







What is the Mayflower Society?



- ❖ Lineage society whose members have proven direct descent from one or more Mayflower passengers
- ❖ Over 30,000 Active Members
- ❖ Over 106,000 Members accepted since 1897
- ❖ Dedicated to research & education about the Mayflower's 1620 journey, her passengers, and their descendants

History of the Mayflower Society

1894 New York **1896** Conn., Mass., Penn. General Society **1897** **2020** Australia **2024** 54 Member Societies



General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD)

- ❖ International headquarters in Plymouth, Mass.
- ❖ Governed by Executive Committee & Member Society Representatives
- ❖ Membership in both GSMD & Member Society



Class 2: Researching & Verifying Mayflower Ancestry

Why should you join?

- ❖ Professional verification of research
 - ❖ Preservation of family history
 - ❖ Organized trips to Pilgrim sites
 - ❖ Scholarships
 - ❖ Mayflower Quarterly Magazine
 - ❖ GSMD Research Center Library
 - ❖ Members-only merchandise
 - ❖ GSMD & Member Society events
- ❖ Discounts!
 - Plymouth-area attractions
 - GSMD Research Services
 - American Ancestors membership
 - Mayflower Descendant



How to Apply

- ❖ 54 Member Societies
- ❖ Application prepared by Member Society Historian
- ❖ Submitted to GSMD for approval

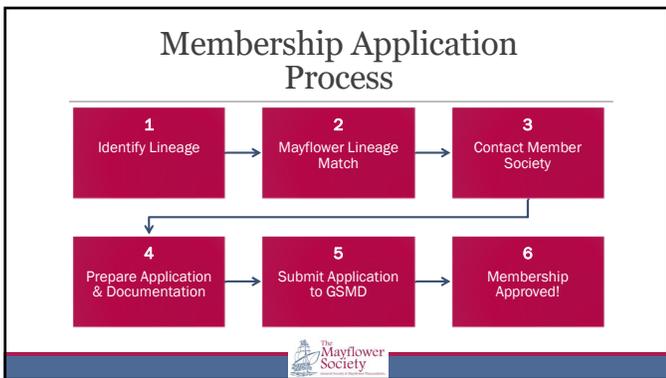


How much does it cost to join?

- ❖ Fees set by Member Societies
- ❖ Fees paid to Member Societies
- ❖ Due dates vary by Member Society
- ❖ Application Fees: \$150 to \$400
- ❖ Annual Dues: \$35 to \$150









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IDENTIFY YOUR LINEAGE

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Choose a Mayflower Member Society

- ◆ 54 Member Societies
 - 50 States
 - Washington, D.C.
 - Canada
 - Europe
 - Australia







Contact a Member Society

1. Find contact info. on GSMD website
2. Email Member Society Contact OR visit Member Society website
3. Fill out Preliminary Application form
4. Share Mayflower Lineage Match results



GSMD Member Societies

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is made up of 54 Member Societies representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Member Societies are volunteer organizations that were authorized and granted a Charter by the General Board of Assistants (GBDA).

Each Member Society has its own Constitution and Bylaws and elects its own officers: Governor, Assistant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, Elder, Counselor, Captain, Surgeon. Additionally, Member Societies set their own dues and fees. Those applying to become a member of The Mayflower Society must apply for membership through a Member Society.

- Australia
- Society Website
- Contact Governor Mark Chavakis
- All Societies Facebook
- Gift Great Culture Facebook

- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Australia

Things to Remember

- ◆ Most Member Society Historians are volunteers
- ◆ Application Fees and Membership Dues vary
- ◆ Payment due dates vary
- ◆ Member Society Historians facilitate, but DO NOT research
- ◆ Member Society Historians are liaisons to GSMD




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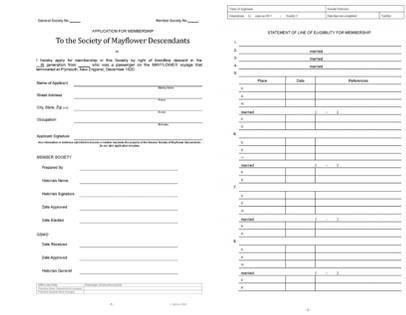
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PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION & DOCUMENTATION

Application Worksheet

- ✦ Generation 1: Mayflower Passenger
- ✦ Line Carrier
- ✦ Non-Line Carrier
- ✦ Birth, Marriage, & Death

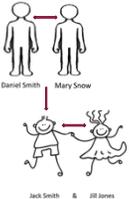




What do you need to prove?

