

# General Society of Colonial Wars Application Preparation Manual



01 January 2026

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## About the Society

The Society of Colonial Wars was founded in New York in 1892 for the purpose of furthering the interest in, and study of, America's Colonial history for the period between the settlement of Jamestown, Virginia on May 13, 1607, and the battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775.

## Purpose

The Society continues its mission by collecting and preserving manuscripts, rolls, relics and records; erecting memorials; hosting commemorations; and supporting academic research for the purpose of inspiring in the community respect and reverence for those whose public service made our freedom and unity possible.

To accommodate a Society of national scope the General Society was established in 1893 to charter State Societies.

Current members have been invited to join only after fulfilling their State Societies' individual application procedures and membership requirements.

It is in one or more of the State Societies that an individual holds membership, and the collective federation of State Societies constitutes the General Society.

The General Society is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

# Officers of the General Society of Colonial Wars

2025 - 2028

## ***Honorary Governors General***

The Honorable Thomas Clifton Etter, Jr.

The Honorable Tylor Field II

The Honorable Charles William Neuhauser

The Honorable David Martin Trebing

<i>Governor General</i>	George Lucien Brailsford
<i>Vice Governor General</i>	Sumner Esten Anderson
<i>Lieutenant Governor General</i>	Paul Laurence Colby
<i>Secretary General</i>	Peter Michael McEnery
<i>Treasurer General</i>	Samuel Augustus Nolen
<i>Chancellor General</i>	Michael Fayerweather Aylward
<i>Registrar General</i>	Stephen Archie McLeod
<i>Historian General</i>	Thomas Edward Crocker
<i>Chaplain General</i>	Rev. Ian Bruce Montgomery
<i>Surgeon General</i>	David Moore Thomas, MD
<i>Marshal General</i>	Jonathan Lucas Yates
<i>Deputy Secretary General</i>	Cheshire Rhett
<i>Deputy Treasurer General</i>	Geoffrey Euston
<i>Deputy Chancellor General</i>	Stephen Stewart Madsen
<i>Deputy Registrar General</i>	Brenton Simons
<i>Deputy Historian General</i>	Paul Joseph Kinyon
<i>Deputy Chaplain General</i>	Daniel Massie
<i>Deputy Surgeon General</i>	John Daniel, MD
<i>Deputy Marshal General</i>	Francis Brinton Jacobs

## State Societies

To learn more about joining the *General Society of Colonial Wars*, please contact your local State Society. Some State Societies have websites with contact information; in all other instances, please contact:

Deidre Menefee, Director of Operations  
[dmenefee@gscw.org](mailto:dmenefee@gscw.org)

State Society	Website
Alabama	please contact GSCW for more information.
California	<a href="http://www.colonialwarsca.org">www.colonialwarsca.org</a>
Connecticut	<a href="http://www.colonialwarsct.org">www.colonialwarsct.org</a>
Delaware	<a href="http://www.Colonialwarsdelaware.org">www.Colonialwarsdelaware.org</a>
District of Columbia	please contact GSCW for more information.
Florida	<a href="http://www.scwfl.org">www.scwfl.org</a>
Georgia	please contact GSCW for more information.
Illinois	please contact GSCW for more information.
Indiana	please contact GSCW for more information.
Kentucky	<a href="http://www.colonialwarsky.org">www.colonialwarsky.org</a>
Louisiana	<a href="http://www.colonialwarsla.org">www.colonialwarsla.org</a>
Maine	<a href="http://www.colonialwarsofmaine.org">www.colonialwarsofmaine.org</a>
Maryland	<a href="http://www.scwmd.org">www.scwmd.org</a>
Massachusetts	<a href="http://www.scwma.org">www.scwma.org</a>
Michigan	<a href="http://www.colonialwarsmi.org">www.colonialwarsmi.org</a>
Missouri	<a href="http://www.colonialwarsmo.org">www.colonialwarsmo.org</a> www
New Hampshire	please contact GSCW for more information.
New Jersey	<a href="http://www.scwnj.org">www.scwnj.org</a>
New York	<a href="http://www.colonialswarsny.org">www.colonialswarsny.org</a>
North Carolina	<a href="http://www.scwnc.org">www.scwnc.org</a>
Ohio	<a href="http://www.colonialwarsoh.org">www.colonialwarsoh.org</a>
Pennsylvania	<a href="http://www.colonialwarspa.org">www.colonialwarspa.org</a>
Rhode Island	please contact GSCW for more information.
South Carolina	<a href="http://www.socw-sc.org">www.socw-sc.org</a>
Tennessee	please contact GSCW for more information.
Texas	please contact GSCW for more information.
Vermont	please contact GSCW for more information.
Virginia	<a href="http://www.vascw.org">www.vascw.org</a>
Wisconsin	please contact GSCW for more information.

