

FIRST COUSIN: *Thomas Beall, of George* (1735–1819). NEPHEW: *Alexander Contee Hanson* (1749–1806). NIECE: *Jane Contee Hanson* (1747–1781), who married *Philip Thomas* (1747–1815). OTHER KINSHIP: his maternal great-grandfather was *Thomas Dent* (ca. 1630–1676). MARRIED ca. 1755 *Sarah* (ca. 1732–1793), daughter of *Benjamin Fendall* (?–1764), of Charles County, and wife *Eleanor Lee* (1710–1759); stepdaughter of *Priscilla* (ca. 1714–1763); granddaughter of both *John Fendall* (1674–1734) and *Philip Lee* (ca. 1681–1744); niece of *Richard Lee* (ca. 1707–1787), *Arthur Lee* (?–1760), and *Francis Lee* (?–1749); half niece of both *Corbin Lee* (?–1774) and *George Lee* (ca. 1736–?); stepniece of *Hannah Sewall*, who married second, *Joseph Sprigg* (1736–1800). Her brothers were *Philip Richard Fendall* (?–?); *John*; *Benjamin*; *Rev. Henry*, rector of Durham Parish, Charles County from 1767 to 1775; and *Samuel*. Her first cousins were *Josias Beall* (ca. 1725–1803); *Samuel Hanson, Jr.* (?–1817); *Philip Thomas Lee* (1738–1778); *Thomas Sim Lee* (1745–1819); *Richard Potts* (1753–1808); *Sarah Lettice Lee* (?–1761), who married *Philip Richard Fendall* (?–?); *Hannah Lee* (?–ca. 1763), who married *George Plater* (1735–1792), and *Alice Lee* (?–1789), who married *John Weems* (1737–1813). *Sarah Fendall Contee* died at “Brookefield,” Prince George’s County. CHILDREN. SONS: *Alexander* (ca. 1755–1810), who was a merchant and never married; *Rev. Benjamin* (1755–1815), a merchant and lawyer, born at “Brookefield,” near Nottingham, Prince George’s County, served as a lieutenant and captain in the Third Maryland Battalion during the Revolution, served as a delegate to the Continental Congress from 1787 to 1788 and as a representative to the U.S. Congress from 1789 to 1791, declared insolvency due to “mishaps in trade” by 1799, ordained as an Anglican minister in 1803, served as pastor of the Port Tobacco Church, Charles County, presiding judge of Charles County Orphans’ Court at death, he married in 1794 *Sarah Russell* (ca. 1767–1810), daughter of *Philip Thomas Lee* (1738–1778). ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: *Alexander* and *Benjamin* were partners in London in a merchantile business, ca. 1784, with stores in Nottingham, Queen Anne, and Upper Marlboro, Prince George’s County. DAUGHTERS: *Eleanor Lee* (1758–1787), who married *Dr. Michael Wallace* (1749–1794), of Elkton, Cecil County; *Jane* (1761–1825), who married in 1782 *William Worthington*, of Anne Arundel County; and *Sarah*, who married (first name unknown) *Slater*. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican, St. Paul’s Parish,

Prince George’s County. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Esq., by 1758. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: *Contee* was sent to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to confer with the Continental Congress about the organization of the army and the general plans for defense. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: merchant, by 1764; attorney in fact for *William Molleson*, of London, England, merchant, by 1766; in business in Nottingham, Prince George’s County, with *Fielder Bowie* (ca. 1745–1794) in a firm engaged in the tobacco trade with Europe and the importation of large quantities of goods until the firm advertised its dissolution in 1775; had the management of a store at Pig Point, Prince George’s County, ca. 1772–1775; agent for his sons *Alexander* and *Benjamin*, London merchants, for their stores in Nottingham, Queen Anne, and Upper Marlboro, Prince George’s County, ca. 1784; attorney in fact for both *John Yerbury & Company* and *John Walker*, of London, merchant, by 1785; probably also a planter. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Prince George’s County, 1769–1770 (elected to the 2nd session to fill vacancy; Claims 3, 4), 1771 (Claims), 1773–1774 (Accounts 1; Claims Cv, 2, 3); Conventions, Prince George’s County, 4th, 1775, 5th, 1775, 6th–8th, 1775–1776 (Claims 6th–8th); Senate, Western Shore, Term of 1776–1781: 1777, 1777–1778, 1778 (did not serve; resigned on November 20, 1778). OTHER STATE OFFICE: 5th Council of Safety, Western Shore, 1776–1777 (elected on November 11, 1776, to fill vacancy). LOCAL OFFICES: St. Paul’s Parish Vestry, Prince George’s County, 1755–1758, 1770–1774, 1779–1780, 1782 (excused from service), 1793–1796, 1798–1800, 1802, 1804–1806; sheriff, Prince George’s County, 1757; justice, Prince George’s County, in office 1757, 1794–1801; receiver or collector of land tax, Prince George’s County, gave bond 1757; collector of excise, Prince George’s County, gave bond 1757; churchwarden, St. Paul’s Parish, Prince George’s County, in office 1758, 1775, 1777, and 1792; justice, Charles County, 1764–1769; trustee from Prince George’s County for Charlotte Hall Free School, St. Mary’s County, which served Prince George’s, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties; Committee of Observation, Prince George’s County, elected 1775; Levy Court, Upper Marlboro. Prince George’s County, 1795–1796; election official, First District, Prince George’s County, appointed 1801; associate justice, First District Court, Prince George’s County, 1802–1805. MILITARY SERVICE: major, militia, by 1776; lieutenant colonel, First District Militia, ca. 1776. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL