



DESCENDANTS OF THE ILLEGITIMATE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KINGS OF BRITAIN

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

The Society welcomes applications from all who share its interests and objectives. To apply, fill out the Society's application completely and send it, together with supporting documentation and the fees and dues (see below), to:

Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain
Post Office Box 1326
Cupertino, CA 95015 USA

When received the application will be processed by the Society's officers and the applicant will be notified whether or not it is approved. Please allow six or more weeks for the officers to do their work.

ELIGIBILITY

Membership is limited to individuals who prove descent from an illegitimate son or daughter of a king, an illegitimate son or daughter of the child of a king, or an illegitimate son or daughter of the grandchild of a king of England, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain or the United Kingdom.

The list of royal bastards in the Society's lineage book or on our web site is not proof of such relationship, although where there is no qualifying adjective printed with the reputed bastard the Society usually accepts such relationship.

A properly completed application for membership must be submitted through the Society to the Society's Herald, who must be convinced of its correctness, before an applicant may be admitted. The burden of proof in all events and for all elements of an application rests with the applicant.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Society's application for membership consists of an eight page application form and the documentation required to substantiate each entry thereon. Clearly print or preferably type all entries on the form.

The first part of the application, the upper part of page one of the form, is the applicant information section. It requires the applicant's full name, contact information and signature. Fill this section out completely. Please leave the grey section (marked "For Society Officers' Use") blank.

The second part of the application is the lineage section, beginning at the top of page two of the form. In the space for generation 1 enter the name of the king from whom the applicant claims descent, then the birth, marriage and death data as appropriate and known. The same shall be done for each succeeding generation through that of the applicant him or herself. Baptismal and burial data may be substituted for birth and death data where only these are known. Do not provide marriage data if the parents did not marry each other; instead cross out the words "married at" and write "not married" in the space that follows. Entry of dates will be: day, month (written out, **not** by number), and year, in that order. In each generation the name of the child of the preceding generation appears first.

The third part of the application is the reference citation section, page eight of the application form. Be sure to give references for all statements, including filiation, made in the previous section. List the documentation citation(s) or published information citation(s) for each generation by generation number on the blank lines. (If more space is needed, use a blank page and begin the continued listing with the generation number.) Each entry should appear thusly:

2: Complete Peerage, vol. XI, page 341. (This may be abbreviated to: **2: CP XI 341**)

The fourth part of the application is substantiating documentation. Please enclose with the completed application form copies of the documentation listed in the reference (citation) section for all statements made in the lineage section. (Exception: do not send copies of pages from the *Complete Peerage* or *Scots Peerage*, as the Herald has these works.)

APPLICATION FEES AND LIFE MEMBER DUES

As of April 1st, 2007, the Society's Application Fees and Life Member Dues total \$300 (US); include a check or money order for this amount payable to *Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain*.

If the initial application is not approved, the applicant may amend their application once or twice within 12 months of the original submission and the amended application will be reconsidered for no additional cost. Regrettably, no refund of fees and dues can be made if an applicant is not admitted to membership.

SUBSTANTIATING DOCUMENTATION

The Society requires each applicant prove qualifying descent to the satisfaction of its Herald-Genealogist before they may be admitted. Again, the burden of proof rests with the applicant. No application can be approved that does not cite adequate evidence for every statement made.

To substantiate the claimed lineage, the application must document each genealogical statement asserted, as follows:

- Cite the ultimate valid primary contemporary evidence for each genealogical statement and for the connection between each two consecutive generations in the lineage section.
- Primary evidence may be supplied from secondary sources if the secondary sources are:
 - Scholarly sources containing references to specific primary evidence for each date and filiation, when the scholarly sources are generally acknowledged by genealogical authorities to be the best available. This especially means the *Complete Peerage* (as corrected), but may also include authoritative AND documented articles in genealogical magazines.
 - Family histories and other printed references which either cite material of the type described above (that is, cite standard, authoritative, documented sources), or identify AND quote verbatim completely from the primary sources, which are necessary to show the correctness of the line.
- Secondary sources must specify which primary evidence supports which genealogical statement. A genealogical statement is NOT sufficiently documented if the secondary source material makes, say a paragraph or so of statements, and then at the end cites a number of references as support; in such a case the applicant must cite and provide the actual evidence for each individual genealogical statement.
- Photocopies of all evidence must be submitted with the application, with two exceptions:
 - Evidence cited in the *Complete Peerage* or *Scots Peerage* (the Herald has copies of these publications), and
 - Applications having one or more generations in common with earlier applications recently approved by the SAME Herald who will be processing the current application. In these cases applicants need only cite the documentation used to support those common generations, and not submit photocopied pages for them.

The Herald reserves the right to request copies of these at a later time.

- Evidence in a language other than modern English should be submitted together with its translation. If no translation is provided, the Herald reserves the right to suspend the application until a translation is supplied.

It will be evident that most genealogical publications do not meet the Society's standards for documentation, and should not be submitted in support of statements in an application. This includes many books and periodicals accepted as 'standard' by professional genealogists and other hereditary associations, such as:

- Most collected lineages of royal and noble ancestry, including *Ancestral Roots*, *Magna Carta Sureties*, and *Americans of Royal Descent* (these can guide the applicant but are not substantiating documentation)
- Compendia such as those produced by Burkes, Viricus and others (often erroneous and/or without cited sources)
- Undocumented family histories, county histories, and hereditary lineage books (including this Society's)
- Some Heraldic Visitations (they may be submitted for a decision, but the Herald may require additional evidence; it is known that some heralds were venal, and that some testators furnished imperfect information).

Please be aware that many applications to the Society have been disapproved. Of applications claiming descent through an immigrant ancestor not previously used, less than one quarter are found qualified. Of rejected lineages, many were previously approved by one or more well-known hereditary association.

When applications are disapproved, it is almost always because the 'evidence' submitted to support the purported lineage does not do so, has been discredited, does not meet the Society's standards, or demonstrates the lineage could not be valid. We strongly advise applicants to follow closely the Society's standards of evidence and documentation.

The applicant should appreciate that the Herald-Genealogist cannot correct applications, nor seek references for uncited materials. It is in the applicant's best interest to make the submitted lineage as complete and easy to follow as possible.

Always keep at least one copy of all submitted material, and please do not send original evidence (send copies instead). The Society cannot be responsible for lost applications or documents.