



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 096

Name: Smith, Joane (Peirce) Rolfe

Dates: (___ - aft 24 Jan 1624/5)

Colonial Society: VA

Date added to ROA: 2-3-2024

Service: Historic Founder, came to Virginia on the *Blessing*, 1609;
Listed in the Muster, 25 Jan 1624/5

Authority: Dorman, John Frederick, comp & ed., *Adventurers of Purse & Person*, 4th ed., vol. 3 (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2007), 24, 215-216; McCartney, Martha W., *Virginia Immigrants & Adventurers, 1607-1635* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2007), 547.

Biography:

Joane was born in Heacham, Norfolk, England about 1595. She was the daughter of Captain William Peirce (also spelled Pierce), a prominent Jamestown colonist, and his wife, Joan (Phippen). The Peirce women embarked on their journey to the Virginia Colony in 1609 aboard the *Blessing*. While Joan and her daughter arrived in Virginia that year, Captain Peirce's ship, the *Sea Venture*, was shipwrecked in Bermuda, delaying his arrival until 1610.

The Peirce family settled in Jamestown, where they played pivotal roles in the colony's survival and growth. Joane's mother, Joan, was praised by Captain John Smith as "an honest and industrious woman" who maintained a substantial garden in Jamestown. Joane grew up in this environment, learning essential skills that contributed to the community's sustenance.

In 1619 Joane married John Rolfe, a prominent colonist known for his successful cultivation of tobacco and as the widower of Pocahontas. This union marked Rolfe's third marriage. Together, Joane and John had a daughter, Elizabeth Rolfe, born in 1621. Rolfe had arrived in Virginia aboard the *Sea Venture* with Joane's father William. John Rolfe passed away in 1622, leaving Joane a widow.

She later married Captain Roger Smith, born in 1587 the son of John Smith and Thomasine Manning, before 1624. It is thought that Joane had one son named John with Roger. Roger died in 1629.

Records indicate that Joane was alive after 1625, residing in Jamestown. However, specific details about her death remain uncertain, with estimates suggesting she died about 1624/5.