

Researching & Verifying Mayflower Ancestry

Class 2: Applying to the Mayflower Society

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The Mayflower Society is a lineage society whose members have proven direct descent from one or more *Mayflower* passengers. The Society is dedicated to research and education about the *Mayflower's* 1620 journey, her passengers, and their descendants.

Members of the Mayflower Society join both the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD), and one of 54 Member Societies.

STEPS TO MAYFLOWER SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

1. **Identify your Direct Lineage** from one of 51 Mayflower passengers who are known to have left descendants (Class 1 of this series)
2. **Complete a Mayflower Lineage Match**
 - a. GSMD Researchers compare your proposed lineage to ALL of our previously approved lineages, using the Silver Books and our database of membership applications.
 - b. Sign up on our website for \$75:
<https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/mlm-landing-page/>
 - c. Results will be emailed to you and the Mayflower Member Society where you live.
3. **Contact a Member Society**
 - a. Choose one of our 54 Member Societies through which to join. There is no location-based requirement.
 - b. Contact information for each Member Society is on our website:
<https://themayflowersociety.org/about/contact-your-member-society/>
 - c. Fill out their Preliminary Application, and let them know you completed a Mayflower Lineage Match.
4. **Prepare your Application and Documentation**
 - a. A Member Society Historian will help you fill out a Membership Application Worksheet.
 - b. They will also advise you on which documentation you must provide.
 - c. See more on documenting your Mayflower lineage in Classes 3 and 4 of this series.
5. **Submit Application to GSMD**
 - a. A Member Society Historian will submit your application to GSMD on your behalf.
 - b. Your application is reviewed by the Genealogical Verification Team at GSMD's international headquarters, in Plymouth, Mass.
6. **Membership Approved!!!**
 - a. You will receive notice of approval from a Member Society Historian, and they will provide you with your Membership Certificate.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How much does it cost to join?** Fees are set by each Member Society, and vary accordingly (see attached table):

Application Fees - \$150 to \$400

Annual Dues - \$35 to \$150

- **When are the Application Fees due?** Application Fees are paid directly to the Member Society, and the time at which they require payment varies. Most often, payment is expected either when the application process is initiated or when the application is submitted to GSMD.
- **Will the Member Society Historian do research for me?** The Member Society Historians are there to assist in your application process, but will not perform the research for you. If you would like someone to do that, contact our Research Services department (<https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/research-services/>) or that of American Ancestors: <https://www.americanancestors.org/expert-help/which-service>
- **It has been a couple of weeks, why have a not heard back from the Member Society?** Most of the Member Society Historians are volunteers, please be patient waiting for their response.

MAYFLOWER SOCIETY DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- Documentation must be provided that proves the events and relationships within and between each generation of a Mayflower lineage.
- In most cases, the first five generations of a lineage are proven in our *Mayflower Families* books series (Silver Books).
- Each generation in a lineage that is not proven in the Silver Books must be proven with other evidence.
- All available vital records (birth, marriage, and death) should be obtained for each event in a lineage that is not proven in the Silver Books.
- If a vital record is not available for an event that occurred in a time and place where a record is expected to exist, the applicant must provide proof that the record was sought and not found. This proof usually takes the form of a “No Record Found” letter from the state, county, or town clerk from whom the vital record was requested.
- In the absence of a vital record, other evidence must be provided as proof of the event and/or relationship. Examples of documentation that may be used as proof include wills, church records, gravestone photos, family Bibles, and censuses.
- Well-cited compiled sources, such as family histories, genealogies, and town or county histories may be accepted as additional evidence on a case-by-case basis.

- Please, note: Oftentimes, previously approved applications (prior to 1 January 2016) need additional evidence to re-prove the lineage. This is because past applicants were not always required to submit thorough documentation of their lineage. Standards of genealogical proof have become more rigorous over the years, as have those of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD).

MAYFLOWER PASSENGERS WHO LEFT KNOWN DESCENDANTS

Bold indicates a Mayflower Families “Silver Book” named after this passenger. To purchase a Silver Book, go to <https://themayflowersociety.org/product-category/mayflower-families-silver-books/>

John Alden

Isaac Allerton

Mary (Norris) Allerton

Bartholomew Allerton

Mary Allerton

Remember Allerton

John Billington

Elinor Billington

Francis Billington

William Bradford

William Brewster

Mary Brewster

Love Brewster

Peter Browne

James Chilton

Mrs. James Chilton

Mary Chilton

Francis Cooke

John Cooke

Edward Doty

Francis Eaton

Samuel Eaton

Sarah Eaton

Moses Fletcher

Edward Fuller

Mrs. Edward Fuller

Samuel Fuller (son of Edward)

Samuel Fuller

Stephen Hopkins

Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins

Giles Hopkins

Constance Hopkins

John Howland

Richard More

William Mullins

Priscilla Mullins

Degory Priest

Thomas Rogers

Joseph Rogers

Henry Samson

George Soule

Myles Standish

John Tilley

Joan (Hurst) Tilley

Elizabeth Tilley

Richard Warren

William White

Susanna (Jackson) White

Peregrine White

Resolved White

Edward Winslow

For more information on member benefits, how to join, and Mayflower genealogy, visit our website:

<https://themayflowersociety.org/>