

from which he wrote Joshua Johnson in December 1782 that he was confined to his bed. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Talbot County, 1780–1781 (granted a leave of absence from the House on December 20, 1780, and did not serve for the remainder of the Assembly). **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: inherited £31.7.2 current money, probably including at least 1 slave, from his father. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** none. **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** none. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: probably as a prisoner on the Isle of Jersey; presumed dead by Joshua Johnson by April 20, 1783; bond for Martin's estate was posted on December 23, 1783, in Talbot County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £672.12.4 current money (including 3 slaves and £564.4.10 in sperate debts); FB, £671.6.6 current money. The administrators of Martin's estate later sued for an additional debt of £575.5.0 current money owed Martin by Stephen Steward & Son. **LAND:** none. **IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS.** Legislative service for the 1780–1781 Assembly has been assigned to Capt. Nicholas Martin (ca. 1749–1783) after a careful examination of his movements during those years. There was, however, another Nicholas Martin (1743–1808) living in Talbot County during this period. This second Nicholas Martin represented Talbot County in the assemblies of 1795, 1801, and 1802. He, too, was a mariner, at least from 1770 until 1776, but apparently was commissioned as the captain of a company in the 4th Battalion of Militia in 1776. There is no obvious explanation for the brief service of Nicholas Martin in the 1780–1781 Assembly. Excused absences were rarely granted by the House, and since Martin's request for leave was approved it may have been to enable him to serve the state in another capacity of higher priority. It is likely that Capt. Nicholas Martin commanded the *Porpus* on a short, but important, voyage between late December 1780 and late January 1781—a voyage that left the sloop in such deplorable condition from battle that it required two months to repair her.

**MASON, MATTHEW** (ca. 1689–ca. 1728/29). BORN: ca. 1689 in St. Mary's County. **NATIVE:** second generation. **RESIDED:** in St. Mary's County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: *Robert Mason* (1653–1700). MOTHER: Susanna (?–ca. 1716). BROTHERS: Robert (?–ca. 1734); John; and Fordham. SISTERS: Mary; Susanna; Elizabeth. **NEPHEWS:** *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer* (1723–1790);

*Daniel Jenifer* (by 1729–1795). NIECE: Betty Jenifer (?–1791), who married by 1776 *John Eden* (ca. 1728–1775). MARRIED Mary, daughter of *Nehemiah Blakiston* (?–1693) and wife Elizabeth Gerard (?–1716), stepdaughter of *Joshua Guibert* (?–1713). Mary was the granddaughter of *Thomas Gerard* (1608–1673). She was the niece of Susannah Gerard, who married first, *Robert Slye* (ca. 1628–1670/71), and second, *John Coode* (ca. 1648–1708/9); Mary Gerard, who married *Kenelm Cheseldyne* (1640–1708). Her brother was John (?–1724), who married Ann, daughter of *Joshua Guibert* (?–1713). Her sisters were Susanna; Rebecca. Her first cousins were *Kenelm Cheseldyne* (1683–1719); Mary Cheseldyne (1678–?), who married first, *James Hay* (?–by 1717/18); Susannah Cheseldyne (1680–1730), who married *Thomas Trueman Greenfield* (1682–1733); and Dryden Cheseldyne (1687–1760), who married first, *Henry Peregrine Jowles* (1681–1720). **CHILDREN.** SONS: Robert; John. **DAUGHTERS:** Elizabeth; Susanna; and Mary. **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: literate. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Anglican. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** planter. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, St. Mary's County, 1715. **LOCAL OFFICE:** justice, St. Mary's County, 1718. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** at least 593 acres. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: will probated on March 27, 1729, in St. Mary's County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £166.8.0 (including 18 slaves), FB, estate overpaid £2.16.11. **LAND:** more than 1,180 acres.

**MASON, RICHARD** (?–1781). BORN: in Queen Anne's County; of age by 1754. **NATIVE:** probably fourth generation. **RESIDED:** in part of Queen Anne's County that later became Caroline County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: Richard Mason (?–1746) of Queen Anne's County. **STEPFATHER:** James Lane, Jr. of Queen Anne's County. **MOTHER OR STEPMOTHER:** either Mary (?–by 1746), daughter of Patrick O'Bryan (?–1732) of Queen Anne's County, or Rebecca (last name unknown). **BROTHERS:** William Winchester (?–ca. 1778), who married in 1750 Tabitha Purnal (?–1796); Solomon (?–1781). **MARRIED** first, (first name unknown) Baggs (?–by 1774), daughter of Thomas Baggs (?–ca. 1793) of Caroline County. Her brother was John. Her sister was Hannah (?–1774), who married Thomas Roe (?–by 1774) of Caroline County. **MARRIED** second, Sarah (last name unknown). Sarah subsequently married by 1784 Benjamin Elliott, a Queen Anne's County farmer. **CHILDREN.** SON: *Thomas Mason* (?–1802).