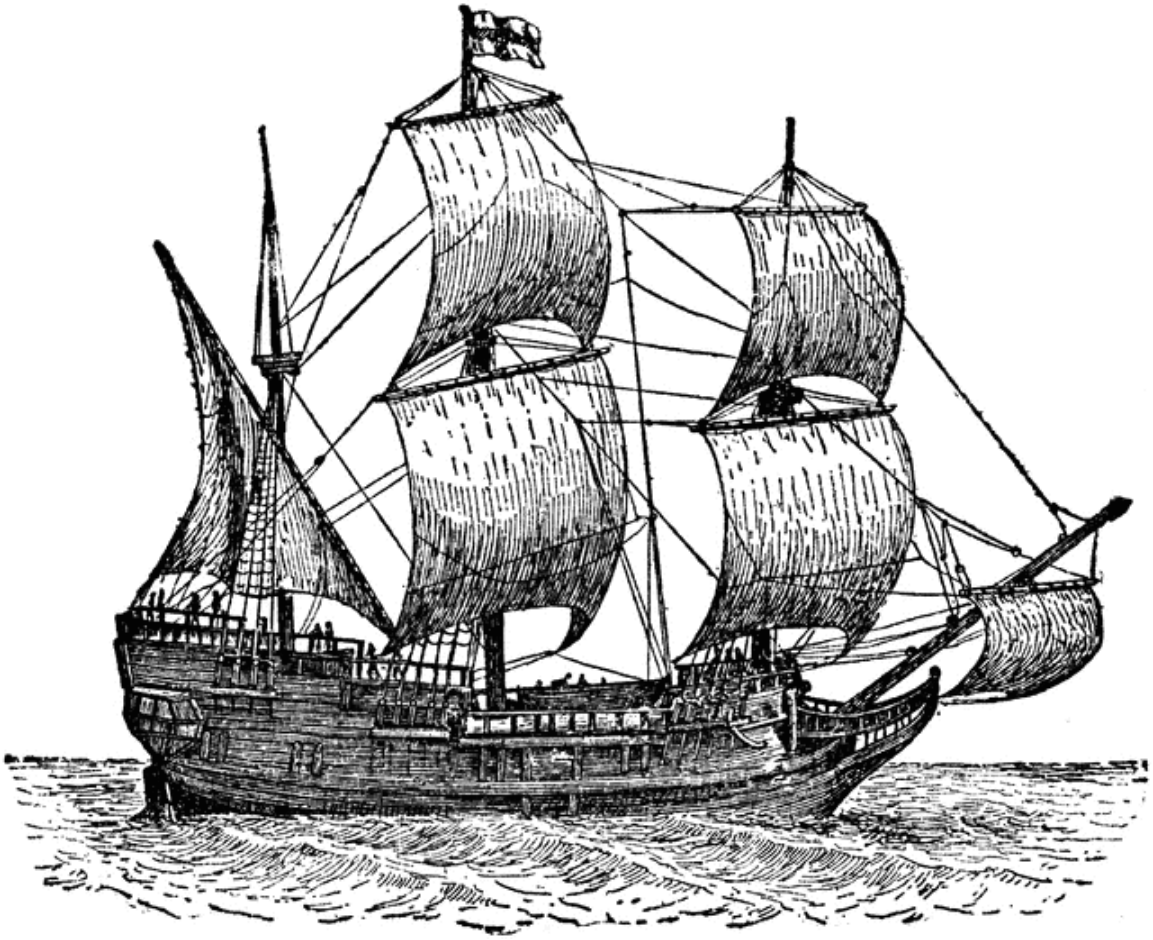
# SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

(A GUIDE FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS)

**2025 EDITION**



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**MAYFLOWER APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR NEW APPLICATIONS:**

**WELCOME!** Thank you for your interest in membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida (FSMD). Founded in 1897, The Mayflower Society, or GSMD, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to education and lineage research on the journey of the Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower in 1620 and their lineal descent. The Society provides education and understanding of why the Pilgrims were important, how they shaped western civilization, and what their 1620 voyage means today. Applications for membership in GSMD and FSMD are based on an individual's ability to prove his/her direct ancestral lineage for each generation from a Mayflower Passenger(s). This can be challenging at times, but the State Historian and/or the State Co-Historian will assist in completing the application. **They are unpaid volunteers!**

*INTRODUCTORY NOTE: This document provides guidance and instructions for the Florida Mayflower Society application process. The applicant will be required to provide sufficient primary and/or secondary sources for their lineage for each generation. The first five generations are documented by the Mayflower Society. A most important first step is to obtain copies of birth certificates (B/C), long-form marriage certificates (M/C) with parents, and death certificates (D/C) (as appropriate) for applicant's generation (including spouse), and parents' generation and grandparent's generation (including multiple spouses). Completion of the application is based on information provided by the applicant.*

**COLONIES IN FLORIDA:**

Florida is regionally organized into 17 Colonies. Membership in a Colony is generally based on member location to the Colony, not the name of their Pilgrim. See Figure 1 map below for the closest Colony. Generally, members affiliate with the colony closest to their home. The names of colonies are ceremonial and are not limited to descendants of the named colony.

