

Michigan Mayflower Society

Documentation Information

Most Importantly:

- 1) If you have a family member who was or is currently a Mayflower member in any US State, Please, please let us know. Their application could contain information that would speed up the completion of your own. We will need their name, their General Society Membership Number, their State Number and the name of the ancestor. Be aware that if the application does not meet the 2019 standards, we will have to bring it up to meet that criteria.
- 2) Copies of all birth, marriage and death certificates are required for the first 3 generations as well as for anyone born (after 1870 IF a record exists), married or died after 1870. If you have already researched your family line, please, please send us copies of everything you possibly can so that we may prepare your application faster. Some of the early birth, marriage and death records are available on www.familysearch.org or on www.ancestry.com . Michigan Death Records are available up to 1942 on www.michiganology.org. IF any of these records are not available, please obtain a letter from the town or city clerks or the state department of vital records stating the records are not available or that the record was not found.
- 3) **DO NOT** underline with pencil, pen or highlighter on **ANY** documents you are submitting as proof. You may use a sticky note or sticky arrow to mark something you want us to see.
- 4) Please **do not** staple or fold pages as that can cause them to get jammed in the scanner.
- 5) ALL documents **must** be copied so that the full picture (e.g., the census page) is visible and readable. Do **not** submit sections of a census which have been enlarged for easy reading as they cannot be submitted per the request of the General Society.
- 6) **INDEXES** are not acceptable. If an original document is available the General Society wants it submitted.
- 7) Please do not submit genealogies from www.myheritage.com, www.geni.com or from www.ancestry.com. These genealogies are good only for use as a guide as many of these are not correct. NO family trees are accepted.

Documentation Accepted:

Primary Source Records

Primary source records are documents/records that were written or prepared at the time the event happened. These include:

- 1) Vital records of birth, marriage and death (Note: when requesting a birth certificate, ask for the long form that lists both parents full names, including the mother's maiden name.)
- 2) Church Records
- 3) Marriage Bonds, Licenses and Certificates
- 4) Morticians' and cemetery records
- 5) Probate Records
- 6) Bible Records which provide relationships – include title page and name of original and present owner
- 7) Guardianship and Orphan's Court Records
- 8) Land Records, deeds or division of property
- 9) Contemporary (with the time of event) family letters and records
- 10) Tax assessments or exemption lists
- 11) Military or pension records

Secondary Source Records

Secondary source records may be used to supplement primary source materials. These may include the following:

- 1) Federal and State census records after 1850
- 2) Newspaper marriage accounts and obituaries – identify the source, i.e., the name, date and page of the newspaper or periodical.
- 3) Genealogical articles – identify the source, i.e., the title of the article, the journal it appears in, a copy of the title page of the journal and page number.
- 4) Well-documented published family genealogies – include a copy of the title page with your other pages. Family genealogies are accepted on a case-by-case basis – some family genealogies are terrific, others are not. The terrific ones use primary source records for the information and cite where the information came from.
- 5) County, town and community histories. As with family genealogies, some are very good, others aren't.
- 6) Photos of gravestones – include name of cemetery and location. If the stone simply says 'Father' or 'Mother' they can't be accepted because these stones do **not** indicate who the people are. The reason gravestone photos are not primary records is because a person can have a gravestone carver put any information he or she would like on the stone – even if it is not correct. If the stone is illegible, please do not submit it.

Sources Not Acceptable

- 1) Family group sheets and pedigree charts
- 2) Records (such as genealogical narratives or charts) that relate numerous generations which occurred prior to the lifetime of the parents or grandparents of the preparer are not accepted because this is 'hearsay' evidence that cannot be personally known.

- 3) Information from family web pages on the Internet. If a family web page has sources, **verify that source** and use that –not the web page – as your reference.
- 4) Copies of lineage papers submitted to other societies (DAR, SAR, etc.)
- 5) LDS familysearch.org: IGI (International Genealogical Index), Pedigree Resource File, Ancestral File
- 6) Social Security Death Index (SSDI) may be submitted **ONLY** if a death certificate cannot be obtained and you have a letter stating the death certificate cannot be obtained.