



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 041

Name: Woodson, Constant (Watkins)

Dates: (- wp 15 Nov 1773)

Colonial Society: VA

Date added to ROA: 2021

Service: Discovered an effectual remedy for curing cancer, 1766 [Women of Distinction]

Authority: Kennedy, John Pendleton, Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1766-1769 (Richmond, VA: Colonial Press, E. Waddey Co., 1906), 42, 124, 125. John Frederick Dorman, comp., Adventurers of Purse and Person, 4th ed., vol. 3 (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007): 729.

Biography:

Constant was born about 1716 in Henrico, Virginia to John (age 22) and Elizabeth Whitlow Daniels (age 22). John was known as the “tray maker”.

About 1734, Constant married Obadiah Woodson with whom she had at least 6 sons and 1 daughter. Obadiah was the son of Richard Ferris Woodson and his wife Anne Smith in Henrico. Obadiah’s profession was that of a land dealer buying and selling vast acres of land to be settled upon. These lands were patented in Lunenburg and Bedford Counties. He also served in the rank of Captain and commanded a company of militia volunteers in 1751 against the Indians. He served as a vestryman of St. Patrick’s Parish in Prince Edward County.

Obadiah died in 1766/7 and left Constant the plantation they lived on and an additional 150 acres of adjoining land. He also appointed her executrix of his estate along with his eldest son. Both actions being rare in colonial Virginia.

Also in 1766, Constant petitioned the House of Burgesses for reward money for discovering a remedy for curing cancers that she wished to “communicate with the public”. After she successfully produced the requested certificate from the three appointed Doctors asked to review her cure, her request was granted. Constant was awarded 100 English pounds paid out of Public Money in the Treasury for her discovery.

Constant died before November 1773 in Prince Edward County, Virginia.