Thank you for your support,

*The General Society of Colonial Wars*

## Benefits of Membership and Fees

The *Benefits of Membership* and *Fees* apply to each state. Please contact your local State Society for details.

## Application Submission and Review Process

Each application for membership shall be initiated with a State Society or Independent Chapter and, upon its approval, then forwarded to the *General Society of Colonial Wars* for action thereon.

Membership in the *General Society of Colonial Wars* or any constituent State Society or Independent Chapter shall not be held complete until the applicable application has been approved by both the General Society and the applicable State Society or Independent Chapter. The General Society shall have the authority to remove from its membership any member for conduct that it deems detrimental to the General Society or its reputation and likewise to remove from its membership any member not holding membership in good standing in at least one State Society or Independent Chapter. In these matters, the General Society shall act through the Registrar General in the case of applications for membership and through its Executive Committee in the case of removals from membership.

## Membership Requirements

Any male person eighteen years of age or older, of good moral character and reputation, shall be eligible to membership in the *General Society of Colonial Wars*, and every constituent State Society and Independent Chapter, provided he is lineally descended in the male or female line from an ancestor:

- 1) Who served as a military or naval officer, or as a soldier, sailor, or marine, or as a privateersman, under authority of any of the Colonies which afterward formed the United States, or in the forces of Great Britain which participated with those of the said Colonies in any wars in which the said Colonies were engaged, or in which they enrolled men, during the period from the settlement of Jamestown, May 13, 1607, to the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775; or
- 2) Who held office in *any* of the Colonies between the dates above mentioned as:
  - a. Director General, Vice Director General, or member of the Council, or Legislative body, in the Colony of the New Netherland, or
  - b. Governor, Lieutenant or Deputy Governor, Lord Proprietor, member of The King's or Governor's Council, or of the legislative body, in the Colony of New York, the Jerseys, Virginia, Pennsylvania, or Delaware, or
  - c. Lord Proprietor, Governor, Deputy Governor, or member of the Council, or of the legislative body, in Maryland, the Carolinas, or Georgia, or
  - d. Governor, Deputy Governor, Governor's Assistant, Commissioner to the United Colonies of New England, or member of the Council, body of Assistants, or legislative body, in any of the New England colonies, or
  - e. Justice, Judge, Justice of the Peace, or other judicial officer.

No State Society or Independent Chapter shall adopt any rule of eligibility for membership other than that prescribed in this Article, nor fail to adopt any rule of eligibility for membership prescribed in this Article.

## To Hire a Professional Genealogist

- **American Ancestors® | NEHGS** was founded in 1845, the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) is the country's leading resource for family history research. NEHGS helps genealogists of all skill levels improve their knowledge and understanding of their family and its place in history:  
<https://www.americanancestors.org/expert-help/hire-a-researcher>
- **ProGen** is based in United States: <https://www.progenealogists.com/the-products>
- **The Association of Professional Genealogists** is based in United States:  
[www.apgen.org/index.html](http://www.apgen.org/index.html)
- **The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA)** is based in UK:  
[www.agra.org.uk/](http://www.agra.org.uk/)
- **International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGenSM)** is based in United States: [www.icapgen.org](http://www.icapgen.org)
- **Board for Certification of Genealogists®** is based in United States:  
[www.bcgcertification.org](http://www.bcgcertification.org)
- **Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy (CAFG)** is based in United States:  
[www.forensicgenealogists.org](http://www.forensicgenealogists.org)

