

Lineage, First Family and Pioneer Societies On the Web

**DIANE L. RICHARD GOES
ONLINE IN HER SEARCH FOR
LINEAGE, FIRST FAMILY AND
PIONEER SOCIETIES**



MANY OF YOU QUALIFY to become members of a Lineage, First Family or Pioneer Society. Most of these societies do have a website and it is important that you visit the appropriate website to learn the eligibility requirements and what documentation must be submitted with your application. The requirements for each are unique and exacting and many are "invitation only" societies.

Here are a sampling of some of the famous — and not-so-famous — societies that you may feel you are eligible to join. An overview is given of what membership information is available online for each (they are not listed in any particular order).

LINEAGE SOCIETIES

These are societies where membership eligibility is based on your ability to document and substantiate your ancestral connection to a type of individual stipulated by the society. In this first group, the focus is societies based on your ancestors' activity.

A more comprehensive list of

these societies can be found at a website mentioned at the end of the article.

The Mayflower Society

<http://www.themayflowersociety.com/>

1. A list of the Mayflower Pilgrims from whom one must be descended.
2. A "Preliminary Review Form" that you fill out and submit online (there is no charge for this). This is reviewed and you will receive a report on the findings with complete instructions on how to proceed.

The National Society, Colonial Dames XVII Century

<http://www.colonialdames17c.net>
Invitation Only

1. An Eligibility page with the explanation that "Any woman of good moral character, 18 years of age or over, is eligible for membership, provided she has been invited by the Society and is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who lived and served prior to 1701 in one of the Original Colonies in the geographical area of the present United States of America."

2. There is no online application form.

Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~canms/canada.html>

1. Some general information is provided about membership and since the Mayflower Society is the parent organization, check the details on that website.
2. No online application. One can be requested via e-mail.

Jamestowne Society

<http://www.jamestowne.org>
Invitation Only

1. "Membership is by invitation and in accordance with Jamestowne Society by-laws. You can start the membership process by contacting a local Jamestowne Society Company. A prospective member must demonstrate descent to our registrar-genealogist from one qualifying Jamestowne Ancestor." The website does include a list of the local Companies and a list of "Qualifying Ancestors" is also provided.

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2. You may download the "Membership Application Software".

FIRST FAMILY AND PIONEER SOCIETIES

These are societies to honor the first families and pioneers of a particular state. You will also find similar organizations for select counties. Like the Lineage Societies already discussed, you will need to provide proof that you meet the eligibility requirements — meaning that your ancestor lived in a certain locale before a certain date.

If you don't see a society that pertains to your state, search on "your state's name" and "First Family" (or "Pioneer") and see what you find. Otherwise, at the end of the article, I reference a great website that lists Hereditary Societies websites.

The Order of the First Families of Maryland

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdoffmd>

1. The requirement that "Invitation to membership in The Order of the First Families of Maryland is extended by the Governing Council to individuals 18 years of age or older, of good moral character and respectable standing in society, who are acceptable to The Order and have a verifiable, lineal descent from either... (1) Sir George Calvert, The First Lord Baltimore, who was granted the Palatinate of Maryland by King Charles I of England, or (2) an ancestor who aided in the establishment of the Palatinate of Maryland or who was an office holder, real property owner or resident in Maryland prior to December 31, 1734." A list of qualifying ancestors is provided.

2. An application form is online.

Dutch Settlers Society of Albany (NY)

<http://timesunion.com/communities/dutchsettlers>

1. You are eligible for membership if you are "descended from a person residing in Fort Orange, the Colony of Rensselaerswyck, or the Village of Beverwyck before 1665, and/or in other areas subject to

the jurisdiction of the Court of Rensselaerswyck prior to the establishment of their own courts."

2. Application form and guides are online.

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

<http://www.drtl.org/drtinc/index.asp>

1. Eligibility for membership "is a lineal descendant of a man or woman who rendered loyal service for Texas prior to the consummation of the Annexation Agreement of the Republic of



Daughters of the Republic of Texas badge.

Texas with the United States of America on the nineteenth day of February, eighteen hundred forty-six (19 February 1846)." The website also stipulates what is meant by "loyal service".

2. No online application form.

OTHER LINEAGE SOCIETIES

Similar to the above Lineage and First Family and Pioneer Societies, you must meet the eligibility requirements. These are a little different in that the requirements go beyond an individual descending from an ancestor who lived in a certain place at a certain time. There is an additional element such as participation in an armed conflict (war), ancestral trade or a particular political or religious affiliation.

Don't forget to check out the website mentioned at the end of the article, which has a more com-

prehensive list of similar type societies.