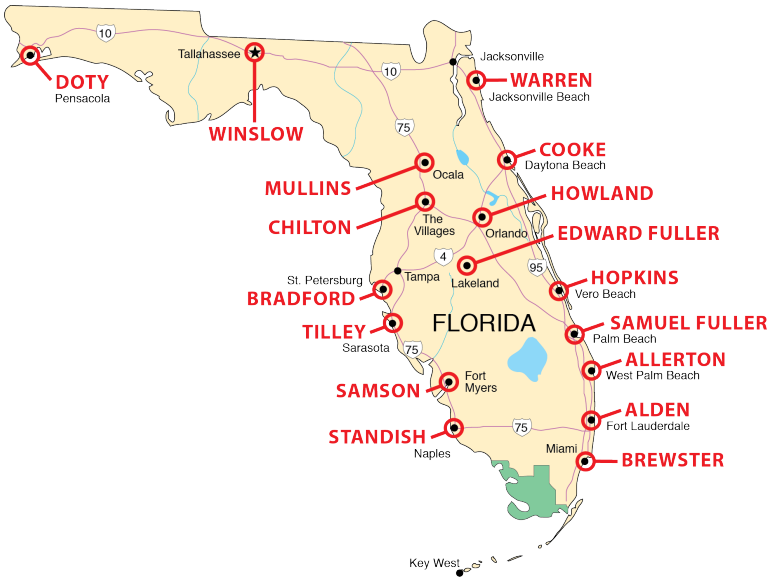



Figure 1: Florida Colonies

Local Colony contact information can be obtained by visiting the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida website at: http://www.flmayflower.com/colonies/

General information about membership may be viewed for the national society here: https://www.themayflowersociety.org/join

Information about membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida may be viewed here: http://www.flmayflower.com/howtojoin/

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Any person able to document their **direct descent** from one or more of the following Mayflower passengers may apply to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants:

John Alden
Bartholomew Allerton
Isaac Allerton
Mary (Norris) Allerton
Mary Allerton
Remember Allerton
Elinor Billington
Francis Billington
John Billington
William Bradford
Love Brewster
Mary ( ) Brewster
William 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
Samuel Fuller (Edward's son)
Constance Hopkins
Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins
Giles Hopkins
Stephen Hopkins
John Howland
Richard More
Priscilla Mullins
William Mullins
Degory Priest
Joseph Rogers
Thomas Rogers
Henry Samson
George Soule
Myles Standish
Elizabeth Tilley
John Tilley
Joan (Hurst) Tilley
Richard Warren
Peregrine White
Resolved White
Susanna (Jackson) White
William White
Edward Winslow

**THE APPLICATION PROCESS:**

It is assumed that applicants have done some degree of preliminary genealogical research and have found a connection within their family tree to a known Mayflower Passenger. Collecting and providing the documentation necessary to prove each generation's connection will be the key to completing a successful application. There are three methods of starting the application process. Applicant may begin with any or all of the following:

1. SEEK "BEST MATCH" ASSISTANCE FROM GSMD: Contact the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and complete the Mayflower Lineage Match (MLM) form here: https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/explore-your-roots/mayflower-lineage-match/ . GSMD's lineage report will explain if the proposed line can be pursued for membership and whether there was a previously approved application for the proposed line, which can be used to complete some of the required documentation. This method is recommended but considered optional since GSMD charges a $75 fee for this service. This is NOT an application fee! This is a separate service provided soley by GSMD. If the line review is valid, GSMD sends a copy to the Florida State Historian, who then contacts the applicant's appropriate State Co-Historian. However, to begin the actual application process in Florida, applicants must first pay an application fee of $40.00* made payable to FSMD (Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida).

