



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 095

Name: Peirce, Joane

Dates: (___ - aft 1641)

Colonial Society: VA

Date added to ROA: 2-5-2024

Service: Historic Founder, came to Virginia on the *Blessing*, 1609; Listed in the Muster of 25 Jan 1624/5

Authority: Dorman, John Frederick, comp. & ed., *Adventurers of Purse & Person*, 4th ed., vol. 2 (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2005), 797-799; McCartney, Martha W., *Virginia Immigrants & Adventurers, 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2007), 545-547.

Biography:

The Family Search website states that Joan Phippen was born in 1580, in Weymouth, Dorset, England. Her father, William Fitzpen Phippen, was 29 and her mother, Jane Jordan, was 21.

She married Captain William Peirce in 1595, in England. Joan, and daughter Jane, came to Virginia on the *Blessing* in 1609. Her husband William also left England in 1609 but upon the *Seaventure* which wrecked in Bermuda during a hurricane. He finally arrived in Jamestown in 1610. Joan and Jane arrived in Jamestown during “the starving time of 1609-1610” a period of extreme hardship caused by severe drought, strained relations with the local Powhatan Indians, and little to no food and water when 75% of the colonists died. Joan and Jane survived the winter with three other women in Jamestown supplementing their diet with cornmeal and ground acorns. Supposedly Joan’s mother was an herbalist who taught Joan remedies and herbal tea preparation which also helped Joan and Jane survive the famine.

After the starving time and William’s arrival in Jamestown, they managed to make a very successful life together. In 1642 it was said of their home in Jamestown, that it was the “fairest in all Virginia”. Captain Peirce was one of the leading men of colonial Virginia. Among his many accomplishments he was a member of the House of Burgesses representing Jamestown at the Assembly of 1623/24, Councillor, 1631-1648 and in 1623 he was commissioned Lieutenant by Governor Wyatt to go against the Indians. He was also Captain of the Governor’s Guard in 1617 and filled many other important positions of responsibility and honor.

Joan and William were the parents of at least 2 sons and 2 daughters. Their daughter Jane was born in 1595 when both parents were 14 years of age. Jane eventually married John Rolfe in Jamestown.



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Joan died on 12 September 1660, in Charles City County at the age of 80.