



Mayflower Research Services - FAQ

October 2024

What are your fees?

At this time, we offer three research package options:

- A 4-Hour Genealogical Assessment, \$500 Members/\$600 Non-Members (additional hours \$125/\$150)
- 8 Hours of Research, \$900 for Members/\$1,160 for Non-Members (additional hours \$112.50/\$145)
- Application Preparation, \$2,500 for Members/\$3,250 Non-Members (additional hours \$100/\$130)

Do you do general genealogical research, or only Mayflower-related research?

Although we specialize in Mayflower research and genealogy, it is not all that we do. Our expert genealogists can help document your family tree, research and prepare a family history, or work through a brick wall that you've encountered.

How do I sign up?

Please go to our website at <https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/research-services/> for sign-up forms. If you would like to discuss your project with one of our Research Services team members in advance, please email researchservices@themayflowersociety.org

What do I get for my money?

Your project deliverables will depend upon your research goal. Each client receives a detailed report that includes a Summary of Findings and Recommendations for next steps.

Our Hourly Research package also includes a research log and images of all relevant documents found in the course of research.

Our Lineage Application Preparation includes everything listed above, plus a draft Mayflower Society application and documentation labeled for submission with the application.

Depending on your goals, results may also include a written family history, a family tree, or a written proof argument

Do you offer a guarantee that my genealogical problem will be solved?

Genealogy is not an exact science—it is always time-consuming, and research is limited to what documentation has survived through the years. For these reasons, we cannot guarantee an answer to

your genealogical question will be found. Our Researchers, though, will do whatever they can within the time limits of your project to find the answers you seek or recommend where you might look next.

Does a Genealogical Assessment include research?

Genealogical research is a time-consuming process. Unfortunately, four hours is not enough time to complete meaningful research and prepare a results package. However, it is enough time for our Researchers to take a look at any work you have already completed, and provide you with recommendations for next steps, whether that be continuing research on your own or hiring us for Hourly Research Services.

Why do your Hourly Research packages start at 8-hours of research time? Why can't I buy fewer hours?

Genealogical research is a time-consuming process. Our team feels that eight hours is the minimum amount of time needed to assess your family tree, begin research, and provide you with a complete summary of findings and recommendations for next steps.

Can I hire you for more than 8-hours of research time?

Yes! 8-hours is often not enough time to perform substantive research, so the more hours you purchase, the more sources we are able to search for you. Additional hours can be added to each package.

What if my project requires more research time?

Additional hours may be added to any package. If your project needs more time, your Researcher will provide you with an estimate of the amount of time needed for further research and explain what they expect to accomplish within that time.

How long will my project take?

When you contact us about your research project, we will tell you how many weeks we anticipate it will be before a Researcher is available to assist you. Expect at least a few weeks of waiting time. When your turn arrives, we will pair you with a Researcher, request any family genealogical information and documents that could be helpful, and confirm your research goal. The research itself, depending upon the number of hours you have purchased, should be completed within 4 to 5 weeks.

What qualifications do your Researchers have?

All of our Researchers have years of experience working in the field, and most have completed professional courses in genealogy, such as the Boston University Genealogical Research Course or ProGen.

Can you help me create an Analysis or Proof Argument to prove a generation in my Mayflower Society application?

We certainly can. Oftentimes, potential Mayflower Society members will have a “problem” generation where direct evidence cannot be located, or simply does not exist. Our researchers can analyze and correlate all available circumstantial evidence and weave it into a cohesive argument for you.

Could you put together my entire Mayflower Society application?

Of course! If you don't have the time to find the evidence needed for your application – we can help. See the [Lineage Application](#) option on our website. Please note: we cannot obtain copies of more recent birth, marriage, or death certificates, due to privacy issues. However, for any more recent certificates we cannot request on your behalf, we include complete information your results package on where you can obtain them

Do I really have to pay you to put together my application, in addition to the application fees?

Not at all. This is a service we offer for those who simply don't want to do the research themselves, or don't have the time.

Membership in the Mayflower Society begins at the local level, with one of our 54 [Member Societies](#). When you are ready to join, contact the Mayflower Member Society of your choice.. Their volunteer historians will let you know what evidence you need to prove each generation in your lineage, work with you to fill out your application, and submit it to the International Society on your behalf.

How do I know if I have a Mayflower line?

You can hire us to look! Do you have an online family tree started on [Family Search](#)? Or [Ancestry](#)? Working from what you have already established, we can take your family tree back several generations, looking for the locations where we know Pilgrim's and their descendants settled. Focusing on those lines that are promising geographically, we will search each line to see if a Mayflower Passenger can be found. There are reportedly more than 35 million descendants of the Mayflower passengers – you never know where one will turn up!