USING LINEAGE SOCIETIES FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

May 17 Brick Wall SIG

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LINEAGE AND HEREDITARY SOCIETIES:

"*Soon after the American Revolution, prominent citizens began to form exclusive social organizations and join hereditary and patriotic societies. Many societies were organized in the late 1880s and 1890s when membership in these organizations became very popular.*

These societies are generally involved in educational, cultural, social, and other programs to preserve the documents and memory of the past. They often maintain libraries and museums that can help you in your research. Most publish a periodical or newsletter, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine.

One of your ancestors or relatives may have submitted application papers containing his pedigree in order to join a lineage society. These records often include multi-generation pedigrees and information from family Bibles, death records, or military documents. They may also lead you to someone else interested in your family. Unfortunately, these papers have not always been carefully documented, but they can provide excellent clues for further research. Some societies allow only members to use their records." quote from www.familysearch.org

PURPOSES OF MOST LINEAGE SOCIETIES:

- Recognize individuals and/or families with roots in a specific location or who participated in an historic event
- Document an ancestor's residence in a specific location or participation in a specific historic event
- Provide genealogical proof of lineage to a particular ancestor
- Encourage applicants to engage in genealogical research
- Preserve and provide genealogical resources for future researchers

GENEALOGICAL HELP WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM A LINEAGE SOCIETY:

- Clues to direct line or collateral line ancestry
- An archival library or museum
- Genealogical information of descendants who are no longer living
- Copies of applications and the documentation used by others to apply
- Online databases or printed resources
- Sharing of resources by correspondence or lookup services
- Help bring an ancestor to life by learning about their participation in an event or organization

SOME OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN NATIONAL SOCIETIES INCLUDE:

General Society of Mayflower Descendants (The Mayflower Society)

- https://themayflowersociety.org
- Public access to Passenger Profiles, Historical Articles, Webinars, and Genealogy Tips can be found on the Mayflower Society website
- Mayflower Lineage Match service $75.00
- Silver Books (in the TGS Library and some on the New England Historic Genealogical Society website) to verify Mayflower descendant lineage

Daughters of the American Revolution or DAR

- https://www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy
- Promotes historic preservation, education and patriotism
- Genealogical Research System has both a public and member level for patriots, members, and descendants (can purchase supporting documentation $20.)

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution or SAR

- https://www.sar.org and Patriot Research System https://sarpatriots.sar.org
- Website has several searchable databases available to the public
- Patriot's service information, biography, and cemetery burial information are available
- Several historic articles are published on the SAR webpage under the "Education" tab
- Many educational videos are viewable on the SAR YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxXNZX94cumlco_0q6vMvKg/videos
- A database of SAR applications for memberships approved between 1889 and 1970 are available and searchable by patriot's name on ancestry.com

National Society United States Daughters of 1812

- https://usdaughters1812.org
- Searchable database of Approved Ancestors

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

- https://suvcw.org/garrecords/
- GAR Posts by State
- There is also a Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War society

List of National Hereditary and Lineage Organizations from Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_hereditary_and_lineage_organizations

STATE LINEAGE SOCIETIES

Wiki Articles for Societies for Each U.S. State

- **https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Societies**

Iowa Pioneer, Centennial, and Statehood Certificates

- https://iowagenealogy.org/?page_id=110
- Iowa Genealogical Society
- Database of Approved Ancestors
- Can order copies of the application file

Underground Railroad in Iowa

- State Historical Society of Iowa (Home>History>/Research>Collections>Places & People>Underground Railroad in Iowa)
- https://iowaculture.gov/history/research/collections/places-people/underground-railroad-iowa

Ohio First Families, etc. Certificates

- https://www.ogs.org/about/lineage
- Ohio Genealogical Society
- Database of Approved Ancestors
- Can order copies of the application file

First Families of Pennsylvania

- https://genpa.org
- Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
- More expensive than most; $75. each application, plus $45 society membership
- Database of Approved Ancestors
- Can order copies of the application file

Missouri First Families

- https://mosga.org/cpage.php?pt=9
- Missouri State Genealogical Association
- Database of Approved Ancestors

First Families of Pennsylvania

- https://genpa.org/first-families-of-pennsylvania/
- Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
- Database of Approved Ancestors
- More expensive than most states

Illinois Prairie Pioneers, etc.

- https://www.ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=599
- Illinois State Genealogical Society
- Database of Approved Ancestors

Territorial Guard Society of Indiana

- www.indgensoc.org/territorial_society.php
- Indiana Genealogical Society
- Database of Approved Ancestors
- Applications kept at the Allen County Public Library