



SENECA NATION OF INDIANS

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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. 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 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 includes 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.

Genealogical inquiries are classified as Historical Research because in some cases the research is used to determine enrollment eligibility. Therefore, the Seneca Nation Clerk's Office feels that a **\$100.00 research fee for non-enrolled applicants** is reasonable and warranted due to the difficult and time-consuming nature of deciphering aging records. The fee for Enrolled Senecas wishing to trace their lineage is **\$25.00**.

On the second page of this packet, you'll find the Enrollment Ordinance passed by Seneca Nation Council regarding enrollment and benefit eligibility. On the third page is a checklist and contact information for the remaining Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Please 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 that your research could lead back to a Seneca from the Tonawanda Band, please contact their office.

If the research results in the applicant being eligible for enrollment, **\$75.00** of the paid fee will be returned in view of the fact that the research fee for Enrolled Senecas is \$25.00.

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

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 other than 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.
- ✓ If enrollment is the main focus of your search, names of all matrilineal relatives are the most important. 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.
- ✓ Return the request form, family tree form, and any supporting documentation only. Please do not return the remainder of the packet; you may keep it for your records.
- ✓ We accept all forms of payment. If paying with check or money order please make payable to: Seneca Nation of Indians Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 231, Salamanca, New York 14779.
Enrolled Applicant Fee: \$25.00
Non-Enrolled Applicant 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

Cayuga Nation

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

St. Regis Mohawks

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

Tuscarora Nation

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

Onondaga Nation

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

Tonawanda Band of Senecas

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

Six Nations of the Grand River

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

GENEALOGY REQUEST

☐ ENROLLED

☐ NON-ENROLLED

☐ DEPARTMENT

Applicant Name: _____

Enrollment # (if known): _____

DOB: _____

Phone #: _____

EMAIL: _____

Staff Name: _____

Department: _____

Supervisor: _____

Phone/Ext.: _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE OF REQUEST: _____

REASON FOR REQUEST: ___ Enrollment ___ Personal Family History ___ Other, please explain:

SUBJECT OF SEARCH: _____

___ Enrolled ___ Non-Enrolled ___ Unknown

Enrollment # (if known): _____

ADDITIONAL INFO: *Please include as much information as possible to help with research. See page 3 for examples.*

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Payment Rec'd: ___/___/___ Initials: _____

Receipt # _____ Amt. _____

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ CC
_____ # _____

Eligible for Enrollment: ___ YES ___ NO \$75 Fee Returned: ___/___/___ Ck# _____

Date Completed: ___/___/___ Initials: _____

Applicant rec'd via:

Mail date: ___/___/___

In-Person p/u: ___/___/___

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

Applicant/Self:
Maiden Name/AKA
DOB:
POB:
Nation:
Siblings:

Applicant's Address & Contact #:

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

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