



March 19, 2026

TO: State Registrars, Governors and Deputy Governors General

RE: New Procedures for Processing GSCW Membership Applications

Dear Colleagues:

In an attempt to be better stewards of our financial resources, and to streamline our valued relationship with American Ancestors (formerly known as the New England Historic Genealogical Society), the General Society is implementing new procedures for the processing of applications and for communicating with American Ancestors, and a revised fee structure for these services.

I am attaching several forms that I hope will alleviate some of the confusion that has recently developed concerning the proper procedures that State Societies should follow in seeking admission for their members to the General Society of Colonial Wars.

Attached you will find:

- GSCW Membership Application Procedure FAQ
- General Society of Colonial Wars Application Preparation Manual
- SCW Membership Application (Long-Form)

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the following procedures that State Registrars should follow in submitting and processing membership applications:

- Our current agreement with American Ancestors provides that we will pay \$180 for their genealogists to review membership submissions. Any administrative work beyond that will be charged to GSCW at \$90 an hour. As against a cost to the GSCW of \$270 for most submissions, State Societies have up until now only been asked to remit \$50.
- In the decade since we began using American Ancestors to vet these submissions, the cost to the General Society has ballooned. This is largely due to add on charges because

of administrative work by American Ancestors in response to communications from State Societies, as well as numerous instances in which prospective Warriors sought verification of numerous supplemental lines of Colonial descent.

- Going forward, we have agreed with American Ancestors that they will remain the GSCW's agent for vetting genealogical qualifications of membership applications. However, all membership-related communications should be sent to the General Society, either to me or to our Director of Operations, Deidre Menefee (see contact information below). You should not be communicating directly with American Ancestors as has been occurring of late.
- In the future, of the combined genealogical review and administrative work cost of the typical long or short form application, which is \$270, GSCW will pay the first \$170 and will invoice the State Society the remaining \$100 (or such larger amount as may be incurred if there are significant defects in the materials submitted for review).
- Henceforth, our subsidy of American Ancestors' review of State Society submissions will only apply to one line of descent. If prospective Warriors wish to engage an American Ancestors genealogist to review multiple lines of descent, the cost of this additional work will be billed back to the sponsoring State Society.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you have any questions concerning these procedures.

Fraternally yours,

Stephen McLeod

Stephen A. McLeod
GSCW Registrar General

cc Samuel A. Nolen
GSCW Treasurer General

Deidre Menefee
GSCW Director of Operations
dmenefee@gscw.org