

## DSDI Online Membership Worksheet Instructions

### Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

Printout and complete the Application for Membership worksheet. These downloadable forms are available in PDF, Word or WordPerfect formats.

Please, legibly print all the following information onto it:

- a.) The name of your signer ancestor;
- b.) Junior (under 18) or Senior (over 18)

#### NAME OF APPLICANT SECTION

c.) Your **Full** Name, Address, Telephone, Occupation, Age and e-mail if you have e-mail;

d.) the **Full** Names, Relationship, Spouse #, Date of birth, and Place of Birth of all your **blood line** children, in birth order.

#### STATEMENT OF BLOODLINE TO SIGNER ANCESTOR SECTION

Then, repeat again a.) your **Full** Name in the place marked for Generation 1; b.) date of birth; and c.) place of birth. Support this with a certified copy of your Birth Certificate. Under your name, place the **full [Maiden]** Name of your spouse and date and place of birth. Support this statement with a certified copy of the Birth Certificate (or equivalent). Then include the Date and Place of marriage, and support this with a Marriage Certificate. If you have Remarried, include the data for that spouse in the place indicated, and furnish the supporting documentation.

Work backwards by each generation, males in the top line (even if they are not the line carrier), in this manner through each numbered Generation, carefully printing all names, dates and places. Include the supporting documentation, and see that the data is properly placed on the correct line, and in the correct generation with the correct data.

Ink or pencil is fine, so long as it is legible!

You need only bring your genealogy down to the Generation that appears **and is fully supported** as found in "Pyne's Register"; *The Genealogical Register of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence*, (Picton Press, 1998 - 2002). It will have the remaining generational data. The Office of Registrar-General has a full set of the seven (7) Volumes of this work, and that person will be able to take your application on back to your ancestor signer, without difficulty. That person will also

copy onto your formal application all the needed references for those earlier generations.

However, **you must supply** all the references and documentation for the generations from you to a fully supported reference in "Pyne's Register".

The Registrar-General will copy your data onto a computer driven software program, and with archival quality Application Forms, print them out, creating quality, non-smearable, sharp Applications for you to review and sign, and for the Society to have in order to build a quality genealogical resource for the future.

In addition to Certificates, you should also include Bible Records, Obituaries, copies of appropriate, referenced pages from Family Histories [with Title page and copyright page], and other support data. These documents can be high quality reproductions of the original material. Be sure to annotate the source; for example, Family Bible located at Name and location, or Obit published in The Daily Times, June 3, 1942, Tampa, FL., p. 32. Further details are in the Documentation section below.

Please, also include an explanation of material you include that helps provide information about the siblings of your line in the generations before you. This assists the Society to build a solid genealogical repository of signer descendant data.

Dates are to be reported as **DD MMM YYYY**. [e.g. 3 Oct 1977; not 10/3/77 or Oct 3, '77]. Females are to use their full **Maiden** name. Include **no titles, postnominals**, or other indications of achievement. While many signers, and their progeny, are entitled to such honors, they were not born with them. Nobody has been baptized as Judge, or General, or Colonel, or Doctor - these titles were earned later in life.

The **most** important part of your Worksheet is the References and the Summary of Proofs that go with it. Note that there are only a few thin lines on which to report information that in many cases may be quite extensive. In the limited spaces provided, include only the shortest description of the data being furnished for **that** generation, ie: Birth Certificate; 1860 census, Reno County, KS; title only of authoritative, referenced compiled genealogies.

On a separate sheet of paper, labeled "Summary of Proofs" list, numbered generation by generation, all the full references, many of which you could not fit on the Worksheet. Thank you!

### **DATA IN OLDER APPLICATIONS**

Many of our older DSDI applications, and older applications of the DAR and the SAR, are very poorly documented (if at all). They all too frequently do not include quality data on dates and places of birth, marriage, and death. We must make serious efforts to improve and correct this condition.