2. FAMILY MEMBER ALREADY IN THE SOCIETY: Use a recently approved GSMD application (within the last six years) from an immediate family member (parent, sibling, child, first cousin) for the same Mayflower Passenger proposed for membership. First, contact the State Historian to determine the nearest Colony to join. Next, send the State Historian/State Co-Historian a copy of the family member's approved application and a completed Mayflower Lineage Match Form complete with contact information and lineage along with a $40.00* FSMD application fee made payable to FSMD to initiate the actual application process. *PLEASE NOTE: just because a lineage was approved in the past,* ***does not mean that it will be approved today without additional sources.*** *Why? References for some of the sources cited may not be present in the file. Today's standards are higher and may require that such sources be supplied. Many older applications have no documents with them at all due to limited or no copying resources available at the time the original application was submitted. It may also be necessary to update recently approved lineages, by providing documentation for events that have occurred since the lineage was originally submitted, replacing missing documentation, or providing additional sources to strengthen weak generations.*

3. APPROACH A LOCAL COLONY: The applicant contacts a local Colony expressing an interest in applying for membership. The Colony contacts the State Historian and/or the State Co-Historian, who then initiates the application process and serves as the prospective member's primary point of contact for the Colony.

   First, fill out a Proposed Mayflower Lineage form (PLM) which is available from the State Historian or any State Co-Historian. Complete the form with contact information and lineage and send it to the State Historian/State Co-Historian to perform a preliminary check. The State Historian/State Co-Historian will inform the applicant if the line can be pursued and request a $40.00* FSMD application fee made payable to FSMD to initiate the actual application process. After receipt of payment, the State Historian/State Co-Historian will contact GSMD, located in Plymouth, MA, to see if there were any recently approved Mayflower applications on applicant's proposed Mayflower line. If such an approved application exists, it can save time and be used to complete some of the required documentation. However, in many cases no prior line has been proven leaving the task to the applicant to provide sufficient references to prove the lineage with the guidance of the State Historian/State Co-Historian.

*Regardless of the method chosen -- once the lineage has been preliminarily determined to be valid and the application fee paid, the application process is initiated. The applicant fee is non-refundable and is valid for 24-month period. The State Historian/State Co-Historian prepares the application and sends a working copy to the prospective member as a guide.

*IMPORTANT NOTES:*

- *The application process is a collaborative effort between the applicant and the State Historian/State Co-Historian to establish a clear connection to a Mayflower passenger.*
- *Genealogical research by the State Historian and/or a State Co-Historian is not routinely provided to applicants. However, as time allows, they do help applicants find resources/records that may be available on-line or at the local library's genealogy section.*
- *Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the applicant to find and provide all vital records related to the last three generations, as outlined below. Any vital records available for earlier generations should also be provided by the applicant.*

**DOCUMENTATION FOR MAYFLOWER APPLICATION AND PROVIDING TO EITHER THE STATE HISTORIAN OR A STATE CO-HISTORIAN:**

*IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT DOCUMENTS PROVIDED IN SUPPORT OF MAYFLOWER APPLICATIONS:*

- *Do not mark or highlight the documents. (digital or paper)*
- *Provide legible, full-page high-resolution digital images or copier copies of documents.*
- ***Do not send originals**.*
- *Do not send blurry cell phone photos with folds, little stop hands, or cursor pointers in the photo.*
- *Do not send screen shots of documents or records.*
- *Applications are digitally submitted. Please consult with State Historian/State Co-Historian to see if they would consider accepting paper copies, if you are unable to download and supply digital images.*
- *Provide documents in .jpg (preferred) or .pdf format as alternate format.*

**ALL Applications require full documentation for each person in the last three generations.** This includes the applicant, applicant's spouse, applicant's parents, applicant's direct line grandparents, and multiple spouses. These documents are typically found within local city or county Vital Records Offices, [Clerk of Courts], where the event occurred. Reminder: if the event took place after 1900, or the event is listed on an index, or the state vital records chart (Exhibit 1) indicates that a vital record is available, the Mayflower Society expects the vital record to be obtained.

***Last Three Generations:***
*Supply clear high-resolution digital images or copier copies of vital records - NOT originals* of the following.

- Long-form government issued birth certificate showing birth date, birthplace, and parents' names. *NOTE: Hospital birth certificates or baptismal certificates cannot be used.*
- Spouses' long-form government birth certificate(s) showing birth date, birthplace, and parents' names. This includes multiple marriage spouses. NOTE: *Hospital birth certificates or baptismal certificates cannot be used.*
- Long-form government issued marriage certificate showing marriage date, marriage place, and parents' names for each couple including multiple marriages. If the marriage certificate does not list parents, check to see if the marriage license does. *NOTE: Church marriage certificates cannot be used.*
- Marriage dissolution document, as appropriate, for any marriages in event of divorce or annulment.
- Long-form government issued death certificate, as appropriate, showing death date, death place, parents, and possibly spouse.

