A genealogical profile of Robert Ratcliffe

**Birth:** Robert Ratcliffe was born in England

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

**Ship:** *Anne* or *Little James*, 1623

**Life in England:** Nothing is known of his life in England.

**Life in New England:** Robert Ratcliffe came to Plymouth Colony in the summer of 1623. The page of the land division of 1623 where his name appeared has been damaged, and the number of acres which he received is unclear. It has been read as “2.” If so, Robert may have brought a wife or other family member with him, but nothing further is known. His name does not appear in the division of cattle held in Plymouth Colony in May 1627, so he had either died or left the colony by that time.

**Family:** There is no information about any family members, unless the number of acres he received in the 1623 land division is a clue.

**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

**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**


**RECOMMENDED WEBSITES**

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

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