

daughter of Dr. Joshua Warfield (?–1769) of Anne Arundel County, a “practitioner of physic” and millowner, and wife Rachel Howard (1732–1792). Ruth was the niece of *Ephraim Howard* (1745–1788). Her brothers were Joseph (1758–?), who married Elizabeth Dorsey; Joshua. Her sisters were Sarah (1752–?); Dinah (1754–?), who married Caleb Dorsey; and Rachel (1759–?), who married Nicholas Worthington Dorsey. **CHILDREN.** **SONS:** Samuel, who married in 1819 Sarah Ann Hatherly and moved to Calvert County; James; Richard, who married in 1812 Elizabeth Munro; Thomas, who married Ann Maria Warfield; Joshua W., who married in 1811 Elinor Worthington, moved to Frederick County by 1829, and later to Missouri; Basil, who married Eleanor Griffith; Henry Howard, who married first, in 1829, Sarah Gist, and second, in 1842, Elizabeth Dorsey; and Beal. **DAUGHTERS:** Polly, who married William Welling; Ann, who married in 1813 Dominic B. Jessop, a merchant of Baltimore County. **PRIVATE CAREER.** **EDUCATION:** literate. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Esq., by 1790. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** farmer, miller, merchant. About the time of his mother-in-law’s death, Owings moved to Anne Arundel county and took over the Warfield mill; by 1794 he had two mills on branches of the Patuxent River. In 1797 Owings bought the “Windsor Mills” on Gwynns Falls in partnership with Archibald Stewart, a Baltimore City merchant, and later ran this mill with William Jessop. He bought the “Guilford Mills” on the Patuxent River in 1799, and another mill-seat on the Patapsco River in 1801, the latter in partnership with his nephew Samuel Owings, of Thomas. The Patapsco mill was sold in 1817 for \$10,000. Shortly after purchasing a lot at Bowley’s Wharf on Pratt Street in Baltimore City in 1801, Owings began to call himself a merchant. He was apparently involved in shipping flour from his warehouse on the wharf. **PUBLIC CAREER.** **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Baltimore County, 1789, 1790. **LOCAL OFFICES:** justice, Baltimore County, 1785–1791; collector of the tax, Delaware Hundred, Baltimore County, by 1781. **MILITARY SERVICE:** captain, Soldier’s Delight Battalion, Baltimore County Militia, by May 1776, commissioned June 6, 1776, replaced May 27, 1779. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** assessed value £764.8.4, including 10 slaves, 13 oz. plate, 1783; 21 slaves, 1790; 15 slaves, Anne Arundel County only, 1798. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 1,152 acres in Baltimore and Frederick counties (487 acres in Baltimore and Frederick

counties inherited from father; 48 acres in Frederick County by patent; 617 acres in Baltimore County acquired through purchase, of which 377 acres belonged to the estate of Richard Owings of Joshua (1738–1786), his cousin). **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** Owings resurveyed the land inherited from his father, some of his Frederick County patents, and several other tracts purchased after his election into a 1,098-acre tract in Baltimore and Frederick counties for a net gain of ca. 129 acres. Although this tract was not patented until 1799, Owings began selling parts of it in 1797. Over the next five years, he sold at least 849 acres of the tract in five transactions. Owings acquired possibly as much as 300 acres of land in Anne Arundel County when his mother-in-law died and Dr. Warfield’s property was released from her life estate. Owings added land to his part of the Warfield land by various purchases until in 1798 he owned at least 690 acres in Anne Arundel County. The Windsor Mills property in Baltimore County, purchased in 1797, comprised 167 acres, and the Guilford Mills in Anne Arundel County, purchased two years later, came with 32 acres. The lot on Bowley’s Wharf in Baltimore Town was purchased with Owings’s son Beal in 1800. Beal was already dead when Richard Owings sold the lot and warehouse to Beal’s brother James in 1819 for \$6,000.00. Owings bought additional land in Baltimore County, mostly to increase tracts he already held, amounting to at least 555 acres, 1799–1805; however he also sold 382 acres in Baltimore County during this period. With his nephew Samuel, Owings bought a 108-acre mill-seat on the Patapsco River in both Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties in 1801. They added to it 95 acres with water courses in 1802 and 65 acres in 1807, and sold the entire 268 acres with the mill in 1817. Owings continued to acquire land contiguous to his Anne Arundel County mills, especially with the purchase of 439 acres on the middle branch of the Patuxent River from his wife’s brother-in-law, Nicholas W. Dorsey. Of a total of 744 acres in Anne Arundel County purchased between 1805 and 1811, Owings sold 285 acres in 1811. The following year he resurveyed the main Warfield mill land, including his own purchases, into a 1,210-acre tract for a net loss of 300 acres. In 1815 Owings gave the land in Baltimore County he had originally bought from the estate of his cousin Richard, plus additional land purchased himself (a total of 599 acres), to his son Joshua. In the five years before his death,