

**BYLAWS OF THE EDWARD FULLER COLONY,
SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of this Society shall be the Edward Fuller Colony, Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida.

ARTICLE II – THE OBJECTS OF THIS SOCIETY SHALL BE:

Section 1. To perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of our Pilgrim Fathers. To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Compact of the Mayflower, “For the Glorie of God, the advancement of the Christian faith and honour of our countrie.”

Section 2. To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity.

Section 3. To transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers to those who shall come after us, an undiminished heritage of liberty and law.

Section 4. “To promote the interests that are common to all the State Societies of Mayflower Descendants which can best be served by a federal body and to secure united efforts to discover and publish original matter in regard to the Pilgrims, together with existing data known only to antiquarians, and to authenticate, preserve and mark historical spots made memorable by Pilgrim association.”

Section 5. The Colony shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All persons over eighteen years of age who are descended from a passenger on the Mayflower on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December 1620, shall be eligible for membership. No person shall be eligible for the State Society or Colony membership who is pledged to or advocates the overthrow, by force or violence, of the Constitution of the United States, or that of any State or Territory; or who has been found guilty of any treasonable practice, or who is not of good moral character, and the State Society or Colony involved shall have the right to expel from membership any person for any of these causes; and any question arising under this proviso (a) shall be determined by the Board of Assistants for members and provided further (b) that no one may become a member of this Society unless personally acceptable to it.

Section 2. Every application for membership in the Florida State Society shall be made on a preliminary blank provided by the Society. Such application shall bear the autograph signature of the candidate and two members of the Society shall vouch for the applicant.

Section 3. Any applicant for membership in this Society who shall make a request through the State Historian for copy of any lineage paper in the office of the Historian General shall be furnished the same upon payment of a designated fee. Copies of documentary proofs, however, may be furnished on payment of such charges as the Historian General may determine. Said fees to be paid to the General Society through the State Historian to the Historian General.

Section 4. After a prospective member has completed the preliminary application, duly countersigned by two members of the FSMD and accompanied by the stated fee, the Colony Historian shall forward same to the State Historian. That officer will then forward lineage working papers to the applicant, who has a nine (9) month period in which to prepare and submit the papers unless granted an extension of time by the State Historian in order to seek additional documentation when it is perceived that the applicant is making a valid effort to complete the lineage papers. When the applicant has satisfactorily completed the worksheet, the permanent application lineage papers will next be completed and forwarded through the State Historian to the Historian General, GSMD. If the papers are not completed on time, or if that are not accepted by the Historian General, GSMD, the application is null and void, and the fee paid is non-refundable.

Section 5. The State Society may establish Junior membership for juniors of any age up to eighteen years, which membership may continue until the age of twenty-five years, in accordance with the provisions of this section. A member in good standing in the State Society may make application for Junior membership on behalf of any person under eighteen years of age who has a proven lineage, meaning that the Junior is related to a past or present member of the Society by blood through the same line of descent through which the member was approved by the Society. Applications can be obtained from the State Junior Membership Chairman and returned to same for processing after completion by the Sponsor. The applicant for enrollment shall not be required to complete lineage papers, or prove descent. A Junior of the Society is automatically a Junior of the Colony whose member is the Sponsor. The State Junior Membership Chairman will assign Junior State numbers and issue Certificates to applicants.

Junior members may, between the ages of eighteen and their 25th birthday, transfer to Regular Membership in the State Society in which the Junior Membership is held, provided the usual lineage papers shall have been furnished and approved, either prior to or at the time of the application from Junior to Regular membership. No payment of the initiation fee will be required. They shall become members of the Colony in Florida in which the Sponsor is currently a member. A State and General number shall be assigned to each Junior member upon becoming a Regular member.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Colony shall be a Colony Governor, Colony Vice Governor, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Historian, an Elder, and a Captain, and the Immediate Past Colony Governor. These officers constitute the Board of the Colony.

Section 2. These officers shall be elected at three year intervals effective at the annual meeting beginning in 2005, a plurality of votes determining the choice.

Election shall be by ballot or by voice where only one person is nominated for an office. They shall assume office immediately following the annual meeting at which they were elected and shall continue to serve until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 3. A nominating committee, consisting of two members, plus the current Colony Governor, shall be elected at the annual meeting preceding the annual meeting for the election of officers. If the Colony Governor is unable or unwilling to serve, the current Colony Governor shall name a Past Colony Governor to serve. This committee shall present the names of a full slate of officers at the May meeting preceding the election. However, names may be presented from the floor for any of the positions to be filled.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Colony Governor shall preside at all meetings of the Colony; may appoint a Parliamentarian and an Auditor; appoint all committees and perform such other duties as pertain to the chief officer of any similar organization.

Section 2. The Colony Vice Governor shall perform all of the duties of Colony Governor during the absence or disability of the Colony Governor.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and proceedings of the Colony; keep complete lists of all members and notify members of the Colony of all meetings to be held, make such notices and communication as may be ordered by the Colony of by the Governor, and perform all duties usually pertaining to such office.

The Colony Secretary shall immediately send notice of the death of a member to the State Secretary, who will then notify the State Historian and State Elder.

The Colony Secretary shall send a list of newly elected officers to the State Governor, State Secretary, State Historian and State Treasurer as soon as possible.

Section 4. The Colony Treasurer shall take charge of all funds belonging to the Colony; keep suitable books of accounts; charge, collect and receive all fees, dues and all other monies payable to the Colony; report the condition of the Treasury at all stated meetings of the Colony. The Colony Governor and Colony Secretary shall be designated on all Colony checking or savings accounts as an alternate signer. The books and records of the Colony Treasurer shall be audited annually and always at the change of Colony Treasurer, at the expense of the Colony or by someone approved by the Colony.

Section 5. The Colony Historian shall examine and report on all lineage papers of applicants; shall be custodian of all blank applications, lineage papers and computer disks; shall make a detailed report of all celebrations of the Colony, and file all documents, papers and speeches; shall notify members of their election and keep a record of all signed certificates and perform any other duties assigned by the Colony Governor. The Colony Historian shall, when practicable, assist applicants in filling out their lineage papers.

Section 6. The Colony Elder shall officiate when called upon at any regular meeting of the Colony. The Colony Elder shall send a message of condolence after having been notified by the Secretary of the death of a member.

Section 7. The Colony Captain shall carry out all orders of the Colony Governor, protect the flags of the Society, and act as a Marshall at parades and on occasions of ceremony.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Standing or Special Committees shall be appointed by the Colony Governor as deemed necessary. The Colony Governor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. Committees shall submit written reports as necessary or at the request of the Colony Governor.

ARTICLE VII – FEES AND DUES

Section 1. A fee as set by FSMMD (See Standing Rules) must accompany each application, original or supplemental. In the event of an unfavorable action of any applicant or the application is not completed within the time limit specified (See Article III, Section 4), no refund will be made.

Section 2. Annual dues shall be as determined by the State Society and shall be payable on or before the first of January of each calendar year. The Colony Treasurer shall collect from members and shall, on or before March 15th, remit to the State Treasurer. Members who are in arrears as much as six months may be dropped from the rolls of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Assistants at the Annual Meeting unless, by special resolution, the Board shall extend the time for the payment of dues. The Colony may by majority vote of those members present and voting, increase the amount of the Colony dues.

Section 3. A fund shall be appropriated to help defray expenses of the Colony Governor or the Colony Governor's representative at each Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants state meeting. A further fund shall be appropriated to help defray expenses of the Colony Vice Governor in traveling to and attending Florida Society meetings if representing the Colony Governor.

Section 4. Members of another State Society may have their membership transferred to the Florida State Society by submitting the preliminary application and furnishing a certified copy of lineage papers and a certificate of good standing.

Section 5. Members of other State Societies, in good standing, and residing in this state, may become active members of this Society under provisions for regular members, except that payment of the initiation fees shall be waived.

Section 6. TRANSFERS: A request for an intrastate transfer from one Colony to another Colony within the FSMD is made through the member's current Colony Historian, who then coordinates the transfer through the State Historian to the accepting Colony Historian. Prior to effecting such transfers, the State Historian shall ensure that the member is in good standing by ensuring that membership dues have been paid for the current calendar year to the losing Colony prior to declaring a transfer action final. No further dues shall be charged that member by the gaining Colony for that current calendar year, if dues have already been paid for that particular calendar year at the previous Colony.

- a. Transfer fees: A member requesting a transfer out of FSMD will be charged a transfer fee in the amount as established by the FSMD.
- b. Interstate Transfers: Transfers intrastate or interstate shall be in accordance with requirements and procedures of FSMD By-Laws.

Section 7. Members in good standing who may desire to present supplemental lines for approval may secure from the State Historian blanks for the preparation of said lines upon the payment of a fee for each supplement. In the event that any supplemental lines are not accepted, no refund will be made.

Section 8. A member desiring reinstatement after being dropped for non-payment of dues, or failure to submit a formal letter of resignation, may do so upon request for reinstatement and payment of any dues which were in arrears at the time they ceased to be a member, payment of dues for the current year of reinstatement; plus a reinstatement fee, by a two-thirds vote of the membership attending an annual meeting. The Colony Treasurer will determine the amount which was in effect at the time the member was dropped plus the arrears for the year membership ceased, and the record shall read as having resigned in good standing in that year.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of the Edward Fuller Colony shall be held in October, December, February and May. The October meeting shall be the annual meeting for the purpose of **electing officers in election years**, adopting the budget for the next calendar year, and for receiving end of year committee reports.

Section 2. Special Meetings of the Colony may be held at any specified time or place at the call of the Colony Governor, or upon request of ten (10) members. The object of such meetings shall be stated in the notice and no other business shall be transacted, except by unanimous consent of all members present and voting.

Section 3. Fifteen percent (15%) of the members, including two elected officers, of the Colony shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting.

Section 4. The suggested order of business of all stated meetings of the Colony shall be as follows:

1. Reading of the Minutes of the previous stated meeting and intervening Special Meetings.
2. Communications
3. Reports of Officers
4. Reports of Committees
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Nominations and elections of officers (at appropriate meetings)
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE IX – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Roberts’ Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws or any special rules of order which the Society may adopt.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The By-Laws may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the meeting provided that a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been provided to each member at the previous meeting. Such proposed amendment may be amended at the meeting at which it is voted upon, provided that the amendment is germane to the proposed amendment and does not extend or increase the scope.

Section 2. Amendments to these By-Laws shall be effective immediately upon adoption unless otherwise specified.

ARTICLE XI

Upon the dissolution of this Colony, all of it’s assets remaining after payment of all costs and expenses of such dissolution shall be distributed to the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants.

STANDING RULES

1. A Colony Directory shall be published every year.
2. Insignia purchased for the Colony Governor are the property of the Colony and will be passed to succeeding holders of those positions
3. The Colony Governor’s insignia of Office and gavel are the property of the Colony and will be passed to succeeding Colony Governors.

Adopted as Amended October 11, 2014