



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 64

Name: Tilly, Alice (Frost) Blower

Dates: bap. 1 Dec 1594-living 27 Mar 1668

Colonial Society: MA

Date added to ROA: before 12-2023

Service: Midwife

Authority: Norton, Mary Beth. "'The Ablest Midwife That Wee Knowe in the Land': Mistress Alice Tilly and Women of Boston and Dorchester, 1649-1650." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 55, no. 1 (1998): 105-134.

Biography:

Alice Frost was baptized December 1, 1596 in Stanstead, England. Her father was Edward Frost, a clothier, and her mother was Thomasine Belgrave.

Alice and Thomas Blower were married on November 12, 1612. They had eight children, several of whom died in infancy. They lived in Sudbury where many other Puritans lived and were persecuted for their beliefs. In 1633 Alice was fined 100 pounds for "her notorious contempt of ecclesiastical laws & jurisdiction" presumably for ignoring or disputing the Church of England laws. The case was dropped in 1634 because she had left Sudbury.

The family sailed for Massachusetts in 1635 on the *Truelove*.

Thomas had died by September 9, 1639 and Alice subsequently married William Tilley, a wine merchant in 1640 and began acting as a midwife. Around 1649 she was accused of malpractice, the details of which are unknown, found guilty and sent to the jail in Boston. A group of women in the area prepared several petitions stating Alice was "the ablest midwife we know in the land". Over 300 women signed the petitions and Alice was ultimately freed. The last mention of her in the records is in 1668.

It is unknown when she died.