## Application Forms

- Long Form Application (All New Applicants): [Long Form Application \(March 2022\)](#)
- Short Form Application: [Short Form Application \(March 2022\)](#)
  - This form is for use only by a son, grandson, blood brother, or blood nephew of a member of the Society of Colonial Wars whose application for membership was dated after 1 January 1968.
- Supplemental Form Application: [Supplemental Form Application \(July 2025\)](#)
  - Once you have been approved for membership, you can submit a supplemental application through any additional qualifying ancestors. The process is like a Long Form Application, however, depending on your relationship to any additional qualifying ancestors, you may need less documentation.
- Dual Membership Application: [Dual Membership Application \(July 2021\)](#)
  - By completing a dual membership application, you will be accepted by more than one State Society. This is specific for members who have two homes, in two different States and would like to attend events/meetings in both States. Additional fees apply.
  - Dual membership inquiries and applications should be sent directly to the General Society office email [dmenefee@gscw.org](mailto:dmenefee@gscw.org).
- Each application must include your contact information, and two signatures of members of the *General Society of Colonial Wars* who know you from *personal acquaintance* and believe the applicant to be eligible and worthy (except the Supplemental Application).
- The second page is the start of your application or the “*Affidavit*” which starts to document your lineage, starting with you [*the applicant*] and extending down to the qualifying ancestor.

For a list of qualifying ancestors, please see: *An Index of Ancestors and Roll of Members of the Society of Colonial Wars* [Compiled by John Edward Mealey, 2011].

## Completing the Application

The applicant should attempt to list all known names, dates, and places for each generation in their lineage. All information, including the non-bloodline, is required on the application. If information is present in the documentation submitted, it must be included on the application form.

For example, if the accompanying documentation provides a person's middle name, it should be included in the application. The inverse is also true, if information is **NOT** included in documentation, it should **NOT** be included.

### Names

The applicant should include their name, place, and date of birth. If you include your spouse on the application, each applicant will need to provide their date and place of marriage in the fields designated in their generation.

Their parents should be entered in the fields for generation two, their grandparents in generation three, leading up to the final generation (Qualifying Ancestor).

If you see a wide variety of spellings used in records, particularly in early records, before spellings were standardized – try to select the most prevalent to use as the person's main name.

### Ranks, Titles, Prefixes, or Suffixes

Do not include ranks, titles, prefixes, or suffixes, such as "Dr.", "Jr.", or "Capt." in the lineage portion of the application. This is only true if a rank, title, prefix, or suffix is included on the genealogical document. Only names are to be entered in those fields.

### Date Format

The standard genealogical date format is to list day, then a 3-letter abbreviated month (*see below*), and year. For example, 1 Nov 1837.

When a double date is needed, use the last digit of the year. For example, 1 Nov 1837/8.

If inferred from context, use a bracket. For example, 1 Nov 1837[/8].

Spell out ordinal numbers, (*twentieth century*) except in Quaker dates. For example, 1 7th month 1784.

- Jan
- Feb
- Mar
- Apr
- May
- Jun
- Jul
- Aug
- Sep
- Oct
- Nov
- Dec

Location Format

When providing birth, death, and marriage locations, be as specific as possible. We ask that you include not just the town or the city but, when relevant, include the county and state and/or country. However, give only as much information as you can confirm through genealogical evidence and records. Do not use postal codes.

Please refer to the following table when abbreviating state names:

ALABAMA	Ala.	KENTUCKY	Ky.	NORTH DAKOTA	N.Dak.
ALASKA	Alaska (no abbrev.)	LOUISIANA	La.	OHIO	Ohio
ARIZONA	Ariz.	MAINE	Maine	OKLAHOMA	Okla.
ARKANSAS	Ark.	MARYLAND	Md.	OREGON	Ore.
CALIFORNIA	Calif.	MASSACHUSETTS	Mass.	PENNSYLVANIA	Pa.
COLORADO	Colo.	MICHIGAN	Mich.	RHODE ISLAND	R.I.
CONNECTICUT	Conn.	MINNESOTA	Minn.	SOUTH CAROLINA	S.C.
DELAWARE	Del.	MISSISSIPPI	Miss.	SOUTH DAKOTA	S.Dak.
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	D.C.	MISSOURI	Mo.	TENNESSEE	Tenn.
FLORIDA	Fla.	MONTANA	Mont.	TEXAS	Texas
GEORGIA	Ga.	NEBRASKA	Neb.	UTAH	Utah
HAWAII	Hawaii (no abbrev.)	NEVADA	Nev.	VERMONT	Vt.
IDAHO	Idaho	NEW HAMPSHIRE	N.H.	VIRGINIA	Va.
ILLINOIS	Ill.	NEW JERSEY	N.J.	WASHINGTON	Wash.
INDIANA	Ind.	NEW MEXICO	N.Mex.	WEST VIRGINIA	W.Va.
IOWA	Iowa	NEW YORK	N.Y.	WISCONSIN	Wisc.
KANSAS	Kans.	NORTH CAROLINA	N.C.	WYOMING	Wyo.

