



# National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

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## HOT TIPS FROM THE LINEAGE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

### RESEARCH REMINDERS

- ❖ Use a pencil until you have evidence. **Then use your pen.**
- ❖ Write on only one side of your paper. **Don't mix family lines on a single sheet of paper.**
- ❖ Start with what is known. **Always work from the known facts to the unknown.**
- ❖ Record positive and negative results. **Note if person/family is or is not in a location.**
- ❖ Check through each book. **Read the front pages and be aware that there may be more than one index.**
- ❖ Look closely at the index. **Some use subjects and not personal names.**
- ❖ Look for name variations. **Check variant spellings—Phonetics and imagination were often used.**
- ❖ Use maps. County and state lines changed from time to time. **Check surrounding counties.**
- ❖ Pay attention to chronology. **How young or old is the mother? Is there a generation missing?**
- ❖ Try the 'whole-family' approach. **Follow brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles.**
- ❖ Use inter-library loan. **Ask your local library for information.**
- ❖ Review and re-evaluate. **Are there facts that don't fit or were missed?**

### USE AS CLUES ONLY

- Family tradition. **Information passed down by word-of-mouth can and is interpreted differently.**
- Undocumented family genealogies and county histories. **Can contain truth and error.**
- Similar given names. **It is not unusual to find the same name in different states at the same time.**
- Information from computer on-line services. **Passed on in good faith does not mean it is correct.**
- Information from genealogical indexes. **Some have several slightly different entries for the same person.**
- Lineage societies' books. **Use as a guide only. May not have correct information.**

### BIRTH RECORDS

- ✓ Birth date evidence. **Look for church records, tombstones, bible, etc.**
- ✓ Look at Poll tax, and jury lists. **They are evidence of legal age.**
- ✓ Jr. and Sr. may not be related. **It could be a younger and older man in the same area.**

### MARRIAGE RECORDS

- ✓ Marriage records. **Witnesses and bondsman could be related to either party.**
- ✓ Marriage evidence. Look at deeds. **They may contain information about the wife.**

### DEATH RECORDS

- ✓ Death evidence. **Check for wills, letters of administration, and final estate settlements.**
- ✓ Land records. **Use them to separate two persons of the same name in the same community.**

### PROOF OF RESIDENCE

- ☞ Tax, jury and militia lists. **These are indicators of residence.**
- ☞ Land records. **Use to place individuals in a specific time and place.**
- ☞ Missing land record. **If the family lived there for generations, the deed might not have been recorded.**
- ☞ Looking for migration. **Check the neighbors and relatives, they often moved together.**
- ☞ Check deed books. **There may be a Power of Attorney in the state of prior residence.**
- ☞ Location of land. **This is not always in the county where the purchase is recorded.**

### LINKING GENERATIONS

- ★ Wills were not intended to be a complete family record. **Look at deeds and other earlier legal records.**
- ★ Pension files. **May contain birth date and place, and the names of the wife and children.**
- ★ Birth records. **Be sure to ask for the complete record with the parents' names.**
- ★ Find the family in each possible census. **More than one generation may be listed in a household.**