

Using DAR Research to Strengthen and Extend Your Pedigree

By Marilyn Thomsen

What is the DAR? Since 1890 DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, patriotism and honoring the patriots of the Revolutionary War.

Who can join? Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join the DAR. She must provide documentation for each statement of birth, marriage and death, as well as of the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor. New applicants fill out a Membership Interest Form at www.dar.org>JOIN.

DAR Library: Considered one of the top three Genealogical Centers, started in 1910. The United States focused collections include records are not found anywhere else.

DAR Applications: Applications are composed of two parts, first a pedigree and second a list of documents to support the information on the pedigree. DAR.org has three databases drawn from these applications.

1. Ancestor database – established DAR Revolutionary War Ancestors and basic information about them with listings of the applications submitted by descendants who joined the DAR [updated daily]. Printed Patriots Indexes are also available at the FHL & BYU Library.
2. Member database– limited access to information on deceased/former DAR members – not current members.
3. Descendants – index of generations in applications between the DAR member and the Revolutionary War ancestor. There is much eighteenth and nineteenth-century information here. transcription of every name on the lineage portion of each approved application. You can search by anyone in the lineage, not just the patriot ancestor or the member. There is also an Advanced Search that will allow you to search jointly by husband and wife. The name spellings will be as they are spelled on the application so you may need to be creative. This ongoing indexing project.

DAR GRC Reports: http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?tab_id=0

For decades individual chapters located, transcribed, and abstracted records in their areas. These are called **Reports from the Genealogical Records Committee, or GRC**. The content of the GRC Reports is largely cemetery and Bible record transcriptions, but may include probate, tax, marriage or land records.

These typescript reports do not relate specifically to the American Revolution or to members' applications -- they cover anyone in a surveyed cemetery or in a transcribed Bible or other sources. The DAR collected this material to preserve it for future generations. Each chapter forwards copies of its reports to its state society, where they are bound. Each state society of the DAR places one set in a local research center, such as the state library or historical society, and forwards one copy to the NSDAR Library in Washington, D.C. The digital images of the GRC are usable in the DAR Library.

A National GRC Index is important because DAR members are submitting records for other states. For example my family Bible record of a Revolutionary War veteran from North Carolina was transcribed by a DAR descendant who submitted the record in Georgia. A South Carolina cemetery was transcribed and submitted by a DAR member in Texas.

Online National GRC Index:

- A growing every name GRC index is available on the DAR web site (www.dar.org/library). Yearly, approximately 300 new reports arrive at the GRC office of the DAR Library for addition to the collection.
- Copies of these records can be ordered. Use the online request forms. See below DAR Library Search Service
- The Bible Record Index is worth checking for your surnames.
- National Library the re-number all of the volumes in the entire GRC set to enable proper indexing references (many never had volume numbers to begin with), so the volume numbers referred to their index mostly only apply to the volumes in the DAR National library.
- In the early 1970s, 1/3 of the 20,000 GRC Report Volumes in the DAR Library were filmed by LDS. Re-indexing the volumes was done long after the LDS GRC filming. Matching film numbers with the online modern volume numbers is difficult.

Printed GRC Indexes

1. An index of some reports filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah was created by E. Kay Kirkham called *An Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States and An index to some of the Bibles and family records of the United States, volume 2*.
2. Some states indexed their reports, and these indexes are better than E. Kay Kirkham's index. Many are available at BYU or in Family History Center's microfiche collections.
 - *The Catalogue of the **Georgia** Society, D.A.R. Library*, which appeared in 1955.
 - *Index of the **Maryland** Genealogical Records Committee Reports (GRC)*.
 - *Revised Master Index to the **New York State** DAR Genealogical Records*
 - *Master Index **Ohio** Society Daughters of the American Revolution Genealogical and Historical Records* of which the first and only volume appeared in 1985
 - *The South Carolina Name Index to Genealogical Records Index was prepared by the Genealogical Society of Utah and was issued on 102 microfiche, FHL 6052835. This every name index collection is available at BYU.*

Search Services

<http://www.dar.org/library/search-services>

The DAR Library offers three services that handle requests via fax and postal-mail. All of the services require a completed request form with payment by check, money order or debit/credit card.

1. The Search service is an hourly-based research of source in the DAR Library. They will search Lineage Gaps, Family Bible Requests, etc. for \$40/hour for nonmembers, \$30 for members.
2. Photocopy Service is \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers and covers 10 photocopies including title of cited work. This can be Bible records, library books, Manuscripts, etc.
3. Document Requests is only used for copies of the supporting documents submitted with applications.