



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 200

Name: Breintnall, Jane (Blanchard)

Dates: (c. 1656 - 25 Aug 1725)

Colonial Society: PA

Date added to ROA: 12-22-2024

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:

Jane Blanchard was born c. 1656 in England and arrived in Philadelphia aboard one of William Penn's ships, the "Thomas & Anne" in 1683. By the end of that year, she is found in the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting records (Quarterly Meeting, 4th day, 10th month 1683) announcing her intention (the second notice) to marry David Brientnall. There is indication that their marriage was only the second one officially solemnized under the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting.

David Brientnall had arrived from London around the same time and appears to have been a man of means, ultimately owning several properties and engaged in the mercantile business. In the *Annals of Philadelphia*, David is mentioned for having leased one of these houses to the Governor of Barbados who came to Philadelphia to recover from health issues. The Breintnalls moved to a "less-fancy" home further down the block, which also contained their retail store. The original Brientnall house would later become the home of Anthony Benezet.

Jane became an active member of the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of Friends, having been officially accepted through a recommendation from the Monthly Meeting at Ringwood in Hampshire, England. She was spoken of in records as an "Improving woman." By about 1700 she began a ministry, which continued until her death. Jane gave birth to at least seven children, including three sons and four daughters. One daughter died in infancy. Her children and their spouses became an integral part of Philadelphia's burgeoning craft and mercantile economy. Her sons married women who were partners in running the family business enterprises. (See [Esther Parker Breintnall](#) and [Hannah Sharp Breintnall](#).)