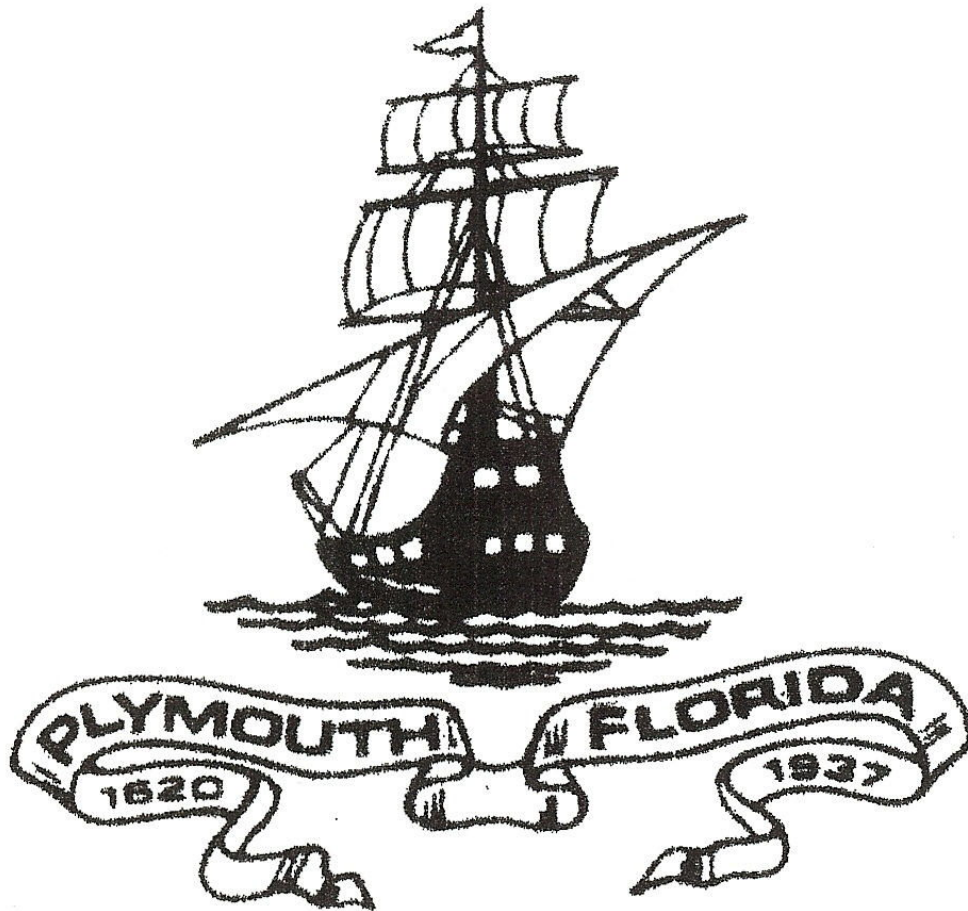


**FLORIDA SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS
APPLICATION PROCEDURES
(A GUIDE FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS)
2017 EDITION**



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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 Florida affiliate, the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants (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 proving your ancestral lineage for each generation back to your Mayflower Passenger(s). This can be challenging at times, but the Colony Historian in your local area or a designated Assistant Historian will assist you with completing your application.

***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 prior generation. The first five generations are well documented in the Society's 'Silver Books' now available for many of the Mayflower passengers. A most important first step is for the applicant to obtain copies of birth certificates (B/C), marriage certificates (M/C) and death certificates (D/C) (as appropriate) for the applicant's generation (including spouse), and the applicant's parents and grandparents generations. Completion of the application is based on information provided by you.*

MAYFLOWER COLONIES IN FLORIDA

Florida is regionally organized into 17 Colonies, each having a Colony Historian who assists applicants with preparing their membership applications. Membership in a Colony is generally based on member location to the Colony, not the name of their Pilgrim. See the map in Figure 1 on the next page for a Colony near you.



Figure 1: Map of Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants Colonies.

