

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE
Sons & Daughters of the United States Middle Passage
WASHINGTON, DC.**

For office use only:

State: _____
 City: _____
 Chapter: _____
 Chapter Code: _____

National Number: _____

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(Applicant's First Name) (Middle and Maiden Name) (Last)

Single Wife Husband Divorced Widow/
 Widower

 (Spouse Name (First/Last))

Residence _____

(Street) (City/State/Zip Code) Phone Number

Applicant's e-mail address _____

Name (to appear on SDUSMP Certificate) _____

Forced American Hero (Enslaved) Ancestor _____

Eligibility Clause

“Any person is eligible for legatee membership in the National Society of the Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage (SDUSMP) who is not less than eighteen years of age and who can prove lineal descent from a man, woman, or child who is of African descent and was forced into slavery, including indentured servitude, in the United States of America, including its colonial days, prior to the end of slavery as marked by the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, effective December 1865 and the Indian Treaties of 1866.”

Applicant further states that said _____ (name of ancestor)* is his/her ancestor and that the statements set forth are true to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

and date of signing:

A check or money order in the amount of \$65 must accompany this completed membership application form. The \$65 is composed of a \$40 application fee and \$25 for current annual membership dues. If the membership application is not approved, the current annual dues will be returned to the Applicant. The application fee for a supplemental ancestor is \$25.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: The National Registrar has examined the completed application of the applicant:

Registrar General: _____ Date _____

Board President: _____ Date: _____

Application and Fees received _____ SDUSMP Approval Date: _____

CHILDREN OF FORCED AMERICAN HERO (ENSLAVED ANCESTOR)

As Proven by: (Note Source) _____

<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place (City, County, State)</u>	<u>Name of Spouse(s)*</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Details of Enslavement (include supporting documentation)

My ancestor was enslaved at: (Location) _____

<u>Slaveholder(s) Name:</u>	<u>Dates of Enslavement</u>	<u>Place(City, County, State)</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please provide other details (names, dates, and location) of enslavement and include supporting documentation:

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Military History of Enslaved Ancestor (if known)

Branch: _____	Dates: _____	<u>Place(City, County, State)</u>
Rank: _____	Unit: _____	
Name of War (if applicable): _____		

Please mail completed application, attachments, and your check, or money order to:

**SDUSMP
P.O. Box 5002
Trenton, NJ 08638**

Lineage

Enter dates like DD-MMM-YYYY (ex 10 JUN 2018)

Generation	Name(s)	Date	City, County, State
1. Applicant		Born	
		Married	
	Spouse:	Born	
		Died	
		Divorced	
2nd Spouse:		Born	
		Died	
		Divorced	
3rd Spouse:		Born	
		Died	
		Divorced	
(2) I am the child of:			
Name:		Born	
		Died	
Name:		Born	
		Died	
		Married	
(3): I am the grandchild of:			
Name:		Born	
		Died	
Name:		Born	
		Died	
		Married	
(4) I am the great-grandchild of:			
Name:		Born	
		Died	
Name:		Born	
		Died	
		Married	
(5) I am the 2nd Great Grandchild of:			
Name:		Born	
		Died	
Name:		Born	
		Died	
		Married	
(6) I am the 3rd Great Grandchild of:			
Name:		Born	
		Died	
Name:		Born	
		Died	
		Married	
(7) I am the 4th Great Grandchild of:			
Name:		Born	
		Died	
Name:		Born	
		Died	
		Married	
(8) I am the 5th Great-grandchild of:			
Name:		Born	
		Died	
Name:		Born	
		Died	
		Married	

References

Please provide author and title, volume, and page of publications. Quote Bible, church, court, cemetery, census, and other records to establish birth, death, and marriage dates and relationships. Family histories are not acceptable for lineage proof.

