

Documentation for Membership

As described below. Primary Sources are preferred, and usually, only one document is required. A Secondary Source may be accepted by itself, but more often is combined with other secondary or circumstantial sources. Circumstantial Sources nearly always required additional sources for support. Unacceptable Sources are considered so because they are either not independent, are considered hearsay or consist of a claim rather than evidence or proof.

STANDARD OF EVIDENCE

● Primary Source Evidence

1. Vital Records of Birth, Marriage and Death, linking generation to the preceding one
2. Church records
3. Bible records which provide relationship
4. Marriage bonds and licenses
5. Land Deeds
6. Probate records, Guardianships or Orphan's Court Records
7. Military Service or Pension Records
8. Cemetery and Morticians Records (usually for death only)
9. Social Security Application Papers (usually for birth only)
10. Contemporary family letters and Diaries. Contemporary defined as produced at the time of the event, not at the time of application to the Society.

● Secondary Source Evidence

1. County or Town Histories
2. Family Genealogies (published only)
3. Federal/State Census records since 1850. (Note: If they DO NOT show family relationship, two sequential census records should be submitted whenever possible or this census will only be considered circumstantial evidence).
4. Newspaper Obituaries, including Paper name and date published
5. Newspaper Marriage Notices, including Paper name and date published
6. Photo or photocopies of gravestones inscriptions (provided the cemetery name and Location city, county, and state are included)

● Circumstantial Evidence

1. Federal/State Census records (which so not show family relationship).
2. Family Bible records that DO NOT show family relationship.

● Sources Not Acceptable

1. Internet Sources that have been abstracted or transcribed from other available sources.. The original source from which the information was abstracted or transcribed should be obtained and submitted.
2. Mayflower Index Number, DAR Patriot Indexes, or Indexes to any other Lineage Papers (including State Mayflower Society Lineage Books).
3. International Genealogical Index (IGI, Ancestral File (AFN) and Pedigree Resource Files.
4. Copies of lineage paper that have been submitted to any other Lineage Societies
5. Genealogical Compendiums such as "Virkus", "Savage", and "Farmer".
6. Family Group Sheet and Pedigree Charts.
7. Information from Family Web Pages on the Internet.
8. Who's Who" (if no other source of information is available, this may be considered).
9. Social Registers
10. Social Security Death INDEX (SSDI) (use this to obtain Social Security Application)
11. Most unpublished handwritten, typescript or computer-generated genealogies.