You may find your local Colony contact information by visiting the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants website at <http://www.flmayflower.com>

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

Information about membership in the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants may be viewed here: <http://www.flmayflower.com/thesociety.html>

ELIGIBILITY

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

John Alden	Love Brewster	Francis Eaton
Bartholomew Allerton	Mary Brewster	Samuel Eaton
Isaac Allerton	William Brewster	Sarah Eaton
Mary (Norris) Allerton	Peter Browne	Moses Fletcher
Mary Allerton	James Chilton	Edward Fuller
Remember Allerton	Mrs. James Chilton	Mrs. Edward Fuller
Elinor Billington	Mary Chilton	Samuel Fuller
Francis Billington	Francis Cooke	Samuel Fuller (son of Edward)
John Billington	John Cooke	Constance Hopkins
William Bradford	Edward Doty	

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 White
William White
Edward Winslow

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

It is assumed that you have done some degree of preliminary genealogical research and have found a connection within your family tree that goes back to a known Mayflower Passenger. Gathering 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 and you have the option to begin with any or all of the following:

1. FAMILY MEMBER ALREADY IN THE SOCIETY: Use a recently approved GSMD application from an immediate family member for the same Mayflower Passenger you are proposing for membership. Immediate family means, parents, children or first cousin from the line carrier. Please obtain a copy of their approved application and send it to us. Recently means within the last ten years. However, with respect to using approved Mayflower applications from family members, we must include this disclaimer: *As a standard disclaimer, we must call your attention to the fact that even though a lineage was approved in the past, it may not be approved today without additional source documentation. Even though a paper may list references, some of the sources cited may not be present in the file. Standards today require that such sources be provided. Many older applications have no documents with them at all. Often, many of the documents cited were never actually submitted because there were no copy machines available at the time of the original application. It may be necessary to update even more recently approved lineages, providing documents for events that have occurred since the lineage was originally submitted or to make up for missing or weak documentation.*
2. SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM PLYMOUTH FOR BEST FIT LINEAGE THAT MAY BE ON RECORD: Contact the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and fill out their on-line lineage form here: <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/join/preliminary-review-form>. The GSMD lineage report will confirm that your proposed line can be pursued for membership and determine if there already is an approved line to a passenger with some or all of your generations. The lineage report can be used to complete some of the documentation needed. This is recommended, but can be considered an optional approach since there is a \$25 fee in Plymouth for this service.

3. APPROACH YOUR LOCAL COLONY: The applicant contacts their local Colony Historian or Colony Governor expressing an interest in membership. The Colony Governor will send the membership inquiry to the Colony Historian to initiate the process with the prospective member. The Colony Historian or an appointed Assistant Historian will serve as your primary point of contact through your application process.

The Colony has a one-page lineage sheet that can be filled out by the applicant. The local Colony Historian can quickly check the first five to six generations of a proposed Mayflower line using the Colony's library. If that checks out, the next step will be for the Colony Historian to contact GSMD at Plymouth to seek a copy of a recently approved Mayflower application that covers all or a portion of the proposed Mayflower line. If such an approved application exists, this can save considerable application time. However, in many cases no prior line has been proven leaving the task after generation 6 to the applicant to provide sufficient references to prove the lineage with the guidance of the Colony Historian or one of the Colony Assistant Historians.

Regardless of which path is chosen, once a lineage has been preliminarily determined to be valid, the full application process may begin. The Mayflower membership process in Florida starts at the local colony level with the applicant working with the Colony Historian to prepare an application that proves a Mayflower line.

Important Notes:

- *The application process is a collaborative effort between the applicant and the Colony Historian or Assistant Historians.*
- *The work of the Colony Historian and Assistant Historians are as volunteers.*
- *Genealogical research by the Colony Historians is not routinely provided to applicants. However, as time allows, we do assist applicants find resources and 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 latest three generations, as outlined below. Any vital records available for earlier generations should also be provided by the applicant.*
- *The goal of collaboration between the Colony Historian and the applicant is to present a clear connection between the applicant and their Mayflower passenger by providing primary and secondary documents that sufficiently show how one generation links to the previous one.*

DOCUMENTATION FOR YOUR APPLICATION AND PROVIDING TO THE COLONY HISTORIAN

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT DOCUMENTS YOU PROVIDE IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION – DO NOT MARK OR HIGHLIGHT THE DOCUMENTS. PROVIDE TWO LEGIBLE COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE COLONY HISTORIAN - DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS. PLEASE CONSULT WITH YOUR COLONY HISTORIAN TO SEE IF THEY PREFER RECEIVING RECORDS IN DIGITAL FORM INSTEAD OF PAPER COPIES.

