



Bruce D. Frail
Commander in Chief
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General Order #5
Series 2022 – 2023
23 September 2022

Restoration of Lineage Documentation

An issue that related to lineage documentation came to the attention of this office on the 21st of September 2022, due to that enquiry, I requested an Opinion from the National Counselor Brother Edward Norris, PCinC regarding the validity of the proof of lineage requirement which appeared as a footnote in the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations document. After review, the addition of the footnote in the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations was an overlooked error. The footnote has been removed, as not being valid.

Brother Norris' Opinion goes further to state that "It is the opinion of the National Counselor that the Commander-in-Chief, using the authority granted him by the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations, has the power to restore the requirement of proof of lineage documentation, which was accepted by and clearly was the intent of the 132nd National Encampment and subsequent National Encampments. Additionally, it is the opinion of the National Counselor, that the Commander-in-Chief directs the Program and Policy Committee to prepare the needed changes to the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations and submit then to the Constitution and Regulations Committee for consideration at the next National Encampment for formal approval. The Program and Policy Committee should also prepare a contingent Form 3 – Membership Application with the appropriate proof of lineage instructions."

As stated above, I order as of this date forward, that all applications (Form 3) must include proper lineage documentation sufficient to prove lineage for each generation of the application form.

1. Documents can be photocopies or official replacements of originals and do not need to be certified copies.
2. Documents can be census records, marriage records, birth records, death records, family bibles that are more than 75 years old (digital images of family bibles are acceptable), wills and testaments and other legal documents generated by local, state, or federal authority and again do not need to be certified copies.
3. Digital images of original records are allowed.
4. Transcripts (handwritten or typed copies) of documents will not be allowed.
5. Every application MUST include an officially issued state or government Birth Certificate of the applicant.
6. Every application MUST include a photocopy or digital image of an officially issued state or government photo identification card i.e., Drivers License, State issued photo ID, Military Photo ID, Passport etc.

As there are three (3) copies of the membership application needed for consideration, there needs to be three (3) sets of documentation included, one (1) set to be attached to each application.

Brothers within the order and applicants who have already submitted their paperwork and it has been accepted by a Camp as of the date of this General Order will be exempt from this General Order.

This General Order applies to New Membership Applications, Dual Membership Applications and Supplemental Ancestor Applications.

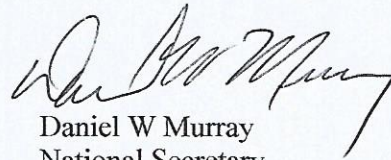
The Opinion of the National Counselor in its entirety can be found online posted on the SUVCW National Website.

So Order on this 23rd Day of September 2022

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Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan W Murray", written in a cursive style.

Daniel W Murray
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War