

Lineage Societies

You Cannot Choose Your Relatives.
You Can Choose Your Friends.

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What are Lineage Societies?

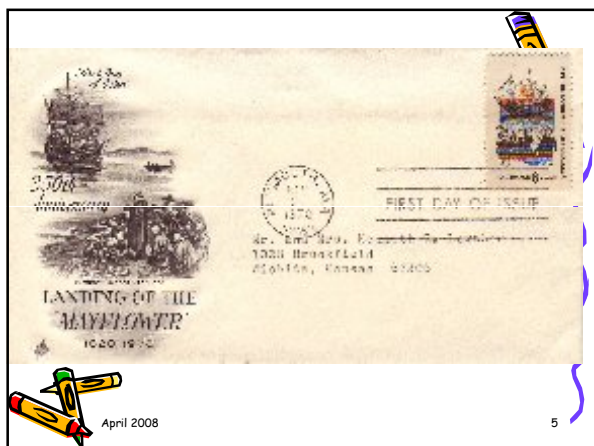
- Our ancestors go back hundreds of generations.
- Each marriage brings together ancient ancestral lines
- Lineage is the line of ancestors through the parents.
- Much to be discovered - enjoy!

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What are Lineage Societies?

- American lineage societies commemorate groups of people who participated in the ground-breaking events that defined us as a people and as a nation.
- Examples:
 - 1607 Founding of Jamestown Colony
 - 1775-1883, War for Independence
 - 1620 Landing of the ship *Mayflower*, Plymouth Mass.
- Members show their lineage connects to the group.

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Similar organizations that are "not-lineage"

- Libraries - public/membership
 - Fiske Genealogy Library
- Historical Societies, Museums - Public/membership
 - WA State Historical Society
 - Oregon-California Trail Association
- Genealogy Societies - membership
 - New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)
- Civil War Roundtable



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Benefits of membership - Why join?

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- Express a personal connection to events of the past
- Share the appreciation with like-minded others



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Benefits of membership - Why join?

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- Express a personal connection to events of the past
 - Enables placing ancestors in historical events - Adds history to your genealogy
 - Enriches the study of history
 - Enables comparing life of the past to the present
 - Establishes family traditions
 - Honor your ancestors and historical event



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• St. Helenas Church, site of William Bradford (1589-1657) baptism, Austerfield, Yorkshire, England, Oct. 2007

Benefits of membership - Why join?

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- Share the appreciation with like-minded others
 - National Society Magazine with relevant history
 - Chapter newsletters with local events
 - Social networking at meal time
 - Guest Speakers
 - Share, share, share
 - Information, photos, documents, genealogical data



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Membership - Limitations

- Largest have stable structure
 - Particularly at national HQ
 - Some go extinct
- "All-Volunteer" Organizations
 - Use of technology may be limited
 - Volunteer your services to improve them
 - Small chapters, subject to personal whims, quirks
 - Sometimes quirky.
- Enjoy what they offer




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Benefits to Genealogical Research

- Published membership lineages - books and CDs
 - Lineage papers available from the Society
 - Modest Fee
 - Source citations
- Published membership directories with ancestor's name.
 - Identifies Cousins
 - Cousins have enriching data



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Popular Lineage Societies

- "The most popular hereditary organizations emphasize the ties between current members and ancestors whose collective actions had an affect on American history."
 - Lynn Betlock, *New England Ancestors*, Summer 2002, page 34



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Lineage Societies Active in Puget Sound 1 of 2


- Daughters of the American Revolution**
- Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Washington**
- Sons of the American Revolution**
- Society of Cincinnati
- Jamestowne Society**
- Washington Pioneer Society
- Colonial Dames



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Lineage Societies Active in Puget Sound 2 of 2

- Founders and Patriots
- War of 1812
- Huguenot Society
- Ancient and Honorable Artillery of Massachusetts
- Magna Carta Surety
- And Others



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Daughters of the American Revolution**

- Largest, most active society: ~170,000 in USA, 3000 chapters
- Members (female) trace lineage to person served in the American Revolutionary War
- Very Influential 1900-1940s, before radio, TV
- Genealogy data
 - Lineage book: Published members and patriot ancestors
 - Detailed lineage papers available during application.
 - Washington DC: Extensive Library, Museum, Site of WWI Armistice Signing
- Active in historic preservation & welcoming new US Citizens

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Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Washington**

- Commemorate Pilgrims who landed on ship *Mayflower* Nov 11, 1620, Plymouth MA
 - First self-governance agreement: Mayflower Compact, 1620
 - Pilgrims fled religious persecution in England (via Holland)
 - First Thanksgiving Holiday, Fall 1621
- Members trace lineage to 26 Pilgrims having descendants
 - Members: 445 in WA, 27,000 in USA
 - Potential descendants: 5 - 10 Million
 - Many US Presidents are descendants

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Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Washington**

"Cousins" among 445 members, 2007.

