

William (?–1797); John (1764–1814); and Edward (1771–?). SISTERS: Deborah (1749–1817), who married **John Sterett** (1750/51–1787); Rachel; Eleanor; Mary (?–1804), who married **Benjamin Nicholson** (?–1792); and Achsah (?–by 1771). FIRST COUSINS: 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). MARRIED by April 1775 Rebecca (1752–1801), daughter of Alexander Lawson (?–1760) of Baltimore, a merchant, and wife Dorothy Smith (1719–?). Her grandfather was Walter Smith (ca. 1692–1734) of Hall's Craft, Calvert County. Her brother was Alexander (?–1798), who married in 1763 Elizabeth Brown. Her sisters were Susanna (1743–1798), who married **Andrew Buchanan** (ca. 1733–1786); Isabella (?–1822), who married **Robert Alexander** (1740–1805); Mary (Polly), who married Robert Christie, Jr.; Rachel (?–by 1760), who married **Lloyd Buchanan** (1729–ca. 1762); Dorothy (?–1752); Elizabeth (?–1752); and Margaret (?–1752). The last three sisters drowned when ice-skating on the pond at their father's ironworks in Baltimore County. CHILDREN. SON: Charles. DAUGHTERS: Rachel; Elizabeth, who married in 1794 Joseph Young; Rebecca, who married in 1799 William Barney; and Dorothy (?–by 1801). DAUGHTER OR STEPDAUGHTER: Mary, who married in 1799 John S. Horne. ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Mary Ridgely Horne was not named as a child of Charles in the probate of his estate. Rebecca, however, does name Mary Horne as her daughter in her will. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican, St. Paul's Parish, Baltimore County. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1773; Esq., at death; third generation legislator. Indicted for murder in 1785, Ridgely was defended by **Thomas Stone** (1743–1787) and acquitted. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: merchant, land developer, farmer. Ridgely was a partner in his

father's mercantile firm in Baltimore Town until the latter's death in 1771. For at least the next year or so he remained a merchant in partnership with **Benjamin Nicholson** (?–1792). In the early 1770s, Ridgely subdivided his land adjoining Baltimore Town and sold or leased it in small lots. He continued to develop this area until his death. While residing in Anne Arundel County, he frequently styled himself "farmer" and maintained a large plantation at Elkridge. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Baltimore County, 1774 (elected to the 3rd session of the 1773–1774 Assembly); Conventions, Baltimore County, 1st, 1774 (appointed, but did not attend), 4th, 1775, 5th, 1775. LOCAL OFFICES: Committee of Correspondence, Baltimore County, in office May 1774; churchwarden, St. Paul's Parish, Baltimore County, 1775–1776. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £1,898.0.0, including 37 slaves, 170 oz. plate, 1783. Heavily in debt by 1784, Ridgely had to sell slaves in 1785 to pay for his defense by **Thomas Stone** (1743–1787) on the charge of murder. ANNUAL INCOME: at least £282.0.0 sterling per annum from ground rents on land adjoining Baltimore Town. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: ca. 1,821 acres in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties (ca. 1,761 acres in both counties inherited from his father; 50 acres in Baltimore County by purchase; 10 acres in Baltimore County as a gift from his cousin Rachel Goodwin), plus a one-half interest in 136 acres in Anne Arundel County. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: sold his one-half interest in the 136 acres in Anne Arundel County in 1779; bought or leased 1 lot in Elkridge Landing, ca. 97,000 sq. ft. in Hanover, and 36 acres, all in Anne Arundel County, 1780; bought perhaps 580 acres in Anne Arundel County and 676 acres in Baltimore County, 1782; gave an unspecified amount of land in Baltimore County to his cousin Rachel, 1783; in the early 1780s developed land west and south of Baltimore Town as "Ridgely's New Addition to Baltimore Town" and leased lots there for a yearly ground rent; leased out 69 lots near Baltimore Town for ground rents, 1785. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: in December 1786, estate probated in Baltimore County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, Baltimore County only, £1,856.3.0 current money (including 1 slave, 110 oz. plate); FB, £51.9.6. In a Chancery Court case ca. 1787–1807, creditors of the estates of Charles Ridgely, of John, and his father claimed additional debts of at least £7,000.0.0 current money and £4,300.0.0 sterling plus inter-