

A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants. It is impossible not to respect the sentiment which indicates itself by these tokens. It is a sentiment which belongs to the higher and purer part of human nature, and which adds not a little to the strength of the States.—*Macaulay*.

It seems to me that the principal means of preserving useful families in democratic society ought to be fully discussed; because the family, rather than the individual, is the important social unit; because the perpetuation of sound families is of the highest social interest; and because the democratic form of government is that form which in a few years, or a few generations, will prevail all over the civilized world. * * * * * If society as a whole is to gain by mobility and openness of structure, those who rise must stay up in successive generations that the higher levels of society may be constantly enlarged, and that the proportion of pure, gentle, magnanimous and refined persons may be steadily increased. * * * * * The men of good family stock may be farmers, mechanics, professional men, merchants, or that sort of men of leisure who work hard for the public. But while I give this broad meaning to the term "good family stocks," I hold that one kind of family ought especially to be multiplied and perpetuated, namely, the family in which gentle manners, cultivated tastes and honorable sentiments are hereditary.—*From an Essay, Family Stocks in a Democracy, by Charles W. Eliot, former President of Harvard University.*

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.

Any male person above the age of twenty-one years, of good character, and a descendant of one who, as a military, naval or marine officer, soldier, sailor or marine, in actual service, under the authority of any of the thirteen Colonies or States or of the Continental Congress, and remaining always loyal to such authority, or a descendant of one who signed the Declaration of Independence, or of one who, as a member of the Continental Congress or of the Congress of any of the Colonies or States, or as an official appointed by or under the authority of any such legislative bodies, actually assisted in the establishment of American independence by services rendered during the war of the Revolution, becoming thereby liable to conviction of treason against the government of Great Britain, but remaining always loyal to the authority of the Colonies or States, shall be eligible to membership in the Society.

The first step in applying for membership should be to ascertain the name of the ancestor who lived at a time that would possibly include him in the Revolutionary service, and the name of the place in which he lived. Then write to the Adjutant-General or Secretary of State in the State where the ancestor lived, and obtain from him a certified copy of the ancestor's record. The certificate should be filed with the Secretary of the Society. He will then furnish a blank form with full instructions.

Old Commissions, certified copies or certified photographs of Commissions can verify an ancestor's service; so can old letters or certified copies of old letters proving service. Extracts from rare historical works that can not be found in libraries available to the Society should always be attested.