



FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Theis (972) 248-9500

“History is exciting, especially in the greatest country in the world, and now brought to life by a thinker par excellence, Michael Gorton. This story vibrates with wisdom and insights. I look forward to the movie!”

MARK VICTOR HANSEN | #1-SELLING AUTHOR OF *CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL* AND *ONE MINUTE MILLIONAIRE*

Dallas, TX - October 2018: Students who think history is just stories about a bunch of dead people are dead wrong. Author and serial entrepreneur Michael Gorton brings history to life through his ancestors, who helped to lay the very foundation of American democracy.

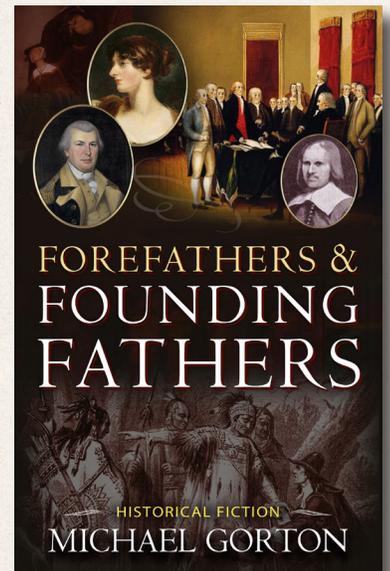
An 11th generation descendant of Samuel Gorton, an early settler and civic leader of Rhode Island Colony, Gorton has successfully unearthed an incredible piece of America’s past. Stocked with romance, adventure, and persistence, **FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS** (Brown Books, November 2018; \$14.99 Trade Paperback, ISBN-13: 978-1-61254-272-0), chronicles the trials of 17th century patriots who fought to create the template for America.

“There are so many hidden stories in American history about the roots of who we are and where we came from,” said Gorton.

In 2015, Gorton and his daughter began to research their impactful ancestors. “I discovered a lost part of history that needed to be told. In light of the potential impact, I spent significantly more time researching the details and crafting them into the tale,” said Gorton. “The project and the story itself were intoxicating. I think perhaps anyone who has worked on an adventure like this understands how it becomes part of your existence.”

Following the story of hard-working Samuel and his highly educated wife, Mary, **FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS** recounts their journey to the colonies, where they were ostracized and sentenced to death for introducing fundamental principles modern Americans hold dear. Long after the pioneers’ deaths other notable descendants of Samuel and Mary, including General Nathanael Greene, Captain Benjamin Gorton, Julia Ward Howe, Thomas Edison, John Wayne, and Lucille Ball, continued to mold the nation.

From Puritanism to the Great Migration, this book enlightens readers, educators, and students on an aspect of history that is largely unknown. For more information on Michael Gorton and **FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS**, please visit www.ForefathersandFoundingFathers.com.



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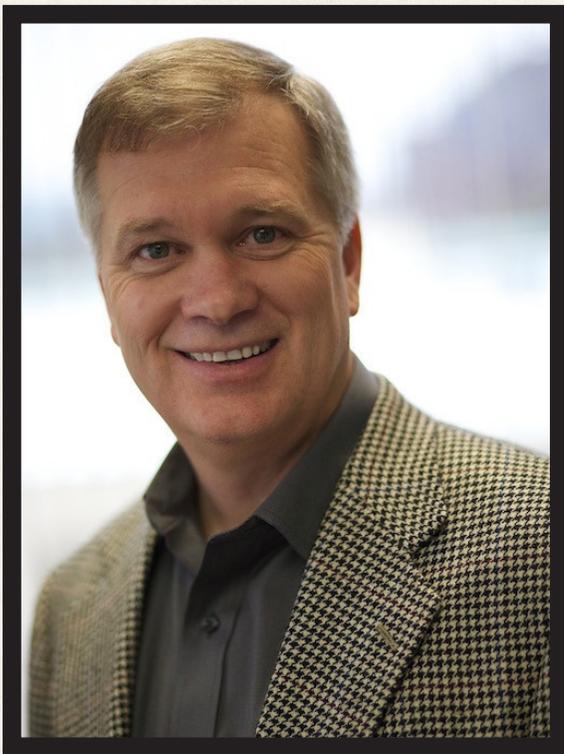
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HIDDEN STORIES OF AMERICA'S PAST

DIRECT DESCENDANT OF SAMUEL GORTON REVEALS UNKNOWN PIECE OF
HIS STORY THROUGH THE LENS OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

ABOUT THE AUTHOR—MICHAEL GORTON



Award-winning author **Michael Gorton** is the eleventh-generation descendant of Samuel Gorton, one of the founders of Rhode Island. He holds degrees in physics, engineering, and law. Raised in an Air Force family, he is the first of his family to earn a college degree. Gorton is a serial entrepreneur who has founded eleven companies, including Dallas-based Teladoc Inc., the nation's oldest and largest telemedicine company.

FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS is Gorton's fifth novel. A prolific writer, Gorton at first intended just to give this book to friends and family, but while researching, he realized this was an important and unknown story that needed to be told.

Michael is a runner who has completed eighteen marathons, a black belt in kenpo karate, and a mountain climber. Gorton and his family set their sights high as well, with their goal of climbing the highest point of elevation in all fifty states. They have only eleven states left to conquer.