ALL Applications require full documentation (typically found within local County Vital Records offices where the event occurred) for the last three generations as follows:

Your Generation (clear copies of vital records - not originals) -Two sets of each of the following:

1. Your long form government birth certificate showing birth date, place of birth, and your parents' names. Hospital birth certificates cannot be used.
2. Your spouse(s) long form government birth certificate(s) showing parents, birth date and place of birth - provide for all spouses if you have multiple marriages. Hospital birth certificates cannot be used.
3. Your civil marriage certificate-showing bride, groom, date and place (provide for all marriages). These records often include names of bride and groom's parents. Church marriage certificates may not be used.
4. Marriage dissolution document, as appropriate, for any marriages in event of divorce.
5. Death certificates, as appropriate, (long-form government issued) of spouse(s) showing date/place of death and possibly parents of spouse(s).

For your Parents' Generation (provide two clear copies of all vital records documents - not originals)

1. Your mother's long form governmental birth certificate showing her birth date, place of birth, and parents. NOTE: Hospital birth certificates cannot be used.
2. Your father's long form governmental birth certificate showing his birth date, place of birth, and parents. NOTE: Hospital birth certificates cannot be used.
3. If one or both parents have multiple marriages, provide each relevant long form governmental birth certificate for all spouses showing birth

date, place of birth, and parents. Hospital birth certificates cannot be used.

4. Your parents' civil marriage certificate(s) showing bride, groom, date and place (provide for all marriages). Church marriage certificates cannot be used.
5. Marriage dissolution documents, as appropriate, for all marriages in event of divorce. This may be most important to obtain for a line carrier's divorce when attempting to prove names of parents.
6. Death certificate of parents (long-form government issued), as appropriate, showing date/place of death and possibly parents' names and name of spouse.
7. Death certificates (long-form government issued) of any other spouse(s) of parents showing date/place of death.

For Your Grandparents' Generation (Mayflower line carriers only) (two clear copies of documents - not originals)

1. Your grandmother's long form governmental birth certificate showing birth date, place of birth, and parents' names. Hospital birth certificates cannot be used.
2. Your grandfather's long form governmental birth certificate showing birth date, place of birth, and parents' names. Hospital birth certificates should be avoided.
3. Your grandparent's civil marriage certificate(s) showing bride, groom, date and place (provide for all marriages). Church marriage certificates cannot be used.
4. Death certificate of grandparents (long-form government issued), as appropriate, showing date/place of death and possibly parents.

Note for grandparents, if there are difficulties obtaining some of these vital records, please contact the Colony Historian assigned to your application for further assistance and advice about obtaining substitute secondary records.

Earlier generations:

Documentation proving connections between each generation from your grandparents back to generation 5 or 6 from the Mayflower passenger will be required. The further back you go, the more difficult it is to find primary vital records. If you have copies of birth, death or marriage certificates for these earlier generations, by all means provide copies. In addition, Family Bible information, birth and marriage announcements, obituaries and cemetery records are helpful. Also, if you are aware of a published family genealogy, provide copies of the relevant pages for your ancestors and include a copy of the title and copyright pages of the published source that shows the publication date.

Generally, birth, marriage and death certificates may be obtained by contacting the state 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, marriage records may be available via the state instead of the county. This varies from state to state. See the attached *Start Dates For Recording of State Vital Records* (Attachment 1) for a summary of dates when vital records were required in each state.

Sometimes counties or towns maintained vital records before the state mandated them. It is a good idea to check with them. If your record search is after the dates listed, you should plan to seek them at the state, county or town of the event. In the event the record is not found, you should obtain a letter from the government records agency that states the record for the individual could not be found. Please provide any "letter of no record found" as information in support of your application. Plymouth will want to know that you attempted to find the record from the appropriate agency.

