

TUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1774; Esq., by 1789. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: subscribed £40.0.0 to Washington College, date unknown. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: merchant, Cambridge, Dorchester County; owned a counting house and storehouse in Cambridge, Dorchester County; factor for Spiers and French and Company, 1773, 1775; probably also planter. ADDITIONAL COMMENT: owned a privateer during the Revolution. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Dorchester County, 1786–1787 (Claims 2), 1787–1788 (Grievances 1; Claims 1). LOCAL OFFICES: commissioner of the tax, Dorchester County, 1782–1783; justice, Dorchester County, commissioned ca. 1784 and 1785 (did not qualify); Great Choptank Parish Vestry, Dorchester County, 1788–1789. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: manumitted two slaves, 1789, 1790. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £1,787.12.6, including 37 slaves and 25 oz. plate, 1783; sold 48 slaves and livestock to indemnify two of his securities on a bond, 1791. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 3,841 acres in Dorchester and Baltimore counties, plus 1 lot and part of another lot in Dorchester County and 1 lot in Somerset County (286 acres through marriage; 3,555 acres, the remainder of 3,586 acres, plus the lots, by purchase or patent). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: mortgaged at least 3,917 acres in Dorchester and Baltimore counties, plus lots in Cambridge, Dorchester County, which comprised most, if not all, of his real estate, to Archibald Moncreiff, a Baltimore merchant, 1790. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: between August 9 and December 30, 1791, in Dorchester County. LAND: at least 3,935 acres in Dorchester and Baltimore counties, plus lots in Cambridge, Dorchester County; in his will he ordered his executors to sell his real estate to settle his debts and to transfer the residue to his daughter Mary; Mary received one lot in Cambridge, Dorchester County, from her father's executors in 1797, but it is not known if this was all that remained after Patison's debts were paid.

**PEAKE (PAKES), WALTER** (ca. 1609–1668). BORN: ca. 1609, probably in England. IMMIGRATED: in 1646 as a free adult with his wife and son from Virginia. RESIDED: in St. Mary's County. MARRIED Frances, who in 1652 was accused by her husband of committing adultery with Paul Simpson, Peake's business partner. CHILDREN. SON: Peter, who had been captured by Indians while

living in Virginia, and who was claimed by Peake as his son. DAUGHTERS: Mary, who married in 1663/64 Henry Aspinall, a justice of Calvert County, 1680/81; Margaret, who married John Noble, a carpenter; and Ann. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: probably Protestant with close Catholic connections. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: lived in James City, Virginia, by 1639; Mr., by 1660/61. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: planter; innholder, 1666; attorney. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Assembly, present 1647/48, St. Mary's County, 1649 (Accounts). WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: at least 100 acres; owned 600 acres in Virginia. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: by the early 1660s owned more than 5,900 acres in Maryland; sold 1,600 acres, 1651–1663; gave 1,450 acres to his daughter Mary between 1663 and 1666. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: Peake was convicted of the murder of William Price. He was hanged on December 17, 1668. LAND: 2,850 acres.

**PEARCE, BENJAMIN** (1711/12–1756). BORN: on January 28, 1711/12, in Cecil County; eldest of four sons. NATIVE: third generation. RESIDED: in North Sassafras Parish, Cecil County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: Col. Benjamin Pearce (ca. 1683–1734), son of *William Pearce* (ca. 1641–1720/21). STEPMOTHER: Mary (1692–1753), widow of *John Hynson* (ca. 1670–1708). UNCLE: *Daniel Pearce* (1677–1727). AUNTS: Isabella Pearce, who married *William Blay* (ca. 1681–1716); Elizabeth Pearce, who married *Henry Ward* (?–1734). BROTHERS: William (1718/19–?); Andrew (1724/25–?); and Daniel (1728/29–?). SISTERS: Mary (1710–?); Sarah (1720–?); and Rachel (1722/23–?). FIRST COUSINS: Rachel Blay (1703–1746), who married first, in 1724, *Edward Scott* (?–1725), and third, *Aquila Paca* (ca. 1703–1743/44); *James Pearce* (?–1802). MARRIED on July 31, 1734, his first cousin Margaret (1716–1755), daughter of *Henry Ward* (?–1734), granddaughter of both *Henry Ward* (?–ca. 1683/84) and *William Pearce* (ca. 1641–1720/21). CHILDREN. SONS: Henry Ward (1736–1828), who married first, in 1759, Anna Statia (?–1770), youngest daughter of Dominic Carroll, and second, in 1776, Rachel (1737–1808), widow of John Relfe of Philadelphia, youngest daughter of *Tench Francis* (1701–1758); Benjamin Ward (1739–1739); Benjamin Ward (1740–1743); William (1742–1743); Andrew (1744–?), who was lost at sea; and William (1748–?). DAUGHTERS: Elizabeth (1735–?); Mary (1751–?). PRIVATE CAREER. ED-