

ARTICLE III.

Membership.

Any male person above the age of 21 years shall be eligible to membership in this Society who is lineally descended from any ancestor as the propositus, who, either as a military, naval or marine officer, soldier, sailor or marine, or official in the service of any one of the thirteen original Colonies or States or of the National Government represented or composed of those Colonies or States, assisted in establishing American Independence during the War of the Revolution, between the 19th day of April, 1775, when hostilities commenced, and the 19th day of April, 1783, when they were ordered to cease.

Provided, That when the claim of eligibility is based on the service of an ancestor as a "sailor" or "marine" it must in like manner be shown that such service was other than shore duty and regularly performed in the Continental Navy, or the navy of one of the original thirteen States, or on an armed vessel, other than a merchant ship, which sailed under letters of marque and reprisal, and that such ancestor of the applicant was duly enrolled in the ship's company either as an officer, seaman or otherwise than as a passenger; and,

Provided further, That when the claim of eligibility is based on the service of an ancestor as an "official" such service must have been performed in the Civil Service of the United States or of one of the thirteen original States, and must have been sufficiently important in character to have rendered the official specially liable to arrest and imprisonment, the same as a combatant, if captured by the enemy, as well as liable to conviction of treason against the government of Great Britain.

In the construction of this Article the Volunteer Aides-de-Camp of General Officers in the Continental Service, who were duly announced as such and who actually served in the field during a campaign, shall be comprehended as having performed qualifying service.

The civil officials and military forces of the State of Vermont during the War of the Revolution shall also be comprehended in the same manner as if they had belonged to one of the thirteen original States.

No service of an ancestor shall be deemed as qualifying service for membership in this Society where such ancestor, after having assisted in the cause of American Independence, shall have subsequently either adhered to the enemy or failed to maintain an honorable record throughout the War of the Revolution.

No person shall be admitted as a member of this Society unless he be eligible under one of the provisions of this Article and unless of good moral character and adjudged worthy of becoming a member.

ARTICLE IV.

Officers.

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Third Vice-President, a Fourth Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar, an Historian, a Chaplain and a Board of Managers, who shall be chosen by ballot from among the members thereof annually to serve for the term of one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified. Provided, that in the discretion of the Society, the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be occupied by the same person.