# THE SENECA NATION OF INDIANS

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

***PRESIDENT***
*Maurice John, Sr.*

***TREASURER***
*Todd Gates*

***CLERK***
*Pauline John*

90 Ohi:yo' Way
P.O. Box 231
Allegany Territory
Seneca Nation
Salamanca 14779
Phone (716) 945-1790
Fax (716) 945-0150


## GENEALOGY RESEARCH INFORMATION

**Definition of an Enrolled Seneca:** 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 Tribal 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 of Indians. 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 in view of the fact that genealogy research service is 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. Make sure all copies are 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 payable to: Seneca Nation of Indians Clerks' Office, P.O. Box 231, Salamanca, New York 14779.

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

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

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

Tonawanda Band of Seneca's
7027 Meadville Rd.
Basom, NY 14013
(716) 542-4244

St. Regis Mohawks
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655
(518) 358-2272

Six Nation of the Grand River
1695 Chiefswood Rd.
P.O. Box 5000
Ohsweken, Ontario N0A 1M0
(519) 445-2201

Tuscarora Indian Nation
2006 Mt. Hope Rd.
Lewiston, NY 14092
(716) 622-7061

# Seneca Nation of Indians Council Resolution

Whereas, the Seneca Nation for generations has enrolled persons as member of the Nation who satisfy various requirements established pursuant to tribal custom; and

Whereas, the Seneca Nation consistently has maintained its tribal 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 current tribal membership roll; and

Whereas, in connection with the distribution of Indian Claims Commission Judgments, it is desirable to codify the heretofore unwritten tribal custom relating to the maintenance of the tribal membership roll;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the enrollment in the Seneca Nation, as it has in the past, henceforth shall be governed by the following rules:

1. In conformity with the tribal custom of matrilineal descent, only a person whose mother is herself a member of the Seneca Nation shall be eligible to enroll.
2. Eligibility to enroll shall not be conditioned on any blood quantum requirement, nor upon reservation residence.
3. No personal shall be eligible for enrollment as a 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 recognition from the State Government within the United States, or
    c. Otherwise been acknowledged by the Seneca Nation of Indians as a tribe, band, nation 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. 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 and not as of date of birth.
5. The burden of enrolling as a member of the Seneca Nation rests solely upon those persons who, on the basis of tribal 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 persons.
6. For purpose 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.

# GENEALOGY APPLICATION GRAPH

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

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

| Applicant/Self: |
|---|
| Maiden Name/AKA |
| DOB: |
| POB: |
| Tribe: |

**Siblings:**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

**Applicant's Address:**

_____

_____

_____

_____

| Mother** |
|---|
| Maiden: |
| DOB: |
| POB: |
| DOD: |
| Tribe: |

| Father: |
|---|
| AKA: |
| DOB: |
| POB: |
| DOD: |
| Tribe: |

| Grandmother**: |
|---|
| Maiden: |
| DOB: |
| POB: |
| DOD: |
| Tribe: |

| Grandfather: |
|---|
| AKA: |
| DOB: |
| POB: |
| DOD: |
| Tribe: |

| Grandmother: |
|---|
| Maiden: |
| DOB: |
| POB: |
| DOD: |
| Tribe: |

| Grandfather: |
|---|
| AKA: |
| DOB: |
| POB: |
| DOD: |
| Tribe: |

| Gr. Grandmother** | Gr. Grandfather |
|---|---|
| Maiden: | AKA: |
| DOB: | DOB: |
| POB: | POB: |
| DOD: | DOD: |
| Tribe: | Tribe: |

| Gr. Grandmother | Gr. Grandfather |
|---|---|
| Maiden: | AKA: |
| DOB: | DOB: |
| POB: | POB: |
| DOD: | DOD: |
| Tribe: | Tribe: |

| Gr. Grandmother: | Gr. Grandfather |
|---|---|
| Maiden: | AKA: |
| DOB: | DOB: |
| POB: | POB: |
| DOD: | DOD: |
| Tribe: | Tribe: |

| Gr. Grandmother: | Gr. Grandfather |
|---|---|
| Maiden: | AKA: |
| DOB: | DOB: |
| POB: | POB: |
| DOD: | DOD: |
| Tribe: | Tribe: |