1st Gen

2nd Gen

3rd Gen

4th Gen

5th Gen

6th Gen

7th Gen

8th Gen

Please attach and organize supporting documents by generation. Label top right corner as GEN #-Page#, example "Gen1-1, Gen 1-2" etc.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE UNITED STATES MIDDLE PASSAGE**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Thank you for your interest in SDUSMP and for requesting the enclosed application(s). The following information is provided to assist you in completing your application(s). Please read all of the instructions before beginning. You may find it helpful to fill in a working copy of the application, before beginning to type/print on the acid-free application form.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

An applicant must be at least eighteen years of age and a direct descendant of an "Honored Ancestor" or "Forced American Hero," defined as an African ancestor individual who was enslaved in an area now included in the United States of America. The Honored Ancestor must have been enslaved prior to the 6 December 1865, the effective date of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution that effectively abolished slavery. Only bloodlines are eligible. Adoptive lines are not eligible

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The application form must be typed, printed by electronic equipment, or legibly hand printed in black or blue ink.
2. Dates must be written out in the following day, month, and year format; 19 April 2017.
3. Use full or legal names. A nickname should be written in "quotes."
4. Places should be cited as city or township, county, state. Abbreviations can be used for states.
5. Maiden names of all female ancestors must be included for the line leading back to the Honored Ancestor.
6. Any applicant who uses a name other than a birth name must provide proof of the name change, and if applicable, all surname changes back to the birth name. For example, married female applicants who use their husband's surname must include a copy of their marriage record to prove their change of name.
7. If another individual has previously proved an Honored Ancestor, the applicant only needs to submit proof to the nearest common ancestor. Also, a citation to the name and number of the applicable SDUSMP member, as well a photocopy of the "Record Copy" of that member's application, must be included.
8. Keep a copy of the application and all supporting documents for your records.

PROOF OF LINEAGE

Applicants are required to document their relationship to each ancestor leading back to the Honored Ancestor. SDUSMP does not provide genealogical research services; however, the

following guidance is provided to assist applicants in proving descent from an Honored Ancestor—

1. Do not submit more than one photocopy of any document, even if that document is used as proof for more than one event and/or more than one generation. Instead, number each record document on the face of the document, and refer to that number in the reference section for each statement that the record supports; the documents should be numbered in sequence beginning with one (1).
 - 1.1. Do not send original documents.
 - 1.2. Please **redact social security numbers, driver's license numbers, and other personal information not necessary to connect and prove lineage**; however, do not obscure dates (marriage, birth, death, military etc.), names, and places.
 - 1.2.1. For privacy reasons, vital records and other sensitive documents (such as divorce records) that are less than 100 years old are shredded or otherwise deleted from SDUSMP's files.
 - 1.3. Cite the source of all documentation in the reference section of the application. SDUSMP accepts the citation formats used by both *Ancestry.com* and *Familysearch.org*.
 - 1.3.1. All Documents must Show Their Source.
 - 1.3.1.1. Original family bible records must include a copy of the title page showing date of publication;
 - 1.3.1.2. Newspaper clippings must be identified by name of newspaper and date of clipping.
 - 1.3.1.3. Vital Records (marriage, birth, & death certificates) must include the County, State, date, and any identifying file number.
 - 1.4. Here are other examples of how to cite official records:

Vital Records

Death Certificate for Joseph C. Juno, 24 September 1924, File No. 28093, Missouri State Board of Health. Certified copy in possession of author.

Certificate of Marriage, Edward H. Reese to Velma G. King, 12 June 1912, Wood County, West Virginia. County Recorder's Office, Parkersburg, West Virginia. Copy in possession of Kelly Collier, Arlington, Texas.

Census Record

1860 United State Census (Free Schedule), Meadow Township, Wyandot County, Ohio; p. 233, family 86, dwelling 79, lines 967-977; June 1, 1850; National Archives Microfilm M-19, Roll 719.

Legal Record: Deed of Sale from William Dixie and wife to Thomas Dixie, 9 January 1869 (filed 14 June 1869), Webster County, Missouri, Deed Book D, page 703. County Recorder's Office, Marshfield, Missouri.

