Mayflower Society - General Rules for Applications & Documentation

Documentation REQUIRED for the last 3 generations (applicant to grandparents)

- Birth, all marriages, and death certificates must be in the "*long form*" i.e. showing the name of parents and any birth information provided at the time of death for both spouses in each generation. In some states, where the marriage license (as opposed to the marriage certificate) lists the parent's name, we need a copy of the license as well as the marriage certificate. Remember that when the woman is the line carrier, proof of her MAIDEN name must be provided.

- If the applicant has more than one marriage, information is to be given on all, with dates and places. Women normally re-marry under their previous married name, not their maiden names. *These additional marriages are needed to prove change of name for female entries.*

- This means that especially for the last 3 generations, **all divorces must be documented**. Get a copy of the divorce decree. You do not need the whole document, just the first one or two pages that name the parties and give a date. If either party remarries, get the other marriage record, even when the new spouse is not your relation.

- All additional marriages for both the line-carrier and the spouse must be documented

- https://www.usmarriagelaws.com/ - state-by-state laws, including if parents required

The Society expects that applicants will present documented papers, proving the line-carrier in each generation. We expect full documentation for spouses as well, as they are an important part of each generation. All documentation must be on 8 ½" x 11" paper or larger. Do not alter the documents in any way or use highlighter. Documents that are difficult to read or handwritten should be submitted with a typed transcription.

As first priority, an applicant shall be expected to exercise every reasonable effort to procure documentation that falls under primary evidence. However, if family or county histories are being used as a guideline for collecting the documentation, relevant pages from the book should also be included with the application. This includes the TITLE PAGE and all relevant pages for the generations being used for guidance. For example, if you are documenting John Brown in a genealogy, copy the pages with his sketch and list of children, but please also copy his father's sketch and list of children showing John among them.

Primary Source Evidence:

- Vital records of birth, marriage and death
- Church records
- Bible records which provide relationships. Copy title page with publication data. Entries must be concurrent with the event. The current owner of the Bible should be identified by name and address. Photographs of pages are acceptable. Transcriptions in which the transcriber is identified and has the transcription *notarized* to the fact that the Bible record agrees with the transcription may be acceptable.
- Deeds
- Probate records, guardianships, or orphan's court records
- Military and pension records

- Cemetery and mortician records. Gravestone pictures must be a good photocopy of them. Label with name and location of cemetery and print or type the information found on the gravestone underneath the picture.
- Contemporary family letters and diaries- contemporary with the time of the event.

IF DOCUMENTATION IS FROM A PUBLISHED SOURCE, A COPY OF THE TITLE PAGE MUST BE SUBMITTED

For copies of original material (probate, land, church, town record, etc.), whether made from the original book or printed off a microfilm, please identify what it is in full. Write in the bottom margin or on the back. Obituaries should be labeled with the name and date of the newspaper.

If a source covers more than one generation, please keep all pages together. Place the source in the place where we would first find the reference, from the applicant back to the ancestor. **Do not break it up or make multiple copies** for each generation. All pages from the same source should be together in the most recent generation they mention.

Census records – Federal census records 1790-1840 do not show names other than head of household and should not be submitted without a valid reason. The 1850-1870 records show members of a household, but not their relationship. They do provide names and ages that may help track and identify a family. Two sequential census records should be submitted whenever possible and are considered circumstantial evidence. For the 1880 and later census records, send a copy of the entire page and also a blowup of the family unit to aid in reading the entry.

Internet sources
Each source will be judged individually for validity. Material that has been abstracted or transcribed from various, otherwise available sources are NOT likely to be acceptable. The original source from which the information was transcribed or abstracted should be obtained and submitted. Family trees posted on websites are NOT considered documentation.

Applications to other lineage societies are not accepted.

The applicant shall submit one set of **supporting documentation** to the State Historian. **NO MARKS** are to be made to "improve" primary source documentation. Do not write over or make changes to records. Make all notes on post-it notes or a separate sheet of paper.

Assemble the documentation by Generation, in REVERSE order to the application. Beginning with the most recent generation (the applicant) documents should be arranged in the following order: line carrier birth, line carrier marriage (if applicable), spouse birth (if applicable), spouse death (if applicable). Working backward through each generation, the document should be assembled in order of line carrier birth, line carrier death, marriage, spouse birth, and spouse death. Do not write on the documents, highlight or alter them in any way. You may underline pertinent data with a red pen or pencil.