



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number: 040**

**Name: Bennett, Alice (\_\_\_) Pierce**

**Dates: (\_\_\_ - aft 19 Jul 1647)**

**Colonial Society: VA**

**Date added to ROA: 2021**

**Service: Historic Founder, living in Lawne's Creek, now Isle of Wight Co., VA, 1624.**

**Authority: John Frederick Dorman, comp., *Adventurers of Purse & Person*, 4th ed., vol. 2 (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005): 819.**

### **Biography:**

Online genealogy sites state that Alice was born between 1566 and 1585 in Heacham, Norfolk, England. Some indicate that her maiden name is unknown while others state she was Alice Snayle (1575- aft 1647), daughter of Elizabeth. They also surmise she was married to Thomas Pierce in England between 1587 and 1599 and their daughter Elizabeth was born in England.

The Pierce family emigrated to Virginia in 1618 on the *William and Thomas* supply ship. They established a plantation just south of Martin's Hundred on the upper side of the James River (currently on the Carter's Grove property outside of Williamsburg). Thomas was the Sergeant at Arms of the first legislative assembly of Virginia which met on July 30, 1619. He also appears to have been a relative of Lt. William Pierce, of the *Seaventure*, who later became Lieutenant Governor in 1629 and a member of the Virginia Council in 1631.

In the March 26, 1622 Indian Massacre at Martin's Hundred it was believed that the entire Pierce family had been killed. Thomas' body was found and his death was definite. Even though the bodies of wife Alice and daughter Elizabeth were not found, they too were presumed dead. However, they along with about 20 other women and female children were captured by the Indians and held for ransome for about ten months.

After their release, the now widow Alice married Thomas Bennett and her daughter chose him as her legal guardian to protect her rights to the estate of her deceased fiancé John Filmer in 1624. There were no children of this 2nd marriage as Alice was almost 50 years old by the time they married.

Alice died in 1647 in Isle of Wight, Virginia.