



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number : 140

**Name:** Hanson, Elizabeth (Meader)

**Dates:** (1684 - 1737)

**Colonial Society:** NH

**Date added to ROA:** May 5, 2024

**Service:** Published Author - Captivity Narrative

**Authority:** Hanson, Elizabeth. *God's Mercy Surmounting Man's Cruelty, Exemplified in the Captivity and Redemption of Elizabeth Hanson*. Ed. by Samuel Brown. Philadelphia: Printed by Samuel Keimer, 1728. Also published as: *Account of the Captivity of Elizabeth Hanson*. Many editions.

### Biography:

Elizabeth was born in 1684 in Oyster River [now Durham], NH, which was one of the original Dover, NH settlements. She was the daughter of John Meader, Jr. and Sarah Follett. They were Quakers, as were a number of other residents of Dover. She married John Hanson of Knoxmarsh in Kecheady on the outskirts of Dover on May 23, 1703. They had ten children together, who would probably all have lived to adulthood except for what happened on June 27, 1724.

On that day while John Hanson and two of his sons were away, a group of Indians came to the house and captured Elizabeth and four of her children (a son and two daughters still living at home, and a two-week old daughter) and a maidservant. The two youngest sons were killed and scalped. They were all carried off to Canada where they finally arrived at a French settlement six months later, having all survived a treacherous march through the wilderness. The baby was baptized with a French name by a Roman Catholic priest.

John Hanson succeeded in ransoming all but one of the oldest daughters, and they returned home on July 1, 1725. He started out early in 1727 to get the last daughter, but he died on the way. That daughter was traded to some French nuns to escape marrying an Indian. She ended up baptized a Roman Catholic and married to a Frenchman.

Shortly thereafter Elizabeth and the family were visited by a Quaker minister from England who took down an account "of which I took from her own mouth" and the narrative was published in 1728 in Dover.

Elizabeth Hanson died in Dover on May 10, 1737. She lived to see some of her surviving children married and to welcome a few grandchildren.