## Organizing Your Application Packet

The digital packet should be organized first with the application, followed by the documentation in generational order, beginning with Generation 1.

If a source document covers multiple generations—in a published genealogy, for example—it should be included with the most recent generation for which it applies.

- Email Address: [dmenefee@gscw.org](mailto:dmenefee@gscw.org)
  - In the email subject line, please include “GSCW [State Society]” and Applicant’s Name.
- Mailing Address:

General Society of Colonial Wars  
1150 Hungryneck Blvd, C-358  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

### Applicant’s Signature

Adults (18 and over) who apply for membership must sign their applications. A scanned or digitized image of a handwritten signature that is attached to an electronic record or a handwritten signature input onto an electronic signature pad are the only acceptable digital signatures. **Typed name into the signature block is not acceptable.**

### Unknown Information

Do not use “unknown” or “n/a” in a name, date, or place field on the application. If the information is unknown, leave the field blank.

### Multiple Copies of a Document

Only one copy of a document is needed, regardless of the number of generations covered. The generation number(s) should be marked in red at the top right-hand corner of the first page (or title page) of the document. Please include the document with the first generation to which it applies in the document packet.

### Proper Marking of Documentation

Please underline or draw an arrow with a red pen on the document and write the appropriate generation number in the top right-hand corner. If the document spans multiple pages, please include the generation number on the first page.

### Missing Documentation

All documentation listed on the application must be submitted with the application. If a document is unavailable, a “No Record Found Letter” from the appropriate town/city clerk or archivist can be used as alternative evidence.

## Legibility and Readability of a Document

All documents must be readable. If the record is difficult to read, you may provide a larger, enhanced section of the document, along with the full-page view of the document. For example, if you are providing an obituary, please include the entire newspaper page, along with a snapshot of the zoomed in portion of the record.

## Source Citations

All documents require a source citation to be included on your application form. The table below includes some of the more common documents used to complete an application. If you are relying on a document that does not appear in the list below, here are some common books to assist with genealogical reference citations:

- [The Chicago Manual of Style](#) (available in print or [online](#)), 2010  
The bible of the book-publishing industry, “CMS” will help you with everything from capitalization to punctuation to reference style to guidelines for book production.
- [NEHGS Guide to Genealogical Writing](#) edited by Penelope L. Stratton and Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG
- [Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace](#) by Elizabeth Shown Mills, 2007 (A comprehensive guide to citing genealogical works in particular).

## Applications Do’s and Don’ts:

<b>DO</b>	<b>DON’T</b>
Include a clear, legible photocopy of each document.	Include original records, or photocopies that cut off information.
Include the full name of your ancestor – first, middle, and last name. The name should be spelled as it most often appears on a record.	Identify an ancestor with a profession, rank, or title. Use legal names only.
Provide specific information for each vital event, including the date (day, month, and year) and the location (town, county, and state). If a town/county changed, use the town/county name from the time of the event.	Write “unknown” or “N/A” for a vital event. If a specific date is unknown, you should include a date range or estimated date. For example, use the term “bef.” or “aft.” to identify the first or last known record of your ancestor.
Use a red pen/pencil to underline or draw an arrow to a specific name or date on a record.	Use highlighters, staples, sticky notes, or glue to identify your ancestors.
Include birth, marriage, and death information for a second spouse. This can help to resolve any confusion when a second spouse is named on a death, cemetery, pension, or deed record.	Ignore discrepancies on a record. <b>Remember:</b> This Society will base their assessment using the documentation provided. For example, if parent’s names are incorrectly given on a death record, include a notation that the information is inaccurate.

