



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(See Instructions)



Part I-A - Membership request - to be completed by the National Organization

- Department Membership-at-Large,
Department Name: _____
- Camp-at-Large Membership,
Camp-at-Large Name: _____
- National Membership-at-Large

Part I-B - Membership type - to be completed by applicant

- Member (14 Yrs & Older, Has Lineage, Complete Parts I-B, II, IV & V)
- Junior (6-14 Yrs, Has Lineage, Complete Parts I-B, II, IV & V)
- Associate (14 Yrs & Older, No Lineage, Complete Parts I-B & II Only)

Part II - To be completed by applicant

Application of: _____
(first) (middle) (last)

Address: _____
(address) (city) (state) (zip)

Telephone: Home _____, Work _____, Email _____

Date of Birth: _____, Place of Birth: _____

Occupation: _____

I declare under the penalties of perjury that this application has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is true, correct and complete and, if accepted, I will obey and support the National Constitution and Regulations of the Order, Bylaws of the Department and Bylaws of the Camp.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20____

Signed: _____

Witness: _____

Part III - To be completed by the National Organization

Recommended by: Internet Application

Date Enrolled: _____; Date Transferred: _____ National #: _____

Part IV - To be completed by member / junior applicant only

(A photocopy of your ancestor's Civil War military record must be attached to this application)

I base my right to be a Member/Junior in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, by right of lineal or

collateral descent in the following line from my: _____,
(Grandfather, Great Uncle, etc.) (Ancestor's Name)

who served and/or died honorably in the United States Army, Navy or Marines or Revenue Cutter Service, or in a state regiment subject to the orders of United States general officers during the Civil War 1861-1865. Neither I nor any of my ancestors through whom I claim eligibility ever voluntarily bore arms against the government of the United

States. My ancestor was mustered into service on _____, 186____, in Company _____ of the _____ with the rank of _____, and was honorably discharged, (Regiment, Battery, Ship, etc.)

or died while in the service of the United States, at the rank of _____, on _____ 186__ by reason of _____.

Part V - To be completed by member / junior applicant only

I am the son of: _____

Who was the son/daughter/sister/brother of: _____

Who was the son/daughter/sister/brother of: _____

Who was the son/daughter/sister/brother of: _____

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Who was the son/daughter/sister/brother of: _____

Additional information about your Civil War ancestor including but not limited to his affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), or other post-Civil War veterans' organization(s), and his resting place may be attached.

Part VI – Membership dues structure

Membership dues are pro-rated according to the date of application. In addition to the regular dues fee, a \$10 Application Fee is assessed and must be included with your dues payment.

Application for membership made between January 1 – June 30: \$31.00 dues + \$10.00 Application Fee = \$41.00

Application for membership made between July 1 – December 31: \$15.50 dues + \$10.00 Application Fee = \$25.50

**INTERNET APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a patriotic and educational organization, similar to the Grand Army of the Republic. It was founded on November 12, 1881 and incorporated by Act of Congress August 20, 1954. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is the legal heir to and representative of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

ELIGIBILITY

Member (and Junior): A male descendant, 14 years of age (6 to 14 for Juniors), who: (1) is directly descended from a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service (or directly descended from a brother, sister, half-brother, or half-sister of such Soldier, etc.) who was regularly mustered and served honorably in, was honorably discharged from or died in the service of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America or in such state regiments called to active service and was subject to the orders of United States general officers, between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865; (2) has never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime. and (3) has, or whose ancestor through whom membership is claimed, has never voluntarily borne arms against the government of the United States. An Associate is not required to have the above lineage but is subject to the second and third provisions of eligibility.

Part I-A: Membership Request - Applicant should leave this area blank. Visit the SUVCW website index to find a listing of state organizations (Departments).

Part I-B: Membership Type - Applicant should check either "Member", "Junior" or "Associate."

Part II: Applicant should complete this section and have an individual witness his signature.

Part III: Remainder of page is to be completed by the National Organization.

Part IV: To be completed by applicants who are applying for **Member** or **Junior** (not Associate) status in the SUVCW. The information needed to complete Part IV will be in your ancestor's military or pension records, obtainable from a variety of sources including state archived Adjutant General Reports (if your ancestor served in a state regiment of volunteers) and from the Old Military and Civil Records (NWCTB) Textual Archives Services Division of the National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001, telephone = (202) 501-5390 or (202) 501-5385. Separate order forms (with instructions and fee information for copies of military or pension records) must be obtained from the National Archives and then submitted back to them. These copies will provide documentation of an ancestor's honorable service to the Union, and **must accompany an application**. Please, **NO** Internet or computer-generated documentation.

Part V: To be completed by the applicant who is applying for Member or Junior (not Associate) status in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Part V is your lineage from you to your ancestor. The last line should end with the name of the Civil War veteran. If you wish, proof of your lineage may also accompany your application but is not required.

Part VI: Determine the amount of your membership dues plus application fee.

APPLICATION PROCESSING

Please enclose a check for the application fee plus dues, made payable to the **SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR** or **SUVCW**, and mail it along with this completed application to:

Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., PDC
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief
464 Lake Meade Drive
East Berlin, PA 17316
(717) 259-6156
jvc@suvchw.org

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HOW TO GET YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS' MILITARY AND PENSION RECORDS

Civil War Pension and Military Service records are kept at the National Archives and are requested on Archives Forms 85 and 86 respectively.

1. What's the difference between a Military record and a Pension file?

A military record may contain a soldier's enlistment papers, muster rolls, indicating whether he was on duty or excused at a particular time during his service because of a wound or sickness. It may contain his discharge papers.

A Pension file will contain proof of a soldier's service, which may include discharge papers, details of his service, affidavits from fellow soldiers, statements regarding spouse and dependents, medical information, pension increases, his widow's pension, his physical description and places where he lived after the war.

2. How do you obtain the forms?

Any of the Archives' forms may be ordered from its website at:

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/military/civil-war/>

The form(s) will usually arrive within a week.

3. How many forms should you request?

Probably two. Each request for records requires a separate form. If you have more than one ancestor, you'll need at least one form for each.

4. What information will the Archives need to know on the form?

The more information you can provide about your ancestor the better, but minimally:

- a) Soldier's name
- b) Branch of service
- c) State from which he served
- d) Which war / dates of service
- e) Union or Confederate

5. How long will it take to receive the information you requested?

The Military Service record will arrive in 8 weeks; the Pension file will arrive in 12-16 weeks. Paying the fee by charge card will expedite your order. Check payments will need to clear before an order is completed.

6. Unable to order online?

You may mail your request for forms to:

National Archives & Records Administration
Attn: NWCTB
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
Phone: 1-86-NARA-NARA

7. Additional questions about your order?

Call the National Archives Service Center: 1-800-272-6272