



Application Process Overview and Instructions

Please carefully read these instructions and the documentation required:

1. Fill out your Preliminary Application and the Line of Descent forms.
2. Send these forms along with your supporting documentation to the Deputy Historian, Lee Bennett, at the address on the Preliminary Application form; along with a check for \$200 payable to **SMDM** (Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan.) This fee covers: \$125 General Society application fee + \$23 MI application fee, \$52 prepaid dues.
3. If an application is found to have a broken lineage before being submitted to the General Society, only the \$125 app fee and the \$52 prepaid dues is refundable. Once an application is submitted to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) in Plymouth, MA, only the prepaid dues (\$52) can be refunded.
4. Deputy Historian, Lee Bennett, will prepare your file and you will be contacted by one of our other Historians to work with you on your application.
5. A Lineage Match will be ordered from GSMD to determine if any of your generations have been previously proven by an earlier application. If so, and these proven generations are current to today's standards, you will not need to reprove them. You will only need to provide the remaining documentation to connect yourself to the last proven generation. Your Historian will be happy to guide you through the research process.
6. Prospective Members have two years to complete their applications for submission to the GSMD. A partial refund is available to anyone who cannot complete his/her application in the designated time frame.
7. The process for Supplementals is the same. The cost of each Supplemental is \$148.

Records

- Birth, marriage and death records for *both* parents of each generation are required when they are known to exist. This includes *all* divorces, remarriages and legal name changes. Indexes and family trees are not acceptable. Please see the review the **Required Documentation** page for more details.
- If a relative has been a member of the GSMD, you may use their approved application. Sometimes research will need to be done and additional documentation may be needed to bring the records up to current standards.

- Once all papers are received and free of any potential issues, the final application will be sent to GSMD. The GSMD is currently taking 2 months to process applications.
- Send us only copies of your documents as they become the property of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and they will not be returned.
- Once your application is approved you will receive notification from the Historian. Your certificate and membership packet should arrive within four weeks