



## Application Instructions and Research Guide

The Membership Application for The Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) is available on the SRT website (srttexas.org). You can access the application and instructions for completion through the following steps:

1. Select the Membership tab at the top of the SRT Home page. Then scroll down and select the Application section.
2. The Application section contains the SRT Application in both a PDF and a MS Word file. This section also contains this SRT Application Instructions and Research Guide.
3. Select the MS Word Application file and save the file to your computer. **NOTE:** The SRT Application File cannot be completed online through the SRT website and saved there. The MS Word Application file can be edited but you must first save the file to your computer and update it from there. You may need to select the yellow 'Enable Editing' button to be able to edit the document.

Once completed, print the application on letter size paper. The applicant signs where noted on the bottom of page 4. This signature must be notarized. Submit the application together with the primary documents and payment to the SRT Headquarters. See address information at the bottom of page 1 of the application.

### Application Completion Instructions – Page 1:

#### Applicant Personal Information

This section provides personal contact information for the individual applying for membership. A cell phone may be used for either the Home Telephone or Office Telephone. An example of the completed section is shown below:

<b>Steven Joseph Manis, Sr</b>	<b>( 281 ) 549-0000</b>	<b>( 281 ) 222-0000</b>
<i>Full birth name of applicant</i>	<i>Home Telephone</i>	<i>Office Telephone</i>
<b>Steve Manis</b>	<b>steve@aol.com</b>	
<i>Name preferred for use in mailings</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	
<b>2000 Prestwick Dr, Texas City, TX 77557</b>		
<i>Mailing address: street, apartment or suite, city, state, zip code</i>		

#### Application Types and Fees

This section identifies the type of membership being applied for. Select the box next to the membership type.

<i>Application Types and Fees:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Junior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Supplemental	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Posthumous
Life by Age:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Under 18	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750 18-40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600 Over 40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Life processing fee if no prior membership

The table below provides an explanation of each membership type.

Application Type	Description
\$75 Regular	For living adults 18 years of age and older. Applicants for regular membership pay a non-refundable application fee of \$75. Their dues are waived for the current year.
\$50 Junior	For individuals under 18 years of age. This amount includes a one-time \$50 application fee. Junior members pay no annual membership fees until they turn

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Application Type	Description
	18 years of age. After turning 18, they automatically become a full regular member of the SRT and are then subject to a \$50 annual membership fee.
\$30 Supplemental	Used to record information for additional qualifying ancestors for an existing SRT member. This amount includes a one-time \$30 application processing fee.
\$150 Posthumous	Used for deceased individuals who qualify for membership and who lived after the SRT founding on March 30, 1922. These are generally used by families who would like an SRT medallion for their ancestor's gravestone. Gravestone medallions are available only to current SRT members.
\$1000 Under 18	Lifetime membership for an individual under 18 years of age. This application also requires a \$50 Life Processing Fee if no prior membership.
\$750 18-40	Lifetime membership for an individual who is currently 18 to 40 years of age. This application also requires a \$50 Life Processing Fee if no prior membership.
\$600 Over 40	Lifetime membership for an individual who is currently over 40 years of age. This application also requires a \$50 Life Processing Fee if no prior membership.
\$50 Life Processing Fee if no prior membership	This fee is applicable if the lifetime application is for a new member.

### Applicant's Qualifying Ancestor and Desired SRT Chapter

This section identifies the applicant's ancestor who was a resident of the Republic of Texas prior to February 19, 1846, and the SRT chapter the applicant would like to join. See the Section on **Locating Supporting Documents** for help in performing research and locating supporting documents to identify a qualifying ancestor.

1. Enter the full name of the applicant's ancestor who was in the Republic of Texas on the line above "Full name of qualifying Republic of Texas ancestor."
2. Enter the Name and Location of the SRT Chapter that you would like to be affiliated with on the line above "Name and Location of Chapter with which affiliation is desired, if any." A list of the SRT Chapters can be found in the Chapters section at the bottom of the Membership page on the website. If you do not wish to be affiliated with a specific chapter, leave this line blank or enter "None".

An example of the completed section is shown below:

<p><b>Descendant of:</b> John Nichols</p> <hr/> <p><i>Full names of qualifying Republic of Texas ancestors</i> Sidney Sherman Chapter #2, Galveston, Texas</p> <hr/> <p><i>Name and location of chapter with which affiliation is desired</i></p> <p>★ ★ ★</p>
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### Recommended by the following SRT members

Applications must be signed by three current SRT members. You can locate a Chapter near you and have members sign the application, or you can contact the SRT Historian General for assistance.

