



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number: 172**

**Name: Fuller, Bridget (Lee)**

**Dates: ( \_\_ - aft. 2 May 1667)**

**Colonial Society: MA**

**Date added to ROA: 10-4-2024**

**Service: Midwife**

**Authority:** Radasch, Katharine W. and Arthur H. Radasch, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations...*, Volume Ten, Family of Samuel Fuller (MA: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1996), 2-3.

### **Biography:**

Based on the date of marriage, her birth date is estimated as 1600.

The Marriage certificate of Bridget Lee and Samuel Fuller in Leiden, Netherlands May 27, 1617 stated that Bridget was a spinster from England. The witnesses were Samuel Lee, Bridget's brother and her mother Josephine Lee. Bridget was Samuel's third wife.

Samuel sailed on the Mayflower in 1620 without Bridget. She followed in 1623 aboard the *Anne*. Samuel Fuller acted as a physician in the Plymouth Colony and it is thought Bridget may have received some of her medical knowledge through him.

It is not known when she began her midwife practice. We know that she was given a peck of Malt and Purgac from the will of Peter Brown in 1633 for being his nurse.

Bridget and Samuel had two children who were born in 1627 and 1629. Samuel died in 1633 and Bridget never remarried. Samuel's will gave a cow calf to the Church of God at Plymouth. Thirty years later in 1664 Bridget and her son Samuel gave a deed to the church of Plymouth for a half acre of land for the use of the church. In 2006 the *Samuel and Bridget Fuller Society* was established to honor Plymouth Colony's first philanthropists.

Bridget also acted as a school mistress. In 1635 the court ordered that Benjamin Eaton, age 8, with his mother's consent, "is put to Bridget Fuller, being to keep him at school for two years and employ him after in such service as she saw fit."

In 1663 the town records of Rehoboth, Massachusetts July 3, 1663 stated: "Voted and agreed that Mrs. Bridget Fuller of Plymouth should be sent to, to see if she be willing to come and dwell among us to attend on the office of midwife to answer the town's necessity, which at present is great." This quote was read at



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the Johns Hopkins Historical Club, April 20, 1903 and later published in the Hospital Bulletin. The invitation was not accepted as she died in Plymouth the next year.