

Email #10
State Points of Contact
Draft of 16 May 2015

Good afternoon.

We have a number of new state and chapter registrars. During the last month I have received queries about some subjects I have previously discussed, although sometimes from a slightly different angle. I will discuss some of those older subjects. If you see that my email list is out of date, please let me know.

New part-time genealogist. Martha Gammons, who has been a utility staff member at headquarters working in various departments as needed, has joined the Genealogy Department. On my first visit to Louisville as Genealogist General last summer Martha told me that she was personally interested in genealogy. Martha first became interested in genealogy in the 1970s and is a member of several genealogical and historical societies. Patty Riemann provided training for Martha and checked the applications that she examined each day for two weeks. Last week Martha told me how much she enjoys working in the Genealogy Department. I am quite pleased that we have an able and enthusiastic new member of the Genealogy Department. Martha is a part-time employee, so she may well not be at work on a day when you might email or call.

Updating Your SAR Applications. Earlier this month I was at an SAR dinner with a compatriot who became a member when SAR was still located in Washington, DC. The gentleman is a good genealogist who carefully documented his application. That documentation was never sent to Louisville. He wants it on file with his original application. The solution is to submit copies of the documentation as an update. A procedure for requesting updates and corrections to applications is in operation. Submit the documentation with a cover letter identifying the patriot and if applicable, the particular application. There is no fee for this service, although one may be considered in the future if too much staff time is expended. It is not the fault of applicants that documentation was not moved to Louisville, and it is not the fault of applicants that genealogical standards may have changed since a member applied or submitted a supplemental. In addition, we do want errors corrected and new information to be provided.

Pre-1985 DAR and C.A.R. Applications. Questions have arisen regarding DAR and C.A.R. applications approved before January 1, 1985. Policy 2011-06 states that such applications “shall be accepted as evidence with respect to the corresponding facts that have been marked as individually verified on the DAR or C.A.R. applications.” At various times the DAR and C.A.R. have used a single check mark to indicate acceptance of a date, rather than one check for day, one for month, and one for year. Similarly, one check was used for the names of an ancestor and one check for the town, county, and state. Some of my own older record copies show that SAR has also followed this practice in the past. This use of checkmarks meets the requirement of individual verification. We

certainly prefer that the documentation proving those facts be submitted so they will be part of our SAR records.

DAR and C.A.R. Supplemental Applications. When you are submitting a DAR or C.A.R. supplemental application, please highlight that the record copy, especially if the member originally joined before 1985. Recently a staff member saw a “low” member number on a DAR record copy and did not realize that the application was a supplemental approved after January 1, 1985. This is an easy mistake to make.

As a reminder:

- The first DAR application approved in 1985 was #688702.
- The first DAR add volume beginning in 1985 is 622. There are some supplementals approved in 1985 in add volume 621.
- The first C.A.R. application approved in 1985 was #130021.
- A C.A.R. supplemental application approved in November 1985 was in their add volume 9. Whether applications approved in 1984 are also in the add volume is not known.

Documentation that Does Not Meet SAR Standards. It is always frustrating to review documentation and discover that it cannot be used in a proof because it does not meet SAR standards. I have instructed staff that if a source does not meet SAR standards, it is not be used to pend an application as well. Let me give you two examples.

Suppose that an applicant provides a marriage record showing that John Doe married Rachel Roe, but that an undocumented book says that John Doe married Jane Joe. That book is not to be used to pend the application because there are identity problems. However, identity problems can be raised from acceptable documentation, such as census records that establish there were two men of the same name living in the same vicinity. If you are aware of an identity issue, please resolve this issue with the application. You may have documentation to settle the question once and for all, whereas if the question arises decades from now the key documents may not be accessible. I can think of three of my own supplementals for which I provided documentation to distinguish first cousins of the same name.

A case concerning service arose recently. The applicant submitted evidence that an ancestor was in military service at a particular battle. The service denied because the ancestor’s name was not in a well-known book that included the names listed on a monument at the battlefield and years ago staff was told that book was definitive. The book cites no sources for the men listed and simply does not meet current SAR standards. The book cannot be used either to prove service because a name is listed or to pend an application because a name is missing.

Proof of Service at the Battle of Pt. Pleasant. You may now be curious about the book found not to meet current SAR standards. It is *The Battle of Point Pleasant* by Livia Simpson-Poffenbarger. I reviewed the names in the book. This is not just a case of a book falling short of current documentation standards. Names of many men in units not

at the Battle of Point Pleasant were included in her list, and many men in units that were engaged in the Battle were not listed. Policy 2011-05 requires that a soldier have been at the Battle to qualify for Revolutionary service and not merely a participant in other aspects of Dunmore's War. Poffenbarger's book has long been accepted by SAR as evidence that a soldier was at the battle, although that may well not have been her criterion for the list. Applicants to prove that a soldier was at this battle using acceptable evidence.

