

Sir George Somers was in command of a fleet of nine vessels carrying 500 passengers which sailed from Plymouth, England in June 1609 to relieve the starving colony of Jamestown.

On the night of July 24, "a storm, a dreadful storm and hideous" broke, separating Sir George's flagship, the 300 ton SEA VENTURE, from the rest of the fleet.

After an "Egyptian Night of three daies perpetual horror" with everyone aboard taking turns at the pumps, the leaking SEA VENTURE was beached on a Bermuda reef and its party was saved on July 26, 1609.

The storm was the one which prompted Shakespeare to write THE TEMPEST.

Despite the wreck, Sir George did not lose sight of the original mission. With native cedar and everything that could be salvaged from the SEA VENTURE (whose wreck was recently discovered by a skin diver and identified), the colonists built two small vessels, the DELIVERANCE and the PATIENCE, and sailed to Virginia in May 1610.

Our ancestor, Henry Bagwell, Gent., 1590 - 1648-CC 1, was a survivor of the SEA VENTURE.

While waiting for the smaller ships to be built, the members of the Virginia Company divided the island in accordance with their several shares.

Henry Bagwell, possessor of five shares received Plot No. 6 in Fagots Tribe.

On that ground is now situated the Ramsey Hall Hotel, the Longlands Hotel, Montgomerie Cottages, and the Bermuda Beach Club.

Henry Bagwell came to Virginia on the DELIVERANCE in May, 1610.

He was appointed first clerk of the monthly court at Old Plantation in 1632 and retained the office after the court became the State Court of Assizes in 1640.

In the Assembly of 1629, "For the Easterns Shores noe Burgesses did appeare", but in the Assembly of 1629 - 30, Assizes was represented by Henry Bagwell, Captain Thomas Graves, Captain Edward Scarborough, and Obadiah Rolins.