## Application Citation Style Guide

All published source materials should include volume, part & page number, unless other specified.

<b>VITAL &amp; EVENT RECORDS</b>	
Birth, Marriage, or Death Certificate (one entry/p.) - inc. VT, NH, & ME Vital Rec. Cards	B/C; M/C; D/C
Birth, Marriage, or Death Register (multiple entries/p.)	B/R; M/R; D/R
Marriage Intention or Marriage Bond	M/Int; M/Bond
Marriage License or Marriage License Application	M/L; M/L App
Marriage Announcement or Wedding Invitation	M/Ann
Baptismal Certificate or Baptismal Register	Bap/C; Bap/R
Church-issued Vital Event Certificate or Register	Ch M/C; Ch M/R
Other Church Records (e.g., Membership Record or Missionary Record)	Ch/C; Ch/R; Ch Rec
Divorce Record or Divorce Decree	Div Rec
Funeral Record or Burial Record	Funeral Rec; Bur Rec
Obituary (from newspaper or funeral home)	Obit
Birth, Marriage, or Death Notice (sparse information) - inc. CT Hale Coll.	B/N; M/N; D/N
Newspaper Article	News
Certificate of Naturalization	Nat Cert
Abstract or Transcription of any of the above - inc. CT Church Record Abstracts	Ch Rec Abst; Obit Trans
Letter of No Record Found (state, county, or town) - cite last in reference field	Ltr NRF (MI); Ltr NRF (Plymouth Co)
Letter of No Record Available (state, county, or town) - cite last in reference field	Ltr NRA (MI); Ltr NRA (Plymouth Co)
<b>PROBATES, WILLS, &amp; DEEDS*</b>	
Wills & Probate Records (not in published volumes)	PR
Deeds (not in published volumes) - if citing multiple deeds, add descriptive info.	Deed; Deed (1842); Plymouth Co Deed 2:50
In Published Volumes: e.g., Abstracts of Bristol County Mass Probate Records	Bristol Co MA PR 2:422
<b>MILITARY RECORDS*</b>	
Pension Records (not in published volumes) - include name of war	RW Pens; 1812 Pens; CW Pens
Draft Registration Cards - include name of war	WWI Draft Reg; WWII Draft Reg
Enlistment Records - include name of war	1812 Enlist Rec; CW Enlist Rec
Other Military Records (not in published volumes)	Mil Rec

In Published Volumes: e.g., Genealogical Abstracts Of Rev War Pension Files	RW Pens Abst 2:512
<b>BIBLES &amp; FAMILY RECORDS*</b>	
Bibles - if citing multiple Bibles, add family name	Bible; Smith Bible
Family Records - if citing multiple Family Records, add family name	Fam Rec; Freeman Fam Rec
Membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830-1848	LDS Mem Recs 3:42
<b>CENSUSES</b>	
US Federal (Year, Census Type, State, Age)	1850 FC OH (57)
US Federal, 1900 (Year, Census Type, State, Age, Birth Month, Birth Year)	1900 FC MS (34; Oct 1866)
US Federal, Mortality Schedule (Year, Census Type, State, Schedule Type, Age)	1870 FC WA Mort Sch (53)
US State (Year, Census Type, State, Age)	1925 SC IA (15)
Canadian Federal (Year, Census Type, Province, Age)	1881 CC NS (10)
Canadian Federal, 1901 (Year, Census Type, Province, Birthdate)	1901 CC QC (5 Aug 1871)
Canadian Federal, 1911 (Year, Census Type, Province, Age, Birth Month, Birth Year)	1911 CC AB (30; Dec 1880)
England Federal (Year, Census Type, County, Age)	1861 EC Cheshire (8)
<b>CEMETERIES &amp; GRAVESTONES</b>	
Gravestone Photograph - inc. name of cemetery & location on document	gs photo; gs photo (31-2-14); gs photo (78y5m)
Cemetery Transcription (transcription of gravestone) - inc. Hale Coll., MOCA, & RIHCC	Cem Trans; Cem Trans (88)
Cemetery Record (from cemetery office or town cemetery dept.) - inc. pars, no pars, etc.	Cem Rec (no pars); Cem Rec (42, nmm)

Sources identified with an [\*] above must include title page, publication page (if available), and complete page of documented source.

