



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number : 161

Name: Gilman, Elizabeth (Treworgye)

Dates: c.1639-1719

Colonial Society: New Hampshire

Date added to ROA: 8-9-2024

Service: Midwife and physician.

Authority: The Boston News-Letter, 14 September to 21 September 1719, p. 4; Index of Obituaries in Boston Newspapers 1704-1795, Boston Athenaeum, Vol. 2 (Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1968), 428.

Biography:

Elizabeth was born about 1639, (perhaps in England) the fifth child of James and Katherine (Shapleigh) Treworgye. Since this was about the time her father arrived in the Piscataqua River region of the New Hampshire seacoast, there is uncertainty about the date and place of her birth.

James had various business and land dealings with the Shapleigh family in Dover, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine. Katherine's father was an English merchant and shipowner. James Treworgye died in early 1650. A few years later, his widow Katherine married Edward Hilton and moved the family to Exeter, New Hampshire. Edward Hilton was a founder of Dover and had large land holdings in the surrounding towns, but he had moved to the Squamscot River area of Exeter by 1640.

In 1657 Elizabeth married John Gilman, who had a successful lumber and milling business and was prominent in town affairs. He held various political offices on the local and state level throughout the marriage. The couple had sixteen children over 26 years, the majority of whom lived to adulthood, married, and had numerous children of their own. According to her obituary, Elizabeth was a practicing midwife and had surgical experience as well. And she was known to speak her mind as can be seen from a report of her telling a provost marshal, who was charged with collecting a tax imposed by an unpopular provincial governor, that she had provided a kettle of scalding water for him if he came to her house to demand any rates.

Elizabeth's children married members of prominent families in the region and many of the sons and sons-in-law went on to distinguished careers of their own. The family later received grants of land which became the town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire.

Elizabeth died in 1719.