NOTE FOR GRANDPARENTS: If there are difficulties obtaining some of these vital records, please contact the State Historian/State Co-Historian assigned for further assistance and advice about obtaining substitute secondary records.

***Earlier generations:***

Documentation proving connections between each generation from applicant's grandparents back to generation 5 or 6 from the Mayflower passenger will be required. The further back an applicant goes, the more difficult it becomes to find primary vital records. If applicants have copies of birth, death or marriage certificates for these earlier generations, please provide them. In addition, Family Bible information, birth and marriage announcements, obituaries and cemetery records are helpful. If a published family genealogy exists, provide high-resolution digital images or copier copies of the relevant pages for ancestors listed, and include a copy of the title/copyright pages of the published source with publication date.

Generally, birth, marriage and death certificates may be obtained by contacting the state, city/town, or the County Clerk of the County where the birth, marriage or death took place. Request genealogical records, as they are less expensive than certified records. Also, some birth and marriage records may be available via the state instead of the town or county. This varies from state to state. See the attached Start Dates for Recording of State Vital Records (Exhibit 1) for a summary of dates when vital records were required in each state. IMPORTANT: If the life event (birth, marriage or death) occurred at a location after the date when vital records became available at the state level (Exhibit 1) – applicants should obtain that vital record.

It is a good idea to contact local counties or towns/cities for vital records first as some local governments started collecting records before the state mandated time. In the event the record is not found, obtain a letter or email from the government records agency that states the record for the individual could not be found. Please provide any "letter of no record found" the supporting documentation. It proves to GSMD that an attempt was made to obtain the vital record.

*IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT VITAL RECORDS:*

*In reviewing other applications, we have noted that some states provide certified vital records for a birth, marriage or death based on a computer-generated certificate generated from indexes of records. These are generally costlier and don't provide the level of detail that a photocopy of a full record provides. Where possible, ask for a genealogical copy of a long-form birth, death or marriage certificate. These are often less expensive than the computer-generated documents and, in most cases, are copies of the actual records, which may include signatures or other valuable family information.*

**WHERE TO FIND VITAL RECORDS:**

The internet contains many resources to assist with genealogical research. Use caution when searching the Internet, as some sites are better than others and not all genealogical information portrayed on the Internet is accurate. Below are some of the online sources that may prove useful in collecting information to prove Mayflower lineage.

**http://vitalrec.com** is a website that includes links to each state's vital records office. Note that this is a commercial site that also offers to obtain vital records at a premium price. It is often less expensive to contact the state or local agency directly and request genealogical photocopies of vital records. It is NOT necessary to pay a premium price for certified copies! Just order one

genealogical copy and make additional copies as needed. Use this site as a convenient starting point for finding vital records.

For birth records: http://vitalrec.com/birthcertificates/
Scroll down to the bottom of the page for each state.

For death records: http://vitalrec.com/deathrecords/
Scroll down to the bottom of the page for each state.

For marriage records: http://vitalrec.com/marriagelicenses/
Scroll down to the bottom of the page for each state.

***Suggestion:*** Unless they do not provide vital records, it is sometimes better to contact the local records custodian (town/city or county) first before going to the state. Local record custodians are usually more responsive to genealogical record requests. Typically, local records are the responsibility of the County Clerk's office, or in the case of some states in the northeast, the Town or City Clerk. Go to the county or town website to search for vital records. As noted above, when requesting documents ask for a genealogical copy of the record as a photocopy of the original certificate. Copies of the original certificates often contain additional valuable family information, including signatures, place of residence, occupation and etc.

NOTE: Please contact the State Historian/State Co-Historian for further assistance and advice about obtaining vital records. Each state has different regulations, restrictions and procedures.

Usually, generations 6-10 in applications are the toughest to document. Where possible, vital records, family genealogies, census data, and other sources are used to help document Mayflower lines. Success in finding these records is often location-based as some towns, counties, and states have much better records than others. In some cases, a vital record may not exist because the locality normally responsible for the record did not start keeping records until after the period being searched. In other cases, records have been destroyed by fire or other disasters. Generally, the local clerks or records custodians can advise which documents are available by a date range. Church records are also helpful, as secondary sources, if civil or governmental records are not available. Photos of gravestones and cemetery indexes/inventories are also helpful sources to support birth, death and marriage information.

