



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number: 070**

**Name: Drinker, Elizabeth (Sandwith)**

**Dates: (16 Feb 1735-25 Nov 1807)**

**Colonial Society: PA**

**Date added to ROA: 8-6-2023**

**Service: Women of Distinction: Diarist (1758-1807)**

**Authority:** Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker diaries, (Collection 1760), Historical Society of Pennsylvania

### **Biography:**

Elizabeth was born on February 27, 1735 to William and Sarah Sandwith in Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth married Henry Drinker on January 13, 1761. Henry was a young merchant employed in the family business of James & Drinker, a shipping and importing business in Philadelphia. Both were members of the Society of Friends. Elizabeth and Henry had five children together who survived to adulthood.

As Quakers, the young Drinkers tried to remain neutral during the American Revolution. Henry's Quaker pacifist beliefs caused him to be accused of treason, arrested and jailed at Masonic Lodge for seven months. Elizabeth and other Quaker wives tried to secure their husband's freedom by first meeting with Martha then George Washington who refused to permit their release. Henry was released in April of 1778.

Henry continued to work as a merchant until his dying days in 1809. Elizabeth died on November 25, 1807.

Elizabeth's diary is her legacy which she wrote from 1758 through 1807, the majority of her life. The diary when published was broken down into four parts: Youth and courtship; Young wife and mother; Middle age in years of crisis and Grandmother. In her extremely detailed diary, Elizabeth covered topics of every sort and gives the reader an in-depth view of life in colonial Pennsylvania through the lens of politics, war, changes in medicine, family life, personal relationships, community, Quakerism and more. "Her work stands as an important primary source for understanding the social and cultural history of colonial Pennsylvania from a woman's perspective".