## Standards of Documentation

### Generation 1 (Applicant)

Every applicant must submit a full copy of their birth record (sometimes called “long form”), presenting the names of their parents, and date and place of birth. Some states issue a short form birth certificate – these will not be accepted, as they provide no genealogical merit. If the applicant is married, they should also include a copy of their marriage record.

### Generation 2 and Beyond

In every generation, references are required for all statements: names, dates and places of birth, marriage, and death. Please make sure that the names, dates, and/or places agree with the supporting documentation submitted. This is strictly enforced in every generation from the applicant to the qualifying ancestor.

### Approved Lineage Society Applications

An applicant may use an approved application from the following Lineage Societies as proof. The only lineage papers which may be accepted from other Societies are from:

**The Colonial Dames of America (CDA)**

**The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA)**

**The Jamestowne Society (JS), and**

**The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD)**

These papers must be approved no earlier than January 1, 1968, and must be copies which have been approved by either the CDA Society Claims Office and bear the date of acceptance, along with the signature of the Registrar General, OR have been approved by one of the thirteen NSCDA Colonial State offices and bear the date and signature of the respective NSCDA Colonial State Society Registrar, OR have been approved, dated and signed by the verifying genealogist for The Jamestowne Society, OR have been approved, dated and signed by the verifying genealogist for The General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Applicants may supply copies of the actual documentation if desired. The line of descent from the qualifying ancestor of the GSCW candidate must be filled in on our long form lineage papers, so that there is a GSCW record of the line of descent (which a short form would not provide).

### Vital Records (birth, marriage, and death)

As a rule, if a birth, marriage, and/or death record is available, it should be submitted, rather than less reliable secondary sources.

If a full copy of a death certificate notes the date and place of birth, and the names of the parents and spouse of the decedent, a birth certificate is not required for that individual.

Dates and places of birth, marriage, and death should be given in all instances, unless it is impossible or impracticable to do so. In the case an exact date or place cannot be furnished, other records and resources should be used to make an approximation of a date or place. Some (but not all) record sets that can be used in place of a vital record are included below:

### Bible Records

If available, please include photocopies of the bible's title page, as well as other pages that note the publisher and date publication.

### Cemetery Records

If using FindAGrave.com, please include the photo of the tombstone, as this will be the only acceptable form of proof. Family relationships that do not appear on the stone will not be accepted.

### Census Records

An image showing the full enumeration/page of the census should be submitted. If needed, an enlargement of the relevant area may be submitted on a separate page.

### Church Records

These records are like the quality of a civil vital record, and an ideal substitute when a civil record is unavailable.

### DNA

Autosomal DNA evidence can be used as part of the documentation to link two generations but must be accompanied by paper-based research—DNA cannot be the only evidence of a relationship. Additionally, DNA results can be used to prove the applicant's connection to their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, but not beyond. MtDNA and Y-DNA cannot be used as evidence.

### Foreign Language Records

If a record is recorded in a language other than English, please include an accurate translation.

### Newspapers

An image showing the full page of the newspaper should be submitted, along with an enlargement of the relevant area on a separate page. The name of the paper, date and place of publication and the page number should be noted.

### Pension Records

Provide the first page/title page of the pension, as well as all pertinent pages specific to genealogical relationships or service. Pension records can be quite lengthy and therefore, only relevant pages are required for the purposes of the application.

### Published Works

Well-documented family genealogies, local and state histories, and other printed biographical works are acceptable, when original material is unavailable. Please include photocopies of the title page, as well as other pages that note the publisher and date publication.

- If relying solely on a published work to link a generation, you must provide TWO different published works (by different authors), with corroborating information. You may not rely only on published works for more than two generations. \*\*Original documentation is preferable over published works.

### Wills and Deeds

Provide the first page/title page, as well as all pertinent pages specific to genealogical relationships. Probate records and deeds can be quite lengthy and therefore, only relevant pages are required for the purposes of the application.

