

(?-1755). BROTHER: John (?-1758), who married his first cousin Zipporah (Zeporah), daughter of *John Purnell* (?-1755). SISTERS: Mary, who married Charles Rackliffe; Elizabeth, who married first, (first name unknown) Wright, and second, Jabez Fisher; and Comfort, who married her first cousin *Thomas Purnell, of John* (?-1796). FIRST COUSINS: *Zadock Purnell* (?-1805); *Thomas Purnell, of John* (?-1796); Arralantar Purnell (?-1782), who married *Thomas Robins* (ca. 1702-1766); *William Purnell* (?-1777), a possible legislator; and *William Purnell* (1739-1796), a possible legislator. MARRIED Sarah, daughter of Thomas Marshall (?-by 1788). She subsequently married by 1792 Robert Mitchell. CHILDREN. SONS: Zadock; John; and Thomas Marshall. DAUGHTER: Mary Outten, who married George Washington Purnell (?-1844). ADDITIONAL COMMENT: all of Purnell's children were minors in 1788. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1789. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: probably planter. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Worcester County, 1778 (elected to the 3rd session of the 1777-1778 Assembly to fill vacancy, but did not attend). LOCAL OFFICES: justice, Worcester County, commissioned 1777; commissioner of the tax, Worcester County, 1778—at least 1790. MILITARY SERVICE: called colonel, 1783. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £1,101.16.0, including 27 slaves and 12 oz. plate, 1783. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: at least 1,669 acres in Worcester County (at least 1,413 acres inherited from father; at least 200 acres purchased). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: acquired an unknown amount of acreage in Northampton County, Virginia, through his marriage, date unknown; purchased at least 179 acres in Worcester County between 1784 and 1789; acquired an additional 100 acres and disposed of 200 acres, all in Worcester County, between 1783 and 1788. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: will probated on August 12, 1790, in Worcester County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, \$7,794.26 current money; FB, \$3,839.76, as calculated; 14 slaves mentioned in his will. LAND: at least 1,748 acres in Worcester County, plus lands in Northampton County, Virginia.

**PURNELL (PURNALL), WILLIAM (?-1777).** BORN: of age by 1757. NATIVE: fourth generation. RESIDED: Synepuxent Hundred, Worcester County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: *John Purnell* (?-1755), son of *Thomas Purnell* (?-1723).

MOTHER: Elizabeth Rackliffe (?-ca. 1754). BROTHERS: *Zadock Purnell* (?-1805); *Thomas Purnell, of John* (?-1796); and Capt. John (?-ca. 1761). SISTERS: Elizabeth; Levina; Arralantar (?-1782), who married *Thomas Robins* (ca. 1702-1766); and Zipporah (Zeporah). FIRST COUSINS: *Thomas Purnell, of Thomas* (?-1790); *William Purnell* (1739-1796), a possible legislator. NEPHEWS: *John Purnell Robins* (ca. 1742-1780); *William Purnell* (?-1798). NIECES: Ann Purnell, who married first, *Henry Dennis* (?-1785), and second, *William Polk* (1752-1812); Mary Robins (1743-1808), who married *William Purnell* (1739-1796), a possible legislator. MARRIED by 1763 Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Lambert Fassitt (?-1755), of Worcester County, and wife Levinah. Mary Elizabeth was the granddaughter of William Fassitt. Her sisters were Mary; Sarah; and Zipporah. CHILDREN. SONS: John, who married Elizabeth, and who was living in Sussex County, Delaware, by 1800; Thomas. DAUGHTER: Nancy, who married Reubin Anderson, and who was living in Kent County, Delaware, by 1800. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: planter. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Worcester County, 1773-1774; 3rd Convention, Worcester County, 1774. MILITARY SERVICE: colonel, Worcester County Militia, elected 1776. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: at least 1,293 acres in Worcester County (at least 856 acres was the remainder of at least 947 acres inherited from his father; at least 125 acres through marriage; at least 169 acres through personal acquisition). WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: administration bond filed August 18, 1777, in Worcester County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, at least £968.1.0 specie (including 11 slaves, 15 oz. plate, and 6 books). ADDITIONAL COMMENT: a court order allowed the executors to deduct £307.0.0 from the original appraisal of £1,275.1.0 for 11 slaves who died of an epidemic fever shortly after being appraised. LAND: at least 1,293 acres in Worcester County. IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS. There were two candidates for the legislative service of William Purnell in the Lower House from 1773-1774 and in the third convention of December 1774. Both men, who were first cousins, were large landowners and military men. It was not possible to determine which one served, hence both biographies have been included and the same legislative service is assigned to both. See also *William Purnell* (1739-1796). The man who served in the later assemblies from 1785-