



**An Integrated List of
Acceptable Proofs
Including Standards of Proof
and Substitute Proofs**

Entrusted With History's Future

1. Standards of Proof

Generally, the Colonial Dames' candidate proves her lineage by presenting copies of original public records maintained by civil government departments and churches.

To obtain copies of these records, you may need to contact Departments of Vital Statistics, Town Hall, County Court Houses, State Archives, public libraries, genealogical societies, family history associations, family history buffs, distant relatives, church history archives, alumni publications, schools, etc.

When reference is made to records not available in the Colonial State, photocopies or certified/notarized copies must be submitted with a statement of where the original records may be found.

2. Substitutes for Primary Proof

For Birth Certificates:

- Applications for marriage licenses
- Bible records
- Birth announcements
- Baptismal certificates
- Census records showing age and place of birth of the child and in the house of the parents, plus gravestone with birth date (if deceased)
- Early school records
- Land records
- Wills or estate distributions of parents naming child, plus tombstone with birth date (if deceased)
- Deeds naming child, plus gravestone or marriage license application
- Orphan's Court records

- Affidavits by adult relatives living at the time of the birth
- Government copy of original passport application (only available if the individual is living)
- Old (contemporary) letters showing relationship

For Marriage Certificates:

- Names of parents when given on a child's birth record
- Names of parents when given on a child's marriage license application
- Names of spouses on death certificates
- Bible records
- Newspaper obituaries or marriage or anniversary accounts
- Joint tombstones
- Census records with husband and wife both named
- Wills of relatives
- Estate distributions
- Cemetery records
- Pension records
- Old (contemporary) letters giving relationships

For Death Certificates:

- Bible records
- Cemetery records or tombstones
- Newspaper obituaries
- Wills or estate distributions
- Tax rolls
- Vestry records
- Old (contemporary) letters

Many of the above should be used in tandem with each other so that, whenever possible, proof does not rest solely on one document. The reason for the substitution should be explained and attached to the document. All those working with candidates should be aware of which type is best for a particular case. The link between generations must be established.