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 more costly 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.

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 you may find useful in gathering information to prove your 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. You do not need to pay a premium price for certified copies. Just order one genealogical copy and make your own 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 sometimes is better to contact the local records custodian first before going to the state. Local records custodians are usually more responsive to genealogical records 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 and search for vital records. As noted above, when you request documents be sure to ask for a genealogical copy of the record as a photocopy of the original certificate. In addition, having a copy of the original certificate will allow you to see other valuable information about your family, including possibly their signatures, place of residence, occupation and other information.

Note: Please contact the Colony Historian for further assistance and advice about obtaining vital records. Each state has different regulations, restrictions and procedures.

Usually, generations 7-10 in applications are the toughest to find family information. Where possible, vital records, family genealogies, census data, and other sources are used to help document your Mayflower line. 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 you are searching for. In other cases, records have been destroyed by fire or other disaster. Generally, the clerks or records custodians can advise which documents are available by a date range. Church records are also helpful, if available 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 your Mayflower line:

PRIMARY RECORDS

1) A birth certificate (B/C) which names parents, or a baptismal certificate (Bapt/C) which gives the date/place of birth and parents' names as well as the baptismal information. Generally, baptismal records are used if the birth certificate is not available.

2) A long form death certificate that gives names of parents and birth information as well as death information.

- 3) Town Vital Records (birth, marriage and death).
- 4) A Marriage record, license or bond that sometimes 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) Guardianship or orphan court records.
- 7) A Bible record that clearly shows a child/parent relationship. Please include a copy of the title page.
- 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 your ancestors along with a copy of the title page that identifies the author, publisher, date published, etc.
- 9) A deed that names the "heirs at law" selling property.
- 10) Military or pension records (Note: applications for pensions often contain documentation of family relations.)
- 11) Cemetery and mortician records (usually for death info only)

SECONDARY & OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

1) **Federal and State Census records:** 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. See the guide to census data attached as Exhibit 2, which describes what type of information was collected for each Federal census between 1790 and 1940. Census records should be used sparingly limiting them to the first and/or second time an individual appears with their parents. **DO NOT use Federal Census data before the 1850 Federal Census.** The Federal Census between 1790 and 1840 does not include names of household members. This information is necessary to help document relationships. 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 to your application; these state censuses were often performed midway between Federal censuses.

Cite census year and the State. Photocopies of the census pages, with the page heading, showing State, county, town and date must be submitted. ABSTRACTS of the census records are NOT ACCEPTABLE. Include an enlargement of the

family/person if the whole census page is hard to read. Consult your Colony Historian before making copies of census records, as it may be easier for the Colony Historian to obtain the census records directly from several Internet sources.

2) **Newspaper articles (marriages and obituaries):** include the banner with name and date of the paper. If banner is not available submit anyway and let us know where it was published.

3) **Church records:** Cite title, volume and page of published records and provide a photocopy of the record. For original records, submit a copy showing the name and location of the Church (preferably on Church stationary) and cite as "Ch/Rec."

4) **Wills:** Cite County and State, Book/Liber and page, or file number. Photocopies must be submitted.

5) **Deeds:** Cite County and State, Book/Liber and page. Photocopies must be submitted. Deeds should only be used if they clearly identify the relationship of a parent and offspring.

6) **Gravestone photos:** photos used should be fully legible and include the name and location of the cemetery. Note: The family bio info from Find a Grave or Billions 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; the name and location of the cemetery must be provided.

7) **Cemetery records:** These should be in published form with a copy, including the title page. 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) **County and Town Histories:** Submit the title page and all pertinent event pages.

9) **Published Genealogies:** Submit title page and all pertinent event pages.

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). Copies of all pertinent information should be submitted, including publication date.

12) **Microfilmed LDS records:** use ONLY the filmed copies of original records. Add LDS film number source to the document. Note: Archival records, IGI and family group sheets or charts are NOT acceptable.

