LINEAGE SOCIETIES:
CHOICES, APPLICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

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What is a Lineage Society?

Examples: National Societies

- The Mayflower Society: General Society of Mayflower Descendants (themayflowersociety.org)
- Jamestowne Society Jamestowne Society - Jamestowne Society
- DAR – Daughters of the American Revolution https://www.dar.org
- SAR – National Society Sons of the American Revolution https://www.sar.org
- Society of the Cincinnati https://www.societyofthecincinnati.org
- National Huguenot Society https://nationalhuguenotsociety.org
- National Society of the Colonial Dames of America The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (nscda.org)

Examples: State Societies

- Daughters of the Republic of Texas Home (drtinfo.org)
- Sons of the Republic of Texas https://www.lonestarsrt.org
- First Families of Ohio First Families of Ohio (FFO) - Ohio Genealogical Society (ogs.org)
- First Families of Western Pennsylvania First Families of Western Pennsylvania | Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (wpgs.org)

Examples: Others

- Society of the Descendants of Colonial Clergy https://www.colonialclergy.com
- National Society Descendants of American Farmers https://www.nsdoaf.com
- Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters - Welcome (ancient-planters.org)
- Associated Daughters of Early American Witches About | Associated Daughters Of Early American Witches (adeaw.us)
Why would you want to join?

- Pride
- Confirm your research
- Find genealogy friends
- Discover new records
- Bling!

How do you join?

- Hereditary Society: [https://www.herediitary.us/overview](https://www.herediitary.us/overview)
- Understand that what works for one doesn’t work for another!
- Contact the society you have an interest in
  - Ask question
  - Ask deadline
  - Ask costs
  - Ask instructions
  - Ask who is “help”
  - Ask if you can link to a previous application

Gather Supporting Documents

- Birth, Marriage and Death for first three generations (at a minimum)
- Proving relationships
- Primary (Original) versus Secondary (Derivative) sources
  - What will they accept versus what can you get your hands on
  - Always want one document that makes the proof when possible
- What is not accepted
  - Family genealogies; charts; online trees
  - Other society applications
  - Books that are poorly documented
- Use the databases that are available, even if you are not a member
Documents and mailing

- Follow the directions
- Each one wants something different and in a specific way
- Redlining
- Don’t use clips, staples or rubber bands, no dividers
- Acid-free paper – archival quality
- Always copy your application and proofs before mailing them in!

Practice Patience

- Fill out another application based on the person you just proved
- Be practical about cost and time

Rejection

- It happens, but you must “fix” your problem
- Typically a time limit (DAR 2 years)
- Consider a professional genealogist
- Don't quit!!

DNA – not quite there yet – but it will come

Final Thoughts

- Eligibility does not equate to membership
- Documentation is the name of the game
- Labor of Love!!!