



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number: 005**

**Name: Branch, Mary (Addie)**

**Dates: (c. 1602-1681)**

**Colonial Society: VA**

**Date added to ROA: before 2009**

**Service: Historic Founder; Passenger, "The London Merchant," 1619, 1620**

**Authority:** John C. Hotten, "The Original List of Persons of Quality 1600 - 1700," (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., Inc., 1968 reprint of 1880), 26.

### **Biography:**

Mary Addie was born in 1602 in Darton, Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley, South Yorkshire, England. Her father was Francis Addie (1569-1639) and her mother was Margaret Lee both of Yorkshire, England. On September 2, 1619, Mary married Christopher Branch of Darton, Yorkshire, England at St. Peter's Church, Westcheap, London. Shortly after their marriage, the couple emigrated to the Virginia Colony, arriving on *The London Merchant* around 1620.

Mary and Christopher first settled in an area called "ye Colledg Land" (College Land) in Henryco "town" (now Chester). The name has evolved into Henrico County today. Henryco was to be the next established settlement in Virginia after Jamestown. It was located on top of a tall bluff on the James River and safe from foreign invasion. In Henryco land was set aside by the Virginia Company "to erect and build a college in Virginia, for the training of the infidel's children in to the true knowledge of God and the understanding of righteousness". This was to be the first college in the colony of Virginia. The Company was offering inducements for new colonists to settle on these College Lands to help repopulate the colony after the 1622 Indian massacre. The Branch family settled on these lands and prospered. Christopher soon patented land and lived at Arrowhattocks, Virginia's first suburb town a mile outside of Henryco. He finally settled on their plantation named "Kingsland".

Thomas Branch, born May 1624 was the only Virginia child in the county (Henrico) at the time. William and Christopher were also born to Mary and Christopher.

Mary died in 1681 and was buried on the family plantation Kingsland. Mary would have a granddaughter named Mary who married Thomas Jefferson (1659-1697) of the neighboring Osborne Plantation and was the great-grandmother of President Thomas Jefferson.