13) **Family letters:** If old enough to qualify as "ancient documents," these may be usable for documentation. However, only photocopies of original, dated and signed letters can be considered.

NOTE: When using secondary/published sources (and primary vital records are not available), ALWAYS try to 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 Plymouth's review of your application.

RESOURCES NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR DOCUMENTATION

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

- Mayflower Index numbers, DAR indexes, Lineage papers.
- 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.
- On-Line Family Trees

FILLING OUT THE MAYFLOWER APPLICATION

The Colony Historian will fill out the application form on your behalf because there are specific formatting requirements that must be followed to assist Plymouth in the review of your application. Drafts of the application in progress will periodically be shared with you to coordinate getting necessary information, documents and correcting errors. You are responsible for providing two copies of the supporting documents to the Colony Historian unless otherwise advised. The Colony Historian will fill in the first 5 generations plus birth information for generation 6. This is from the *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* (Silver Book) or *Mayflower Families in Progress* (Pink paperback). You do not need to obtain birth, marriage, parent and death information for the first five generations and to the birth information for the sixth generation of the line carrier. If there is a helper application (*a previous application that helps to prove an applicant's lineage*) available, the Colony Historian will add that information to the application.

In addition, the Colony Historian will 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 form is completed, copies of the formatted application are returned to the applicant for signatures **(in black ink)**. The applicant then returns the signed application forms to the Colony Historian. At this point, the Colony

Historian will have arranged and marked the supporting documents by generation and then your application form and the supporting documents (two copies of each) are submitted by the Colony Historian to the Florida State Historian for review. The Colony Historian will inform you when your application has been submitted to the State Historian for review. Once approved at the state level, the application is then sent to the national organization in Plymouth for final review and approval. Generally, Plymouth's review takes 8-12 weeks. We will notify you when your application goes to Plymouth. When an application is approved, GSMD notifies the FSMD State Historian who then shares this information with the Colony Historian. We then contact you by phone or email with the good news. Shortly thereafter, you will receive your official certificate and copy of your approved, signed application form directly from the Florida State Historian. It is important to keep the approved application form in your records as they may have additional notes added by Plymouth reviewers that may require further attention or documents should you seek a supplemental application or wish to have another relative join using your approved application.

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

APPLICATION FEES and MEMBERSHIP DUES

The fees paid by you and sent to the State Historian at the time of application are:

\$75.00 made payable to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD)
\$40.00 made payable to the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Florida (FSMD)
*\$34.00 made payable to the Colony name you are applying to join (annual dues - *some Colonies may suggest waiting to submit this fee until application is approved by Plymouth). Thereafter, the annual Colony dues pay for membership in FSMD and GSMD.

Note: *During the application process it is very possible that you or the Colony Historians will discover you are descended from other Mayflower passengers. If so, you may, at a later date, prepare a supplemental application. The process and fees are the same for each passenger but you will be able to use much of the same information from your original approved application. Although you might find you are related to several Mayflower passengers, only one supplemental application can be forwarded to Plymouth for review at a time.*

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. If you already have access to these sites, please use them to help find information and documents about your Mayflower ancestor.

US GenWeb Program: This is a free service provided by genealogy volunteers throughout the US. The content varies widely from location to location. However, if you know the location of an event (birth, death, marriage) of your ancestor, this is a good place to seek out information that may lead you to good source information. The main portal to this service can be found here:

<http://www.usgenweb.org>

Follow the links by state to your 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 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 recommended to gain access to the archives. You can find images of many different original records at this site. My favorite 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 and Google Books: These three 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> Finally, 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 required for full access.

Find A Grave: As noted in the guide, you cannot use the biographies from Find A Grave as supporting documentation for your application. However, the information is very helpful to check dates and places, siblings etc. You MAY use a photo of a gravestone 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 you 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>

There is another site called **Billions Graves** that performs in a similar way. The very good search link via Family Search is: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2026973>
Or, the main site is: <https://billiongraves.com>

**SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA COLONY HISTORIANS - 2017**

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(386) 462-3394

HENRY SAMSON COLONY - Fort Myers: Bob Haff bobhaff@stny.rr.com
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(Summer)

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STATE HISTORIAN: Muriel Cushing flash1620@comcast.net (941) 505-8408

ASSISTANT STATE HISTORIANS: Linda Anderson, Jana-Lee Bair and Kurt Bressner
(see individual Colony info above)

Attachments:

1. Start Dates For Recording of State Vital Records (Note: in many cases, local cities, towns or counties gathered vital record information earlier than states so check there also.)