Here is a list of primary and secondary documents that can be used to help prove Mayflower lineage:

***Primary Records*:**

1) A birth certificate (B/C) which names parents, or a baptismal certificate (Bap/R) which gives the date/place of birth and parents' names as well as the baptismal information.

2) A long-form death certificate (D/C) that gives names of parents and birth information as well as death information.

3) Town Vital Records (birth, marriage and death).

4) A long-form marriage certificate (M/C) or marriage license (M/L) that gives birth information and parents' names.

5) A bloodline will or probate records administration that names a son or daughter. These sources may also provide supporting documentation of marriage.

6) A census record that shows a child living in the parent's household, with relationship, if given. If no relationship is shown, at least two census records showing the child with the parents should be submitted. Census records should be used sparingly, limiting them to the first and/or second time an individual appears with their parents. To complete a Mayflower application, there is no need to document an individual's entire life in every census record they appeared. Some states performed their own censuses, which may be useful, as these state censuses were usually taken midway between the Federal censuses.

7) A Bible record that clearly shows a child/parent relationship.

8) A published book or family genealogy that clearly shows a child/parent relationship. "Published" means having a Library of Congress number or other clear evidence of publication. When using a published genealogy, please provide relevant page for ancestors along with a copy of the title and copyright pages that identifies the author, publisher, date published, etc.

9) A deed that names the "heirs at law" selling property.

***Secondary & Other Supporting References:***

1) **Census records**: Cite census year and the State. High-resolution digital images or copier copies of the census pages, with the page heading, showing State, county, town and date must be submitted. ABSTRACTS, Ancestry.com detail pages of the census records, or truncated pages of records are NOT ACCEPTABLE. Include the entire page and an enlargement of the family/person if the whole census page is hard to read. Consult State Historian/State Co-Historian before making copies of census records as it may be easier for the State Co-Historian to download high-resolution digital images of the census records directly from several Internet sources, if you are unable.

2) **Newspaper articles (marriages and obituaries)**: Include the newspaper's name, location, publish date, and page number. NOTE: It is not necessary to submit the entire newspaper page!

3) **Church records**: Cite title, volume and page of published records and provide high-resolution digital images or copier copies of the record. For original records, submit a high-resolution image or copier copy showing the name and location of the Church (preferably on Church stationary) and cite as "Ch/R."

4) **Wills**: Cite County and State, Book/Liber and page, or file number. High-resolution digital images or copier copies must be submitted.

5) **Deeds**: Cite County and State, Book/Liber and page. High-resolution digital images or copier copies must be submitted. Deeds should only be used if they clearly identify the relationship of a parent and offspring.

6) **Gravestone photos**: Hi-resolution digital images or copier copies should be as large as possible, fully legible, and include the cemetery's name and location. NOTE: The family bio info from Find-a-Grave or Billion-Graves websites may **NOT** be used; however, the website may include a gravestone photo that MAY be used for the data engraved on the gravestone; but the name and location of the cemetery must be provided.

7) **Cemetery records**: Should be in published form. High-resolution digital images or copier copies must include title and copy right pages. Many times, cemetery indexes were prepared as a volunteer effort. Check the GenWeb site for the county where the cemetery is located. (See the *Free Resources* section in this guide for more information about the GenWeb program.)

8) **Bible records**: Submit high-resolution digital images or copier copies of all family entries including the title and copyright pages of the Bible. If the Bible cannot be photocopied, LEGIBLE photographs are acceptable. These need not be enlargements if the entries can be read without a magnifying glass. Abstracts will be considered only when the actual Bible record is completely unavailable.

9) **Published books (Genealogies and local histories)**: Submit high-resolution digital images or copier copies of the title page, publication date and all pertinent event pages. Include all pages within the book that are relevant to those ancestors named (including parents) on your lineage back to at least generation 5, if available. Books should have a Library of Congress (LOC) number.

10) **Published articles on families**: The major Quarterly genealogical publications should be consulted and can be used (e.g., New England Historical and Genealogical Register). High-resolution digital images or copier copies of all pertinent information should be submitted and include the publication date.

11) **LDS records**: Use ONLY the filmed copies of original records. Add LDS film number.

12) **Family letters**: If old enough to qualify as "ancient documents," these may be usable for documentation. However, only high-resolution images or copier copies of original, dated and signed letters can be considered.

13) **US Passport Applications and Original Social Security Benefit Applications:** These may be found at Ancestry.com.

