



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 107

Name: Chew, Sarah

Dates: (- bef. 3 Apr 1651)

Colonial Society: VA

Date added to ROA: February 13, 2024

Service: Historic Founder, came to Virginia in the *Seaflower*, 1621; Listed in the Muster of Jan 1624/5

Authority: Dorman, John Frederick, comp. & ed., *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, 4th ed., vol. 1 (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2004), 44, 517-518.

Biography:

Sarah's birth date and last name at birth are not known. In 1621, she arrived in Virginia on the ship *Seaflower*. Her husband, John Chew, came to Virginia in 1622 aboard the *Charitie*. Although it is possible that they married in England, the fact that Sarah arrived first suggests that she came over as a single woman and married John at Jamestown. She might have come as an indentured servant or as a "tobacco bride" – a single woman whose passage was paid by the Virginia Company to provide a wife for a male settler.

John was one of the "ablest merchants in Virginia." He represented Warraskoyack (now in Isle of Wight County) in the House of Burgesses in 1624 but also had a house and store in Jamestown. By the 1624/25 census, John and Sarah had moved to Hog Island, across the James River from Jamestown. The census lists them with three servants or employees. John represented Hog Island in the House of Burgesses in 1625, 1628, and 1629. He also served as commander of the militia for Hog Island.

In 1630, the Governor and Council, wishing to secure the frontier of the colony, offered land to those willing to settle on "a tract of land . . . bounding upon the cheife residence of ye Pamunkey King, the most dangerous head of ye Indyan enemy." John and Sarah took advantage of this offer, acquiring a 1,200-acre estate in what is now York County. John was a justice for York County from 1634 to 1652 and represented the county in the House of Burgesses in 1643 and 1644.

John and Sarah had at least two children who survived to adulthood, Samuel and Joseph. She was the founding matriarch of an illustrious family; at least nine of her descendants are on the NSCDA Register of Ancestors.

Sarah died before April 3, 1651, when her husband signed a marriage contract with a Mrs. Rachel Constable. John died sometime between 1652 and 1668.