### Approved by the following SRT officers

Once an application is submitted and approved by the SRT Historian General, the application is signed by the current SRT officers as final approvals.

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## Application Completion Instructions – Page 2:

This section identifies the direct lineage back to the qualifying ancestor who was in Texas prior to February 19, 1846. Begin with the applicant's information and provide information on each generation going back to the qualifying ancestor. **Information on all generations back to the qualifying ancestor must be included.** Keep in mind that a lineage may follow either the father's or mother's line.

- For male ancestors, enter their full legal name.
- For female ancestors, enter which marriage this was (for the husband) and their maiden name.
- Enter dates in the following format: 02 Mar 1836
- Enter the City and County where the event occurred. Use only /County if no City is available.
- Enter States as abbreviations.

Below is an example of a completed section providing the ancestor information needed.

			<u>DATE</u>	<u>CITY/COUNTY</u>	<u>STATE</u>
1. Applicant:	Steven Joseph Manis, Sr <i>(If Posthumous)</i>	born	01 Oct 1900	Galveston/Galveston	TX
and 1st wife	Cherie Denise Hodges	born	01 Sept 1950	Andrews/Andrews	TX
		died	01 Aug 2000	Dickinson/Galveston	TX
		married	01 Aug 1970	Alta Loma/Galveston	TX
2. Son of	Joseph Henry Manis	born	01 Mar 1920	League City/Galveston	TX
and 1st wife	Marie Ann Marsalis	died	01 Jun 1970	Texas City/Galveston	TX
		born	01 Aug 1920	Galveston/Galveston	TX
		died	01 May 1990	Texas City/Galveston	TX
Who is the son <input type="checkbox"/> /daughter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> of		married	01 Apr 1940	Texas City/Galveston	TX
3. Grandson of	William Robertson Marsalis	born	01 Aug 1890	McComb/Pike	MS
and 1st wife	Ruth Ann McPeters	died	01 Sept 1930	Alexandria/Rapides	LA
		born	01 Nov 1900	Des Moines/Polk	IA
		died	01 May 1990	South Houston/Harris	TX
Who is the son <input type="checkbox"/> /daughter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> of		married	01 Sept 1920		
4. Great-Grandson of	William Jack McPeters	born	01 Jan 1870	/Guadalupe	TX
and 1st wife	Kate Ann Kline	died	01 Aug 1930	Galveston/Galveston	TX
		born	01 Oct 1880	Des Moines/Polk	IA
		died	01 Mar 1960	Alvin/Brazoria	TX
Who is the son <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /daughter <input type="checkbox"/> of		married	01 Aug 1890	/Galveston	TX
5. Great <sup>2</sup> Grandson of	John Andrew McPeters	born	1849	/Austin	TX
and 1st wife	Mary Ann Seals	died			TX
		born	Abt 1850		MS
		died	01 Sept 1900	Galveston/Galveston	TX
Who is the son <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /daughter <input type="checkbox"/> of		married	01 May 1870	/Harris	TX
6. Great <sup>3</sup> Grandson of	Samuel McPeters	born	Abt 1820		AL
and 1st wife	Sarah Jane Nichols	died	Bef 1880		TX
		born	01 Sept 1830	/Austin	TX
		died	01 Sept 1900	Galveston/Galveston	TX
Who is the son <input type="checkbox"/> /daughter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> of		married	01 Sept 1840	/Austin	TX
7. Great <sup>4</sup> Grandson of	John Nichols	born	Abt 1790		LA
and 1st wife	Frances "Fannie" Waldrop	died	01 Mar 1860	/Austin	TX
		born	Abt 1800		SC
		died	Aft Jul 1880		TX
Who is the son <input type="checkbox"/> /daughter <input type="checkbox"/> of		married	01 Oct 1830	/Austin	TX
8. Great <sup>5</sup> Grandson of		born			
and wife		died			
		born			
		died			
Who is the son <input type="checkbox"/> /daughter <input type="checkbox"/> of		married			
9. Great <sup>6</sup> Grandson of		born			

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## Application Completion Instructions – Page 3:

This section provides summary information about the qualifying ancestor and identifies the specific documents that prove they were in service of or a resident in the Republic of Texas.