The seven volume genealogical work known as "Pyne's Register", *The Genealogical Register of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence*, (Picton Press, 1998 - 2002) has largely solved this problem, at least down to [usually] the 5<sup>th</sup> generation removed from the signer.

However, there may still be gaps. Each applicant coming from a line where there is missing data will be respectfully requested to furnish documentation regarding that missing data. This step is not to be difficult, but it fills out holes in some family lines that we have never been able to complete for a whole host of reasons.

### **STANDARD of PROOF**

The standard of Proof required for each piece of documentation is that set forth by the National Genealogical Society [NGS]. Basically this says that evidence is valued in an ordered way. Most desirable is *Primary* Evidence - that is, data reported by some one who was present at the event. *Secondary* Evidence is that which comes from one who was not present at the event, but heard, or was told of the event. The further from the event, the less the "value" of the data!

### **DOCUMENTATION**

A document (or documents) is required in support of **each** event (birth, marriage, death), for **each** generation.

Birth Certificates **must include the names of the birth parents**. Marriage Certificates or Marriage Licenses must include names, date and place. Death Certificates are preferable to other documents, but tombstone photos, obituaries, death notices can be submitted.

Bible Records, Baptismal Records, Marriage Notices, Newspaper clippings of events, College Registers or Directories, compiled Family Histories (w/references), Census Schedules (State or Federal), Land Records, Military Records, Local Histories, Church Records can be used in support of your line of descent.

**Record Copies** [and so stamped] of fully referenced (the more recent numbers) DAR or SAR Applications may be submitted, and also DSDI Applications (where they contain the required documentation). Please note: these records will not be returned.

Use **full names, not initials**. **Maiden name for all women** - you were **not** born or baptized as "Mrs. John Jones", but as "Elizabeth Margaret Smith". Include your siblings, in birth order in your "Summary of Proofs". Include your check for the proper fee, made out to: **DSDI, Inc.**

## MEMBER CLASSIFICATION

There are two classes of membership: Junior and Senior. Any applicant 17 years or younger falls into the Junior category. Junior members do not receive routine mailings of Society material, do not receive an annual bill, nor can they vote on agenda items at Society meetings. When a Junior member turns 18, that member will be presented to the Board for consideration of election to Senior Membership.

## FEE CATEGORIES

There are two payment categories : Annual and Life.

Annual members will be invoiced for annual dues at the then current rate every June. A Junior Annual member does not pay annual fees until the first billing cycle after they turn 18.

Life members simply elect to pay a one time fee and do not receive an annual invoice.

All Senior members receive all regular mailings of the Society, and the ability to vote at scheduled meetings. An annual member can upgrade to Life status at any time by notifying the Registrar-General and paying the current Life Member fee.

## Application Fee Schedule

### *Junior Annual Application*

enclose check of \$45.00 consisting of the \$45.00 Application Fee

### *Junior Life Application*

enclose check of \$645.00 consisting of the \$45.00 Application Fee and the Life Member Fee of \$600.

### *Senior Annual Application Fee*

enclose a check of \$90.00 consisting of the \$45.00 Application Fee and the Annual Member Fee of \$45. **Please note, this is not a pro-rated fee, but the fee for the year in which you are accepted into membership. So if you apply for membership in the Spring meeting period, you will be invoiced in June for the next year.**

### *Senior Life Application Fee*

enclose check of \$645.00 consisting of the \$45.00 Application Fee and the Life Member Fee of \$600.

Complete the Worksheet and return it with the appropriate check (made out to **DSDI, Inc.**) described above and **one copy of each document** you are submitting for each event to the Registrar- General, who will prepare your formal application for signature. Please note that xeroxed copies of contemporary berth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates are not accepted. You must provide certified copies of those vital records. These documents will not be returned to you, but are kept in our genealogical files and are ultimately placed at the Virginia Historical Society in a secure, safe environment for prosperity.

Send the completed Application Packet to:

Wendy Bushey-Davis

PO Box 2226

Andrews, NC 28901-2226