

**Subject:** Re: Preliminary Review Form  
**From:** Plymouth Library <gsmdplymouth@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Fri, 14 Nov 2008 12:34:01 -0800 (PST)  
**To:** Susan Wood <wood1522@cableone.net>, Richard L Hart <IDMayflower@gmail.com>

November 14, 2008

Hello Ms. Wood

We are delighted to learn of your interest in the Mayflower Society. We have received your Preliminary Review Form and have attempted to determine the best approved lineage paper that we might have which follows your stated lineage. GS#50176 matches your proposed lineage, from Mayflower passenger William Bradford, through the 7<sup>th</sup> Generation: John Bradford m. Burissa Elder. This is an older, and not at all well documented paper, which then follows this couple's son Lyman Bradford; but we have no previously approved lineage papers that follow a daughter Margaret. This does not mean your proposed line is invalid, only that no one has ever applied to The Mayflower Society on this line beyond generation 7.

As this is an older paper, the line will require updating beyond the point of the Generation 6 birth. Some of the sources referenced in the paper will need to be reevaluated. For most Mayflower lines, documentation through the generation 6 birth is provided in the *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* series of books. No additional documentation is necessary for relationships and events included in these books. Please consult the Bradford volume of this series for information on the early generations of your line. In this book, your proposed line is followed through the birth of Stephen Bradford.

Membership to the Mayflower Society is approached at the state level, with contact information for the various state societies being found in the Membership section of our website. There are no residency requirements and the applicant can approach membership through whichever state society they choose. Contacting the state society of your choice, as to full requirements in proceeding to membership, would be the next best step for help in updating this older lineage paper. In general, the prospective applicant will be required to prove their lineage beyond whatever point for which the Mayflower Society already has an, up-to-date, previously approved lineage paper. As GS#50176 is not well documented and is not "up-to-date," the lineage will need to be updated and some new documentation will be needed to bring it up to current standards.

As full documentation will be required for the immediate three generations: the applicant, their parents, and the line-carrying grandparents, this is usually the best place to begin gathering proof - full documentation being all applicable birth, marriage and death records/certificates. When moving back beyond grandparents, documentation can be provided in the form of actual birth, marriage and death certificates, where available, probate records (Wills), land records which state relationships or, in the absence of such, some published record found in Vital Records of Towns, Town Histories, Family Genealogies etc. Census records can also be good corroborative evidence. There are a number of published records that can be used to prove descent from one generation to the next, but this is the challenge of proving Mayflower lineage: finding these. Hopefully you already know some of this and perhaps your family already has some of these documents. Once necessary documentation is gathered the applicant would then contact the state society of their choice to continue the application process. Each state has their own procedures and membership applications. The historian for the Mayflower Society in Idaho will also be receiving a copy of this lineage review so that they will be aware of your interest.

As a standard disclaimer, we must call your attention to the fact that even though a lineage was approved in the past, it may not be approved today without additional source documentation. And, even though a paper may show references, if these are referring to documents, as opposed to published vital records, we may no longer have copies of these documents in the older files; standards today require that such documents be provided. Many previously filed applications have no documents with them at all.