NOTE: When using secondary/published sources because primary vital records are not available, ALWAYS submit two different references for the Mayflower line carrier. Generations citing only a single secondary source will be marked "weak," "very weak" and/**or may not be accepted** during GSMD's application review.

***Applications and supporting documentation are submitted digitally. Please make sure your document is completely unfolded and laying flat before scanning or taking a photo. Distorted images of vital records are NOT acceptable!***

**RESOURCES NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR DOCUMENTATION**:

The following are not used as sources to prove Mayflower lineage, but they can often be used as a guide for locating the actual records.

- Mayflower index numbers, indexes, or other organizations' lineage papers.
- Census record detail data sheets.
- Family Group sheets and other un-published compiled data.
- Typescript or computer generated un-published family histories.
- Family tree information obtained from web pages and most Internet sources. Copies of the "IGI."
- Compendiums (e.g. "Virkus") and publications such as "Who's Who" will not be acceptable if the information can be obtained elsewhere.
- Social Security death indexes are also not permitted as a source.
- Government issued birth certificates that lack the parent's names.
- Online transcribed documents, including obituaries – anybody can produce these type documents.

- LDS handwritten index cards that family members have submitted without documentation.

**FILLING OUT THE MAYFLOWER APPLICATION:**

Due to specific formatting requirements that must be followed to assist GSMD in application review, the State Historian/State Co-Historian will fill out the applicant's application. Drafts of the application in progress will periodically be shared with the applicant to coordinate getting necessary documents and correcting errors. The applicant is responsible for providing copies of all supporting documents to the State Historian/State Co-Historian unless otherwise advised. The State Historian/State Co-Historian will fill in the first five to six generations using the Mayflower Families Through Five Generations (Silver Books), Mayflower Families in Progress (Pink Paperbacks), or information from GSMD. It is NOT necessary to obtain information for the first five generations. If there is a helper application (a previously approved application that helps to prove an applicant's lineage) available, the State Historian/State Co-Historian will add that information to the application. However, depending on how old the helper application is, additional documentation may be required to update the line to today's genealogical standards. The State Historian/State Co-Historian can offer suggestions and expertise in locating documentation for later generations. Each application is different and is handled on a case-by-case basis.

Once the application is completed, a copy of a Signature Authorization Form is emailed (or mailed) to applicant for signature (in black ink). The applicant then returns the signed authorization form to the State Historian/State Co-Historian along with any check(s) as noted under Application Fees. Upon receipt of the signed application or authorization form, the State Historian/State Co-Historian will arrange and mark the supporting documents by generation. Then, the application and support documentation is submitted by the State Historian/State Co-Historian to the General Society (GSMD) electronically or via priority mail for final review and approval. The applicant will be notified when their application is submitted. Generally, GSMD's review takes 4 months. GSMD notifies the State Historian/State Co-Historian, who then shares this approval status with the applicant. Shortly thereafter, the applicant will receive their official certificate and copy of their approved, signed application directly from either the State Historian or State Co-Historian. It is important to keep the approved application in a safe place because it will have additional notes added by GSMD reviewers. These notes may require attention should the applicant wish to either submit a supplemental application or have a relative join using the applicant's approved application.

Once approved at the national level, the applicant becomes a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD), the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida (FSMD) as well as their local Colony.

**APPLICATION FEES and MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

The fees paid by applicants at the time of application are:

$40.00 made payable to the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Florida (FSMD) -- Note this application fee is paid at the beginning of the application process and is valid for a 24-month period. If the application is not completed in that time, another $40.00 state fee has to be paid.

$150.00 made payable to the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Florida (FSMD) – Has to be paid *before* the application can be submitted. **This fee reflects the amount currently being charged by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and may be different by the time the application is ready to submit.**

The total application fee is currently (2025) $190.00.

*$54.00 made payable to the Colony being applied to join for annual dues -- *Some Colonies may suggest waiting to submit this fee until application is approved by the General Society (GSMD). This annual fee covers membership in the Colony, FSMD (State) and GSMD (National).

*NOTE: During the application process it is very possible that the applicant, the State Historian, and or the State Co-Historian will discover that the applicant is descended from other Mayflower passengers. If so, supplemental applications can be submitted one at a time at a later date. The process and fees are the same for each passenger, but the applicant will be able to utilize information from their original approved application.*

**FREE RESOURCES TO CONSIDER IN SEARCHING FOR FAMILY RECORDS:**

Today, Mayflower research is aided by public library access to paid genealogical sites such as *Ancestry.com, Fold3 (military records), American Ancestors,* and other paid genealogical sites that patrons of the library may use for free. Applicants are encouraged to use these sites, if they have access, to locate information and documentation for Mayflower ancestors.

