



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 54

Name: Marsh, Elizabeth (Allibone)

Dates:

Born: 1 Aug 1683, Worcester Co., England

Died: c. 1741, Philadelphia, PA

Colonial Society: PA

Date added to ROA: February 2023

Service: Woman of Distinction: Premier Schoolmistress known for her pupil's extant examples of fine needlework, 1720-1740

Authority: Ping, Betty, "Girlhood Embroidery: American Samplers & Pictorial Needlework 1650-1850," Vol. II (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993), pp 332-336.

Biography:

Elizabeth was the daughter of Joseph Allibone, a carpenter, and Ann (probably Allen). In 1681 and 1683, her father was imprisoned for refusing to pay the tithe for worshipping as a Friend.

She married Joseph Marsh 8 Sept 1711 in Hallow, Worcester Co., England. The births of their four children were recorded in The Worcestershire Monthly Meeting Records; Benjamin (Feb 1713), Ann (Nov 1714), Mary (Nov 1719), and Joseph (Feb 1723).

At the birth of her fourth child, Elizabeth was already 40 years old and no doubt an experienced schoolmistress before the family embarked for America. Evidence of her arrival in Philadelphia can be found in a ledger owned by James Logan in December of 1723, in which she was originally named as "mistress" paid for her work teaching Logan's daughter. Scholars have studied her samplers (and their unique techniques) and those of her students as evidence of where and for whom she worked. Elizabeth's daughter Ann Marsh also become a skilled schoolmistress in needlework.

By 1734, Joseph and Elizabeth Marsh acquired property on the west side of the Schuylkill River. A mortgage of November 1738 named their three living children; Benjamin, Ann, and Mary. Elizabeth died sometime between the execution of the 1738 mortgage and the payment of their loan in January 1742, when her husband and children survived her.

Daughter Ann Marsh never married, but carried on her mother's legacy. One of her account books is at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and shows that during the Revolutionary Period, she was teaching the who's who of Philadelphia society. Like her mother, she had no need to advertise for students.



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Nothing more is known about son Benjamin. In 1744 daughter Mary married Othniel Tomlinson of Salem, NJ. In 1760 she married Aaron Ashbridge. Her only daughter Mary Tomlinson (1747-1800), married Samuel Hibberd and they had seven daughters. One of Ann Marshes account books has been passed down that family line.