



## Why Should You Be Interested?

- ✔ You would be honoring the memory of those forefathers who helped set the pattern for our great American democracy.
- ✔ You would enter into the fellowship of people who share a common history and ancestry in the passengers of the Mayflower.
- ✔ By joining the **Society of Mayflower Descendants**, your genealogical records would be filed in a secure place for posterity.
- ✔ Having your records on file with the Society, it would be much easier for your descendants to establish their genealogical lines. It would be a gift to your descendants to do this for them now. Make your family heritage available to them.
- ✔ Through the programs of the Society, history can be made to come alive for you and your family.
- ✔ This is an era of mobility. If you should move to a new locality, your membership can be transferred. This would enable you to meet new people with common interests and more quickly and easily, and thus, become better acquainted in your new home. It could be your own Welcome Wagon, so to speak.
- ✔ As a member, you would receive the *Mayflower Quarterly*, which provides up-to-date information on new discoveries in family lineage and Pilgrim history.
- ✔ You would also receive the *Arkansas Pilgrim*, which keeps the members informed about Society meetings, news of other members in the State, and interesting facts about the Pilgrims, their lives and times.

## For Further Information

If you have any questions about the Society of Mayflower Descendants, or need more details concerning membership requirements, write to:

### Arkansas Society of Mayflower Descendants

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### The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Arkansas

- Promoting the memory of our Pilgrim forefathers.
- Maintaining the democratic principles of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Mayflower Compact.
- Protecting and defending the ideals and institutions of American freedom.



# Arkansas Society of Mayflower Descendants



Member of the  
**General Society of Mayflower Descendants**  
Plymouth, Massachusetts

[www.themayflowersociety.org](http://www.themayflowersociety.org)



## The Pilgrims

Most people know the story of the Mayflower, which set sail in 1620 for the New England coast of America. It carried 102 passengers of English origin. Most of the passengers were Pilgrims who were seeking a new home, which would be free from religious persecution, yet one in which they could retain their English identity. The remainder of those on board were seeking the betterment of their personal situation and financial gain.

## The Mayflower Compact

After a difficult voyage, in November 1620, the Mayflower anchored at Cape Cod, north of the limits of the Virginia Colony, and beyond any organized law. Some form of government was necessary. Differences of opinion had already arisen between the groups on the voyage.

Therefore, on November 21, 1620, in the "Great Cabin" aboard the Mayflower, forty-one male passengers composed a written document, which was a vow, a pledge, a word of honor that all who signed it – as well as their families – promised to abide by its proclamation. This document has come to be known as the *Mayflower Compact*.



John Quincy Adams described the Mayflower Compact as "the first example in modern times of a social compact or system of government instituted by voluntary agreement conformable to the laws of nature, by men of equal rights and about to establish their community in a new country."

The settlers lived up to the Compact they signed, and the Compact remained as the Constitution of the Colony until Plymouth was merged into the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1692.

## The Mayflower Descendants

In remembering those founders of democracy, the descendants of the Pilgrims have formed a Society for the purpose of promoting the memory of their Pilgrim fathers, and to protect and defend the ideals and intuitions of democratic government.

## How to Prove Your Lineage

The most difficult part of anything is getting started. It will be easier in the beginning to start with yourself and work back through the generations. Keep in mind that you are interested in three key items:

1. Names
2. Dates (birth, marriage, death)
3. Relationships

You must be able to prove the link between parent and child in the blood line from a Mayflower passenger. Set up a simple form to follow as you work your way through the generations.

*It should follow the example below:*

1. Your full name born at your birth place on your birth date, married at your marriage place on your marriage date to your spouse's name born at spouse's birth place on spouse's birth date, died at spouse's death place on spouse's death date.

2. Son/daughter of father's name born at father's birth place on father's birth date, died at father's death place on father's death date, married at parent's marriage place on parent's marriage date to mother's maiden name born at mother's birth place on mother's birth date, died at mother's death place on mother's death date.

Repeat the form for each generation back to the Mayflower passenger.

## Documenting Your Facts

Remember as you work through your family lineage that you must document each statement for each generation. You should begin collecting photocopies of all of the source materials which prove the validity of each statement. Do not cut corners in an effort to speed the process. The more sources you can provide, the stronger your proof will be. Any extra documentation you have may serve as supplementary proof for a given statement.

## Source Materials

Your documentation should consist of primary source material such as the following:

1. Vital Records of Birth, Marriage and/or Death
2. Bible or Church Records
3. Marriage Bonds and Licenses
4. Mortality Schedules and Cemetery Records
5. Probate Records
6. Land Records of Deed or Division of Property
7. Guardianship or Orphan's Court Records
8. Contemporary Family Letters and Records
9. Tax Assessments or Exemption Lists
10. Military or Pension Records
11. Federal or State Census Records
12. Cattle and Hog Marks

*Secondary source material should be acceptable ONLY when it cites the source used to prove what is published, or when it reproduces the primary source itself.*

## Who Can Become Members?

Anyone over 18 years of age, who can document their lineage showing that they are a descendant of one of the following Mayflower passengers is eligible to apply for membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants:

John Alden  
Bartholomew Allerton  
Isaac Allerton  
Mary (Norris) Allerton  
Mary Allerton  
Remember Allerton  
Elinor Billington  
Francis Billington  
John Billington  
William Bradford  
Love Brewster  
Mary Brewster  
William Brewster  
Peter Browne  
James Chilton  
Mrs. James Chilton  
Mary Chilton  
Francis Cooke  
John Cooke  
Edward Doty  
Francis Eaton  
Samuel Eaton  
Sarah Eaton  
Moses Fletcher  
Edward Fuller

Mrs. Edward Fuller  
Samuel Fuller  
Samuel Fuller (son of Edward)  
Constance Hopkins  
Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins  
Giles Hopkins  
Stephen Hopkins  
John Howland  
Richard More  
Priscilla Mullins  
William Mullins  
Degory Priest  
Joseph Rogers  
Henry Samson  
George Soule  
Myles Standish  
Elizabeth Tilley  
John Tilley  
Joan (Hurst) Tilley  
Richard Warren  
Peregrine White  
Resolved White  
Susanna White  
William White

