



# Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Revised 31 December 2023

### HOW TO JOIN

The Descendants welcome applications from all who share our interests and objectives.

Membership is open to any individual who

- (1) proves 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; and who
- (2) documents that descent in a lineage paper meeting the Descendants' scholarly standard, essentially equivalent to the Genealogical Proof Standard.

Applying to, and joining, the Descendants should be a significant educational experience.

To initiate an application, applicants should send a simple summary of the proposed line from bastard to applicant (bare names and spouses in each generation will usually suffice), especially noting emigrant ancestors who take the line from Britain to elsewhere, usually to the United States or a predecessor colony. This goes by email to [info@royalbastards.org](mailto:info@royalbastards.org). The applicant may receive some guidance at that point, with an invitation to proceed, or may be informed that the line is known to be invalid. If invited to proceed, the applicant will receive the lineage paper, described below. It is to be completed and sent, together with supporting documentation, review fee, and dues (see below), to:

Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain  
4524 Sly Fox Lane  
Keedysville, MD 21756

Applications may be submitted digitally, as a PDF dossier, or on paper. For an application to be accepted, the Herald-Genealogist must be satisfied not only with the correctness of the line, but also that it meets the Descendants' scholarly standard of identification of probative evidence, both for all modern and (if applicable) for all pre-modern generations of the lineage.

### APPLICATION FEE AND LIFE MEMBER DUES

The application review fee is \$200; life member dues are \$400. Both are payable at the time of application, by check to *Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain*.

Applicants receive a letter of review summarizing the principal strengths and shortcomings of the application. If an application is not approved, the applicant may be invited to revise and resubmit, with no additional review fee, up to one year after the initial review. The dues, but not the review fee, are refunded if an applicant is not admitted to membership.

## LINEAGE PAPER: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

An application consists of the multi-page lineage paper, together with copies of all documentation cited to substantiate each statement in the application. The current lineage paper form was updated in November 2023. The form is to be filled out using Microsoft Word, then submitted digitally or on paper. Proofs may be submitted digitally, as a PDF dossier, or on paper.

Page 1 is the applicant information section. It requires the applicant's full name, contact information and signature. The section marked "For Officers' Use" should be left blank.

Page 2 covers generation 1—the ancestral monarch. In the first space, enter the name of the monarch, followed by known birth, marriage (or non-marital partnership) and death data for the monarch and spouse or partner (parent of generation 2). Information on the monarch need not be documented, but all other data (beginning with partner information) should be documented as described below.

Page 3 is for generation 2, and so forth down to the last generation which includes the applicant (discard unused pages). Each generation contains blanks for the line carrier (line 1) and spouse or partner (line 5), and five line items for birth, death, and marriage place and date for the line carrier and partner (lines 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7). Drop-down fields are to be used with events ("born/baptized," "died/buried") and dates ("on," "about," "before," and "after") as well as to identify non-marital partnerships ("married/did not marry") in any relevant generation.

## LINEAGE PAPER: EVIDENCE FIELDS

Evidence for all information (names, filiation, vital dates and places) must be identified and cited. There is no required citation format for citing evidence. Put simply: *be clear* and *be consistent*.

On each page (after page 2), evidence line 1 corresponds to the line carrier's name. This line should identify the evidence that the adult line carrier is the child of the couple on the previous page. In a modern generation, you might say "death certificate names her parents"; the death certificate would again be cited in line 3 (evidence for his/her death date and place). To prove filiation in a medieval generation, you might note that the person succeeded a parent to a peerage title, citing the entry in the *Complete Peerage*, or was named in a parent's will, or some other brief statement of the basis for the deduction. Line 5 on each page is for evidence of the name of the line carrier's spouse or partner (the other parent of the line carrier in the next generation); this may duplicate the evidence and citation for their marriage place and date (if information is known) from line 4.

If it is necessary to summarize *indirect* evidence of filiation in a proof statement, this may be done in the relevant evidence line if one or two sentences suffice. If more space is needed, include a proof argument on a separate page and cite in line 1.

Dates: baptism, burial, probate, and the like, may be substituted for birth and death dates. For date of probate or other death date proxies, one can insert an appreviation such as "wp" (=will proved) in the date field or "IPM" (=inquisitio post mortem), and also note in the evidence line what is used to approximate the death date. An analytical secondary source which deduces a date range for a birth, death, or marriage can be cited to support a date such as "1375–1389" or "after 1644." For example, Sir Thomas de Munchensy died between 1375 and 1389; the evidence field might state: "Living in 1375; his son Sir Thomas succeeded him using a different seal by 1389 (*Complete Peerage* 9:417)."

Any secondary source used *must identify the evidence that supports a genealogical statement* (birth, death, or marriage, place or date, or kinship) so this can be stated on the application. A fact is not sufficiently documented if the secondary source includes a string of information followed by a group of undifferentiated citations (as is the case for entries in Richardson's *Royal Ancestry*; see below).

There is no list of pre-approved gateway ancestors or pre-approved generations, and no list of pre-approved sources of evidence. Some family histories and compiled genealogies identify and discuss the evidence sufficient to establish facts; if so, they can be used. Many typical genealogical compilations of pre-modern lines do not meet the Descendants' standards for documentation, and should not be cited as the sole support of statements in an application. This includes reference works accepted as standard in other hereditary societies, including Weis-Shepard's *Ancestral Roots* and *Magna Carta Sureties*. Roberts' *Royal Descents* are bibliographies only, pointing to other secondary works. Richardson's *Royal Ancestry* and related works cite primary and secondary sources all together for each generation, but evidence is not identified to support individual statements (birth, marriage, death, and filiation). Richardson's works, even for generations correctly summarized, do not satisfy the obligation of proof: the applicant must identify the basis (direct evidence or deduction from indirect evidence) for each fact asserted.

Include copies of all cited evidence (primary and secondary). Notarized copies are not required; legible scans are fine. There are certain exceptions:

- Primary evidence identified and cited in analytical secondary sources (such as documents discussed and cited in a *Complete Peerage* entry) do not need to be tracked down and copied.
- Copies of entries in *Complete Peerage* or *Scots Peerage* do not need to be provided.
- For applications having generations in common with other applications recently approved by the same Herald-Genealogist, applicants should identify the evidence and citations in the shared generations, but do not need to submit copies.

Sources in a language not known to the Herald-Genealogist should be submitted together with English translations. If in doubt, ask the Herald-Genealogist.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

We expect to review all applications within three months. (Some have recently taken considerably longer for reasons external to the applications.)

Applications are often not approved on first submission. This can include applications substantially similar to those previously approved for the same applicant by other hereditary societies. Applications on a line considered potentially genealogically sound by the Herald-Genealogist, but presented without meeting the proof standard, may be revised and resubmitted. Applications declined with a problematic line of descent may be revised and resubmitted following a different line if one is known.

The Herald-Genealogist cannot correct applications, nor do independent research to confirm insufficiently proved assertions. However, we encourage questions to clarify and aid in the process.

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