### Eligibility for Membership

This application section summarizes the requirements for membership in The Sons of the Republic of Texas.

### About The Qualifying Ancestor

In your own words, enter a summary of what is known about the qualifying ancestor. Below are two examples of the type of summary to enter. Either the Simple or Detailed style may be used.

#### (Simple)

Came to Texas in 1838 in a wagon with his wife and five kids. Taught school, worked in the fields. Belonged to the Free Spirit Church. Burial location is unknown. Was an active church member. Worked hard, but was poor. Only two kids lived to be an adult; one died of scurvey, one of whooping cough, and another from a rabid chicken. Wife took in laundry, sewing, and cleaned city houses.

#### (Detailed)

John Nichols was born circa 1794 in Mississippi. He came to Texas in 1827 from Louisiana by way of Sabine Pass. John married Fanny E. Waldrop Hutchins. Fanny had 2 children from a previous marriage, John and Martha Hutchins. John and Fanny had three children of their own before they were legally married on October 14, 1837, in Austin County, Texas. Prior to that the closest Alcalde that could marry them was located 250 miles away in San Antonio. Frontier weddings took place before family and friends where each pledged their troth until such time it could be legalized. Their marriage was the 27<sup>th</sup> recorded in Austin County after the Revolution and Republic was set up. John and Fanny had a total of seven children of their own - Ellen, Thomas, Sarah Jane, James W., Samuel Houston, Fannie E. and Mary Caroline-Carrie. John and Fanny were listed in Stephen F. Austin's Family Register, along with 2 sons, 2 daughters and one dependent. As described in the book "War of 1812 Veterans in Texas", John served in the U.S. Army during the War of 1812. He was a private in Capt. John R. Goffe's Company of the Louisiana Militia as a substitute for Simon Holden. John Nichols applied for and received a Spanish Land Grant for 1 league (4,428.3 acres) in Austin's Second Colony, dated September 20, 1832. In 1834, John sold half his league to James and Thomas Bell for \$200. On part of the land purchased by the Bell brothers, the present day township of Bellville is located. In 1836, when Texas became a Republic, John Nichols requested and received a first class certificate (#115) for 1 labor (177 acres) in Austin County. John Nichols died on March 3, 1864 near Bellville in Austin County. His obituary was published in the "Bellville Countryman on March 10, 1864. "A Death-John Nichols, an old citizen and resident of Austin County, died at his home on Piney near the place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. at the age of near 70 years. He was one of Jackson's men in the Battle of New Orleans. At his death, a legal "Agreement by and between the heirs of John Nichols" dated March 21, 1864, stated that his land be divided up between his wife and children.

### Proof of Ancestor in the Republic of Texas

Identify the specific document that proves the qualifying ancestor listed on Page 1 was in the Republic of Texas. Only one document is needed. This document is typically a Mexican Land Grant, tax rolls prior to 1846, census records showing children born in Texas prior 1846, land grants prior to 1846, or other documents showing the ancestor in Texas prior to 1846. Below is an example of the completed section.

See the Section on [Locating Supporting Documents](#) for help with performing research and locating documents to prove a qualifying ancestor was in the Republic of Texas.

**Texas 1840 Tax Rolls**

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## Application Completion Instructions – Page 4:

### About the Applicant

This section identifies the specific documents provided to prove the direct lineage to the qualifying ancestor. See the Section on **Locating Supporting Documents** for a list of valid documents.

1<sup>st</sup> Generation (Applicant) – A Birth Certificate copy is required for the applicant. The birth certificate must show the name (mother or father) of whose line is being used to establish direct lineage to a qualifying ancestor.

2<sup>nd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Generation – For each generation, identify the one specific individual and the document(s) used to prove the lineage from generation to generation. These individuals must match up to the individuals as listed on Page 2 of the application.

Submit only photocopies of the documents identified in this section as originals cannot be returned. For males, only one supporting document is needed to show the relationship from generation to generation. For females, two documents are needed to prove the relationship to their parents and to prove their marriage to a specific spouse. **WHENEVER POSSIBLE, ONLY SUBMIT ONE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT PER GENERATION WITH YOUR APPLICATION.** Below is an example of a completed section.

<u>1st Generation (Applicant)</u> Steven Joseph Manis, Sr. - Birth Certificate
<u>2nd Generation</u> Marie Virginia Marsalis - Birth Certificate and Marriage License
<u>3rd Generation</u> Ruth McPeters - Obituary (detailed, with family)
<u>4th Generation</u> William Jack McPeters - Marriage Certificate and Death Certificate
<u>5th Generation</u> John Andrews McPeters - 1880 Census Record and Marriage Certificate
<u>6th Generation</u> Sarah Jane Nichols - 1850 Census Record and Marriage License
<u>7th Generation</u> John Nichols - Marriage License and Mexican Land Grant
<u>8th Generation</u>
<u>9th Generation</u>
<u>10th Generation</u>

### Applicant Signature and Notary

The applicant must sign and date Page 4 of the applicant. **The applicant's signature must be notarized.**

For Junior Membership Applications, the child should sign their application if able. Otherwise, the person submitting the application should sign the child's name for them.

Once the application is completed, signed, and notarized; send a copy of the application along with copies of the primary documents identified on Page 4, and a check for the appropriate application amount to the SRT Headquarters. See bottom of Page 1 for the address.

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## Locating Primary and Supporting Documents

This section identifies types of primary and additional supporting documents that can be used to prove direct lineage to a qualifying ancestor. This section also provides information on where to find primary documents and how to search for them. For questions regarding primary and supporting documents, contact the SRT Historian General or a member of a local SRT Chapter for assistance.

**NOTE:** Information obtained from Find a Grave or from family trees on genealogy websites (such as Ancestry, My Heritage, Family Search, etc.) are not valid for primary documents to prove your direct lineage to your qualifying ancestor. They can be used as additional supporting documentation.

When making copies of primary documents, be sure to include the source of the document. For example, if using a census document, the year and county information related to the census information must be included.

## Types of Valid Primary Documents

### County Vital Statistics

Vital statistics (such as birth, death, and marriage) records were not required in Texas until 1903. These records can be used to prove parent to child relationships and where and when an event took place (such as the birth of a child or parent or a marriage). Many of these records are available online. However, you may need to contact or visit County Courthouses and physically look through their books to find and obtain copies of the records.

### Church and Family Bible Records

Local churches generally kept detailed records on when members joined their congregation and the births, christenings, confirmations, deaths, and marriages within their congregation. These are useful when searching for information prior to 1903. Many of these have been digitized and are available online through one of the genealogy websites. However, you may need to directly contact churches in a specific area for information from their records.

Family Bible records may also be used to show relationships between parent and child or marriages and event locations. They are particularly useful if they contain specific dates for births, christenings, confirmations, marriages, or deaths. Some of these Bible records are available online through several of the genealogy websites.

### Republic of Texas and County Public Records

Republic of Texas records (such as land grants and land donations, along with Mexican Land Grants) can be used to establish that an individual was a resident of the Republic. County public records include tax rolls, voter records, wills, probate records, deeds, and land records. These records can be used to establish parent to child relationships (wills or probate records) and that an individual was a resident of a certain county at a specific time. Many of these are available online. However, many records have not been digitized and/or indexed so they will not show up online in a general search. You may need to contact or visit County Courthouses and physically look through their books to find and obtain copies of the records.

### Federal Census Records

Federal census records are available beginning from 1850. From 1820 to 1840, the census only lists the head of household. Beginning in 1850, every individual in the household was listed by name. These records can be used to establish parent to child relationships, where an individual resided during the census year, and where they were born. For example, on the 1850 census, if a child is listed as seven years old and born in Texas, this proves the family resided in the Republic of Texas. The 1890 census was destroyed by fire and is not available. All existing census records are available online. However, note that some names may vary greatly in their spelling from census to census.

### Published Reference Books

Information contained in published reference books may be used as primary documents. Family genealogy books cannot be used. You will need to provide the Title, author, publisher, published date, and page information along with a copy of the page or pages containing your ancestor's information. These references can be used to

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establish parent to child relationships and the location of events such as birth, marriage, death, and land ownership.

## **Military Records**

Muster Rolls or Military Pension records can be used to prove that an individual was in the service of the Republic of Texas. Many of these can be found online using websites such as Ancestry.com or Fold3.com.

## **Newspaper Obituaries**

Newspaper obituaries may be used if the deceased's parents and/or children are named. Obituaries may also provide additional information that can be used to establish relationships and/or location of events. Many of these can be found online using websites such as Ancestry.com or Newspapers.com.

## **Sources for Locating Primary Documents**

You can use several online genealogy sites to locate and print copies of documents needed to prove your lineage back to your qualifying ancestor. Some are paid subscription sites, and some are free. If you sign up for a library card at Clayton Genealogy Library in Houston, you can access some of the paid subscription sites for free through the library's website. You can apply for a library card online as well.

## **Ancestry (Ancestry.com)**

You can access many vital statistic, church records, county public records, and federal census records that have been digitized and indexed through this paid online subscription site. This site also contains additional documents that have been added by family members such as death certificates, birth certificates, etc.

1. Use the **Search** option in the main toolbar at the top of the Ancestry Home Page.
2. Enter as much information as possible about a person to begin a search. Add or remove information in the search criteria as necessary to expand or narrow the results returned.
3. Select "United States" for the Collection Focus option to limit the search to United States records.

Tips for Searching:

- To narrow your search, estimate birth dates using information found in the census or other records.
- Narrow your search for marriage records by looking at the age and birthplace of the first child. This information can also be found in census records.
- Court records like wills can help you estimate death dates and establish parent to child relationships.

## **Family Search (FamilySearch.com)**

This is a free online genealogy site through the Mormon Church with access to many of the same records as Ancestry.com. However, through Family Search you can also access additional records and books that have been digitized but not indexed for searching. So, you must look through the digitized pages to search for information for your ancestor. Some available records can be accessed through your home computer, but some records must be accessed from a Family History Center site. These are generally located at one of the LDS Churches and are free for use by the public. The Family History Center sites also provide free access to other genealogy sites such as Ancestry, My Heritage, Newspapers.com, and Fold3.

## **Indexed Search**

Records must have been digitized and indexed for the information to show up in a search for an individual. Many records have not been indexed and will not appear in a general search for an individual. A search performed using the main Search option will generally only return records that have been indexed.

## **Catalog Search**

Some records have been digitized but not indexed so you must look through each page of the records to locate ones for a specific individual. Using the Catalog option under the Main Toolbar Search, you can enter a place (such as Austin County, Texas) and search for all records that may be available related to that place. You can then review these records to possibly locate information on an ancestor. Some of these microfilm records can

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only be viewed at a Family History Center. Catalog Searches can also be performed using Surnames, Authors, Titles, Keywords, and Subjects.

**Texas General Land Office ([glo.texas.gov](http://glo.texas.gov))** – This website contains early Texas land records including Mexican Land Grants that can be used to establish an ancestor's early presence in the Republic of Texas. Land records after 1846 and up to the 1880's may still contain awarded land grants given for service during the Texas Revolution. To search for records:

1. Select **History** in the brown banner.
2. Select **Land Grant Search** in the left column.
3. Under **Original Grantee**, enter the last name, first name of person you are looking for. Example: Last, First (There must be a space after the comma and prior to the First Name.)
4. Locate your ancestor's name under the **Grantee** column. Select the **File Number** on the left to view the document.

## Clayton Genealogy Library and other local libraries

The Clayton Genealogy Library is one of the top genealogy libraries in the nation. In addition to their numerous books, they provide free access to several of the paid subscription sites such as Ancestry or My Heritage. You can apply for a library card online and then access most of their services from your home computer. Their website is [houstonlibrary.org](http://houstonlibrary.org)

From the Library's Home page, select the Research Tab on the main Toolbar. Then select the Genealogy option or the Newspapers option to display the various sources available through the library.

## County Courthouses

Many records contained in County Courthouses have not been digitized; and therefore, are not available online. You may need to visit certain County Courthouses (or other locations where their old records are housed – check before you go) and physically look through each of their books of hand-written records. Do not trust indexes in the front of some books to be complete. It is better to look through each page of the book in your search for information on a specific person.

## Texas State Library and Archives Commission

You can access Republic of Texas claim records through the Texas State Library website. These records can be used to prove an individual was in the service of the Republic of Texas or resided there during the Republic timeframe. This is a free site and digitized images of the claim documents are available. The website is:

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/repclaims/>

**Any documentation deemed not necessary for proof of lineage (War of 1812, Civil War, Canary Islanders, etc.) will be discarded. Only documentation pertaining to direct lineage from the Republic of Texas years to present is required. Please do not Staple your applications.**