



PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Membership Eligibility of Adopted Children

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) requires proof of lineal bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence. This requirement does not preclude membership for individuals who are adopted; it simply means that adopted children must enter on their bloodline, or lineage of their birth parents, not the lineage of their adopted parents.

The tradition of lineal societies goes back to the founding of our country. Possibly, one of the earliest lineal societies was the Society of the Cincinnati organized in 1783 by the officers under the command of General George Washington. The Daughters of the American Revolution is only one of dozens of hereditary and lineage societies that were organized around the turn of the century to memorialize the patriots and founders of our country. The purpose behind such organizations was the belief that lineal descendants of the Revolutionary patriots had a duty to perpetuate the memory and spirit of those patriots because the patriots' blood flowed in their veins.

Contrary to modern-day belief, DAR was not organized to be an exclusive society, as most women of the 1890's had family members who participated in the American Revolution, such as fathers and grandfathers. Celebrating the glory of "Americanism" also served a secondary benefit as soothing means of uniting the women of the North and the South in the aftermath of the Civil War. Because DAR permits lineal qualification for membership through any bloodline descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, it is the least exclusive and is the largest of all the various hereditary organizations.

In fairness to all, every applicant is treated alike and each must prove bloodline descent. The DAR membership eligibility requirements, which are in full compliance with the current law for private, nonprofit organizations, have not changed since 1890. The accumulation of our members' lineages is the backbone of our DAR Library, which is one of the finest genealogical repositories in the world. To remove the lineal requirement would destroy the meaning of our organization and the significance of our library.