

Jane Wells

*People of London Town, Maryland**

Jane Wells was listed as an orphan under the care of Edward Rumney, Sr. in a June 1706 report concerning orphans and their guardians to the Anne Arundel County Court.¹ Though no formal orphan/guardian contract is known for this arrangement, it is likely that Jane would be a part of the Rumney household until she became married or reached the age of 21. During her time in the household, Elinor Rumney would probably be responsible for teaching Jane important housewifery skills such as cooking, sewing, and medicinals. Either Elinor or Edward would also most likely teach Jane basic reading and writing.

Though this particular reference to Jane occurred when the Rumney's lived on the north side of the South River in Middle Neck Hundred, as long as Jane did not die or move out of the household by 1710, then she would have moved with the Rumney's to London Town where Edward held an ordinary license and operated a ferry across the South River. At that point, Jane would have also probably helped take care of the travelers and customers frequenting Rumney's ordinary and ferry.

There is no known document that tells us if or when Jane reached her majority or married.

* As the research into colonial London Town's inhabitants is an ongoing process, the caveat is offered that additional information may be found at any time and that a correction of information might also occur at any time.

¹ Maryland State Archives, *Anne Arundel County Court Judgment Record*, June Court 1706, Liber TB 1, Folio 313