

THE SENECA NATION OF INDIANS

12837 Route 438
Cattaraugus Territory, Seneca Nation
Irving, NY 14081
Phone (716) 532-4900
Fax (716) 532-9132

90 Ohi:yo' Way, PO Box 231 Allegany Territory, Seneca Nation Salamanca, NY 14779 Phone (716) 945-1790 Fax (716) 945-0150

GENEALOGY RESEARCH INFORMATION

<u>Definition of an Enrolled Seneca</u>: Rooted with tradition, enrollment is based on the matrilineal line of descent and not by any degree of Seneca blood. In order for a person to be enrolled with the Seneca Nation, their mother and every mother on the mother's side must have been an enrolled Seneca.

The earliest records on file with the Seneca Nation, relating to census data, date back as early as 1858. The method of collection at the time was a door to door effort and only included Seneca's that physically resided on the Reservation. Due to this type of collection, the individual (s) that you are searching for will not be in our census if they had not resided on the Reservation at some point in their lifetime.

Genealogical inquiries are classified as Historical Research because in some cases the research is used to determine enrollment eligibility. Therefore, the Seneca Nation of Indians Clerks' Office feels that a \$50.00 research fee is reasonable and warranted due to the difficult and time consuming nature of deciphering aging records.

The Seneca Nation Clerks' Office operates with limited staff and receives a high volume of genealogy research requests. It takes time to thoroughly research, complete, and respond to each request. While this office feels that it is important to respond to each inquiry, the time consuming nature of this work can be overwhelming since our early records are not computerized and research is a manual process which includes our staff researching page by page.

The third page of this packet has an excerpt from the Seneca Nation Council resolution regarding enrollment and benefit eligibility. The fourth page is contact information for the remaining tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy. Please remember our research is only applicable to the Seneca's of the Allegany, Cattaraugus and Oil Springs Territories which are governed by the Seneca Nation. We are often confused with the Tonawanda Band of Seneca's which are an entirely separate entity from our Tribe. If you believe that your research could lead back to a Seneca from the Tonawanda Band, please contact their office. That address and number is included on page four of this packet.

In the event that an inquiry should result in the applicant being eligible for enrollment, the research fee will be returned due to genealogy research service being free to enrolled members of the Seneca Nation.

Please refer to the following when preparing your request:

- ✓ Neatly print your request on the family tree form provided. If your request is unreadable, we will not be able to begin research.
- ✓ When submitting pertinent documentation, please *do not* submit originals. All copies must be legible.
- ✓ Briefly state what your request is if you are looking for specifics.
- ✓ Include all pertinent information that you can think of, including birth and death dates if known. List any known maiden names and names of children. If enrollment is the main focus of your search, names of all known matrilineal relatives would be the most helpful. If our research results in eligibility for enrollment, you must be able to provide original documentation which links you to the individual (s) that we have found to be listed as an enrolled Seneca in the census books.
- ✓ Return the family tree form along with copies of your documentation. Please do not return the remainder of the packet; you may keep it for your records.
- ✓ Personal checks and cash will not be accepted as payment. Please send a money order payable to: Seneca Nation Clerks' Office, P.O. Box 231, Salamanca, New York 14779.

GENEALOGY APPLICATION GRAPH

Please complete this form to the best of your ability and submit with your enrollment packet

		Grandmother**:	Gr. Grandmother**	Gr. Grandfather
LEGEND		Grandmother .	Maiden:	AKA:
DOB : Date of Birth		Maiden:	DOB:	DOB:
POB: Place of Birth		DOB:	POB:	POB:
DOD : Date of Death	Mother**	POB:	DOD:	DOD:
TRIBE : If Enrolled		DOD:	Tribe:	Tribe:
** Must be an Enrolled	Maiden:	Tribe:		
Member of the Seneca	DOB:			
Nation of Indians	POB:	Grandfather:		
	DOD:		Gr. Grandmother	Gr. Grandfather
	Tribe:	AKA:		
		DOB:	Maiden:	AKA:
		POB:	DOB:	DOB:
Applicant/Self:		DOD:	POB:	POB:
		Tribe:	DOD:	DOD:
Maiden Name/AKA:			Tribe:	Tribe:
				•
DOB:			Gr. Grandmother:	Gr. Grandfather
POB:		Grandmother:		
Tribe:			Maiden:	AKA:
Siblings:		Maiden:	DOB:	DOB:
	Father:	DOB:	POB:	POB:
		POB:	DOD:	DOD:
	AKA:	DOD:	Tribe:	Tribe:
	DOB:	Tribe:		•
	POB:			
	DOD:	Grandfather:		
	Tribe:		Gr. Grandmother:	Gr. Grandfather
		AKA:		
Applicant's Address:		DOB:	Maiden:	AKA:
		POB:	DOB:	DOB:
		DOD:	POB:	POB:
		Tribe:	DOD:	DOD:
Revised 11/27/13		•	Tribe:	Tribe:

