MEMBERSHIP: PROCEDURES & SOURCE INFORMATION

First, find your lineage to a Mayflower 1620 Passenger:

- https://www.FamilySearch.org/Mayflower
- https://www.AmericanAncestors.org
- https://themayflowersociety.org/join/researching-your-mayflower-lineage/
- https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/genealogy-tips-tools/
- https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/patriots-to-passengers/
- http://www.ancestry.com
- Other reputable sources

Then, fill out the free Lineage Review form located in the membership section of the website as best you can. Instructions to submit the form are located on the website, and on the form. The society's historian will let you know what is next and help guide you through the application process, answer questions and help where possible. The historian will prepare your application based on all the copies of vital record and relationship records you send and will email you the completed application to look over. All application forms and documentation are now digital only and the Historian will assist you with the signing of the application digitally. Once the application is fully prepared, the Historian will request your payment of the application fees and first year's dues. The historian will then send the signed application to Plymouth for approval.

Documentation needed:
The most current three generations—yours, your parents' and your grandparents'—will require birth, marriage and death certificates for all parties, line carrier and spouse. For all the remaining generations, try to find these same kinds of records but when they aren't found, look for others which indicate the same information and show the relationship between generations.
Send the Historian clearly readable documentation, preferably by email, in jpeg format. keeping copies also for your files.

Examples of Documentation include:

1. Government issued Vital Records of Birth, Marriages and/or Death
2. Bible Records-include copy of Title Page & statement of ownership
3. Mortality Schedules and Cemetery Records
4. Probate Records
5. Land Records or Deeds or Division of Property
6. Guardianship, Orphan's or other Court Records
7. Contemporary family Letters and Records
8. Tax Assessment or Exemption Lists
9. Military or Pension Records and Land Bounty Records
10. WPA Records
11. Federal or State Census Records
12. Church Records— as supplement to Government issued Vital Records or if none exist
13. Town or County Histories - including Title Page
14. Gravestones with names and dates, include cemetery name
15. Genealogies and Genealogical Publications, local or similar histories (all with Title pages); Newspaper articles and obituaries

Which records are acceptable as proof, and which are either iffy or not really records and are not acceptable?

The best place to check is The Mayflower Society: https://themayflowersociety.org. Most of 1-10 above are primary sources and are likely acceptable, assuming they show relationship, and/or vital information. Government issued vital records may be ordered "for informational or genealogical purposes". 11-14 would be secondary sources that can be helpful in providing this information. Birth, marriage and death index lists are not acceptable as proof but are valuable references to finding the actual records. If there is an index, send for that record! A few **unacceptable** categories are family pedigree charts, IGI (International Genealogy Index), social security death index, familysearch.org "family data collection" or person profile/detail pages, "US and International Marriages" (on ancestry), applications from other lineage societies.

Additional Resources:

- Also at the General Mayflower Society site are other helpful genealogy resources, including online websites.
- A helpful video from the General Mayflower Society site: https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/public-webinars/#appdd
- http://www.sar.org/library/library.html
- http://history.ky.gov/
- https://www.google.com/books/edition/Vital_Records_of_Abington_Massachusetts/ziy7CGKXzVsC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22vital+records%22+%22to+the+year+1850%22&pg=PA9&printsec=frontcover
- Wiki and Catalogue on www.familysearch.org
- https://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/login