



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 127

Name: Harvey, Rebecca (Owen) Minshall

Dates: (1687 - aft. 1751)

Colonial Society: PA

Date added to ROA: 4-16-2024

Service: Quaker minister, 1729

Authority: Larson, Rebecca, *Daughters of Light: Quaker Women Preaching and Prophesying in the Colonies and Abroad, 1700-1775* (New York: Knopf, 1999), 310; U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935 - Ancestry, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Darby Monthly Meeting, *A Few Certificates and Marriages, 1684-1763*, p. 326.

Biography:

Rebecca Owen was part of the first generation born into the Welsh Tract of Pennsylvania. (See [Gaynor Roberts](#) for further information). Her father, Dr. Griffith Owen, was a Welsh Quaker leader, preacher, physician, Assemblyman, and member of the Provincial Council. Her family settled into an area of present-day Chester County.

In 1707, at age 20, Rebecca married Isaac Minshall, a wealthy landowner and Elder among the Quakers, whose family established the Nether Providence Quaker Meeting on their land. In 1731, at age 41, Rebecca became a widow with seven children. Eight years later she would marry Job Harvey, a clothworker of Darby, Chester County. He was also a widower. They were together for 13 years before Job died in 1751. Rebecca's death date is unknown, but it was sometime after her second husband.

Rebecca was recommended as a minister in 1729, and she was described in the Quaker Meeting records as "... well gifted in the Ministry and divided the Word aright, speaking plain & home to the disobedient... but tender over the Seed of God in any." Her two-decades of ministry work and her Quaker faith would have served her well through life's tribulations.