



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 152

Name: Palmer, Priscilla (Chesebrough)

Dates: (6 Nov 1704 - Aug 1766)

Colonial Society: CT

Date added to ROA: June 26, 2024

Service: Midwife

Authority: Death notice of Priscilla Palmer, *New-London Gazette*, 15 August 1766, p.3.

Biography:

Priscilla (also recorded as Persillah) Chesebrough Palmer was born on November 6, 1704, in Stonington, Connecticut, to Samuell Chesebrough and his wife, Priscilla (Persilla) Alden. She was the great-granddaughter of John Alden and Priscilla Mullines, notable Mayflower passengers whose legacy would echo through generations.

Though little is known of her early life, at some point Priscilla chose to pursue midwifery, a path requiring both skill and resolve. She married Jabez Chesebrough—possibly a cousin—on December 26, 1723. After his passing, she remarried on March 15, 1733, to Thomas Palmer.

Her death notice, printed in the *New-London Gazette* on August 15, 1766, offers both a poignant and mysterious glimpse into her final moments:

“We hear from Stonington, that last Week died there, very suddenly, Mrs. Priscilla Palmer, a very eminent Midwife of that Place;—being taken with a Pain in the Stomack a Physician was sent for, who attempted to bleed her, but before it was [illegible] she expired.”

It is a somber record, and one can't help but wonder: would Priscilla herself have chosen bleeding as a remedy for a woman in her care? The irony is striking, given her years of service to others.

Though her life remains partially obscured by time, Priscilla Palmer is remembered as a respected and vital figure in her community—an “eminent midwife” whose loss was deeply felt.