**US GenWeb Program**: This is a free service provided by genealogy volunteers throughout the US. The content varies widely from location to location. However, known locations for events (birth, death, marriage) is a good place to seek out information that may lead to good source information. The main portal to this service and be found here: http://www.usgenweb.org Follow the links by state to target county or town. Also, here is a handy short-cut to all the current resources available by state from US GenWeb: http://www.usgwarchives.net

**Cyndi's List:** This is an incredible source that requires some time to learn. It is a portal that provides links to resources from free and paid sites. The main page is located here: http://www.cyndislist.com/us/
There is a useful introduction to the site here: http://www.cyndislist.com/faqs/#part1
The list of categories can be found here: http://www.cyndislist.com/categories/

**Family Search:** Family Search is a free and huge genealogical research site that is operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Like Cyndi's List, learning how to use the site takes some time. The main link to the portal is: https://familysearch.org Registration (free) is required to gain access to the archives. Images of many different original records can be found at this site. A very useful link to the resources and documents is: https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list

**Helm's Genealogy Toolbox**: This is another excellent portal for local records arranged by state then county. http://www.genealogytoolbox.com

**Genealogy Gophers, Internet Archive, Google Books, and HathiTrust:** These four sites are excellent sources for downloadable family genealogies, county histories and other supporting documentation for family tree research. Genealogy Gophers can be accessed at: https://www.gengophers.com/#/ There are over 80,000 genealogy family history books here. The

Internet Archive also has a tremendous collection of books, recordings and other source documents. The main portal is here: https://archive.org A separate link for a subsidiary site to the Internet Archive called Open Library allows users to borrow books, including genealogical sources for free. The link is: https://openlibrary.org Google Books is a wonderful source for older family genealogies that are now in the public domain. The main link is: https://books.google.com In the case of Google Books, a Google account (free) is recommended for full access. Last, the HathiTrust's main link is: https://www.hathitrust.org/?mdetect=no It has a very good collection of genealogical books.

**Find-A-Grave**: As noted in the guide, biographies from Find-A-Grave cannot be used as supporting documentation for Mayflower applications. However, the information is very helpful to check dates and places, siblings etc. Photos of a gravestone may be used to provide documentation of birth, death and possibly confirmation of a marriage. This is secondary to a death certificate, birth certificate or marriage certificate. However, for Generations 7-10, sometimes this is the best resource an applicant may be able to find. Like US GenWeb, Find A Grave is a totally volunteer driven effort so not all graves listed have photos of the stones. The link is: http://www.findagrave.com/

*Please include the cemetery name, location, and Find-A-Grave ID number with the gravestone image.*

**Billions Graves:** Performs in a similar way as Find A Grave can be accessed via Family Search at: https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2026973
Or, the main site is: https://billiongraves.com

# SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

***Florida State Historian:***

Louise Rumnock rummac@yahoo.com (386) 451-5733
*Colonies: William Bradford (Tampa), Richard Warren (Jacksonville), Francis Cooke (Daytona Beach)*

***Five Florida State Co-Historians:***

Kurt Bressner kbressner@gmail.com (561) 436-2328
*Colonies: Edward Fuller (Lakeland), Stephen Hopkins (Vero Beach), John Howland (Orlando), James Chilton (The Villages)*

Debbie Carbia flallertonhist@gmail.com (561) 281-4742
*Colonies: John Alden (Fort Lauderdale), Isaac Allerton (West Palm Beach), William Brewster (Miami), Samuel Fuller (Palm Beach)*

Peter Tavares pgtava@cox.net (850) 377-1908
*Colonies: Edward Doty (Pensacola), Edward Winslow (Tallahassee), William Mullins (Ocala)*

Lois Walsh loisdiane@gmail.com (607) 591-6788
*Colony: Henry Samson (Fort Myers), Elizabeth Tilley (Sarasota)*

Janet Brooks moweaquas@yahoo.com (630) 399-8441
*Colony: Myles Standish Colony (Naples)*

**EXHIBIT 1:**
**Start Dates for Recording of State Vital Records** *(Source: Family Tree Magazine 2002)*

*NOTE: In many cases, local cities, towns, or counties collected vital record information before it was required by the state, so check there first.*

START DATE FOR RECORDING of STATE VITAL RECORDS Exhibit 1

*Before these dates, you must contact the local administrator for vital records or the state archives. Note that some states restrict records for several years after they are first made. These dates are taken from Thomas Jay Kemp, International Vital Records Handbook (Baltimore: GPC, 2000).*

| State | Birth | Death | Marriage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | 1 JAN 1908 | 1 JAN 1908 | 1 JAN 1908 |
| Alaska | 1 JAN 1913 | 1 JAN 1913 | 1 AUG 1936 |
| Arizona | JUL 1903 | JUL 1903 | JUL 1903 |
| Arkansas | 1 FEB 1914 | 1 FEB 1914 | 1 JAN 1917 |
| California | 1 JUL 1905 | 1 JUL 1905 | 1 JUL 1905 |
| Colorado | 1910 | 1900 | kept at county level only |
| Connecticut | 1 JAN 1897 | 1 JAN 1897 | 1 JAN 1897 |
| Delaware | After 1913 all records see: http://archives.delaware.gov/index.shtml | | |
| District of Columbia | 1 JAN 1874 | 1855 | Kept by Superior Court |
| Florida | APR 1865 | AUG 1877 | 6 JUN 1927 |
| Georgia | 1 JAN 1919 | 1 JAN 1919 | 9 JUN 1952 |
| Hawaii | 1853 | 1853 | 1853 |
| Idaho | 1 JUL 1911 | 1 JUL 1911 | 1 MAY 1947 |
| Illinois | 1 JAN 1916 | 1 JAN 1916 | Kept by county only |
| Indiana | OCT 1947 | JAN 1900 | Kept by county only |
| Iowa | 1 JUL 1880 | 1 JUL 1880 | 1 JUL 1880 |
| Kansas | 1 JUL 1911 | 1 JUL 1911 | 1 MAY 1913 |
| Kentucky | 1 JAN 1911 | 1 JAN 1911 | 1 JUN 1958 |
| Louisiana | Past 100 years | Past 50 years | Orleans Parish, past 50 yrs |
| Maine | 1 JAN 1923 | 1 JAN 1923 | 1 JAN 1923 |
| Maryland | 1 AUG 1898 | 1 AUG 1898 | 1 JUN 1951 |
| Massachusetts | 1 JAN 1911 | 1 JAN 1911 | 1 JAN 1911 |
| Michigan | 1867 | 1867 | 1867 |
| Minnesota | 1 JAN 1900 | 1 JAN 1908 | Kept at county level |
| Mississippi | 1 NOV 1912 | 1 NOV 1912 | 1 JAN 1926 |
| Missouri | 1 JAN 1910 | 1 JAN 1910 | 1 JUL 1948 |
| Montana | 1907 | 1907 | 1 JAN 1943 |
| Nebraska | 1904 | 1904 | 1 JAN 1909 |
| Nevada | 1 JUL 1911 | 1 JUL 1911 | Kept at county level |
| New Hampshire | 1640 | 1640 | 1640 |
| New Jersey | JUN 1878 | JUN 1878 | JUN 1878 |
| New Mexico | 1920 | 1920 | Kept at county level |
| New York<br>New York City only | 1881<br>1910 | 1880<br>1949 | 1881<br>1930 |
| North Carolina | 1913 | 1930 | 1962 |
| North Dakota | 1870 | 1870 | 1 JUL 1925 |
| Ohio | 20 DEC 1908 | 1 JAN 1945 | 7 SEP 1949 |
| Oklahoma | OCT 1908 | OCT 1908 | Kept at county level |
| Oregon | JUL 1903 | JUL 1903 | 1906 |
| Pennsylvania | JAN 1906 | JAN 1906 | Kept at county level |
| Rhode Island | 1899 | 1899 | 1949 |
| South Carolina | 1 JAN 1915 | 1 JAN 1915 | 1 JUL 1950 |
| South Dakota | JUL 1905 | JUL 1905 | JUL 1905 |
| Tennessee | 1 JAN 1914 | Past 50 years | Past 50 years |
| Texas | 1 JAN 1903 | 1 JAN 1903 | Kept at county level |
| Utah | 1 JAN 1905 | 1 JAN 1905 | Kept at county level |
| Vermont | 1760 | 1760 | 1760 |
| Virginia | 1853-1896; 1912 | 1853-1896; 1912 | 1853 |
| Washington | 1 JUL 1907 | 1 JUL 1907 | 1 JAN 1968 |
| West Virginia | 1 JAN 1907 | 1 JAN 1907 | 1 JAN 1907 |
| Wisconsin | 1 JAN 1907 | 1 JAN 1907 | 1 JAN 1907 |
| Wyoming | JUL 1909 | JUL 1909 | MAY 1941 |

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