

DAR Membership Genealogical Sources

For the first three generations, birth date and place, death date and place are **required**.

Acceptable Sources:

Vital Records:

- Most states have vital records starting about 1910
- A death certificate is primary evidence for date and place of death; however it is secondary evidence for date and place of birth and parentage. That information is only as good as the informer's knowledge. However, if no conflicting evidence arises then the death certificate can be used for date and place of birth.
- Order from the state governmental authority (Office of Health; Office of Vital Statistics). Do not order from any other service (their ads will be first on a Google search). You will get what you want but at a premium price
- Order birth and death records for every ancestor that might have one. Indices on familysearch.org or ancestry.com will help you find them but will not substitute for the actual document. DAR will not accept these indices for the first three generations
- Marriage records are not required if other documents clearly state who the parents are. DAR will accept the online marriage indices.

Church Records:

- Baptismal certificates are acceptable as well as marriage and death records.

Bible Records:

- The title page must be included to verify the date of the bible. The entries in the bible must look like they were entered at the time of the event. They are evaluated on a case by case basis.
- Some bible records have been transcribed and may be acceptable.

Obituaries:

- Obituaries are generally acceptable. You will need to cite the paper name and date.

Tombstone Pictures:

- DAR will accept the dates from the tombstones (or calculated date if the age of the deceased is part of the tombstone).
- The tombstone must be of the period of the time of the deceased. No new stones.
- Findagrave.com can be used for the dates from the stones but not any other information that has been added.
- Since we don't know where the deceased actually died, we state "buried" instead of "died" for the place of death.
- Cemetery records can be a good source.

Pension and Military Records:

- Pension records can contain a wealth of information about the soldier, widow, and heirs.
- Consider the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War as well as the Revolutionary War

Court Records:

- Will and probate records are jewels. Cite the state, county, book or volume and page number
- Land records are another great source of genealogy. Most Americans owned land, no matter how poor, and it often passed on to their heirs.
- Sometimes the land was sold long after our ancestor was deceased. Look for division of property, or land sold that “Jacob inherited from his father, John”. Bingo!
- Civil proceedings such as divorce records can be used.

Census Records:

- The 1850, 1860, 1870 censuses are sometimes acceptable. Just because a family is living together does not necessarily prove parentage. If all other facts of the genealogy line up, then they may be used.
- The 1880 census states the relationship between the head of the household and the members of the family and is acceptable.
- The 1890 census was destroyed
- Censuses from 1900 to the present are generally acceptable however remember that vital records are required for the first three generations. The 1900 census also asks the question regarding years of marriage and may be used if a marriage record is not found.

Unpublished Sources:

- Old letters or papers must be identifiable and should contain the signature of the writer, the date it was written and the name of the person to whom it was written.

Questionable Sources:

- Published family histories and local histories are evaluated on a case by case basis.
- Do they cite acceptable sources? Do they provide historical perspective by giving biographical details about the family members? Do they contain information given to the author by living relatives who had personal knowledge of the people and events?
- Those that may be acceptable are usually published in the 19th or very early 20th centuries.

Unacceptable Sources:

- The 1790-1840 census are not acceptable; however, they are good clues for finding folks and to see the ages of the children
- Lineage papers from any other hereditary society. Don't cite them; don't submit them.
- Family group sheets and pedigree charts whether printed or from a genealogical database program such as Ancestry.com, or personal websites are not accepted. Nor are any message board submissions acceptable.
- Undocumented family genealogies

Filename: Records Accepted by the DAR.docx
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Template: /Users/pamelabrigham/Library/Group Containers/UBF8T346G9.Office/User Content.localized/Templates.localized/Normal.dotm
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Subject:
Author: Donna
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 2/16/19 8:34:00 AM
Change Number: 22
Last Saved On: 11/2/20 7:18:00 AM
Last Saved By: Donna
Total Editing Time: 85 Minutes
Last Printed On: 2/21/22 9:08:00 AM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 2
Number of Words: 744
Number of Characters: 3,790 (approx.)