

GG 2021-2022 Email #8 to State Points of Contact 3 June 2022

(Please cascade this within your state to others at the state and chapter level)

I continue my practice of reporting the status of the application queue in these reports. As of Thursday, 2 June, the most recently reviewed new application was received on 2 Mar 2022. The most recently reviewed supplemental application was received on 16 Sep 2021. The part time genealogist is increasing to full time and another part time genealogist has been rehired. I believe that additional staff represents the only way to significantly reduce the backlog without weakening our admission policies, something I know is unacceptable to the membership.

At its meeting on 23 May, the Genealogy Committee approved a significant change in the way record copies of SAR are viewed. Effective immediately, record copies of SAR applications dated more recently than 1 January 2012 will be accepted as proof for the corresponding service, lineage and related facts on SAR applications. This does not apply to information that has been determined to be incorrect by SAR and documented by an approved flag. This is similar to the way DAR record copies are viewed except that the date certain for DAR applications is 1 January 1985.

A revised edition of the Genealogy Policies that incorporates this change and other minor actions by the Genealogy Committee will be issued by Bill Schwetke shortly.

The recording of Genealogy FAQ #5 (Appeals) is now available. The link to view it on YouTube is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STjlxXWVGVE>. 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 #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."

I offer my congratulations to those registrars and SPOC's who have worked to reduce pended applications resulting from the 4 "state level errors" I've identified and talked about. Still recurring are birth certificate problems. (5 pends within the past two weeks.) Please be sure to check this with **EVERY** new application!

Genealogy tip: Consider Bible records. Many old Bibles are in genealogical libraries such as Louisville's Filson Historical Society. "Family records, including Bibles and letters containing names, relationships, and dates of births, deaths, and marriages, provided that the author was in a position to have knowledge of the information in question. ... For records from Bibles or other books, the title page bearing the date of publication should be provided." [Genealogy policy 5.4000]

The SAR's Annual Congress is just about six weeks away. I hope to see you there!

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

Bob Fish
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