



Application Process

Virginia Society of Mayflower Descendants

1. The process starts with completing and returning the Preliminary Review Form. **After the Historian reviews the Preliminary Review Form, the non-refundable initial application fee will be due.** Once the initial application fee has been paid, the preliminary form will be sent to Plymouth for them to verify the proposed line. When it comes back from Plymouth, if it is a good line, an Assistant Historian will be assigned to assist the applicant, and a draft application will be electronically sent to help track the application progress. The Assistant is there to help find the best documentation.
2. Applicants are expected to exercise every reasonable effort to procure Primary Source documentation. If primary sources cannot be located, secondary sources will be acceptable. This is when the Assistant can help find acceptable sources. Please DO NOT alter any of the documents, highlight information, or write notes like generation numbers on them.
3. When the application is completed and supporting documentation is prepared by the Assistant, the entire package will be reviewed by the Historian. If additional documentation is necessary, the Assistant will discuss it with the applicant. Once the application is finalized, the application will be presented to the applicant for signature and payment of the initial application fees. (See Fee Structure below)
4. The Historian sends the signed application and documentation package to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth, MA for approval. This process currently takes about 4 months.
5. When the application is approved, the Assistant Historian will contact the applicant, at which point the membership numbers for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and Virginia Mayflower Society will be issued. A Mayflower certificate and Welcome Package will be arrive via USPS in a timely manner.

Application Fees and Membership Dues

- Initial application - **\$175 (Non-refundable)**
- Supplemental applications - **\$175**
- Annual membership dues - \$50

Acceptable Primary Source

- Vital records of birth, marriage, and death
- Church records
- Bible records (with title page) that show family relationships.
- Marriage applications, bonds, or licenses
- Deeds or land records
- Probate records, guardianships, or orphan's court records
- Military or pension records
- Cemetery or funeral home records (applies to death only)

- Contemporary (to the time of the event) family letters and diaries

Acceptable Secondary Sources:

- Regional, state, county/town, and community histories
- Family genealogies (published only)
- Federal and state census records (that identify relationships)
- Newspaper obituaries
- Newspaper marriage announcements
- Gravestone photos/inscriptions
- Biographies

Professional Genealogist

Assoc. of Professional Genealogists – www.apgen.org

Board for Certification of Genealogists – www.bcgcertification.org