2. Population Census Information Items 1790-1940 (Note: 1940 is the latest census released by the US Government.)

3. Abbreviations List for Mayflower Applications (Note: These are the abbreviations the Colony Historian will use to complete your application.)

4. Records Checklist (Note: This is a handy list of where to look for genealogical records.)

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	1881	1880	1881
New York City only	1910	1949	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

NOTE: USE ONLY 1850 OR LATER CENSUS INFORMATION FOR APPLICATIONS

Population Census Information Items 1790–1940

(Includes only those supplemental schedules still in existence.)

1790 (August 2)

Name of family head; Occupation; free white males of 16 years and up; free white males under 16; free white females; other free persons; slaves.

1800 (August 4)

Name of family head; white persons, groups by age and sex; other free persons except Indians, not taxed; slaves.

1810 (August 6)

Name of family head; white persons, groups by age and sex; other free persons except Indians, not taxed; slaves.

1820 (August 7)

Name of family head; white, slaves, & free colored: in groups by age & sex; foreigners not naturalized; industry (agriculture, commerce, and manufactures), all others.

1830 (June 1)

Name of family head; groups by age & sex of: white; slaves; free colored persons; deaf, dumb, blind.

1840 (June 1)

Name of family head; white, free colored persons & slaves: groups by age & sex; deaf and dumb, blind, insane and idiotic and whether in public or private charge; number of persons in each family employed in each of six classes of industry and one of occupation; literacy; pensioners for Revolutionary or military service.

1850 (June 1) NOTE: THIS IS THE FIRST CENSUS THAT CAN BE USED

Name; age; sex; race; occupation; value of real estate; birthplace; whether married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether a pauper or convict, deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic. FIRST CENSUS WITH NAMES OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS. Supplemental schedules for slaves, and persons who died during the year.

1860 (June 1)

Name; age; sex; race; occupation; value of real estate; value of personal estate; birthplace; whether married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether deaf and dumb; blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.

Supplemental schedules for slaves, and persons who died during the year.

1870 (June 1)

Name; age; sex; race; occupation; value of real estate; value of personal estate; birthplace; whether parents were foreign born; month of birth if born within the year; month of marriage if married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; male citizens 21 and over, and number of such persons denied the right to vote for other than rebellion.

Supplemental schedule for persons who died during the year.

1880 (June 1)

Address; name; race; sex; age; month of birth if born within the census year; relationship to family head; marital status; occupation; months unemployed during the year; sickness or temporary disability; whether blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic, insane, maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents.

Supplemental schedules for persons who died during the year.

1890 (June 1)

General schedules—most destroyed.

Supplemental schedules for Union veterans of the Civil War and their widows.

1900 (June 1)

Address; name; relationship to family head; race; sex; age, including month and year of birth; marital status; number of years married; for women, number of children born and number now living; birthplace of person and parents; if foreign born, year of immigration and whether naturalized; occupation; months not employed; school attendance; literacy; ability to speak English; whether on a farm; home owned or rented and if owned, whether mortgaged. Number of farm schedule.

1910 (April 15)

Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; number of years of present marriage; for women: number of children born and number now living; birthplace and mother tongue of person and parents; if foreign born, year of immigration, whether naturalized, and whether able to speak English, or if not, language spoken; occupation, industry, and class of worker; if an employee, whether out of work during year; literacy; school attendance; home owned or rented; if owned, whether mortgaged; whether farm or house; whether a survivor of Union or Confederate Army or Navy; whether blind or deaf and dumb.

