

in Anne Arundel County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, at least 120,051 pounds of tobacco (including 7 servants, plate valued at 4,416 pounds of tobacco, and merchandise). **LAND:** over 1,000 acres.

MERCER, JOHN FRANCIS (1759–1821). **BORN:** on May 17, 1759, at “Marlborough Point,” Stafford County, Virginia; tenth son of father. **IMMIGRATED:** in 1785 from Virginia. **RESIDED:** in Virginia; “West River Farm,” Anne Arundel County, after 1785 until death. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** **FATHER:** John Mercer (1704–1768), who was born in Dublin, Ireland, and immigrated to Virginia in 1720, was a lawyer, member and secretary of the Ohio Land Company, a large landowner, land speculator, and author of *Abridgement of the Laws of Virginia*, who married first, in 1725, Catherine (1707–1750), daughter of Col. George Mason (1690–1735) of Virginia. **MOTHER:** Ann (?–1770), daughter of Dr. Mungo Roy of Essex County, Virginia. **BROTHERS:** Mungo Roy (1753–1771); John (1757–died young); and Robert (1764–?), who married Mildred Ann Byrd Carter. **HALF BROTHERS:** Mason (1726–died in infancy); John (1727–1732); George (1733–1784), a Virginia burgess in 1761, lt. governor of North Carolina in 1767, who moved to England before the Revolution and did not return to America; John Fenton (1735–1750); James (1736–1793), a Virginia burgess, 1762–1776, Virginia delegate to the Continental Congress, 1779–1780, judge of the General Court of Virginia, 1780–1789, and judge of the Virginia Court of Appeals, 1783–1793; Thomson Mason (1742–died in infancy); and Catesby Mason (1743–1750). **SISTERS:** Grace Fenton (1751–?), who married Muscoe Garnett; Elinor (1754–?); Anna (1760–?), who married Benjamin Harrison, Jr.; Maria (1761–?), who married Robert Brooke of “Montapike,” Virginia; and Mary Elinor Beatrix (1767–1768). **HALF SISTERS:** Elizabeth Mason (1730–1732); Sarah Ann Mason (1738–1759); and Mary (1740–1764), who married in 1764 Daniel McCarty. **MARRIED** on February 3, 1785, Sophia (1766–1812), daughter of Richard Sprigg (1739–1798) of “Strawberry Hill” near Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and wife Margaret Caile (?–1796). Sophia was the granddaughter of *Thomas Sprigg* (1715–1781). Her sisters were Rebeckah (1767–?), who married in 1786 Dr. James Steuart, son of *George Steuart* (1700–ca. 1784); Elizabeth (1770–?), who married in 1795 Hugh Thompson; Margaret (1772–died in infancy); Sarah (1775–by

1798); Margaret Caile (1779–?); and possibly Henrietta. **CHILDREN.** **SONS:** John (1788–1848), who married in 1818 Mary Swann of Alexandria, Virginia, and died in Virginia; Richard (by 1789–by 1821). **DAUGHTERS:** Margaret (1791–1846). **PRIVATE CAREER.** **EDUCATION:** College of William and Mary, graduated 1775; studied law with Thomas Jefferson, 1779, and at the College of William and Mary, 1782–1783. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Anglican, St. Anne’s Parish Church, Annapolis, 1797; All Hallow’s Parish, Anne Arundel County, by 1815. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Hon., by 1785, Esq., by 1809. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** lawyer, admitted to practice in Virginia, 1781; planter. **PUBLIC CAREER.** **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Anne Arundel County, 1788 (Laws to Expire), 1791–1792, 1800, 1801 (did not attend, resigned), 1803, 1804, 1805. **OTHER STATE OFFICES:** Constitution Ratification Convention, Anne Arundel County, 1788; Maryland Senate elector, Anne Arundel County, 1801; governor, 1801–1803. **LOCAL OFFICES:** common councilman, Annapolis, qualified 1792; All Hallow’s Parish Vestry, Anne Arundel County, elected 1815. **MILITARY SERVICE:** 1st lieutenant, Third Virginia Regiment, commissioned February 26, 1776; captain, commissioned September 1777 “to rank from June 27, 1777,” wounded at Brandywine, September 11, 1777; major, aide de camp to General Lee, commissioned June 8, 1778, resigned July 2, 1779; lt. colonel, Virginia Militia, October 1780–November 1781. **OUT OF STATE SERVICE:** delegate, Continental Congress, Virginia, 1782–1785; delegate, Federal Constitutional Convention, 1787; representative, U.S. Congress, 1792–1793 (elected to fill vacancy; seated February 6, 1792), 1793–1794 (resigned April 13, 1794). **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** wife inherited 5 slaves from her grandfather, 1782, and 19 slaves from her grandmother, 1789; Mercer brought 24 slaves into Maryland from Virginia, 1798–1799 (at least 5 of whom belonged to Sophia Mercer), and 11 slaves from Virginia, 1799–1801 (at least 3 of whom were inherited from Mercer’s mother). Mercer sold his slaves and plantation equipment to his son John in 1810. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** none in Maryland. **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** Under the terms of her grandparents’ wills, Sophia received the title to “West River Farm” in Anne Arundel County, which she repatented as 1,478 acres in 1804. Mercer purchased a 718 acre tract in Anne Arundel County in 1810, but mortgaged it three