ENROLLMENT ORDINANCE

(As amended, January 14th 2017)

- WHEREAS, the Seneca Nation for generations has enrolled persons as members of the Nation who satisfy various requirements established pursuant to Nation custom; and
- WHEREAS, the Seneca Nation consistently has maintained its Nation membership roll in accordance with such requirements, which roll has been accepted by the Secretary of the Interior; and
- WHEREAS, in the past, annuities have been distributed and per capita payments made by the Seneca Nation on the basis of the then current Nation membership roll; and
- WHEREAS, in connection with the distribution of Indian Claims Commission judgments, it is desirable to codify the heretofore unwritten Nation custom relating to the maintenance of the Nation membership roll.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that enrollment in the Seneca Nation, as it has in the past, henceforth shall be governed by the following rules:

- 1. In conformity with the Nation custom of matrilineal descent, only a person whose mother is herself a member of the Seneca Nation, or a person whose mother was a member of the Seneca Nation at the time of his or her birth, shall be eligible to enroll.
- 2. Eligibility to enroll shall not be conditioned on any blood quantum requirement nor upon reservation residence.
- 3. No person shall be eligible for enrollment as a member of the Seneca Nation of Indians if that person is already an enrolled member of any tribe, nation, band or other indigenous peoples group which has:
 - a. Received federal recognition by the United States Government, or
 - b. Otherwise received recognized by a state government within the United States, or other indigenous group whether or not such tribe, band, nation or other indigenous group has received any "recognized" status from any State, the United States, or by the provincial or federal governments in Canada, or elsewhere.
- 4. Any person who has withdrawn from the Seneca Nation roll will not be eligible to re-enroll.
- 5. Unless otherwise authorized by the Council of the Seneca Nation, eligibility to share in benefits distributed to members of the Nation shall be based upon the date a person enrolls as a member of the Nation, and not as of date of birth.
- 6. The burden of enrolling as a member of the Seneca Nation rests solely upon those persons who, on the basis of Nation custom, are eligible to become members of the Nation, or their parents or guardians, and the Seneca Nation has no obligation to seek out and enroll such person.
- 7. For the purposes of certainty and uniformity, the base roll of membership in the Seneca Nation shall be the roll used on August 31, 1964 for the per capita distribution, as corrected and supplemented to date of this ordinance.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS Eastern Regional Office 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700 Nashville, TN 37212 (615) 564-6500 EASTERN CHEROKEE AGENCY Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 441, North Cherokee, NC 28719 (828) 497-9131

NYS FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

CAYUGA INDIAN NATION

Representative: Clint Halftown P.O. Box 803 Seneca Falls, NY 13148 (315) 568-0750 Phone (315) 568-0752 Fax Cayuganation-nsn.gov

SENECA NATION

President: Matthew Pagels 12837 Route 438 Irving, NY 14081 (716) 532-4900 Phone (716) 532-6272 Fax Sni.org

TONAWANDA BAND OF SENECAS

Representative: Roger Hill 7027 Meadville Rd. Basom, NY 14013 (716) 542-4244 Phone (716) 542-4008 Fax

ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

412 State Route 37 Akwesasne, NY 13655 (518) 358-2272 Phone (518) 358-4519 Fax

ONEIDA INDIAN NATION

Representative: Ray Halbritter 2037 Dream Catcher Plaza Oneida, NY 13421 1-800-685-6115 (315) 829-8958 Fax Oneidaindiannation.com

ONONDAGA INDIAN NATION

Representative: Irving Powless, Jr. P.O. Box 319-B 3951 Route 11 Nedrow, NY 13120 (315) 492-1922 Phone (315) 469-4717 Fax Onondaganation.org

TUSCARORA INDIAN NATION

Representative: Leo Henry 2006 Mt. Hope Rd. Lewiston, NY 14092 (716) 601-4737 Phone (716) 297-7355 Fax