

TION: 1,509 acres in Queen Anne's County (1,115 acres from his father; 394 acres by purchase). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: made a deed of gift of part of his home estate on Wye Neck, Queen Anne's County, to his son William Henry, 1822; deeded 600 acres in Queen Anne's County, plus 11 slaves, a library of books, and plate to his son William Henry in return for an annual rent of \$200.00, 1824. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: on April 8, 1827, probably in Queen Anne's County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: size of estate unknown; probably had deeded everything to his only surviving son before his death. LAND: probably all of his real property deeded to his son before his death. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: In his will he requested that his descendants resume the spelling of the family name as "DeCoursey," instead of "Coursey," the "De" having been dropped "to efface the mark of their being of French descent."

DENNIS, BENJAMIN (?-1808). BORN: of age by 1768. RESIDED: in Acquango Hundred, Worcester County. MARRIED possibly Leza. CHILDREN. SONS: Benjamin; James; and Whetty (Wheatley). DAUGHTERS: Leah, who married James Fooks, son of Thomas Fooks; Sarah, who married (first name unknown) Atkinson; Ann, who married John Johnson, son of Benjamin Johnson; and Betsy. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: carpenter, 1789; owned two-thirds of a vessel, 1789; mill owner. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Worcester County, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791-1792, 1792. LOCAL OFFICE: justice, Worcester County, 1791-at least 1800. MILITARY SERVICE: captain of a company belonging to the Wicomico Battalion, Worcester County Militia, commissioned 1776. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £188.7.4, including at least 4 slaves, 1783; owned 7 slaves, 1790. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION. possibly ca. 850 acres in Worcester County. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: obtained over 1,260 acres in Worcester County through purchase, patent, and several patent resurveys, which he deeded to his children between 1802 and 1808, reserving a life estate for himself. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: between July 29 and August 26, 1808, in Worcester County. LAND: at least 865 acres, plus a life estate in over 1,260 acres in Worcester County.

DENNIS, HENRY (?-1785). BORN: probably at "Beverly" on the Pocomoke River, Worcester

County, of age by 1774; second son, but eldest surviving son by 1777. NATIVE: probably fifth generation. RESIDED: in Pitts Creek Hundred, Worcester County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: *Littleton Dennis* (ca. 1728-1774), son of *John Dennis* (1704-1767). MOTHER: Susanna Upshur (1733-1784). UNCLE: *John Dennis, Jr.* (ca. 1724-1782). BROTHERS: James (?-by 1777); Littleton; and John. SISTERS: Elizabeth; Sarah. FIRST COUSIN: *Samuel Handy* (1751/52-1828). MARRIED on November 23, 1783, Ann, daughter of Capt. John Purnell (?-ca. 1761), and wife Euphame Arbuckle (1734-?); granddaughter of *John Purnell* (?-1755), and of Gen. William Arbuckle (1689-1751), of Virginia; niece of *William Purnell* (?-1777), a possible legislator, *Zadock Purnell* (?-1805), *Thomas Purnell, of John* (?-1796), and Aralantar Purnell (?-1782), who married *Thomas Robins* (?-1766). Her brother was *William Purnell* (?-1798). Her first cousin was *John Purnell Robins* (?-1780). Ann subsequently married by 1793 William Polk. CHILDREN. SON: Littleton (1784-?). PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican, Rehobeth Church, Coventry Parish, Worcester County. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Esq. at death. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: merchant, partner with Zedekiah Whalley; owned mill lands; owned a privateer during the Revolution. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Worcester County, 1779-1780, 1780-1781, 1781-1782, 1782-1783, 1783 (elected, but did not attend). LOCAL OFFICES: Coventry Parish Vestry, Somerset and Worcester counties, elected 1781 and 1784; militia recruiter, Worcester County, in office 1781. MILITARY SERVICE: 1st lieutenant, Snow Hill Battalion, Worcester County Militia, commissioned 1777. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: inherited law books from his father, 1774; assessed value £513.0.0, including 13 slaves, 1783. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: over 2,850 acres in Worcester County (inherited from his father), plus 116 acres in Accomack County, Virginia. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: ca. July 1, 1785, in Worcester County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, at least £2,833.3.11 (including 25 slaves); FB, estate overpaid £358.16.10. LAND: ca. 3,214 acres in Worcester County, plus 116 acres in Accomack County, Virginia.

DENNIS, JOHN (1704-1767). BORN: on August 12, 1704, in Somerset County. NATIVE: probably third generation. RESIDED: in Pocomoke Hundred, Somerset County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: John Dennis (1676/77-1744/45). MOTHER: Sarah