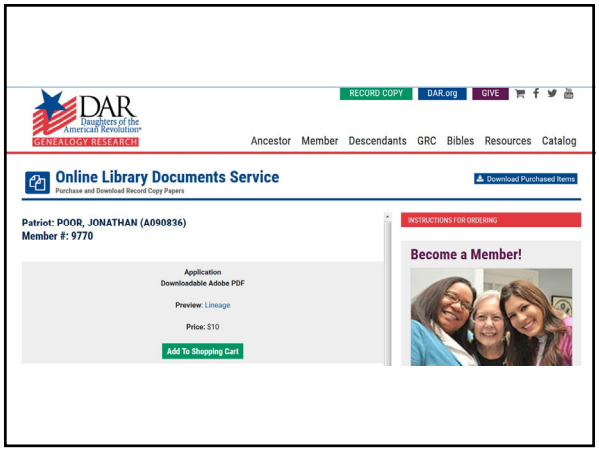
RECORD COPY DAR.org GIVE
DAR Daughters of the American Revolution GENEALOGY RESEARCH
Ancestor Member Descendants GRC Bibles Resources Catalog
Online Library Documents Service
Purchase and Download Record Copy Papers
Download Purchased Items
Patriot: POOR, JONATHAN (A090836)
Member #: 9770
Application
Downloadable Adobe PDF
Preview: Lineage
Price: $10
Add To Shopping Cart
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORDERING
Become a Member!

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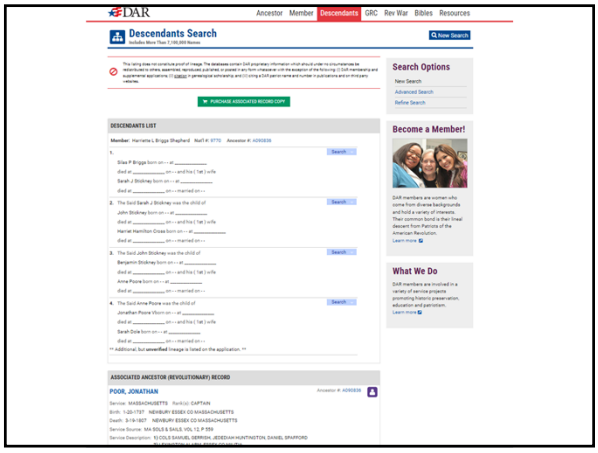
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Descendants Search
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Search Options
New Search
Advanced Search
Refine Search
PURCHASE ASSOCIATED RECORD COPY
DESCENDANTS LIST
Become a Member!
What We Do
ASSOCIATED ANCESTOR (REVOLUTIONARY) RECORD
POOR, JONATHAN

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INSPIRING AMERICAN PATRIOTISM
SINCE 1889.
www.SAR.org

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INSPIRING AMERICAN PATRIOTISM
SINCE 1889.
www.SAR.org

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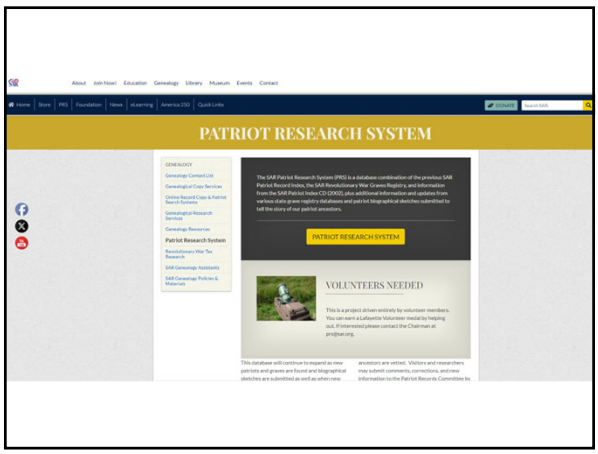
PATRIOT RESEARCH SYSTEM
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Welcome to the
Patriot Research System (PRS)
Use of PRS Data on NSSAR Applications:
Submissions / Updates / Corrections:
Documentation Requests:

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Welcome to the
Patriot Research System (PRS)
Submissions / Updates / Corrections:
Documentation Requests:

