



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 176

Name: Goddard, Sarah Jane

Dates: (c. 1700 - 5 Jan 1770)

Colonial Society: RI

Date added to ROA: 10-8-2024

Service: Woman of Distinction: business owner, printer, newspaper publisher, postmaster

Authority: Authority: Henry, Susan. "Sarah Goddard, Gentlewoman Printer." *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, Vol. 57, Issue 1, 1980, pp. 23-30.

Biography:

Sarah Updike Goddard was an influential American printer and publisher during the colonial era.

Born at Cocumscussoc plantation near Wickford, Rhode Island, she was the daughter of Lodowick Updike and Abigail Newton Updike.

Sarah married Dr. Giles Goddard on December 11, 1731. The couple had four children, but only two survived to adulthood: William Goddard (1740–1817), who became a notable printer, publisher, and patriot and Mary Katherine Goddard (1738–1816), a pioneering female printer and publisher, known for printing the first copy of the Declaration of Independence that included the signers' names.

Sarah Goddard died on January 5, 1770, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was buried in the Christ Church Burial Ground in Philadelphia.

Sarah Updike Goddard's contributions to early American printing and publishing were significant, particularly in establishing the *Providence Gazette and Country Journal*, the first newspaper in Providence, Rhode Island. Her legacy is honored by her induction into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.