

# *Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan*

Dear Prospective Member,

Thank you for your interest in the Michigan Mayflower Society!

To start the membership process please carefully read this letter and the pages which describe the documentation required. Next, please fill out and submit your *Preliminary Application* form and the *Line of Descent* worksheet. Send these two items along with a check for \$127 (the application fee will be increasing to \$130 as of October 1' 2019) and your documentation to Lee Bennett at the address on the Preliminary Application form. A maximum of 50% of the fee can be refunded within one year if sufficient documentation is not found to qualify you to join the Mayflower Society.

Once the forms, the documentation and fees are received, you will be contacted by one of our historians. The first 5-6 generations will be completed by the historian using references from the Mayflower Descendant's Volume (Silver Book) on your ancestor. You will be required to locate the remaining documentation needed to connect yourself to the last generation proven. The historian assigned to you will be happy to guide you through the research process.

Remember, birth, marriage and death records for both parties of a generation are of **extreme** importance. Please see the *Information on Documentation* document for details. Please remember, too, that the Mayflower Society requires documentation **for all** spouses, not just the couple from whom you descend. This includes all divorces, remarriages and legal name changes. Indexes **are not** acceptable. Vital records are required when available.

If a parent or grandparent has been a member of the Mayflower Society, you may use the documentation from their lineage paper, but your application must conform to the 2019 documentation requirements. If the paper does not conform, research will need to be done to bring it up to current standards. Many of the early papers did not require any documentation. If this is true of your relative's early application, you may be required to provide the documentation necessary to prove connections between one or more of your generations.

When the documents have been received, we will review them to determine if there are any issues regarding the proofs (what is acceptable and what isn't.) When everything is complete, the final application will be prepared for your signature and then sent to Plymouth. The verification process is currently taking 4-5 months **after** an application has been received in Plymouth. Do **NOT** send us your only copy of a document as these copies will **not** be returned as they become the property of The General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Once your application is verified you will receive notification from the Historian. Within two weeks of verification you will receive your certificate and membership packet.

We are pleased that you wish to join us. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Catherine A Pouls, Historian

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