2. Following are examples of documents that can be used to prove parent-child relationships in each generation:
 - 2.1. State or County Vital Records: Birth certificates marriage records, or death certificates showing the names and/or birthplaces of an individual's parents;
 - 2.2. Church Records: baptismal records showing the names of the parents, obituaries, funeral programs;
 - 2.3. Federal or state census records;
 - 2.4. Court Records: wills and/or miscellaneous probate records listing the names of a decedent's children ;
 - 2.5. Pension records;
 - 2.6. Deeds. Examples include deeds of manumission whereby an Honored Ancestor was freed; and deeds to land where a woman waived her dower rights as the spouse of the man transferring the land.
 - 2.7. If your ancestor served in the armed forces or militias, please include documentation of their enlistment.
3. Other Lineage Societies
 - 3.1. SDUSMP accepts RECORD COPIES from Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and Sons of the Revolution (SR) and other hereditary societies listed in the Gavel Society as genealogical proof of the lineage documented in such societies. We will accept record copies from other genealogical societies on a case by case basis.
 - 3.1.1. Qualifying RECORD COPIES can be submitted in lieu of the documentation that would otherwise be required— You will need to document any relationship that is *not* covered by the RECORD COPY.
 - 3.1.2. Applicants must submit an official RECORD COPY obtained from the DAR, SAR, SOR, or other eligible society.
4. Compiled Works are acceptable if they have been published in a peer-reviewed genealogical journal such as The American Genealogist, the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, or The New England Historical Register., well reviewed in such a journal, or the winner of the Jacobus Award or the National Genealogical Society Award of Excellence.
5. No Direct Evidence of a Parent-Child Relationship. Particularly in the case of enslaved Honored Ancestors, an Applicant may be unable to locate records that provide direct evidence of a parent-child relationship. In such a case, SDUSMP will accept a "proof argument" based on the preponderance of indirect and/or negative evidence, emphasizing original sources.
 - 5.1. Qualifying sources for ante- and post-bellum Freedmen and woman include:

- 5.1.1. *Files of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands*: Listing of apparent family groups in Labor contracts; marriage registers of freedmen and women; any other records that specify parent-child relationships;
- 5.1.2. *Work Progress Administration*. Slave Narratives
- 5.1.3. *Antebellum Probate Records*
- 5.2. A proof argument is subject to SDUSMP standards and accepted genealogical standards of evidence (for example, the “Genealogical Proof Standard” developed by the Board for Certification of Genealogists).

**EXAMPLES USING PROOF ARGUMENTS IN A LINEAGE
(IN ACCORDANCE WITH SDUSMP GENEALOGY COMMITTEE POLICIES)**

Proving a parent-child relationship between a proven ancestor (“X”) and his or her parent (“Y”) where the relationship was created before *slavery was abolished and no direct evidence*^{*} is available:

- 1870 census indicates that X was born in the same area where he or she was enumerated in 1870: For example, both persons were born in Waccamaw, SC, and enumerated in Waccamaw Township, Georgetown County, SC.
- X appears in the same 1870 census household as Y, and the ages of both subjects are consistent with a parent-child relationship: For example, Y ‘s age was given as 39 and X’s as 15.
- No other person with the same given name as X appears in the 1870 census for the same area.
- X and Y appear in an apparent family group on a pre-1870 record: For example—
 - A Freedmen’s Bureau labor contract records Y and a spouse with a boy or girl by the name of X; or
 - A Will or other record in a probate file groups X and Y together without identifying their relationship.
- No evidence was discovered to suggest that X’s ancestors were free before the Civil War.
- Any other background information relevant to the determination regarding the relationship between X and Y: For example, commentators have noted that “Few black families from elsewhere sought residence in South Carolina . . . at the time of emancipation.¹” Thus, making it reasonable here to proceed on the premise that X’s ancestors lived on the Waccamaw Neck during slavery.

An example of an ancestor who was born in a Northern state when a law for gradual emancipation was in effect and no direct evidence of enslavement was discovered:

- New Jersey law required County clerks to “record slave manumissions (freedom papers) beginning in 1786, and the “Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery” in 1804 required the recording of births of children of slave mothers. The State Archives’ holdings of

^{*} Direct Evidence would include but is not limited to vital records such as a birth or death certificate, or a statement in an enslaver’s probate file.