50-59	John Alden*, William Brewster, John Howland, Richard Warren
40-49	William Bradford* (Governor), Francis Cooke*,
30-39	Stephen Hopkins* (& of Jamestown, VA)
20-29	Edward Doty, Edward Fuller, Thomas Rogers, William White,
10-19	Isaac Allerton, Peter Brown*, James Chilton*, William Mullins*, George Soule, Miles Standish, John Tilley
0-9	John Billington, Francis Eaton, Elizabeth Fisher, Joan Hurst, Roger Moore, Mary Norris, Degory Priest, Henry Samson*, Edward Winslow (Governor)

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Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Washington**

- Genealogy data
 - Five Generations Project: Descendants (1600 to ~1790 -- 1810) "Silver Books"
 - Relatives lineage papers include source citations
 - New England Histories and Court Records
- Numerous History Books

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Sons of the American Revolution**

- Society: 29,000 in USA, 470 chapters (4 in WA State)
- Members (male) trace lineage to person served in the American Revolutionary War
- Genealogy data
 - Lineage book: Published members and patriot ancestors
 - Detailed lineage papers available during application.
 - Lexington KY: Library, Museum
- Active in military traditions
 - George Washington's Birthday ceremonies at Univ. of Washington
 - High School JROTC ceremonies, scholarships

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Society of Cincinnati

- Named after Roman General, Cincinnatus, "citizen soldier".
- Formed 1783, immediately after Revolutionary War
- Members can trace lineage to an officer who served in the war
- 13 Colonial State chapters + France
- Only one descendant per officer allowed
- Genealogy data: contact name, address of today's War Ancestor representative

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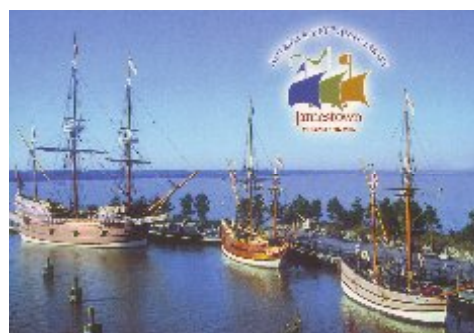
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Jamestown Society**

- Commemorate person in Jamestown Colony 1607-1689 & Virginia Company investors of England.
 - 1689, Virginia Colony Capital moved to Williamsburg VA
 - Few records
 - » Little land ownership allowed, maintain aristocracy
 - » Business records lost (Virginia Co., 1606-1624)
 - » Of estimated 15,000 emigrants, ~900 known names
 - » Few Court records
 - Members: ~5500 USA, 15 WA State
- Ref: J. F. Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse & Person*, 3 volumes, 20,000 names.

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Pioneer Association of the State of Washington

- Ancestor lived in Washington State prior to Statehood (1889)
- Own the building housing the Fiske Genealogical Foundation & Library
- Newsletter on website



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Other Lineage Societies:

1 of 2

- Colonial Dames
- Founders and Patriots
- War of 1812
- Huguenot Society
 - Descendants of French Protestants fled from France, 1500-1600s

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Other Lineage Societies:

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- Ancient and Honorable Artillery of Massachusetts
 - Founded 1637, the "Honourable Artillery Company" chartered in London, in Massachusetts Colony, 1637-1888.
 - Published biographical Sketches of members
 - Only group allowed to march in Boston's Commons.
 - Museum, HQ, in top floor, Faneuil Hall, Boston



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Other Lineage Societies:

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- Magna Carta Surety
 - Members can show lineage to the signers of the England's Magna Carta of 1200s.
 - Source of the "Rights of Englishmen"
- And others...



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• Summary:

- Enjoy Lineage Societies for what they offer
 - History,
 - Social Networking,
 - Genealogy
- Discussion



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