



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 011

Name: Hutchinson, Anne (Marbury)

Dates: (1591-1643)

Colonial Society: RI

Date added to ROA: before 2009

Service: Founder, Founder Aquidneck (Portsmouth) Settlement; Preacher

Authority: James, Sydney V., Colonial Rhode Island, Charles Scribner's & Sons, 1975, pp. 20-26, 35-36, 376-377; New England Historical & Genealogical Register, 20: 366.

Biography:

Anne was born in Alford, Lincolnshire, England. She was the daughter of Francis Marbury who was a cleric in the Anglican Church and a school teacher who gave Anne a much better education than most girls of the day.

Ann married William Hutchinson, and together they had 15 children. In 1633, the family emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts with the Puritan exodus from England. Anne and William became involved in the church right away with Ann becoming "well forthcoming with her personal religious understandings". As a practicing midwife, Anne quickly developed strong ties with the local women and began holding religious meetings in her home to discuss recent sermons. The very popular meeting soon necessitated invitations to men as well. All too soon Anne began accusing the local ministers of preaching a "covenant of works" instead of a "covenant of grace". Not liking to be accused of anything, especially a woman, the Puritan leaders began complaining about her accusations and certain unorthodox theological teachings. Eventually the Puritan leaders took Anne to trial, which became known as the *Antinomian Controversy* in 1637. She was convicted and banished from the colony.

Anne and her family left Boston with many supporters and founded the settlement at Aquidneck (later Portsmouth, Rhode Island) where Roger Williams' more liberal church was being formed. After her husband's death and with the threat of Massachusetts annexing Rhode Island, Anne and her younger children moved to Split Rock (later the Bronx in New York City). In 1643, Anne and six of her children were killed by the Siwanoy Indians during Kieft's War.

Anne was a key figure in America's early religious history and one of the country's earliest feminists. She has been honored with a statue of her likeness on the Massachusetts State House grounds. The plaque states that Mary was "a courageous exponent of civil liberty and religious toleration".