PROVE THE EVENTS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN AND BETWEEN EACH GENERATION

- ✦ Line Carrier's connection to parents
- ✦ Line Carrier's connection to Non-Line Carrier
- ✦ "Proof of Same"
- ✦ Places & Dates of Vital Events





Is this generation already documented?

- ❖ No need to repeat research that has already been completed!
- ❖ Previously approved applications can contain helpful documents
- ❖ Member Society Historian will cite these documents on your application



Previously Approved is NOT the same as Previously Proven

- ❖ Previously approved lineages often need additional documentation
- ❖ Standards of proof for GSMD membership have changed
- ❖ Member Society Historian will advise on which generations need additional documentation

QUESTIONS?



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PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION & DOCUMENTATION

What do you need to document?

WHAT IS ALREADY DOCUMENTED

- First 5+ generations cite Silver Books
- Additional generations may cite documentation with a previously approved application

YOU MAY NEED TO PROVIDE

- Documentation to update previously approved generations
- Documentation to prove each generation not previously approved by GSMD



Documentation Requirements

- ❖ All available vital records
- ❖ Letter of no record found
- ❖ If a vital record is not available:
 - Wills & Probates, Church Records, Military Records, Family Bibles, Censuses, Gravestone Photos, Land Records, etc.
 - Well-cited, published family histories, genealogies, or local histories



Documentation Examples

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTED SOURCES

- ❖ Digitized images of original documents
- ❖ Photocopies of original documents
- ❖ Gravestone photographs
- ❖ Massachusetts vital record books by NEHGS
- ❖ Connecticut Barbour Collection
- ❖ Scholarly journals

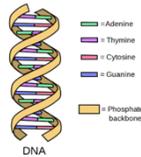
EXAMPLES OF SOURCES NOT ACCEPTED

- ❖ Indexes
- ❖ Find A Grave biographies
- ❖ Other lineage society applications
- ❖ Mayflower Births & Deaths books
- ❖ Family group sheets/pedigree charts
- ❖ Unsourced family genealogies/histories



Proof Arguments & DNA Evidence

- ❖ When direct evidence cannot be found to prove a relationship, a Proof Argument may be submitted.
- ❖ DNA evidence may be used as part of a Proof Argument to help prove one generational connection.
- ❖ All Proof Arguments must show that exhaustive research has been conducted.



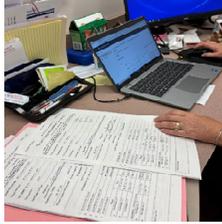
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SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION



Almost There....

- ❖ Proofreading
- ❖ Final Payment
- ❖ Submission to GSMD



Verification of Application by GSMD

- ❖ Review of lineage & documentation by Genealogical Verification Team
- ❖ Member Society Historian informed if additional documentation needed
- ❖ Official approval of application by Historian General
- ❖ Member Society Historian informed of application approval



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MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL



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GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

In the name of GOD Amen
 We whose names are underwritten do by virtue of these presents solemnly and mutually declare that
 First Middle Last
 having to our satisfaction proven descent from—
 First Last
 who was a passenger on V good ship MAYFLOWER, when for the glory of GOD she made her first voyage to America Anno Domini 1620, he has been cross a member of V General Society of Mayflower Descendants
 In Witness Whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Plymouth in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ye day of Month Anno Domini 1111

Lyal Spencer General Council *Allen John Cole* Witness Council
 Date Subscribed: Month 10-2018 Year Number 1111

The Mayflower Society
General Society of Mayflower Descendants

Congratulations on your new membership!

Now that you are a member, you can....

- File a Supplemental lineage
- Volunteer
- Attend GSMD & Member Society events
- Tour the Mayflower Society House
- Use the GSMD Research Center Library for free
- & much more!

The Mayflower Society
General Society of Mayflower Descendants

GSMD Resources

- Research Services
- Research Center Library
- Mayflower Genealogy Webinars
- Detailed Guide to Silver Books

www.themayflowersociety.org

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