¹ Janis Walker Gilmore, *NGS Research in the States Series: South Carolina*, (Arlington: National Genealogical Society 2011), 19.

slave-related filings vary depending on the county. Additional records may be available in county clerks' offices.”²

- The 1820 “Act for the gradual abolition of slavery . . .,” provided—
That every child born of a slave within this state, since the fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and four, or which shall hereafter be born as aforesaid, shall be free, but shall remain the servant of the owner of his or her mother, and the executors, administrators, or assigns of such owners, in the same manner as if such child had been bound to service by the trustees or overseers of the poor, and shall continue in such service, if a male, until the age of twenty-five years, and if a female, until the age of twenty-one years.³

In view of the applicable law, a 27-year-old man who was enumerated as a Free person in New Jersey in the 1850 federal census was approved as an Honored Ancestor, where:

- The census records indicates that he was born in New Jersey;
- The statute continues *de facto* enslavement (for example, as here, requires the child to “*remain the servant of the owner of his mother*”) for a prescribed period;
- His age is consistent with the presumption that he was born after 1804 into slavery but has reached the age when freedom is granted: here, the subject was born in 1823 and is older than the prescribed age of 25;
- He did not appear on a free schedule in a federal census record before 1850; and
- No evidence was located that is inconsistent with the conclusion that the subject was born to an enslaved mother. (Other evidence would include surviving documents in State Archive holdings regarding slave manumissions.)

An example where a parent child-relationship was NOT proved but an application could still be approved based on a later generation:

- Y is identified as the enslaved father of X who was also enslaved, but no source cites Y as the father’s given name.
- The application cites a source with a different given name (Z) and a middle initial that is the same as the first letter of Y’s name.
- No oral history regarding Y’s use of Z as a given name is asserted.
- The *only* evidence offered in support of merging the identity of Y and Z is—
 - A descendant was named Z with a middle initial that matched Y’s name; and
 - After slavery, a person with the given name X lived next door to a fourth person with the same surname (W):
 - W was named as an enslaved person in a same-named slaveholder’s probate file; and
 - A person named Z (not Y) appeared in the same lot as A.

In such a case, the application would be approved based on X’s status as an Honored Ancestor (rather than Y’s).

² *State of New Jersey Department of State*, “Records Relating to Slaves and Children of Slaves” (<http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/catsuslaves.html> ; accessed 12 April 2017).

³ *The New Jersey Digital Library* “The Law of Slavery in New Jersey” (<http://njlegallib.rutgers.edu/slavery/acts/A87.html> ; accessed 12 April 2017).

APPLICATION ASSEMBLY

Assemble documents by generation. All supporting documentation should be referenced on page 4. To help speed up processing, number each page of the documentation as it relates to the generation (ex. Gen-1, Gen-2, Gen-3, etc).

TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATION

The application fee is \$65.00 is composed of a \$40.00 application fee and \$25.00 for current annual dues. If your membership application is not approved, the current annual dues of \$25.00 will be refunded. Complete the transmittal form at www.sdusmp.org/join/transmittal. Normal processing is 6-8 weeks.

Submitting the form

Please complete the fillable (PDF) application, gather supporting documents, scan all documents upload form, and complete the transmittal form and pay the application and membership fee at www.sdusmp.org/join.

There are alternative submissions method, however these methods significantly delay processing. Method 1: Complete the transmittal form at www.sdusmp.org/join. Print and mail to Registrar General, c/o P.O. Box 5002, Trenton, NJ 08638 with copies of all supporting genealogical documentation. Method 2: Print and mail to Registrar General, c/o P.O. Box 5002, Trenton, NJ 08638 with copies of all supporting genealogical documentation. Mail a check or money order in the amount of \$65.00 must accompany the application. **Handwritten application will be accepted but will significantly delay processing (up to 4 weeks). Make checks payable to: SDUSMP.**

Upon approval by the Registrar General, a record copy of the application will be returned to you. If the registrar has sent the applicant a work sheet indicating changes to be made on the application a corrected version of the application must be prepared. The corrected application must be signed exactly with the name appearing on the original application, and returned with the application to the Registrar General for final verification.

Membership Dues

Member: Annual dues cover the period July 1 to June 30 of each fiscal year. Dues are invoiced by email on June 1 for the next fiscal year, and are payable no later than July 1st. Initial dues are not prorated.

Supplemental: Supplemental applications may be filed by members who wish to identify more than one Honored Ancestor. In addition to completing an application with appropriate evidence attached (including the record copy from the original application, a member is required to pay a supplemental application fee of \$25.

Lifetime membership: For current members, the fee is \$600.00 with less than 10 years of paid membership or \$200.00 with 10 or more years of paid membership.

PLEASE ALLOW UP TO 6-8 WEEKS TO PROCESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS.