

Archives Policy

The Archives of the General Society of the War of 1812 contain the records of the General Society such as minutes of meetings, yearbooks, etc. Nearly all the application forms of our members from the late 1800's to the present are in the archives. These forms contain the lineages of members back to the veteran ancestor who participated in the War of 1812. The earliest forms contain little family data because the sons and grandsons of veterans were known to the Society; therefore documentation was not critical at that time. We do not have family data on veterans whose descendants never became members of the General Society of the War of 1812.

In addition to the General Society of the War of 1812 records, the archives include a small number of histories of the War of 1812 and published rosters of members. A three-volume set of indexes to the War of 1812 pension applications is in the archives.

The officers of the General Society do not do genealogical research for applicants or persons making inquiries. Certain officers, such as the Registrar General and the Genealogist General, are professional genealogists, and they may accept commissions on their own if they choose to do so. They do not volunteer their services free to persons seeking genealogical information.

It should be understood that the state militia units and the regular U.S. Army in 1812-1815 did not maintain records and rosters of soldiers with the uniformity and completeness practiced in more recent times. In some instances entire unit rosters, especially of volunteer companies, have been lost. To determine if an ancestor was a veteran, inquiries should be made to the National Archives and Record Administration, Washington, DC 20408; or to the state library/archives of the state where the veteran lived. The National Archives charges a fee for making searches.

The Archivist General will research without charge answers to questions that can be found quickly. As an example: "Can you tell me if my great-great-grandfather, Joe Doe, who I think was a veteran of the War of 1812, is listed in your records?" **Copies of records require a payment of \$10.00. A stamped self-addressed envelope must be sent with all requests for information.** The General Society officers are all non-salaried volunteers. The General Society does not have a paid staff. Fees are subject to change.