

assessed value £12.10.0, 1783; assessed value £105.0.0, including 1 slave, 1793–1798; 3 slaves, 1797; 8 slaves, 1802. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 49 acres in Montgomery County (deeded as a gift from his father). In 1782 Nicholls purchased 1,182 acres in Montgomery County, on which he paid taxes in 1783. He sold it all in 1785 shortly before his election. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: probably moved out of state shortly after his legislative service, without any significant change in landholdings. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: ca. 1802 in Mason County, Kentucky; inventory proven March 22, 1802. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, at least £779.3.7 (including 4 slaves, 5 books, 27 still and mash tubs, livestock, and farm implements). LAND: at least 102 acres in Mason County, Kentucky.

NICHOLSON, BENJAMIN (?–1792). BORN: in Kent County, of age by 1765; younger son. NATIVE: third generation. RESIDED: in Baltimore County, by 1771–death (for part of this period he lived in Baltimore Town). FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: Col. Joseph Nicholson (1709–ca. 1787) of Chestertown, Kent County, a merchant; son of William Nicholson (?–1719) of Anne Arundel County, a merchant, and wife Elizabeth (?–1716/17). MOTHER: Hannah (ca. 1708–?), daughter of **James Smith** (ca. 1683–1760) and wife Sarah Hynson. Hannah was the granddaughter of **John Hynson** (?–1705). Hannah married first, in 1725, Edward Scott (?–1729), son of **Edward Scott** (?–1725). STEPMOTHER: by 1772 Mary (?–ca. 1799), daughter of **William Hopper** (1707–1772). BROTHERS: **Joseph Nicholson, Jr.** (?–1786); William; James (ca. 1736–1804), captain of the Maryland ship *Defence* and a senior officer in the Continental Navy, 1778–1783; Samuel (1743–1811), a captain in the Continental Navy, 1776–1783, who married in 1780 Mary Dowse of Boston; Thomas (?–1783), who married in 1774 Rachel, daughter of **John Ridgely** (by 1724–1771); and John, a captain in the Continental Navy. HALF BROTHERS: Edward Scott (1726–?); **John Scott** (ca. 1727–1790); and Joseph Hopper Nicholson, Jr. SISTER: Elizabeth, who married Charles Gordon (?–1787). HALF SISTERS: Mary (by 1772–by 1797); Henrietta, who married first, John Bracco, Jr. (ca. 1763–1797), son of **John Bracco** (?–1794), and second, Robert Goldsborough, son of **John Goldsborough** (1711–1778). NIECE: Frances Nicholson, who married **Joshua Seney** (1756–1798). MARRIED by 1771 Mary (?–1804), daughter of **John Ridgely** (by 1724–1771) and wife Mary Dorsey

(1725–ca. 1786). Mary was the granddaughter of **Charles Ridgely** (by 1705–1772). She was the niece of **Charles Ridgely** (1733–1790); **Edward Dorsey** (1718–1760); and Rachel Ridgely, who married **Darby Lux** (?–1795). Her brothers were (first name unknown) (ca. 1746–1748); **Charles Ridgely, of John** (ca. 1749–1786); William (?–1797); John (1764–1814); and Edward (1771–?). Her sisters were Deborah (1749–1817), who married **John Sterett** (1750/51–1787); Rachel; Elinor; and Achsah (?–by 1771). Her first cousins were Rachel Goodwin (?–1819), who married second, **Jesse Hollingsworth** (1732/33–1810); Prudence Carnan (1755–1822), who married **Harry Dorsey Gough** (ca. 1745–1808); **Thomas Dorsey** (?–1790); Eleanor Dorsey, who married **Upton Sheredine** (1740–1800); **Harry Dorsey Gough** (ca. 1745–1808); Achsah Dorsey, who married **Ephraim Howard** (1745–1788); Rebecca Dorsey (1739–1812), who married **Charles Ridgely** (1733–1790); Eleanor Dorsey, who married **John Hall** (1729–1797); Mary Dorsey, who married **John Weems** (1727–1794); Elizabeth Dorsey (?–ca. 1811), who married **Richard Ridgely** (1755–1824); **Henry Woodward** (1733–1761); Frances Todd, who married **George Risteau** (?–1792); and Deborah Lynch (?–1810), who married **Samuel Owings, Jr.** (1733–1803). CHILDREN. SONS: William; Benjamin; John Ridgely (ca. 1772–1800), a doctor, who married Matilda Heath Smith; and Benjamin Joseph, who was possibly lost at sea by 1804. DAUGHTERS: Mary, who married in 1798 Darby Lux (ca. 1772–1812), son of **Darby Lux** (?–1795); Elizabeth; Eleanor; Sarah; and Juliet. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: studied law. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Protestant, buried by Rev. John Coleman, rector of St. John's Parish, Harford County. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1771; Esq., by 1789. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: lawyer, admitted to the following courts: Queen Anne's County, June 1765; Baltimore and Frederick counties, August 1765; Provincial Court, October 1768; Anne Arundel and Cecil counties by March 1769; merchant, by June 1771 until at least 1773, in partnership for at least part of this period with his brother James; planter; mill owner, 1789–1792 (although the mill land was mortgaged shortly before his death, its assets were included in Nicholson's inventory). PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Conventions, Baltimore County, 2nd–3rd, 1774, 4th, 1775, 5th, 1775, 6th–8th, 1775–1776 (did not attend the 8th Convention). OTHER STATE OFFICES: judge, Court of Admiralty, 1776–1789 (commissioned on October 30, 1776). LOCAL OFFICES: Commit-