



# SENECA NATION CLERK'S OFFICE

12837 Route 438  
Cattaraugus Territory  
Irving, NY 14081  
Phone: (716) 532-4900

Clerk  
Lenith K. Waterman

90 Ohi:yo' Way  
Allegany Territory  
Salamanca, NY 14779  
Phone: (716) 945-1790

## GENEALOGY RESEARCH REQUEST

**Definition of an Enrolled Seneca:** Rooted within tradition, enrollment is based on the matrilineal line of descent and not by any degree of Seneca blood, aka blood quantum. 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. Please refer to the Enrollment Ordinance regarding enrollment and benefit eligibility on Page 3.

The earliest records on file with the Seneca Nation relating to census data date back as early as 1879. The method of collection at the time was a door-to-door effort and only included Senecas that physically resided on the Territory. Due to this type of collection, the individual(s) that you are searching for will not be in our census if they did not reside on a Reservation at some point in their lifetime.

The Seneca Nation Clerk's Office operates with limited staff and receives a high volume of genealogical 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 involves researching page by page. We may utilize other reliable tools or resources to assist in the research; however, our records are the main source of information. The turnaround time to complete a request varies.

Genealogical inquiries are classified as Historical Research because in some cases the research is used to determine enrollment eligibility. If our research results in eligibility for enrollment, you must be able to provide original documentation with your Enrollment Application which links you to the individual(s) we have found to be listed as Enrolled Seneca. Enrollment is an entirely different application process.

On the second page is a checklist of helpful instructions and contact information for the remaining Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. **PLEASE NOTE: WE CAN ONLY RESEARCH SENECA LINEAGE, NOT ANY OTHER TRIBE OR NATION.** Also remember our resources are only applicable to the Seneca of the Allegany, Cattaraugus and Oil Spring Territories, which are governed by the Seneca Nation. We are often confused with the Tonawanda Band of Senecas which are an entirely separate entity from our Nation. If you believe your research could lead back to a Seneca from the Tonawanda Band, please contact their office.

The Seneca Nation Clerk's Office feels that a **NON-REFUNDABLE \$100.00 research fee for non-enrolled individuals** is reasonable and warranted due to the difficult and time-consuming nature of deciphering aging records. The fee for Enrolled Senecas wishing for us to trace their lineage is **\$25.00**, or they are allowed to conduct their own research in-office at no cost, by appointment only.

**Please read this packet carefully and understand the process entirely before deciding to send payment.** If you have any questions, please call the Clerk's Office and ask for the Genealogist.

**Please refer to the following when filling out the request form:**

- ✓ Neatly fill out the request and family tree forms provided. If the information is unreadable, it will not be accepted.
- ✓ Briefly state the reason for your request if you are looking for specific information not related to enrollment or personal family history.
- ✓ Include all pertinent information you can think of, such as, birth and death dates/places, maiden names or other names used, names of children, siblings, aunt/uncles, locations of residences, schools, burial sites, etc. Any memories of people or places you may have could also be helpful.
- ✓ When submitting supporting documentation for research, originals are not necessary. Make sure all copies are legible.
- ✓ Return the request form, family tree chart, and any supporting documentation. Please do not return the remainder of the packet; you may keep it for your records.
- ✓ Enrolled members conducting their own research must call the office to set up an appointment.
- ✓ If paying with check or money order please make payable to: Seneca Nation Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 231, Salamanca, New York 14779. If paying with credit/debit card, please call the office to make the transaction.

**NON-REFUNDABLE Enrolled Member Research Fee: \$25.00**

**NON-REFUNDABLE Non-Enrolled Member Research Fee: \$100.00**

**OTHER NATION CONTACTS WITHIN THE HAUDENOSAUNEE CONFEDERACY**

**Oneida Nation**

2037 Dream Catcher Plaza  
Oneida, NY 13421  
Toll Free # 1-800-685-6115  
Oneidaindiannation.com

**Onondaga Nation**

Attn: Genealogy Request  
P.O. Box 85, Route 11A  
Nedrow, NY 13120  
Onondaganation.org

**Cayuga Nation**

P.O. Box 803  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
(315)568-0750  
Cayuganation-nsn.gov

**Tonawanda Band of Senecas**

7027 Meadville Rd.  
Basom, NY 14013  
(716)542-4244

**St. Regis Mohawks**

412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
(518)358-2272  
srmt-nsn.gov

**Six Nations of the Grand River**

1695 Chiefswood Rd.  
P.O. Box 5000  
Ohsweken, Ontario N0A 1M0  
(519)445-2201  
sixnations.ca

**Tuscarora Nation**

5226 Walmore Rd.  
Lewiston, NY 14092  
(716)264-6007 x110  
tuscaroranation.org

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 people's 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.

Introduced at Council on December 15, 1973  
Adopted by Council at a Regular Session held on February 9, 1974  
Amended August 14, 2004, March 12, 2016 & January 14, 2017



## GENEALOGY GRAPH

Please complete this form to the best of your ability and submit with your genealogy request/enrollment packet.

(Use additional paper if necessary)

LEGEND	
DOB:	Date of Birth
POB:	Place of Birth
DOD:	Date of Death
NATION:	If Enrolled
**Must be an Enrolled Member of the Seneca Nation	

Enrollment #:	
Self:	
Maiden Name/AKA	

DOB:	
POB:	
Nation:	
Siblings:	

DOB:	
POB:	
Nation:	
Siblings:	

Address & Contact #:


Revised 1/22/2026

**Mother		**Grandmother		**Gr. Grandmother		Gr. Grandfather	
Maiden:		Maiden:		Maiden:		AKA:	
DOB:		DOB:		DOB:		DOB:	
POB:		POB:		POB:		POB:	
DOD:		DOD:		DOD:		DOD:	
DOB:		DOB:		Nation:		Nation:	
POB:		Nation:					
DOD:		Grandfather:					
Nation:		AKA:					
Siblings:		DOB:					
		DOB:					
		DOD:					
		Nation:					

Father:		Grandmother:		Gr. Grandmother:		Gr. Grandfather	
Maiden:		Maiden:		Maiden:		AKA:	
DOB:		DOB:		DOB:		DOB:	
POB:		POB:		POB:		POB:	
DOD:		DOD:		DOD:		DOD:	
DOB:		DOB:		Nation:		Nation:	
POB:		Nation:					
DOD:		Grandfather:					
Nation:		AKA:					
Siblings:		DOB:					
		DOB:					
		DOD:					
		Nation:					

Gr. Grandmother:		Gr. Grandfather:	
Maiden:		Maiden:	
DOB:		DOB:	
POB:		POB:	
DOD:		DOD:	
DOB:		Nation:	
POB:			
DOD:			
Nation:			
Siblings:			

Gr. Grandmother:		Gr. Grandfather:	
Maiden:		Maiden:	
DOB:		DOB:	
POB:		POB:	
DOD:		DOD:	
DOB:		Nation:	
POB:			
DOD:			
Nation:			
Siblings:			