A genealogical profile of Robert Gorges

**Birth:** Robert Gorges was baptized on November 15, 1595, at St. James, Clerkenwell, Middlesex.

**Death:** Nothing is known of his place or date of death.

**Ship:** Unknown, 1623

**Life in England:** Robert was the second son of Sir Ferdinando Gorges by his first wife, Anne Bell. He had been involved in the Venetian wars before he returned to England to assume the position of Governor of New England for his father.

**Life in New England:** Robert Gorges’ time in New England was brief. He first arrived about the middle of September 1623. His council consisted of the Admiral of New England, Francis West; Captain Christopher Levitt; and the Governor of New Plymouth, William Bradford. As Governor of New England, Gorges was to prevent “interloping and disorderly trading” in New England. He and his company of men and families settled in the deserted houses of Wessagusset [Weymouth]. Robert Gorges and most of his company returned to England the next year, “not finding the state of things here to answer his quality and condition.” Some men remained in Wessagusset, making it the second permanent English settlement in New England.

**Family:** There is no evidence that Robert Gorges married or had children.

**For Further Information:**
Where do I go from here?

Researching your family’s history can be a fun, rewarding, and occasionally frustrating project. Start with what you know by collecting information on your immediate family. Then, trace back through parents, grandparents, and beyond. This is a great opportunity to speak to relatives, gather family stories, arrange and identify old family photographs, and document family possessions that have been passed down from earlier generations.

Once you have learned all you can from family members, you will begin to discover other sources. A wide variety of records can help you learn more about the lives of your ancestors. These include birth, marriage, and death records; immigration and naturalization records; land records; census records; probate records and wills; church and cemetery records; newspapers; passenger lists; military records; and much more.

When you use information from any source — an original record, a printed book, or a website — always be careful to document it. If you use a book, you should cite the author or compiler, the full title, publication information and pages used. Also be sure to record the author’s sources for the information. If the author’s sources aren’t provided, you will have to try to find the original source. Many genealogical works contain faulty information, and the Internet also contains many inaccuracies. In order for your work to be accepted — by lineage societies and other genealogists — it must be properly documented.

Important Genealogical Resources

New England Historic Genealogical Society
Founded in 1845, NEHGS is the country’s oldest and largest genealogical society. The library contains over 200,000 books, plus significant manuscript and microfilm collections, and a circulating library by mail. NEHGS members receive two periodicals, the Register and New England Ancestors, and can access valuable genealogical data online.

Plimoth Plantation: Bringing Your History To Life
As a non-profit, educational organization our mission is: to offer the public powerful experiences of history, built upon thorough research of the Wampanoag and Pilgrim communities. We offer multiple learning opportunities to provide a deeper understanding of the relationship of historical events to modern America. Members have access to our Research Library.
Plimoth Plantation, 137 Warren Avenue, Plymouth, MA 02632; 508-746-1622; www.plimoth.org

Recommended Websites
- www.PlymouthAncestors.org
- www.CyndisList.com
- www.FamilySearch.org
- www.USGenWeb.org

Genealogical Libraries in Plymouth

General Society of Mayflower Descendants Library
A collection focused principally on the genealogies of the descendants of the Mayflower passengers.
4 Winslow St., Plymouth; 508-746-3188; www.mayflower.org

Plymouth Collection, Plymouth Public Library
Over 1200 items relating to the descendants of the Pilgrims, as well as the many other immigrants who settled in the area.
132 South St., Plymouth; 508-830-4250; www.plymouthpubliclibrary.org

Recommended Books

A collaboration between Plimoth Plantation and the New England Historic Genealogical Society®
www.PlymouthAncestors.org