



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number: 206**

**Name:** Bushrod, Mary (Peirse) Hill

**Dates:** ( c.. 1613 – aft. 18 Sep 1657)

**Colonial Society:** VA

**Date added to ROA:** 1-25-2025

**Service:** Historic Founder, came in the Southampton, 1623; Listed in the Muster of 24 Jan 1624/5 Town:

**Authority:** Dorman, John Frederick, comp., *Adventurers of Purse & Person*, 4th ed., vol. 1, Genealogical Pub. Co., 2004, p. 31; vol. 2, 2005, pp. 802-803, 805-806.

### **Biography:**

Mary was born around 1614 in England to Abraham Piersey and his first wife, Elizabeth Draper. Abraham, was a significant figure in the Virginia Company and served as the Cape Merchant/Treasurer in Jamestown. He was an extremely successful trader in armory, sassafras and tobacco. He became a land owner of vast acreage and was known to have “the best estate that was yet known in Virginia.”

In 1623, Mary and her sister Elizabeth immigrated to Virginia aboard the ship *Southampton*. The 1624/5 Jamestown Muster records list Mary as 11 years old, residing in “James Citty” with her father and sister.

Mary first married Captain Thomas Hill. The couple had at least two children: Mary Hill who married Moore Fauntleroy as his second wife in 1648 and John Hill who resided at “Essex Lodge” in York County, Virginia. Captain Thomas Hill became a landowner of vast lands both through patent and purchase. He also served as a Burgess for James City County in the 1641/42 season.

Abraham Piersey, Mary’s father, died in 1628 leaving his estate to Mary and her sister Elizabeth and named Mary executrix of his will. Mary and Elizabeth inherited the 2,200-acre farm known as “Wyanoke” in addition to the vast estate known as Flowerdew Hundred as well as other lands and property.

Mary’s stepmother, Frances (Greville-West) Piersey, initially managed Abraham Piersey’s estate as his widow. After Frances’s death, Mary was granted administration of her father’s will on May 10, 1633. Subsequently, Mary and her first husband, Thomas Hill, faced legal challenges to reclaim her inheritance, leading to prolonged disputes with Captain Samuel Mathews, who had married her stepmother and taken control of the Piersey estate.

In September 1657, Mary married Thomas Bushrod, a merchant who had emigrated from England to New England in 1635 and later moved to Virginia by 1643. The couple resided at “Essex Lodge” in York County, a property associated with the Hill family. There is no record of children from this marriage.



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Mary is believed to have died around 1661 at "Essex Lodge" in York County, Virginia. Her exact burial location remains unknown.