

Guidelines for Proving Your Lineage

A ***direct and unbroken*** line from you to your ancestor must be established with the use of acceptable proofs. Researchers working on the Signer's Project have researched the lineage of descendants and attempted to prove the lineage as far as documentation was available.

If you have been contacted by a researcher, your direct line documentation may already be contained in the files maintained by the Star of the Republic Museum. In that case you will need only complete the Registry Application.

In many cases, however, documentation may not have been readily available to prove the ancestry of all descendants. In these cases, the applicant may be asked to provide documentation to tie their lineage to the research already conducted. You can check the on-line genealogies or submit a Registry Application. If the lineage was not documented by one of our researchers documentation will be required. Look at this as an opportunity to further complete the file on your ancestor's genealogy.

Documentation consists of primary proofs of lineage proving the relationship of the applicant to a proven descendant or the signer, if the descent has not been proven.

Types of acceptable proofs are as follows:

- ◆ Birth, marriage and death certificates
- ◆ Wills, probates and estate settlements
- ◆ Pension applications and pension records
- ◆ Church records
- ◆ County records - deeds, tax records, guardianships
- ◆ Obituaries, wedding announcements, etc
- ◆ Properly authenticated Bible records
- ◆ Biographies written during the lifetime of the subject
- ◆ Census records

For unproven descendants:

The dates and places of birth, marriage and death of ancestors should be given and documented. If still living, "living" should be typed in the "died at" space. If a fact is unknown, "unknown" should be entered in the location field. Lineage must be proven.

Notes on documentation

1. All dates since vital records were kept require copies of those records. So generally speaking, in Texas, those dates are:
 - ◆ Birth Certificates since 1914
 - ◆ Marriage Certificates since late 1840's to mid 1850's
 - ◆ Death Certificates since 1920's
2. County and family history books are usually composed from recollections on the family generations after an event and are frequently undocumented, unreliable and inaccurate. They are, therefore, not considered acceptable proofs. They are, however, a rich source of information that can often serve to a guide to locating the primary proof material acceptable to support your application.
3. If submitting an application for more than one family member at the same time, only one set of proofs is required.
4. If submitting an application that requires documentation, only the documentation to the proven descendant need be provided.
5. Submit only copies of the documentation; do not submit originals.
6. Documentation should be submitted on letter-sized paper.
7. Documentation should note the generation number of the individuals contained in the proof in red at the upper right hand corner.
8. Underline dates, places and individual names on each document in red pencil. Do not use a highlighter – it obliterates facts when copies and etches away the paper.
9. Organize documents by generation number and clip each generation together.
10. Included the title pages with all published documentation.
11. If using a tombstone for documentation a photograph of the tombstone, copied, should be submitted to provide an estimate of the date of the

tombstone. Only tombstones contemporary with the death provide acceptable documentation of birth and death dates.

12. If submitting a Bible record a copy of the pages and the title page must be submitted.
13. When primary sources of evidence are not available a clear and concise preponderance of evidence may be acceptable. This usually consists of a series of primary, secondary and tertiary documents which, when viewed as a whole, convince an unbiased individual of the reasonableness of the claim.