



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number : 219**

**Name:** Stockton, Annis (Boudinot)

**Dates:** (1 Jul 1736 - 6 Feb 1801)

**Colonial Society:** NJ

**Date added to ROA:** 3-29-2025

**Service:** Published Author & Poet

**Authority:** Cowell, Pattie. "Annis Boudinot Stockton," *American Women Writers: A Critical Reference Guide from Colonial Times to the Present*, vol. 4, edited by Lina Mainiero Frederick Ungar Publishing, 1982, 170-172; "Stockton, Annis Boudinot," *Encyclopedia of American Literature*, vol. 1, edited by Carol Berkin, Facts on File, Inc., 2002, pp. 201-202.

### **Biography:**

Annis Boudinot was born July 1, 1736 in Darby, Pennsylvania. She was the second child and first daughter of Elias Boudinot and Catherine (Williams) Boudinot. Her father was a descendant of a Huguenot family in New York City. He was a silversmith who joined relatives in Antigua after his apprenticeship. While there, he married Catherine Williams, the daughter of a Welsh planter. The family moved to Pennsylvania shortly before Annis was born. She grew up in Philadelphia, where her father had a home and shop next door to Benjamin Franklin.

When Annis was sixteen, her family moved first to New Brunswick, New Jersey, then to Princeton, to be closer to a copper mine her father had established. A friend in Princeton described Annis as "a pretty discreet well behaved girl. She has good sense and can talk very handsomely on almost any subject." She apparently caught the eye of Richard Stockton, a prominent lawyer and a member of one of Princeton's founding families. Annis and Richard married in late 1757 or early 1758. They settled on the Stockton family estate outside of Princeton, where Annis constructed an elaborate garden. Annis and Richard had six children.

Richard served as a longtime trustee of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), member of the Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Justice of the Provincial Supreme Court. In November 1776, Richard was captured and imprisoned by the British. The following month, British troops under Lord Cornwallis occupied and sacked the family home. Richard was released in January 1777, his health broken by the harsh conditions of his imprisonment. He died on February 28, 1781.

Annis's earliest known poem was written when she was sixteen; her first published poems appeared when she was twenty-one. Although some of her poems were destroyed when the British looted her home, more



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than a hundred of her poems survive. Most of her poems were shared privately with friends and relatives, but she was still “one of the most published female poets of her generation.”

Annis died February 6, 1801 near Bordentown, New Jersey. A death notice in the *Philadelphia Gazette* said she was “distinguished for her literary talents, and deservedly esteemed and beloved, for her piety, and many amiable virtues.”