Daughters of the American Revolution

<http://dar.org>

1. An Eligibility page states details with the main requirement being that the applicant is "Any woman... who... can prove lineal, blood line descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence."

2. You can submit a "Prospective Member Information Request Form" online to start the application process.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

<http://www.suvcw.org>

1. Eligibility information for members, junior members and associates, including the stipulation that the applicant "is directly descended from a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service (or directly descended from a brother, sister, half-brother, or half-sister of such Soldier, etc.) who was regularly mustered and served honorably in, was honorably discharged from, or died in the service of, the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America or in such state regiments called to active service and was subject to the orders of United States general officers, between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865"

2. An application form with a documented genealogy describing your relationship to the veteran and proof of his service.

National Huguenot Society

<http://www.huguenot.netnation.com/general>

1. Membership must be made through a local branch of the society and then one is automatically a member of the national society. To become a member, an individual must meet four qualifications: i. be at least eighteen years of age, ii. adhere to the Huguenot principles of faith and of liberty, iii. be a member of the Protestant faith, and iv. be lineally descended in the male or female line from either "a. a Huguenot... subsequent to 10

December 1520 and prior to the promulgation on 28 November 1787 of the Edict of Toleration, emigrated from France to North America or some other country, or, b. a Huguenot who, in spite of religious persecution, remained in France. "France", as used here, refers to any territory lying within the Kingdom of France on the date of the promulgation of the Edict of Toleration.

2. Membership forms are available online.

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

<http://www.uelac.org/>

1. To be a descendant of a Loyalist, your ancestor was "a. Either male or female, as of 19 April 1775, a resident of the American colonies, and joined the Royal Standard prior to the Treaty of Separation of 1783, or otherwise demonstrated loyalty to the Crown, and settled in territory remaining under the rule of the Crown, b. or a soldier who served in an American Loyalist Regiment and was disbanded in Canada, c. or a member of the Six Nations of either the Grand River or the Bay of Quinte Reserve who is descended from one whose migration was similar to that of other Loyalists."

2. No online forms available, but you join a local branch and then work with them to confirm your Loyalist ancestry.



United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada badge.

Sons of Confederate Veterans

<http://www.scv.org>

1. Eligibility information for members: "Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either lineal or collateral family lines and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically."

2. Application form is online.

Guild of Colonial Artisans and Tradesman 1607-1783

<http://www.averymiller.com/>

Invitation only.

1. Membership eligibility includes those who are "lineally descended from an artisan or tradesman who lived in the American Colonies from the founding of



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Jamestowne, 13 May 1607, to the Treaty of Paris, 03 September 1783. Artisans and tradesmen are defined as those who were accomplished in the field of art and those who crafted or traded items and/or were part of select Royal Guilds previously established in the Old World who continued their practices in the American Colonies."

2. Though this is an invitation-only organization, you may submit a "Proposal Inquiry Form" which is available online.

Flagon and Trencher

<http://www.flagonandtrencher.org>

1. Membership eligibility is "limited to those who can prove direct descent from a person conducting a tavern, inn, ordinary, or other type of hostelry prior to 4 July 1776 (within the area which became the first 13 states)... In colonial times, taverns, ordinaries, pubs and other hostelries were usually kept in a person's home and no other building existed for this purpose. Therefore, the major-

ity of the 'taverns' as we think of them in that time probably did not have names... The key to establishing membership is proving that your ancestor was licensed by the local authority to conduct the business of keeping an ordinary, hostelry, inn or hotel or licensed to sell spirituous liquors."

2. No online application form.

These are just a sample of societies for which you (via your ancestor) may qualify for membership. If you seek more information about Lineage, First Family or Pioneer Societies or want to learn more about both the societies' membership requirements and their activities, visit their respective websites.

For a fairly comprehensive listing of lineage societies with an online presence, go to http://www.hereditary.us/list_date.htm.

Online you will also find a listing of societies from the *Hereditary Society Blue Book*, http://members.tripod.com/~Historic_Trust/society.htm. Several societies

listed that don't show a hyperlink actually do have a website. For a society that interests you, just search on the society's name using your favorite search engine.

Remember that all of these societies require you to carefully document your ancestry back to the person in your family who fits the particular criteria for membership in the society; online resources can help you make sure that you have a clear understanding of each society's unique requirements.



Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research for almost 20 years. Diane resides in North Carolina where many at the state archives are researching documentation for Lineage Society applications. Diane can be found online at www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy

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To view the complete seminar schedule and pertinent
information, go to the society's website:

www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa

(on-line registration available 1st Oct. 2007)

For a printed brochure, send a postcard request to:
Lydia Jeffrey, 131 N. Ivy Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016

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