I have commenced review of documents that place various units at the battle. However, my findings should not be considered final. Four sources place 20 companies at the battle on 10 October 1774:

1. Return of 7 October 1774, Col. William Fleming's Regt.
2. Return of 9 October 1774, Col. William Fleming's Regt.
3. Col. Fleming's Orderly Book, entry for 10 Oct. 1774.
4. Letter from Lt. Isaac Shelby to John Shelby, 16 Oct. 1774.

These units are:

Botetourt Regiment (with additional companies assigned), Col. William Fleming
 Capt. Philip Love^{1, 2, 3, 4}
 Capt. Thomas Buford^{1, 2, 3, 4} (from Bedford County)
 Capt. Matthew Arbuckle^{1, 2, 4}
 Capt. John Lewis^{1, 2, 3, 4}
 Capt. John Murray^{1, 2, 3, 4}
 Capt. John Stewart^{1, 2, 4}
 Capt. Robt. McClanahan^{1, 2, 4}
 Capt. Henry Pauling^{1, 2, 4}
 Capt. William Russell^{1, 2, 3, 4} (from Fincastle)
 Col. John Field^{1, 2, 4} (from Culpeper; Field commanded the one Culpeper company)
 Evan Shelby^{1, 2, 3, 4} (from Fincastle)
 Capt. James Ward^{3, 4} (Ward was killed in action. Only 9 men were in the company on a return dated 27 Sep. 1774, which probably explains why Ward's command is not listed as a company on the returns of 7 and 9 Oct.)

Augusta Regiment, Col. Charles Lewis

Capt. John Dickinson^{3, 4}
 Capt. Benjamin Harrison^{3, 4}
 Capt. John Skidmore^{3, 4}
 Capt. George Matthews^{3, 4}
 Capt. Samuel McDowell^{3, 4}
 Capt. Samuel Willson^{3, 4}
 Capt. Andrew Lockridge⁴
 Capt. Alexander McClanahan³

This list includes the companies of Capt. Alexander McClanahan, who was ordered to guard the camp, and Capt. John Lewis, who was ordered to form a line around the camp. Col. Fleming wrote that the Augusta Regiment came under fire about 150 to 200 yards from the camp. Wounded men returned to the camp during the battle. The list does not include troops under Col. William Christian who arrived at Pt. Pleasant about midnight

after that battle was over. The list also does not include companies on returns after the battle, even though they may show wounded men. The number of men in some companies roughly doubled, indicating that wounded from other companies were reassigned from companies that marched on from Pt. Pleasant.

The companies of Capt. Joseph Hains/Haynes and Capt. William Herbert are said to have been at the battle, but other than 6 unnamed men from Herbert's company included in the total of Shelby's company I have not found acceptable documentation establishing this.

Revolutionary Tax Reports. Recently I received a query about whether a particular tax supported the War and its lists are evidence of Patriot Service. The reports of the Subcommittee of Revolutionary Taxes are posted on our SAR website at:

<http://www.sar.org/Committees/Genealogy/Tax-lists>

For the states where we have reports on specific lists that qualify, there are detailed instructions about what pages to provide and how to site them. Many lists are widely available for three states: Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The Maryland SAR has posted images of the lists that provide evidence of patriotic service in the Membership section of their website, and the Maryland State Archives has posted an index of the 1783 Supply Tax.

<http://www.mdssar.org/membership/marylandtaxlists>

<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/stagser/s1400/s1437/html/ssi1437e.html>

The index, which can be found with a search on "1783 Maryland Assessments," is not sufficient to prove service because paupers who paid not tax and delinquents are indexed. The Maryland SAR has provided an outstanding service by posting these lists.

Some Pennsylvania tax lists that provide evidence of Patriotic Service were published in the *Pennsylvania Archives* over a century ago. Even more are available on microfilm of *Tax and Exoneration Lists, 1762-1794* that is available at some genealogy libraries. Some but not all of those lists are available at ancestry.com. Applicants should be aware that the published *Pennsylvania Archives* changed the names of lists, for example, adding words like "Ratable" and dropping words like "Supply Tax." Ancestry.com has dropped a number of title pages. To identify a tax list, applicants should use an inventory of tax lists published posted by the Pennsylvania State Archives at:

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/ys/r4ys2.htm#4.61>

The URL has changed since the Subcommittee on Revolutionary Taxes published its report. Some counties hold additional lists not in the state archives.

The most extensive and complete Virginia lists that provide evidence of Patriotic Service are the 1782 and 1783 personal property and land tax lists. Images of about 2/3 of these lists are commercially available at binnsgenealogy.com.

Regards,
John