

justice October 15, 1796, and held office until October 10, 1801, when he was appointed associate justice of the Maryland Court of Appeals; resigned his justiceship in 1806 to resume private law practice. LOCAL OFFICES: Committee of Observation, Frederick County, elected 1776; clerk, Frederick County Court, 1777–1778 (resigned when he started his law practice); chief justice, Frederick County Court, appointed March 20, 1797; All Saints' Parish Vestry, Frederick County, 1804–1808. MILITARY SERVICE: ensign, Frederick County Militia (Middle District), a part of the 34th Battalion, and aide to Brig. Gen. **Thomas Johnson** (1732–1819), 1776. OUT OF STATE SERVICE: delegate, Continental Congress, 1781 (elected on January 16, 1781, to fill vacancy); presidential elector, 1792; senator, U.S. Congress, 1793 (elected to fill vacancy; seated on February 4, 1793), 1793–1795, 1795–1796 (resigned on October 24, 1796); declined an appointment as one of the commissioners for Washington, D.C., 1794. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £510.0.0, including 7 slaves, 6 servants, and 264 oz. plate, Frederick Town Hundred, Frederick County, 1782; 22 slaves, Frederick County, 1790. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 482 acres in Frederick County (all by purchase). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: purchased parts of two lots in Frederick Town, which included his dwelling house, a yard, garden, and stable in 1782, plus one other lot by 1782; purchased more than 250 acres in Frederick County in 1784, probably for speculation, with **Joseph Sim** (?–1793) and **Thomas Sim Lee** (1745–1819); between 1788 and 1797 purchased 3 pieces of property adjacent to his home and incorporated them into his dwelling lot; purchased 1,851 acres in Frederick County between 1781 and 1802, plus 6 lots, probably in Frederick Town (643 acres and the town lots were confiscated British property); patented 1,467 acres in Frederick and Allegany (now Garrett) counties between 1785 and 1794; sold 847 acres in Frederick County between 1783 and 1795 and all of his town lots except the property where he resided. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: on November 26, 1808; buried at All Saints' Cemetery in Frederick Town, later removed to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Baltimore County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, \$189,440.18 current money (including 57 slaves, substantial livestock, and grain taken from two farms, as well as his town property); FB, \$7,568.49. LAND: ca. 3,200 acres, all in Frederick County except for one small tract located in what is now

Garrett County, plus the Frederick Town lot where he resided.

**PRATHER, JOHN SMITH** (1706–1763). BORN: in 1706 in Prince George's County; second son. NATIVE: third generation. RESIDED: at "Sprigg's Request Plantation," Prince George's (later became Frederick) County; Bladensburg, Prince George's County, 1761–1763. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: **Thomas Prather** (1673–1712), son of **Jonathan Prather** (?–1680), who immigrated from Eton Water, Wiltshire, England, ca. 1650, and wife **Jane** (?–1713), who was probably the daughter of **George Goldsmith** of Baltimore County. In 1682 **Jane** married a wealthy Prince George's County tobacco planter, **John Smith**. STEPFATHER: **Capt. Stephen Yoakley** of Charles County. MOTHER: **Martha** (?-by 1747), daughter of **Thomas Sprigg** (1630–1704) of Calvert County and probably his second wife **Eleanor**, who was the daughter of **John Nuthall**. UNCLE OR HALF UNCLE: **Thomas Sprigg** (by 1670–by 1739). AUNT: **Mary Sprigg**, who married **Thomas Stockett** (1667–1732), son of **Thomas Stockett** (?–1671). BROTHERS: **Thomas** (1704–1785), who married first, in 1725 **Elizabeth Claggett** (?–1765) of "Weston," and married second, **Jennet** (probably **Smiley**). **Thomas** was a justice of Prince George's County in 1747, justice of Frederick County, 1748–1775, and sheriff of Frederick County in 1762. **Philip Gilleno** (1708–?). **Aaron** (1711–1777), who married his first cousin, **Jane Prather**. SISTERS: **Eleanor** (ca. 1699–post 1749), who married **Thomas Williams** of Prince George's County; **Rachel** (1702–?), who probably married **Joseph Milburn Simms** of Charles County. FIRST COUSINS: **Sarah Pierce** (?–ca. 1700), who married **John Beale, of Lawson** (ca. 1674–1751); **Elizabeth Sprigg** (?–1787), who married **Turner Wootten** (ca. 1695–1760); **Priscilla Sprigg**, who married **Ralph Crabb** (?–1733/34); **Osborn Sprigg** (ca. 1707–1749/50); and **Edward Sprigg** (1697–1751). NEPHEW: **Elisha Williams** (1735–?). MARRIED on February 17, 1725/26, his first cousin **Elizabeth Nuthall** (1712–?), in St. Barnabus Church. **Elizabeth** subsequently married **William Deakins, Sr.** (1700–?), of Rockville. CHILDREN. SONS: **Josiah** (1727–?), who married **Jane Deakins**; **Jeremiah** (1731–1807), who married **Anne Edmonston**, and resided in Fayette County, Kentucky; **Aaron** (1735–died at birth); and **Zachariah** (1736–?), who married **Rosamond Callahan**. DAUGHTERS: **Martha** (1730–?), who married **James Odell** of Anne Arundel County; **Eleanor** (1734–?), who married **Josiah Beall**;