### Unacceptable Documentation

The following are some of the unacceptable sources and should **NOT** be submitted as proof:

- Online family trees or information found on user-submitted online websites, such as GEDCOMs, Ancestry.com trees, World Family Tree, Rootsweb.com, and similar sites, or from personal online family pages.
- LDS Ancestral File and/or IGI records.
- Indexed entries in American Genealogical-Biographical Index (AGBI) – you must locate the original citation.
- US and International Marriage Records from Ancestry.com.
- Unpublished transcriptions of wills and other legal documents posted online.

## Foundational Books for Casual Reading

### **William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*:**

Written in the 1650s (but not published until 1856), this surprisingly readable account of the Pilgrims and Plymouth Colony was one of the first books written in British North America. The author was the longtime Governor of the colony, and it provides a thorough and engaging first-hand account of the colony from 1620 to 1647.

*Available in multiple modern editions.*

### **George Morton and William Bradford, *Mourt's Relation*.**

Written circa 1622 and first published in London but not America, this booklet provides a firsthand account of the Pilgrims' interactions with the Native Americans and of the first Thanksgiving.

*Available in multiple modern editions.*

### **Nathaniel Morton, *New England's Memorial*.**

This book was written in the 1660s by William Bradford's nephew Thomas Morton, who was a longtime Secretary of Plymouth Colony. It was the first history book published in British North America (in 1669 at Cambridge, MA). It provides a broader and lengthier history of Plymouth Colony by extending beyond Bradford's 1647 end date and is instrumental to understanding Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts Bay Colony, and their progeny.

*Available in multiple modern editions.*

### **James Horn, 1619: *Jamestown and the Forging of American Democracy***

Written by the winner of the 2019 SCW Distinguished Book Award, this recent (2018) book is probably the best account of the founding of Jamestown and its implications for British North America (and indeed the United States).

### **Bernard Bailyn, *The Barbarous Years***

A broader account of 17th century British North America, focusing on multiple regions and historical figures. Written in 2012 by the then-dean of US academic historians, it nonetheless reads well and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Essential to understanding the founding of British North America in a rather unhappy and difficult century.

### **David Hackett Fischer, *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in North America***

Brilliantly conceived and executed by one of the foremost living U.S. academic historians, this enlightening 1989 book traces the impact on four American regions of emigration during the 17th and 18th centuries from distinct parts of the British Isles. Although lengthy and detailed, it reads well and is vastly informative and instrumental to understanding who we are and why.

**Francis Parkman, *Montcalm and Wolfe: The French and Indian War***

This riveting and highly readable 1884 classic by historian Francis Parkman tell the story of the British-French struggle for North America by focusing on the heroes of the French & Indian War, Generals Montcalm, and Wolfe, culminating in the world-changing seizure of Quebec in 1759. Highly recommended as a romantic and engaging but also historically important introduction to the French & Indian War.

**Fred Anderson, *Crucible of War***

This broader, more modern (2001) history by a living and important academic historian of the French & Indian/Seven Years War offers the best overall narrative of that world war, with a focus on North America. It is lengthy but readable and is the “go to” book for understanding that struggle. For those intimidated by a 917-page tome, a shortened version of this book was subsequently published by Anderson titled *The War that Made America: A Short History of the French & Indian War*. But the original book is better.

**Nick Bunker, *An Empire on the Edge***

Moving closer to the lead-up to the American Revolution, this 2014 book by British independent scholar Nick Bunker lucidly analyzes America’s place within the British Empire and the forces, both economic and political, that were tearing that Empire apart. A highly informative and readable analysis of Anglo-American relations during the late colonial period and of why the Revolution became inevitable. 2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist.

In addition to the above nine “foundational” books, there are a handful of other books which, while not in our judgment necessarily meeting all the criteria to be considered “foundational,” nonetheless provide worthwhile reading and valuable treatment of specific geographic places, people, or events.

- Russell Shorto, *The Island at the Center of the World*. [New York, 2004].
- James A. Warren, *God, War and Providence*. [Rhode Island, 2018].
- Rhys Isaac, *The Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790*. [Virginia, 1982].
  - **Winner of Pulitzer Prize in History**
- James David Drake, *King Philip’s War: Civil War in New England* [Massachusetts, 2000].
- Andrew Roberts, *The Last King of America* [New York, 2022].
  - **Winner of the 2022 GSCW Distinguished Book Award**