

(?-1732), daughter of Col. Southey Littleton (1645-1679). STEPMOTHER: Elizabeth Day. BROTHERS: Valentine; Lazarus (?-1754); Wheatley; Solomon; and Daniel. MARRIED on November 10, 1724, Mary (?-1768), daughter of William Purnell. CHILDREN. SONS: *John Dennis, Jr.* (ca. 1724-1782); *Littleton Dennis* (ca. 1728-1774). DAUGHTERS: Sarah, who married Thomas Hollbrook; Leah, who married Rev. James Robertson (?-1767); Mary, who married first, in 1737 Samuel Handy (?-1755), and second, (first name unknown) Pollett. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., 1729. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: innholder, 1725; owner and master of sloops, 1734-1739; part owner of a sloop with William Lane, 1748/49; ship's captain. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Somerset County, 1745, 1745/46-1746 (appointed sheriff before the 3rd session), 1754-1757. LOCAL OFFICES: sheriff, Somerset County, 1746-1749, 1758-1761; coroner, Somerset County, commissioned 1745; justice, Somerset County, 1746-at least 1763 (quorum, 1751-at least 1763); Coventry Parish Vestry, Somerset and Worcester counties, in office 1748. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: owned a 15-ton sloop, 1734; owned a 30-ton sloop, 1736; owned a 30-ton sloop, 1739; owned half-interest in a 35-ton sloop, 1748/49. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: ca. 900 acres in Somerset and Worcester counties. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: deeded ca. 700 acres in Somerset County to his son, 1755. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: will probated on September 2, 1767, in Somerset County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, at least £480.3.0 current money (including 8 slaves). LAND: 287 acres in Somerset County.

DENNIS, JOHN, JR. (ca. 1724-1782). BORN: ca. 1724 in Somerset County; probably elder son. NATIVE: probably fourth generation. RESIDED: in Worcester County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: *John Dennis* (1704-1767). MOTHER OR POSSIBLY STEPMOTHER: Mary Purnell (?-1768). BROTHER OR POSSIBLY HALF BROTHER: *Littleton Dennis* (ca. 1728-1774). SISTERS OR POSSIBLY HALF SISTERS: Sarah; Leah; and Mary. NEPHEWS: *Henry Dennis* (?-1785); *Samuel Handy* (1751/52-1828). MARRIED Anna Maria (?-by 1781). CHILDREN. SONS: John; Robert (ca. 1751-?). PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican, St. Martin's Church, Worcester Parish, Worcester County. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: planter, 1758; built a water mill, 1762;

owned a sawmill and gristmill, 1766. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Worcester County, 1754-1755 (appointed sheriff before the 4th session). LOCAL OFFICES: sheriff, Worcester County, 1755-1758; justice, Somerset County, commissioned 1746, 1747, 1748, and 1762; justice, Worcester County, in office 1751-1755, 1764-1782 (quorum, 1754-1755, 1764-1782); Coventry Parish Vestry, Worcester and Somerset counties, in office 1763; justice, Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, Worcester County, commissioned 1766; justice, Orphans' Court, Worcester County, 1777-1782; subscription officer, Continental Loan Office, Worcester County, appointed 1779. MILITARY SERVICE: captain, by 1758. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: 13 slaves included in a deed of trust, 1766. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 250 acres in Worcester County (by purchase). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: 250 acres mortgaged and lost, 1755; owned at least 2,243 acres obtained through patents and purchases by 1766; because of heavy indebtedness, a deed of trust was executed to his creditors involving 2,243 acres in 1766, but he apparently was able to retain ownership; sold ca. 850 acres by 1774; all land was probably in Worcester County. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: his brother or half brother *Littleton Dennis* (ca. 1728-1774) inherited all of his father's estate. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: will probated on June 6, 1782, in Worcester County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: 11 slaves; requested no appraisal of his estate. LAND: at least 1,200 acres in Worcester County, plus one and one-half lots in Snow Hill, Worcester County.

DENNIS, LITTLETON (ca. 1728-1774). BORN: on February 3, ca. 1728, in Somerset County; younger son. NATIVE: probably fourth generation. RESIDED: in Somerset County; Worcester County, by 1759. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: *John Dennis* (1704-1767). MOTHER: Mary Purnell (?-1768). BROTHER OR POSSIBLY HALF BROTHER: *John Dennis, Jr.* (ca. 1724-1782). SISTERS OR POSSIBLY HALF SISTERS: Sarah; Leah; and Mary. NEPHEW: *Samuel Handy* (1751/52-1828). MARRIED on August 12, 1754, Susanna (1733-1784), daughter of Abel Upshur (?-1754) and wife Rachel Revell. CHILDREN. SONS: James (?-by 1777); *Henry Dennis* (?-1785); Littleton (1765-1833), who married Elizabeth Upshur (1769-1819); and John. DAUGHTERS: Elizabeth, who married John Teackle, of Accomack County, Virginia; Sarah. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., 1759; Esq., 1772.