



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 006

Name: Farrar, Cicely

Dates: (1600-1637)

Colonial Society: VA

Date added to ROA: before 2009

Service: Historic Founder; Passenger, The Swan, 1610

Authority:

Biography:

Records indicate that Cecily was born circa 1600 in England. At ten years old, she sailed on *The Swan* to Jamestown, arriving in August 1610. Soon after her arrival, Cecily married "a man named Bailey," possibly Thomas who died on September 20, 1620. Together they had a daughter Temperance when Cecily was 17 years old.

After Bailey's death, Cecily married Samuel Jordan, a prominent planter who had accumulated large land holdings known as Jordan's Journey. Cecily and Samuel had two daughters together, Mary and Margaret. Upon Samuel's death in 1623, Cecily began management of the 450-acre plantation. In the Jamestown Muster of 1624-1625, she is one of fewer than 10 women mentioned as a head of household and the only woman listed as sharing the head of household with an unmarried man. She is also one of the few women recognized as an "Ancient Planter" denoting one who arrived and remained in the colony before 1616 and managed the affairs of large tracts of land. This is an extraordinary achievement for a woman in the 1700's patriarchal society and one that enables her to be one of our Female Qualifying Ancestors.

In the year of Samuel's death, Cecily agreed to marry William Farrar who was bonded to help settle Samuel Jordan's estate. Cecily's engagement to William caused the Reverend Greville Pooley to issue a breach-of-promise lawsuit against Cecily claiming she had first accepted his marriage proposal which Cecily denied. Pooley's legal case became one of the first breach-of-promise lawsuits in English North America. Cecily eventually prevailed in the suit when Pooley withdrew his claim and she married William Farrar.

Little is known of Cecily's later life other than her death year of 1637.