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WHAT EDUCATORS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT... FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS

The publisher, Brown Books Publishing Group (BBPG), has conceptualized a new genre in connection with the release of **FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS**. Living History focuses on true stories from significant periods in history, as shared by the authors' ancestors. Titles in the genre will equip educators with factual, riveting narratives that improve students' understanding and engagement.

The expanded second edition of **FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS** exemplifies the Living History category by revealing impactful figures and providing a deeper perspective on their sacrifices and devotion to this country. Discover the compelling, brave tale that was once almost forgotten by much of America.

"This book will challenge everything that history books have taught us about the 'founding years' in the American colonies. Young adult readers will make text to text and text to world connections as they journey four hundred years in history where horrific truths are revealed. **FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS** is an amazing historical account that defies everything we know about the beginning of America, including our Thanksgiving feast with the pilgrims. It leaves the reader wondering what else we are in the dark about."

—MARLA CONN
FOUNDER, READABILITY, INC.

About the Text Forefathers & Founding Fathers

Historical Fiction

Based on true accounts

Author

11th generation descendent of Samuel Gorton, one of the founders of Rhode Island

Features

Author's note
Primary sources
Illustrations
Cast of characters
Lineage
Historical notes

Themes

History
Freedom
Leadership
Struggles
Friendship
Justice

Alignments to the Common Core Standards for Literacy

Literary Elements

Setting
Plot
Character development
Point of view
Figurative language

Comprehension Strategies

Cause and effect relationships
Inferencing
Drawing conclusions
Compare and contrast
Fact and opinion
Author's purpose

Alignments to Social Studies Standards

"Great Migration"
Founding of America
Government
War
Genocide
Genealogy
Culture

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PRAISE FOR THE BOOK...

"The West family has produced four generations of combat servicemen for our nation, and as I was born and raised in Georgia, the legacy of General Nathanael Greene is well known to me and well regarded. It is imperative to never forget that before there was an America, there were Americans. These Americans believed in the fundamental principles of individual liberty and freedom. Michael Gorton reminds us all that patriotism begins with family."

—LT. COL. ALLEN B. WEST (RET.)

FORMER US CONGRESSMAN AND AUTHOR OF *HOLD TEXAS, HOLD THE NATION: VICTORY OR DEATH*

"Michael Gorton beautifully unveils what it means to be an American. What a fascinating read and what an incredible legacy."

—BENJAMIN GORTON

FROM A DISTANT BRANCH OF THE GORTON CLAN

"All great people, achievements, and nations are established in the wake of pioneers who have gone before. In this book, you will discover that our founding fathers were standing on the shoulders of true giants. Michael shows us that we owe a debt of gratitude to many people we had not known before."

—JIM STOVALL

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF *THE ULTIMATE GIFT*

"Brilliant! Intoxicating! I found myself absorbed in the relationships, the politics, and the struggles. Much more than a history lesson—it is a collection of leadership portraits that shaped our nation's destiny."

—GENERAL REBECCA HALSTEAD (RET.)

AUTHOR AND INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

"This book will challenge everything that history books have taught us about the 'founding years' in the American colonies. Michael Gorton is authentic and believable in this historical fiction tale of four radical individuals who were ahead of their time and planted the seeds that enabled our founding fathers to nurture and grow our great democracy. Young adult readers will make text to text and text to world connections as they journey four hundred years in history where horrific truths are revealed. **FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS** is an amazing historical account that defies everything we know about the beginning of America, including our Thanksgiving feast with the pilgrims. It leaves the reader wondering what else we are in the dark about. Students are given many opportunities to argue and evaluate Gorton's claims, evidence, and differing points of view on the events in the book as they question, problem solve, and research."

—MARLA CONN

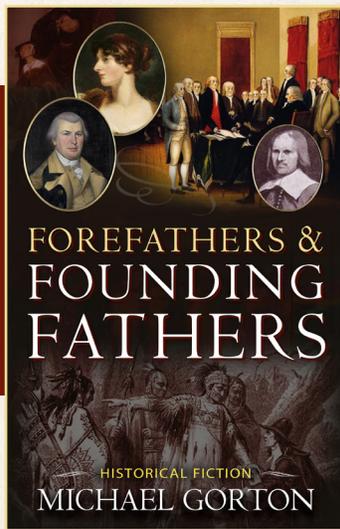
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Author	Michael Gorton
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Publisher Website	www.BrownBooks.com
Author Website	www.ForefathersandFoundingFathers.com

SYNOPSIS

In the early colonies, this country was on the precipice of becoming an autocratic theocracy. The battle for democracy and equal rights was sparked by a few characters, who are now a lost and forgotten piece of history. **FOREFATHERS & FOUNDING FATHERS** is an adventure, a love story, and a tale of great persistence, chronicling those who fought to create the template for America. It is a tale that every American should know, and yet, most do not.

Travel back to 1620s London, when hard-working and creative Samuel met Mary, a unique and highly educated woman. Their journey would lead them to the colonies where they were ostracized and sentenced to death for introducing the fundamental principles modern Americans hold dear.

This fast-paced novel will make you question your understanding of the founding years of the free nation. Not only did they spark the ideals of democracy 150 years before Jefferson and Adams, these pioneers created the template our founding fathers used to build America. This expanded second edition explores even further into the lives of these impactful figures, giving a deeper perspective on their sacrifices and devotion to this country.

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