



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 109

Name: Spencer, Alice

Dates: (- aft. Jan 1624/5)

Colonial Society: VA

Date added to ROA: 2-21-2024

Service: Historic Founder, came to Virginia in the *Sarah*, 1611; Listed on the Muster of Jan 1624/5 Town

Authority: Dorman, John Frederick, comp. & ed., *Adventurers of Purse & Person*, vol. 3 (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2007), 226; McCartney, Martha W., *Virginia Immigrants & Adventurers, 1607-1635; A Biographical Dictionary* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2007), 662. 187.

Biography:

Specific details about Alice's early life in England remain scarce. Some genealogical records suggest she was born around 1600 and may have been the daughter of John Lightfoot and Anne Goodrich. However, this lineage is in debate.

Alice married William Spencer, in 1619 in Jamestown, with whom she had four children. In the 1624/5 Muster, Alice is recorded as living with her husband and daughter on "James Iland" in "James Citty". A son William died in 1624, and daughters Elizabeth and Anne were born later.

There is much debate over when William arrived in Jamestown. Sources claim he arrived on the *Sarah* between 1622/1614, or in 1608 on the *First Supply Ship*, and another claims he arrived in 1607 on the *Susan Constant*. However, the Muster of 1624/5 shows that William Spencer arrived on the *Sarah*, which docked in 1611.

William is considered an Ancient Planter due to his early arrival in Jamestown, receipt of land grants and residence for a minimum of three years. In 1624, William secured his first 12 acres of land. He eventually amassed thousands of acres of land in multiple counties.

Alice's exact date of death is uncertain, but records indicate she was deceased by 1629, as William Spencer used the headright of his second wife, Dorothy, to patent land that year.