

I think I may be a Mayflower descendant. How do I prove it?



I am new to genealogy.

- Start with what you already know! The easiest path to discovering your family history is to begin documenting your family starting with yourself and working backwards to your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.
- The [New England Historic Genealogical Society](#) provides a wealth of free instructional materials on how to begin your genealogical research.
- [FamilySearch.org](#) is a free genealogical website that provides access to innumerable historical documents and books. Their [wiki](#) page can be of assistance in navigating their extensive collections.
- Other useful genealogical websites include [Ancestry.com](#), [fold3](#), [Newspapers.com](#), [American Ancestors](#), and [Find my past](#) (paid subscriptions); [Find a Grave](#), [BillionGraves](#), and [Chronicling America](#) (free).

I am just beginning my *Mayflower* research.

- Watch our [Getting Started](#) video in order to learn about *Mayflower* research and our application process.
- Search [The General Society of Mayflower Descendants Application Database](#). This online database created by the New England Historic Genealogical Society and The Mayflower Society includes more than 1 million images and documents of descendant family trees of the Mayflower passengers.
- Check with your local library for our [Mayflower Families through Five Generations](#) books. These publications, known colloquially as the "Silver Books," document at least the first five generations of descent from many of the *Mayflower* passengers.

I already have an idea of what my *Mayflower* lineage may be.

- Try our [Mayflower Lineage Match](#) service. For \$75, our team will compare your proposed lineage to our previously approved lineages in order to determine if any portion of your lineage has previously been accepted by the society. We will then send you an email with your results and information about how to apply for membership.
- Contact one of our [54 Member Societies](#) to inquire about beginning the application process.
- Watch our [Genealogy Webinars](#) for advice on gathering documentation for your application.

I would like to hire someone to conduct research on my behalf.

- For a fee, our genealogy team can help you document your lineage, prepare an application for membership, or work through stubborn genealogical problems. Find out more about our [Research Services offerings](#).