

SAR Proof Argument Analysis Tool

Instructions:

Use this form after reading the Genealogy Committee Policies and the Application Preparation Guide on what is acceptable documentation. You may use it as a suggested implementation to the preparation of a proof argument which follows the GPS, as outlines in the BCG Genealogical Standards Manual.

NSSAR Genealogy Policies

Genealogy Committee Policy 3.000 makes the following statement concerning supporting proof for SAR applications:

"3.0000 ACCEPTABLE PROOFS--GENERAL. Genealogical conclusions as stated on applications for membership in the SAR, including conclusions about Revolutionary service, are expected to meet the Genealogical Proof Standard. On this standard, acceptable genealogical conclusions are based on:

- a reasonably exhaustive search of available evidence
- compilation of complete and accurate source citations
- an analysis and correlation of the collected evidence
- resolution of any conflicting evidence
- presentation of a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion"

Genealogy Committee Policy 3.200 allows for the acceptance of a Genealogical Proof Argument and states:

"3.2000 GENEALOGICAL PROOF ARGUMENTS - Genealogical proof arguments are necessary when the evidence, on its own, fails to lead to a clear conclusion. The proof argument consists of a detailed, written explanation of the evidence and reasoning used to reach a conclusion and is often necessary when:

- there is conflicting evidence
- there is an identity problem
- the conclusion requires indirect evidence, or
- the applicant wishes to clarify a conclusion.

The existence of genealogical proof arguments must be listed in the appropriate section of the application with the headings "Reference" or "Proof of Service". In addition, both the genealogical proof argument and the supporting proofs should be provided with the documentation.

The SAR Proof Analysis Tool may be used when submitting a genealogical proof argument as a suggested implementation to the preparation of a proof argument which follows the GPS, as outlined in The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual."

Both of the above Genealogy Committee policies allow the reviewing SAR Staff Genealogist to consider a proof argument for generational conclusions on an SAR application. This form allows the applicant to demonstrate that *a reasonable effort* has been made to locate evidence to support the presented relationship. If vital records exist for the child in question, they must be submitted.

The reviewing Genealogist may ask for further research if it appears that important records may have been overlooked, which may require on-site research, since not all records are available on-line. **Copies of each source used to demonstrate the claimed relationship must be submitted with the form.**

When filling out the following form please note:

The top section of page one will auto-fill the top section of the second page. It will be visible when the form is printed.

- In the "What Relationship do you wish to Prove" Area - In ONE sentence, state what relationship this analysis attempts to prove.
- In the "List Records Searched with NO successful outcome" Area - State, in one or two sentences, WHY this analysis is necessary. Then, note the records that you searched with NO successful results. Include County/Town Records (e.g. Duplin Co NC Will Bks 1-5); State Records; Federal Records; Local/Church Records.
- In the "Sources you are using to Demonstrate the relationship. If there is conflicting evidence, cite it here" Area - Cite the sources that you will use to demonstrate the claimed relationship, and submit copies of each source.
- In the "Explain how the sources support the relationship" Area - Be Concise and explain how the sources you are using support the relationship you are trying to prove.
- In the "Conclusion" Area - In two or three sentences, briefly summarize your case.

Additional Resources and Supports for Applicants:

- <https://bcgcertification.org/skillbuilding-its-not-that-hard-to-write-proof-arguments/>
- https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-3-1_Genealogy_Committee_Policies.pdf
- <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/APG.pdf>
- <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/quicktips/proof-arguments-%26-citing-ourselves-in-the-process>

The following Genealogical Proof Argument form only contains 2 pages and should not be altered to contain more than that. If more than 2 pages are required, do NOT use this tool.

Prepare the proof argument following the GPS, as outlined in the BCG Genealogical Standards Manual.

Proof Argument for Lineage on NSSAR Applications

Name of Applicant:

National Number:

Ancestor being researched:

Patriot # P-

What Relationship or Fact do you wish to Prove:

List Records Searched with *NO* successful outcome:



Sources you are using to Demonstrate the relationship. If there is conflicting evidence, cite it here.

Proof Argument for Lineage on NSSAR Applications

Name of Applicant:

National Number:

Ancestor being researched:

Patriot # P-

Explain how the sources support the relationship or fact.



CONCLUSION

I do hereby recognize and acknowledge this 2-page form to be a true representation of the evidence contained in the submitted documents to support the above analysis. I also understand that the documentation submitted as proof is subject to SAR standards and interpretation. SAR Staff reserves the right to annotate the submitted analysis.

Preparer's Printed Name:

Preparer's Signature:

Date: