Lineage Societies

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Common Types of Lineage Societies

- Occupation
- Military
- Founding or Immigration Event
- Ethnicity
- Family Associations
- Single Person of Significance
- Historical Event

Online Lists of Societies

- Lineage Society of America:
  - http://lineagesocietyofamerica.com/list-of-lineage-societies.html
- Lineage Societies on Cyndi's List:
  - https://www.cyndislist.com/societies/lineage/
- List of Hereditary and Lineage Organizations on Wikipedia:
  - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_hereditary_and_lineage_organizations
- The Hereditary Society Community of the United States of America:
  - http://hereditary.us

Society Records

Here are just some suggestions:

- Try visiting a Society's website to see if they have a library, online digital collections, an ancestor list, etc.
- Try to Google search the Society's name along with "applications," "magazine," "membership lists," "newsletter," etc. to see what may come up.
- On Ancestry.com ($), try searching the card catalog for the Society's name in the title search area, and/or doing a Keyword Search for "application" or "membership." You can also try narrowing down the results using the Filters for USA, then Directories & Member Lists, and then Society & Employment Directories if desired.

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Society Records (cont.)

- NEHGS's AmericanAncestors.org ($) site has recently released a searchable database for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920: https://mayflower.americanancestors.org/mayflower-research-databases
  - You can search built trees from this collection on FamilySearch for free (FamilySearch.org/Mayflower), but you can only look at the actual applications with an AmericanAncestors.org subscription.

Getting Started Tips

- Research your direct family lines and collect sources proving birth, marriage, death along with connecting generations to each other.
- Order/obtain civil vital records for the most recent generations.
- Explore various Societies to see which might be a good fit for you and become familiar with their application process.

Further Education

If you'd like to watch/listen some more webinars/podcasts on Lineage Societies, please check out the following YouTube Channels:

- AmericanAncestors, The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Ancestral Findings, Family Locket, Ancestry, Lineage Society Genealogy, BYU Family History Library, and many more.

The National Genealogical Society Magazine had a nice feature on Lineage Societies:

- Volume 45, Number 2, April-June 2019.

Notes

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