Lineage Societies
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Members of lineage societies must prove their biological (blood line) descent to an ancestor of that heritage or event through approved genealogical proof standards.

I. **Find appropriate ancestor connected to time & location of event**
   A. Establish lineage from you back to the ancestor, including spouses. Collect evidence of birth, death, and marriage for all persons in the lineage: vital records, census, etc
   B. Find acceptable documentation to prove ancestor's involvement in the event. Evidence should fix a person in a time and a place and link two persons, stating their relationship (husband-wife and parent-child)

II. **Evaluating Evidence.**
   A. Types of evidence
      1. Direct: Gives name, date, place & relationship
      2. Indirect: Doesn't give relationships, requires several pieces of evidence to build the links and deduce relationships
   B. Evaluation criteria
      1. Sources = evaluated by FORM
         a. Original: First recorded form (will, letter, etc.)
         b. Derivative: Copied, repeated, reproduced, abstracted, transcribed, or summarized from previously spoken or written material
      2. Evidence = evaluated by ORIGIN
         a. Primary: Provided at the time of the event, by a knowledgeable adult participant in the event, or an official charged with accuracy
         b. Secondary: Recorded after hearing the details from someone else
   C. Additional questions:
      1. Could there be a bias—source, informant, purpose? Might there be a reason for lying?
      2. Is the document consistent? Within itself? With other sources?

III. **Seek and Submit Originals with Primary Evidence**
   A. Use all sources, but verify second-hand and derivative evidence with primary/original evidence
   B. County histories and undocumented family histories are good clues, but are generally unacceptable as documentation. An exception may be if the county history was written during the lifetime of the person in question.
   C. **Records Likely Acceptable to a Lineage Society.** Each society has its own, differing, standards; learn what they'll accept. Examples likely are given on their website.
      1. Online images (but NOT indexes)
      2. Cemetery plot record or photo of the stone
      3. Newspaper obituaries or articles
      4. Birth, Death, Marriage Certificates, registers, or delayed certificates

5. Church registers
6. Census: only 1880-1940 census identify relationship
7. Military draft, service, hospital, or pension records
8. Land grants or deeds
9. Tax Lists
10. Probate (should name legal heirs), Will, Guardianship, Indentures and Land distribution
11. Court cases (use Order or Minute books to obtain dates, then get the original petition bill)
12. Family Bible: show copyright date, ownership, provenance
13. Naturalization, especially after 1906 when Federalized
14. Ship passenger lists, especially after 1893 when Federalized
15. Passport application
17. Licenses
18. Social security application (Social Security Death Index is generally unacceptable)

IV. Filling Out and Submitting the Form

   A. Obtain societies' own application form and guidelines explaining all eligibility requirements to be sure you meet them.

   B. Your name--submit as you want it to appear on the certificate

   C. Names: Type exactly as on supporting document, all else is unproven.

   D. Female lines: Supporting documents must show the maiden name and documented name changes through all marriages to death record

   E. Spouse: Societies differ on documenting spouses

   F. Date and place:
   1. Type exactly as on supporting document, all else is unproven.
   2. Include only documents which show the evidence entered on the line and the document stating names and relationship of child and parent (the document that links the child to the parents)

   G. Final ancestor--Include eligibility document

   H. Supporting Documents:
   1. Send copies, not the originals.
   2. On copies: mark ancestor's item in margin & underline (per Society guidelines); don't highlight.
   3. Be sure the copy is readable - f you can't read it, they can't either
   4. Enter complete source on front of document (*Evidence Explained* or www.stlgs.org click resources > on this site > citations)

ONLINE RESOURCES

Genealogical libraries and digital books
St. Louis County Library Genealogy Department: https://www.slcl.org/genealogy
St. Louis Public Library (City): https://www.slpl.org
Missouri History Museum Library & Research Center: http://mohistory.org/lrc-home
Allen County (Fort Wayne, Indiana) http://www.genealogycenter.org/
Mid-Continent Library: http://www.mymcpl.org/
Family History Library (Salt Lake City) https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library/welcome-to-the-family-history-library
To find the closest library for each book: www.worldcat.org
Hathi Trust: www.hathitrust.org
Google Books: http://books.google.com
Library of Congress: www.loc.gov
Internet Archives https://archive.org/

State Archives, historical and/or genealogical societies
Missouri Digital Heritage http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/
Illinois Cyberdrive http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/home.html
State websites by county ("shareware") www.usgenweb.org
Missouri State Genealogical Association: https://mosga.org/

Military
Revolutionary War http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/revservice.htm
Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm
Fold3 (Fee based, but may be used at County Library for free): http://www.fold3.com/

Cemeteries
VA Nationwide Gravesite Locator: http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/
Find A Grave: http://www.findagrave.com/
Billion Graves: http://billiongraves.com/
St. Louis Catholic Cemeteries: https://cemeteries.archstl.org/Burial-Search

General Land Office Records: Land Patents
http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx?searchTabIndex=0&searchByTypeIndex=0
Family Maps of [specific] County (book by Arphax publishing to see if your county has been published yet): http://www.arphax.com/

Vital Records
Your best source is the state health department. I do not recommend using VitalCheck.
Death Record Index: http://www.deathindexes.com/
Where to write for Vital Records: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm

General
Ancestry (fee-based): http://home.ancestry.com/
Family Search: https://familysearch.org/
Lineage Societies of America: http://www.lineagesocietyofamerica.com/list-of-lineage-societies.html
Hereditary Society Community: http://www.hereditary.us
DAR: Genealogical Research System (GRS):   www.dar.org
Genealogy Proof Standard: https://bcgcertification.org/ethics-standards/

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GENERATION PROOF SHEET

ALL PROOF MUST BE **PRIMARY SOURCE** DOCUMENTS

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Gen # _____

HUSBAND:

NAME _____   _____

                                                                   PROOF DOCUMENT/S

_____   _____   _____

BIRTHDATE   LOCATION OF BIRTH   PROOF DOCUMENT/S

_____   _____   _____

MARRIED   MARRIAGE LOCATION   PROOF DOCUMENT/S

_____   _____   _____

DIED   LOCATION OF DEATH   PROOF DOCUMENT/S

WIFE: *

MAIDEN NAME _____   _____

                                                                    PROOF DOCUMENT/S

_____   _____   _____

BIRTHDATE   LOCATION OF BIRTH   PROOF DOCUMENT/S

_____   _____   _____

DIED   LOCATION OF DEATH   PROOF DOCUMENT/S

SPECIAL NOTES: Check with a RED pen which person's line you are tracing. At least one document must link this person to his/her parents. Circle the document that names both parent and child and provides this link.

* If wife remarried, changing her name before death, you need to also document name change to authenticate death record.

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Gen	Name		Event Date / Location	Documentation / Reference / Proof
1		born		Birth Certificate names parents
		loc		
Spouse		born		
		loc		
	Married	date		
		loc		
1/2			LINK BETWEEN GENERATIONS	Birth Certificate names parents
2		born		Birth Certificate
		loc		
		died		
		loc		
Spouse		born		
		loc		
		died		
		loc		
	Married	date		
		loc		
2/3			LINK BETWEEN GENERATIONS	Birth Certificate names parents
3		born		
		loc		
		died		
		loc		
Spouse		born		
		loc		
		died		
		loc		
	Married	date		
		loc		
3/4			LINK BETWEEN GENERATIONS	
4		born		
		loc		
		died		
		loc		
Spouse		born		
		loc		
		died		
		loc		
	Married	date		
		loc		
4/5			LINK BETWEEN GENERATIONS	