1920 (January 1)

Address; name; relationship to family head; home owned or rented; if owned, whether free or mortgaged; sex; race; age; marital status; if foreign born, year of immigration to the U.S., whether naturalized, and year of naturalization; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents; mother tongue of foreign born; ability to speak English; occupation, industry, and class of worker; number of farm schedule.

1930 (April 1)

Address; name; relationship to family head; home owned or rented; value or monthly rental; radio set; whether on a farm; sex; race; age; marital status; age at first marriage; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents; if foreign-born language spoken in home before coming to U.S., year of immigration, whether naturalized, and ability to speak English; occupation, industry, and class of worker; whether at work previous day (or last regular working day); unemployment schedule; veteran status; for Indians, whether of full or mixed blood, and tribal affiliation.

1940 (April 1)

Address; home owned or rented; value or monthly rental; whether on a farm; name; relationship to household head; sex; race; age; marital status; school attendance; educational attainment; birthplace; citizenship of foreign born; location of residence 5 years ago and whether on a farm; employment status; if at work, whether in private or nonemergency government work, or in public emergency work (WPA, CCC, NYA, etc.); if in private work, hours worked in week; if seeking work or on public emergency work, duration of unemployment; occupation, industry, and class of worker; weeks worked last year, income last year.

ABBREVIATIONS LIST	UPDATED 9/14/15
Mayflower Families (Silver Books)	MF 12: 26, 46; MF 16:2: 57
Mayflower Families in Progress (pink softcover) - the person # is cited, not the page number (page numbers are NOT used as they change with revisions)	MFIP Brewster #252
John Howland of the Mayflower books by Elizabeth P White	JHMF 2: 34, 81
Birth, Marriage or Death Certificate	B/C, M/C, D/C
Birth, Marriage or Death Record (multiple records on same page)	B/R, M/R, D/R
Baptism Record	Bap Rec or Bap/R
Church Record; Church Record Abstract	Ch Rec; Ch Rec Abst
Marriage Intention	M/Int
Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850 (published tan books) If VR book is for the town where the event occurred, exclude town name	VR 161; VR 2: 149 Sandisfield VR 164 (in New London)
Vital Records (published books) If VR book is for the town where the event occurred, exclude town name	VR 273; VR 3: 142 Bolton VR 141 (in Woodstock)
Barbour Collection - Connecticut Vital Records	New London/Barbour 244
Vital Record of Rhode Island (Arnold)	VRRI 3:1: 10
Rhode Island Vital Records New Series (Beaman)	RIVR New Series 3: 270
<i>Mayflower Quarterly</i>	MQ 53: 144
<i>Mayflower Descendant</i>	MD 2: 89
<i>New England Historical and Genealogical Register</i>	NEHGR 83: 30
<i>The American Genealogist</i>	TAG 53: 100
<i>New York Genealogical & Biographical Record</i>	NYGBR 37: 116
<i>Rhode Island Genealogical Register</i>	RIGR 9: 273
<i>The Pearson Family</i> by George Pearson	Pearson Fam (Pearson) 158 Pearson 158
<i>Chronicles of a Connecticut Family</i> by William Smith	Chron CT Fam (Smith) 82 CT Fam 82
<i>Descendants of Governor William Bradford</i> compiled by Ruth Gardiner Hall	Desc Wm Bradford (Hall) 48 Bradford 48, 176
<i>Harlow Family: Descendants of Sgt. William Harlow</i> by Harlow Fam. Assoc., 1997	Harlow Fam (pub 1997) 248, 586 Harlow 248, 586
Onondaga Co. NY Probate Records, Will Book L, Vol. 3, pg. 4	Onondaga Co NY PR L:3: 4
Plymouth County Probate Records Vol. 39, pg. 68	PLY Co PR 39: 68
Plymouth County Deeds Vol. 2, pg. 50	PLY Co Deeds 2: 50
Pension Record (Rev War, CW, WWI, etc can precede abbreviation)	Pens Rec; (CW Pens Rec)
Federal Census, 1850 North Carolina (age)	1850 FC NC (57)
Federal Census, 1900 Mississippi (age; mo year)	1900 FC MS (34; Oct 1866)
State Census, 1855 New York (age)	1855 SC NY (15)
Federal Census Mortality Schedule (age)	1850 Mort Sched (39)
Gravestone photograph	gs photo
Cemetery Transcription	Cem Trans
Cemetery Record - used only when referring to a record from cem office or town cem dept	Cem Rec
World War I and World War II Draft Registration Cards	WWI Draft Reg
County	Co
Circa	c. or ca.
Abstract	Abst
No maiden name mother	nmnm
No given name, no given name father, no given name mother	ngn, ngnf, ngnm
Parents; no parents	pars; no pars
Letter No record found (state, county, or town). Placed last in the reference field	Ltr NRF (MI); Ltr NRF (Polk)
When using more than one item as a reference, separate with a semicolon.	VR 1: 60; NEHGR 86: 243
Brackets are used when there is no documentation to prove the information is correct.	[Waltham]
B/C, M/C or D/C used as a reference for other than the event itself	(B/C) (M/C) (D/C)
The application is arranged with the applicant's birth certificate on top. The generations go in reverse order, e.g. 13, 12, 11, etc., while the information within each generation is arranged as shown at right	13 A birth reference 13 B death reference 13 C marriage reference 13 D spouse birth reference 13 E spouse death reference