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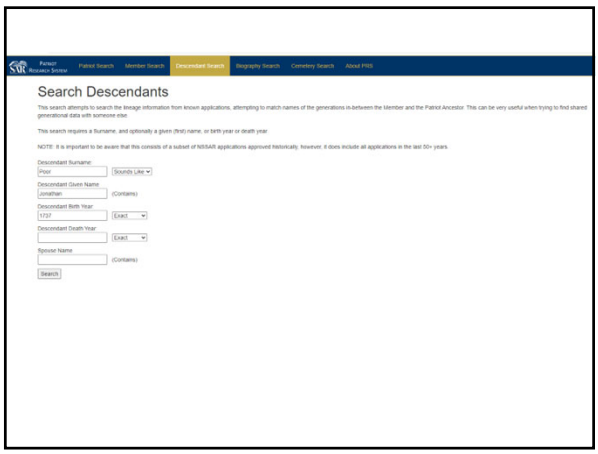
Search Descendants

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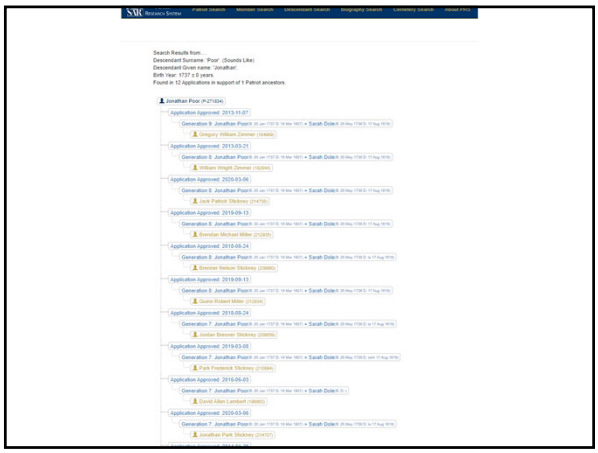

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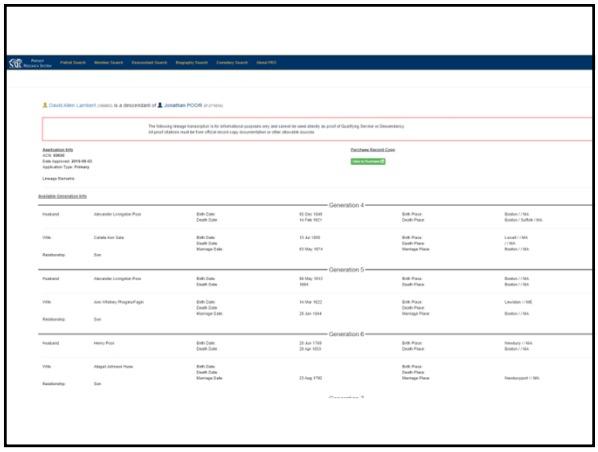

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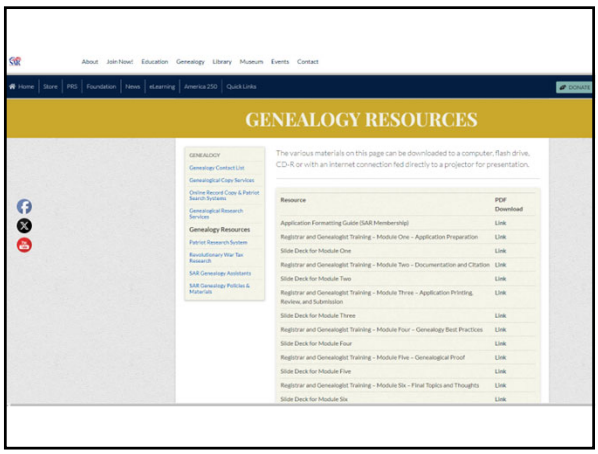
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Genealogy Resources
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Revolutionary War Tax Research
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SAR Genealogy Policies & Materials
The various materials on this page can be downloaded to a computer, flash drive, CD-R or with an Internet connection fed directly to a projector for presentation.
Resource
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Application Formatting Guide (SAR Membership)
Registrar and Genealogist Training – Module One – Application Preparation
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Slide Deck for Module Five
Registrar and Genealogist Training – Module Six – Final Topics and Thoughts
Slide Deck for Module Six
Link

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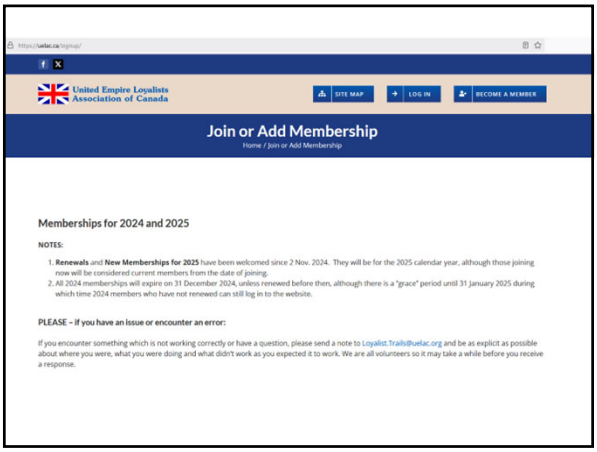

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Joining UELAC

- You join **a branch** of UELAC which gives you the benefits which that branch offers, plus those benefits which are offered by UELAC to all members.
- You may join additional branches if you wish. The fee to do so is lower, as a portion of your fee for your primary branch goes to Dominion Office to fund its operations.

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Choosing a Branch

- The branches of the UELAC are located from the Atlantic (Halifax) to the Pacific (Victoria)
- We recommend that you join a branch which is close to you if there is one so that you can participate with them, and keep current on related local events.

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Select the Branch

- Abegweit
- Assiniboine
- Bay of Quinte
- Bicentennial
- Bridge Annex (not available)
- Calgary
- Chilliwack
- Col. Edward Jessup
- Col. John Butler
- Edmonton
- Governor Simcoe
- Grand River
- Hamilton
- Heritage
- Kawartha
- Kingston & District
- Little Forks (not available)
- London & W Ontario
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- Saskatchewan
- Sir Guy Carleton
- Sir John Johnson
- St. Lawrence
- Thompson-Okanagan
- Toronto
- Vancouver
- Victoria

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After joining a Branch

- To apply for a UELAC (United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada) certificate, you need to first join a UELAC branch. Then, as a member, you can apply for a certificate of Loyalist descent, which requires you to provide documentation proving your lineage back to a UE Loyalist ancestor. The application process includes a review by the branch's genealogist and a final approval by the UELAC Dominion Genealogists.

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Review

1. Establish your ancestral line
2. Contact your membership liaison
3. Organize and document your ancestral line
4. Complete your application, submit, and wait!

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QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services
research@americanancestors.org

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Consultations

Book a one-on-one consultation with a genealogist and receive help with your family history research!
AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations
SCAN ME

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JOIN THE LIVE BROADCAST
CLASS TOPICS
https://www.americanancestors.org/revolutionary-war-research-tracing-patriot-and-loyalist-ancestors-2025

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THANK YOU!
AmericanAncestors.org/Education

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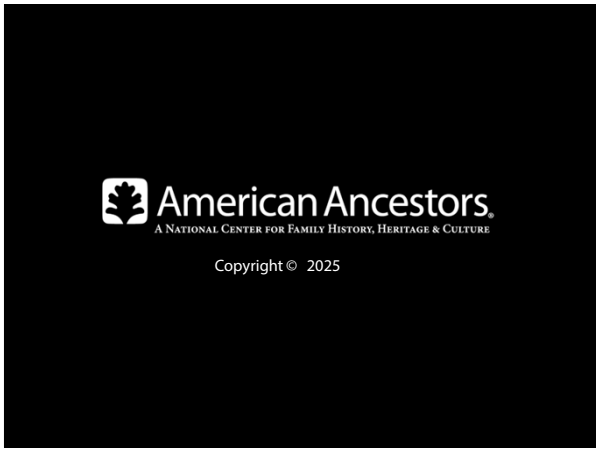
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