



MTGS Messenger
Vol. 22, No. 4
July 2026
Shannon Yeatman, Editor



Tracing Your Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestors: Proving Lineage When Records Are Incomplete

One of the biggest challenges in Revolutionary War genealogy is proving a family connection when direct records no longer exist. Courthouse fires, lost family Bibles, and incomplete military files can make research difficult, but not impossible.

Start by building a documented timeline using census records, tax lists, probate records, land deeds, and wills. Cluster research—studying neighbors, witnesses, and relatives—can reveal family relationships when direct evidence is missing. Pension applications often include affidavits from family members or neighbors that help establish identity. If no military service record survives, look for indirect evidence such as county militia rosters, land grants, or applications submitted by widows or descendants.

The Genealogical Proof Standard reminds researchers to gather multiple sources before reaching a conclusion. Even when no single document proves lineage, several pieces of evidence together may provide convincing proof.

Research Resources:

- National Archives and Records Administration
- DAR Library Patriot Index



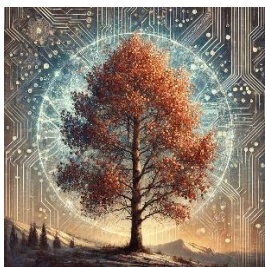
The Upper Cumberland Family History and Genealogy Festival

The Upper Cumberland Family History & Genealogy Festival happens in **Historic Granville, Tennessee, on Saturday, July 25, 2026**. The event runs from **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. It is the biggest genealogy festival in the area. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

The festival expands across four main venues in town. [[1](#)]

- **Speakers:** Held at the Granville United Methodist Church and Granville Presbyterian Church.
- **Exhibits and Research:** Located at the Granville Event Center and the Artisans Workshop and Gallery.
- **Cost:** Admission is **\$7** for adults, **\$5** for ages 6-12.

Find the full schedule and plan your visit on the [Granville, TN Website](#).



Using AI to write family histories.

Artificial intelligence is quickly becoming a valuable companion for family historians, offering tools that make the research and writing process more efficient and more enjoyable. Whether you're sorting through decades of records or trying to shape scattered notes into a compelling narrative, AI can help you organize information, spot patterns, and even suggest historical context you may not have considered. By feeding an AI tool details such as names, dates, locations, and family anecdotes, you can receive draft summaries, timelines, or story frameworks that transform raw data into readable, engaging material.

Beyond organization, AI can also enhance the storytelling side of genealogy. Many people struggle to turn factual discoveries into narratives that capture the personality and lived experiences of their ancestors. AI can help bridge that gap by proposing narrative structures, offering stylistic suggestions, and generating sample paragraphs that you can refine with your own voice. It won't replace the heart and insight of a dedicated researcher, but it can act as a

creative partner—helping you craft family histories that are not only accurate but also vivid, warm, and memorable for future generations.

Resources for AI

ChatGPT

Microsoft Copilot

Claude