

DSDI Online Membership Worksheet Instructions

Printout and complete the downloadable Application for Membership worksheet. Please read through the instructions below completely.

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 Name as you would like to be known by DSDI, address, telephone number and e-mail address
- d.) the **Full Names**, Relationship, Spouse #, Date of birth, and Place of Birth of all of your **biological** children, in birth order.

STATEMENT OF BLOODLINE TO SIGNER ANCESTOR SECTION

Then, a.) your **full legal name at birth** in the place marked for Generation 1; b.) date of birth; and c.) place of birth. Support this with your Birth Certificate. Under your name, place the **full legal name at birth** of your spouse and date and place of birth. Support this statement with a copy of the Birth Certificate (or equivalent). Then include the Date and Place of marriage if applicable, 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.

A complete lineage includes documentation of both biological parents and marriage, if applicable, for each generation. If you are not able to document a parent in the lineage, an explanation of the circumstances will be required. Additionally, if a child is born to parents outside of marriage, please include a statement of biological parentage as this provides primary source data for future generations that might question parentage. When documenting biological children that were not raised by their biological parents, please provide all available documentation of the circumstances including but not limited to adoption records, original and reissued vital records, paternity or DNA test results and/or personal statements of individuals that have primary knowledge of the event.

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.

You need only document your lineage to the generation shared by a current or past DSDI member or a person 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 website www.worldcat.com can assist you to find these volumes in a library searchable by zip code. 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 back to your ancestor signer. The DSDI Registrar General will also enter 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 membership record or reference in "Pyne's Register".

The Registrar-General will copy your data into a 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 vital records, you may also include bible records, obituaries, church or government records or other supported 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 included 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]. Males and females are to use their name given at birth. If a name change has occurred, documentation of the name change must be included (a marriage record will document a change from maiden name to married 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.

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: BC for Birth Certificate; 1880 census, Reno County, KS; title & page number 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 that could not fit on the Worksheet. Please also include your biological siblings, in birth order in your "Summary of Proofs"

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 5th 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 completes 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** name place and date (of 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. Each document will be evaluated based on the context of the lineage submitted and may or may not be accepted to support the lineage.

Record Copies of fully referenced (the more recent numbers) DAR or SAR Applications may be submitted, and also DSDI membership numbers (where the application of the member contains the required documentation). Please note: these records will not be returned.

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 have the opportunity be presented to the Board for consideration of election to Senior Membership. **To apply for a DSDI Scholarship Award, the applicant must be an approved Junior or Senior member by October 31st prior to the opening of the scholarship application annually.** Junior membership can be obtained shortly after birth, allowing children to become Junior members many years prior to the scholarship application deadlines.

FEE CATEGORIES

There are two payment categories : Annual and Life.

Annual members will be invoiced for annual dues at the 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.

Your check for the proper fee will be written to: **DSDI, Inc.**

Complete the Worksheet 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 certified copies of vital records are preferred, but not required. These documents will not be returned to you, but are kept in our genealogical files and are ultimately placed at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in a secure, safe environment for posterity.

Once your packet is complete, please send an email with the subject line “New Member Application” to: dsdiregistrar@gmail.com The body of the email should include a brief summary of your lineage with reference to any DSDI members’ names and/or membership numbers of relatives if applicable. This step is important prior to mailing as it alleviates incomplete or invalid lineages from being mailed for processing. A mailing address will then be provided to you via email.