



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 024

Name: Geddy, Anne

Dates: (- bef 1787)

Colonial Society: VA

Date added to ROA: 2016

Service: Business Owner [Women of Distinction]- The Geddy Foundry, 1744-1760

Authority: Berg & Hassell, The Geddy Foundry (Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1992), 15-19; Brewer, York Co., VA, Wills, Inv. & Court Orders, 1743-1746 (Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, 2005), 30; Blackmon, trans. & abs., James City Co., VA Land Tax Records 1782-1813, (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing, 1991), 30.

Biography:

Anne's birth and early life remain undocumented at this time.

Ann married James Geddy, Sr. with whom she emigrated from Scotland to Virginia before 1733. Together they had eight children who all contributed to the community of Williamsburg and the development of the colony of Virginia.

By 1738 James opened the Geddy Foundry where he worked as a gunsmith and with wrought iron and cast brass. The Geddy family had several business ventures operating out of the Foundry location including watch repair, buckle making, cutlery and sword cutler crafting. Their home and business were located on two lots on Duke of Gloucester Street. The current historic house known as "the Geddy house" was built by son James Geddy, Jr. in 1762 and stands today as a testament to the family's legacy and is part of Colonial Williamsburg's historic exhibits.

James, Sr. died in 1744 and bequeathed his personal, business and real property to his wife Ann, which was an unusual practice in colonial Virginia. Ann immediately took over the operations of the businesses and family. Before James, Sr. died, the House of Burgesses commissioned James to clean 700 weapons in the Magazine. Having never received payment, Ann petitioned the House for payment, which was originally rejected. After additional petitions payment of a large sum was offered.



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It is known that Ann's death occurred before 1797.

Anne Geddy played a crucial role in managing the family household and supporting the family business, especially after the death of her husband. Her efforts ensured the continuation of the Geddy family's contributions to Williamsburg's economy and exemplifies the integral role women played in the economic and social fabric of colonial Virginia.