

GG 2021-2022 Email #7 to State Points of Contact April 11, 2022

I continue my practice of reporting the status of the application queue in these reports. As of Thursday, 7 April, the most recently reviewed new application was received on 28 Dec 2021. The most recently reviewed supplemental application was received on 15 Jul 2021. We have hired a new full-time and a part-time genealogist to help reduce the backlog; they start work the first week of May.

The recording of Genealogy FAQ #4 (How the staff evaluates applications) is now available. The link to view it on YouTube is: <https://youtu.be/slDhifd6iEg>. I'm very pleased with the number of people who tuned in live and who viewed the recordings. For each session, we've had 300 – 500 views! Please make sure that this link is passed to anyone who works with applications. The next video in our series, FAQ #5, "Appeals" will be scheduled in May. Look for an announcement. That will be followed by FAQ #6, "How to construct a genealogical proof argument" and it's scheduled right after Congress in July.

The links to the other FAQ series are on the website under "genealogy resources." The earlier letters to State Points of Contact are on the website under "SAR Genealogy Policies and Materials."

Since the 2021 Congress, 390 applications have been pended. I read every pending report. I'm delighted to report that the number of "state level errors" (ones that could be easily located at the state level by examining the application packet) has decreased significantly. It's down from 25% after Congress to just less than 15% now. Congratulations! I would like to see it approach zero as all these errors can be easily spotted.

- DAR record copies printed such that the bottom 3 inches are cut off
- Submitting chapter copies of DAR records
- Missing documents, including applicant's birth certificate
- Illegible or incomplete documents

State registrars, if you are not checking for these simple errors, I believe you are letting down your state society and our applicants. Each pended application delays every application after it.

Several people reported issues complying with the action passed by the Trustees at their December 2021 meeting:

An applicant for membership shall establish his qualification for membership by providing a birth certificate or court order specifying his gender as male. However, exceptions to documentation requirements may be allowed on a case-by-case basis by either the Genealogist General or President General.

You should be aware that some states have defaulted to issuing birth certificates that omit gender. By requesting that the sex of the child be specified, you will likely obtain a compliant birth certificate.

Regarding pended applications, the most frequent cause for pending is summarized as "Lineage. Person indefinite." This occurs when the applicant claims lineage through a person and there are multiple persons of the same name in that same area and time. It's worthwhile checking on and, if you see that possibility, you can submit a proof analysis that tells why you decided the others are not in your lineage. For example, only two families of the surname were in the county in 1840, but only one had a child the right age and gender to be the ancestor.

Genealogy tip: Don't forget the indirect proofs through siblings by using multiple documents. For example, John was the father of Lon, and Lon was the brother of Ron. Therefore, John was the father of Ron. You should submit a proof analysis to explain this analysis from your point of view.

Any comments? Just hit reply. You will get an answer!

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