



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 136

Name: Lewis, Margaret (Thomas)

Dates: (1712 - 1789)

Colonial Society: PA

Date added to ROA: 5-15-2024

Service: Quaker minister, 1744

Authority: Larson, Rebecca, Daughters of Light: Quaker Women Preaching and Prophesying in the Colonies and Abroad, 1700-1775 (New York: Knopf, 1999), 312; U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935 - Ancestry, Pennsylvania, Chester, Goshen Monthly Meeting, Minutes, 1773-1798, p. 451

Biography:

Born in 1712 to parents who were elders of the Radnor Monthly Meeting, Margaret was possibly of Welsh descent, as she was living in the epicenter of the Welsh Tract established in 1683. (See [Gaynor Roberts](#).) Margaret's father was a miller who had also served as an Assemblyman.

In 1731, at age 18, Margaret married Nathan Lewis of Newtown (Chester Co.), a prosperous yeoman. Lewis' Welsh grandfather had organized the Newtown Quaker Meeting, and had been a freeholder of a plantation in Haverford. In 1744, at age 32, Margaret was called to the Quaker ministry. This fact is remarkable with the understanding that this calling came amid bearing and rearing ten children. Meeting records mention her thus:

"Says but Little and yet is pritty well Approved of,... she behaved with Prudence & humbleness.... Not too forward neither in Conversation nor in Meetings."

Margaret died in her 77th year just one year after her husband Nathan.