



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 199

Name: Breintinall, Esther (Parker)

Dates: (c.1656 - 25 Aug 1725)

Colonial Society: PA

Date added to ROA: 12-28-2024

Service: Historic Founder (arrived on "Thomas & Anne", 1683); Quaker Minister, c.1700

Authority: Balderston, Marion. "Pennsylvania's 1683 Ships And Some of Their Passengers," The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, vol. 24 (1965), 74; "Jane Breintnall," The Friend, Seventh Day, Ninth Month, vol. 29, 1855, no. 3, p. 21.

Biography:

Esther Parker married Joseph Breintnall in Philadelphia in 1723. Both she and her sister Grace, who married Joseph's brother David (Jr.), were third-generation American born, likely in Burlington County, New Jersey. Their paternal grandfather, Samuel Andrews was thought to be born in the Province of New York, his family being early residents through their familial relationship to Sir Edmond Andros, who under the authority of the Duke of York held positions in New England, New York, East and West Jersey (present-day New Jersey), Virginia and Maryland.

Joseph Brientnall was an interesting and influential man. He was a founder of the Junto and Library Company of Philadelphia (along with good friend Benjamin Franklin.) He was a successful merchant, amateur naturalist, and a writer. He co-authored "The Busy-Body" letters with Franklin in 1729.

The Brientinalls opened The Hen and Chickens public house in 1745. While Brientnall was serving as secretary of the Library Company, the directors met at the Hen and Chickens. Tragedy struck one year later when Joseph's body was discovered washed up on the Delaware River, with much conjecture as to whether it was accidental or suicide. The fact was that this left Esther a widow at age 47, the mother of one son and four daughters, the youngest still in their teens. Esther would continue to run the Hen and Chickens which was often referred to as the Widow Breintnall's, especially by the directors of the Library Company who continued to meet there on business. Franklin took over Breintnall's job as secretary, and they voted to present £15 to Esther and granted her son George "free use of the books of the Library during his Life."