Kilby Family Endowed Scholarship

Application Guide for Proof of Descendancy

Purpose and requirements for genealogical proof

The main requirement for the scholarship application is to document your ancestry from a person enslaved by John Kilby of Culpeper County, Virginia (1710–1772), or by his lineal descendants who were enslavers. You can also qualify if you have an ancestor enslaved by a different family in Culpeper, Rappahannock, and Madison counties, Virginia.

You must gather and submit documented evidence of your lineal descendancy. Researching and documenting a family line from you back to an enslaved ancestor can be challenging. Suppose you descend from one of the already documented family lines. In that case, you only need to prove relationship to someone already known to descend from an enslaved individual, for example, a grandparent.

This Guide will help you gather and submit documentary evidence required for your scholarship application. Research help may be available for unusual cases; however, it is your responsibility to answer the application question about lineage and obtain appropriate documentation.

Available existing research on persons enslaved by Kilbys

The first step is to ask a parent, grandparent, aunt, or uncle if they are related to the Kilby family. Then look at these existing genealogical resources to see if you can find a connection:

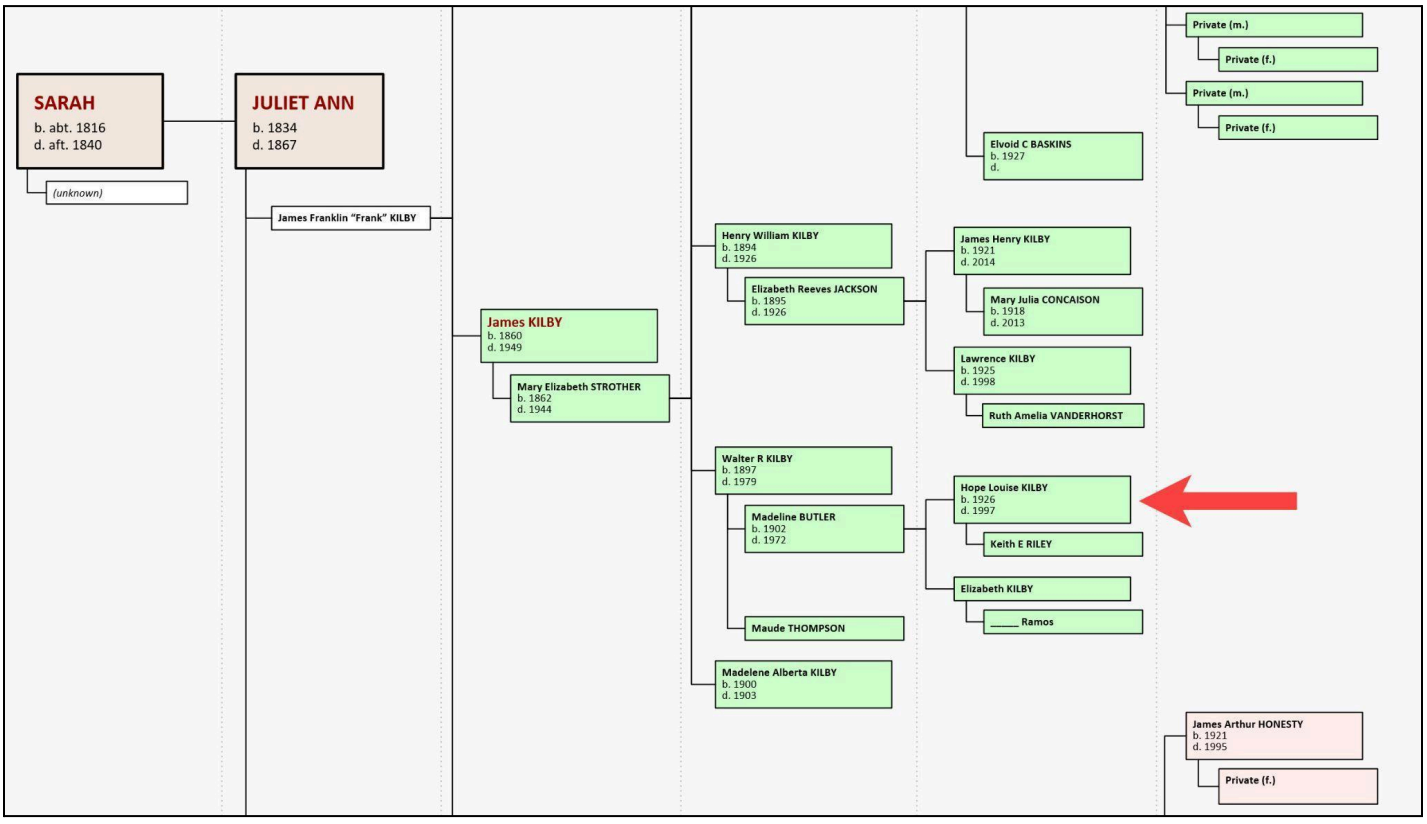
- https://www.kilbyfamily.com/tree.htm or https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N6Bo7cZz94b6_NCu_Ri2ezCl9NYmgvGd
- https://www.kilbyfamily.com/kilbys_pre_1865.htm or https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qQsWU31VAnt9XDTNt2_AJKPNumqSWugV
- https://www.wikitree.com/apps/Kilby-859#name=Kilby-859&view=descendants
- https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/90641851/family/familyview (Check with your local library about free access to Ancestry.com.)

