

ING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £1,160.0.0, including 27 slaves and 48 oz. plate, Anne Arundel County, 1783. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: at least 15,657 acres in Anne Arundel and Frederick counties, plus 1 lot in Annapolis (10,649 acres in Frederick County and 1 lot in Annapolis inherited from his uncle Edward Dorsey; most of his land in Anne Arundel County was inherited from his father). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: About 1778 Dorsey formed a mercantile partnership with John Dorsey, *Samuel Chase* (1741–1811), and later, Luke Wheeler. They dealt in state bonds as early as 1781 and by Dorsey's death the firm owed the state over £15,000 current money. The partnership also had dealings with Evelyn Pierpont, of Virginia and Delaware, to whom Dorsey mortgaged property in 1784. By 1789 Dorsey's company had property worth less than £5,000 current money and owed more than £42,000 in debts. Dorsey signed a statement with Chase on November 19, 1789, saying that he had paid or secured £30,000 of the company's debt and was insolvent (as were John Dorsey and Luke Wheeler). Chase agreed to turn over his property to Dorsey, but had not done so by Dorsey's death. Sold ca. 8,700 acres in Anne Arundel and Frederick counties, plus 1 lot in Annapolis, and mortgaged his remaining land, 1784–1789; purchased and patented ca. 20,000 acres in Kentucky, date unknown. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: will probated on October 30, 1790, in Anne Arundel County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, £5,071.15.1 current money; FB, estate overpaid £10,157.11.3. LAND: probably none with clear title in Maryland, but he had nearly 20,000 acres in Kentucky. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: In his will Dorsey stated that he had lost a "liberal fortune" by "indiscretion and ill-judged confidence."

**DORSEY, WILLIAM HAMMOND** (1764–ca. 1819). BORN: on February 12, 1764, at "Oaklands," in the Elkridge section of Anne Arundel or Baltimore counties; fourth son. NATIVE: at least third generation. RESIDED: in Georgetown, D.C., and Montgomery County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: Col. John Dorsey (ca. 1736–1810), amassed a fortune from iron deposits on Curtis Creek in Anne Arundel County, which enabled him to establish John Dorsey & Co. in Baltimore Town; eventually his company became insolvent and he lost practically all of his former wealth. MOTHER: Mary (ca. 1738–?), daughter of Col. William Hammond and wife Elizabeth Hughes. BROTHERS: Robert (1758–1841); Larkin (1760–?),

a captain in the Revolution who died in the West Indies; Alexander (1762–1813); Walter (1771–?), a merchant, who married Hopewell, daughter of Vernon Hebb, of St. Mary's County; John E. (1773–?), a merchant, who married Margaret, widow of (first name unknown) Hudson; and Clement (1773–1848), a major in the militia from 1812 to 1818, judge of the Fifth Circuit Court of Maryland, who married first, Priscilla, daughter of Vernon Hebb, of St. Mary's County, and second, Decandia, widow of Henry Smith and daughter of Henry Ireland and wife Susannah Reeder. SISTERS: Elizabeth (1766–?), who married Edward Dorsey; Sarah (1768–1846). MARRIED first, in 1789 Ann (ca. 1773–by 1815), daughter of *Richard Brooke* (1736–1788). MARRIED second, by 1815 Rosetta. CHILDREN. SONS: Robert E. (?–1876), a physician, who married on July 20, 1826, Sarah Duvall; Richard Brooke (1790–?), who married his first cousin Anne, daughter of Clement Dorsey; James M. (1798–1808); and William Hammond (1800–?), who married on October 31, 1825, Susan Robertson. DAUGHTERS: Anne (1792–died young); Maria A. (1794–?), who married William Johnson. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Esq., 1798. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: ironmaster; joint partner in the Etna Furnace with his brothers Walter and John. Heavily in debt, the business was sold for \$102,697.70 in 1813. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Montgomery County, 1788; Senate, Western Shore, Term of 1796–1801: 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800. OUT OF STATE SERVICE: judge, Orphans' Court, Washington, D.C., appointed 1801. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: 18 slaves, 1790; assessed value £593.0.0, including 15 slaves, 1798–1812; assessed value £483.5.0, including 3 slaves, 1813. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: acquired at least 4,500 acres in Montgomery County through his marriage in 1789. Between 1794 and 1802 he sold or mortgaged all except ca. 500 acres. Purchased 792 acres in Montgomery County (592 acres of this between 1813 and 1816) and sold 246 acres between 1815 and 1818; the sale of the ironworks owned by him and his two brothers included 5,810 acres in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, 1813. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: administration bond granted on January 24, 1819, in Montgomery County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, \$13,031.31 (including 3 slaves, more than 48 books, and plate); FB, \$10,481.23. LAND: probably ca. 1,050 acres in Montgomery County.