



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 191

**Name:** Sharples, Edith (Yarnall)

**Dates:** (13 May 1743 - 18 Jan 1787)

**Colonial Society:** PA

**Date added to ROA:** 11-21-2024

**Service:** Quaker Minister

**Authority:** "Edith Sharples Memorial," Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Minutes, 1686-1850, pp. 191-194, Quaker Meeting Records, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, PA.

### Biography:

Edith Yarnall was likely a second-generation Quaker American when she was born to Nathan & Rachel Yarnall, devout members of the Middletown Meeting in Chester Co. We know a lot about Edith from a written Testimony found in the minutes of the Concord Monthly Meeting, which was written upon her death:

*"by her own account her mind was early in life accompanied with earnest desires after the knowledge of Truth..."*

Yet apparently by age 24 she was struggling with her own "*natural vivacity*" and some form of "*temptation*" from which she was successfully delivered and rededicated to "*the Lord thy Redeemer.*" We can only speculate on the details. But at age 26, she apparently settled down and married Joshua Sharples (1768), who like her, was a second-generation Quaker in Pennsylvania. They became part of the New-Garden Monthly Meeting. It was in her 31st year that Edith "*appeared in the ministry*" being "*faithful to her Gift.*" She was further described as a great lover of the Scriptures and well-qualified to teach them, as she was skillful in explaining "*the Doctrines of the principle of Truth as held by the Friends.*" She was known to travel to other Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, to the south and west, including the eastern shore of Maryland. By the time of her death at 43 years and 7 months, she was recorded as being "*a minister upwards of twelve years.*" Joshua Sharples outlived his wife by more than 40 years, living to almost 80 years old.