These family trees are researched and well-documented. Talk to older relatives; they may see the connection that you don't. **1. If you relate to a recent lineal descendant on one of these family lines, you only need to provide evidence, through birth certificates, about how you relate to them, nothing further. 2. However, if you descend from an undocumented Kilby family line, you must provide other proof of your lineal descent (see "When research is incomplete" below.**

Tying yourself into a family tree

Most family trees found online protect the privacy of living people by hiding their names and personal information. It is up to you to find your connection to your ancestral line.

EXAMPLE: Let's say your name is Douglas Warner. Your mother is Alexis Warner, whose maiden name was Riley, and your maternal grandmother was Hope Louise Riley. Hope's maiden name was Kilby, and she is found on a tree of a listed website.

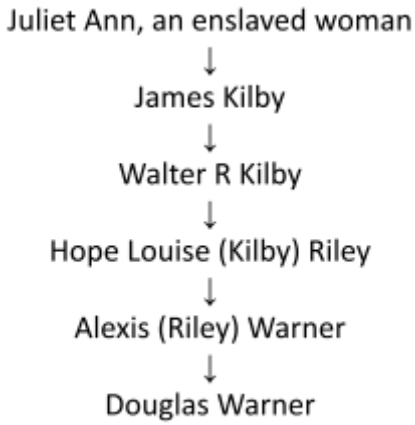


For the scholarship application, you can write a description or draw a chart to describe your descent.

Write a description of lineal descendancy

> "I am the son of Alexis (Riley) Warner, daughter of Hope Louise (Kilby) Riley. Grandma Riley was the daughter of Walter R Kilby, son of James Kilby, son of my third-great-grandmother Juliet Ann, who was enslaved in Culpeper County, Virginia, by Malinda Kilby."

Or create a descendancy diagram



Gather supplemental documents

You must include sufficient documentary evidence to support your claim of descendancy. Typically, this means a copy of your birth certificate and birth certificate for the parent that connects you to someone on a documented tree, such as the ones linked above. In some instances, you may need to provide a grandparent's birth certificate if they do not appear on the tree, but your great-grandparent does.

In our fictitious example, that would mean a copy of Douglas's birth certificate showing he was a son of Alexis *and* a copy of Alexis's birth certificate showing she was a daughter of Hope Louise. That would be sufficient because Hope Louise Kilby is already documented as a lineal descendant.

If you recognize a family line as yours on a documented tree and the last person on that line is marked private (because they are living), contact Tim Kilby (email address below) to determine if additional documentation would be needed.

If you do not already have birth certificates—ask your parent!—you can obtain copies from your state health department, archive, or department of motor vehicles, depending on your state. **Plan and order certificate(s) in time to meet the scholarship application submission deadline.**

Other forms of documentation—marriage certificates or family Bibles, for example—may be accepted *if* they denote parent/child relations and provide proof of lineal descent.

When research is incomplete

Suppose you are a descendant of someone enslaved by John Kilby or his lineal descendants not already documented in the existing genealogical resources linked above. In that case, you must supply evidence of every step in your lineal descent. Proven descendants of persons enslaved in Culpeper, Rappahannock, and Madison counties other than Kilbys may also apply for scholarships. The same documentation requirements apply.

Sound genealogical research meeting the Board of Certified Genealogists (BGS) Genealogical Proof Standard (see https://acommongrace.org/genealogy/) must document each generation from the person enslaved down to you.

While you and your family are expected to do most of the research, there are individuals, historical societies, and volunteer groups (like Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness at https://raogk.org/) who are willing to help.

If you need assistance providing proof of descendancy, you may contact Tim Kilby at kilbygenealogy@kilbyfamily.com.