Refer to this handy roster of source types to ensure you've checked all ancestral records.

Business and Employment Records

- apprentice and indenture records
- doctors' and midwives' journals
- insurance records
- merchants' account books
- professional licenses
- railroad, mining and factory records
- records of professional organizations and associations

Cemetery and Funeral Home Records

- burial records
- grave-relocation records
- tombstone inscriptions

Censuses

- agriculture schedules (1850 to 1880)
- American Indian (special censuses)
- Civil War veterans schedules (1890)
- defective, dependent and delinquent schedules (1880)
- federal population schedules (1790 to 1930)
- manufacturing/industry schedules (1810, 1820, 1850 to 1880)
- mortality schedules (1850 to 1880)
- school censuses
- slave schedules (1850, 1860)
- social statistics schedules (1850 to 1880)
- state and local censuses

Church Records

- baptism and christening records
- confirmation records
- congregational histories
- meeting minutes
- membership, admission and removal records
- ministers' journals

Court Records

- adoption records
- bastardy cases
- civil records
- coroners' files
- criminal records
- custody papers
- estate inventories
- guardianship papers
- insanity/commitment orders
- licenses and permits
- marriage bonds, licenses and certificates

- military discharges
- minute books
- name changes
- naturalizations
- property foreclosures
- voter registrations
- wills
- wolf-scalp bounties

Directories

- biographical
- city
- professional/occupational
- telephone

Home Sources

- baptism and confirmation certificates
- birth certificates and baby books
- checkbooks and bank statements
- death records and prayer cards
- diaries and journals
- family Bibles
- funeral/memorial cards
- heirlooms and artifacts
- letters and postcards
- marriage certificates and wedding albums
- medical records
- photographs
- recipe books
- school report cards, yearbooks and scrapbooks
- wills

Immigration Records

- alien registration cards
- citizenship papers
- passenger lists
- passports

Institutional Records

- almshouse
- hospital
- orphanage
- police
- prison
- school
- work-farm

Land and Property Records

- deeds
- grants and patents
- homestead records

- mortgages and leases
- plat maps
- surveys
- tax rolls
- warrants

Military Records

- Colonial wars
- Revolutionary War and frontier conflicts (War of 1812, Indian wars and Mexican War)
- Civil War
- Spanish-American War
- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- draft records
- pension applications
- records of relocations and internment camps for Japanese-Americans, German-Americans and Italian-Americans during World War II

Newspapers

- birth announcements
- classified advertisements
- engagement, marriage and anniversary announcements
- ethnic newspapers
- family reunion announcements
- gossip and advice columns
- legal notices
- local news
- obituaries
- runaway notices (slaves, indentured servants, wives)
- unclaimed-mail notices

Published Sources

- compiled genealogies
- genealogical periodicals
- local and county histories
- record abstracts and transcriptions

Vital Records

- birth
- death
- divorce/annulment
- marriage