

SMALLWOOD, WILLIAM (1732–1792). BORN: in 1732, probably at “Smallwood’s Retreat,” his father’s dwelling plantation in Charles County; elder son. NATIVE: fourth generation. RESIDED: at “Smallwood’s Retreat,” situated in Chickamuxon District, on Mattawoman Creek in Durham Parish, Upper Hundred, Charles County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: *Bayne Smallwood* (ca. 1711–1768). MOTHER: Priscilla Heabard (?–1784). BROTHERS: Heabard (?–1780), who served in the Revolutionary War as a Virginia resident and who died without progeny. SISTERS: Lucy Heabard (?–1768), who married *John Truman Stoddert* (1732–1765); Elizabeth; Eleanor; Priscilla Heabard; and Margaret. MARRIED never. CHILDREN. Died without progeny. **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: educated at Kendall, England, then Eton. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican, probably Durham Parish, Charles County. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1760; Esq., by 1777; probably a Freemason. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: planter, 1763; career military officer. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Charles County, 1761 (elected to 3rd Convention of the 1758–1761 Assembly, Public Offices Cv 3), 1762–1763 (Arms and Ammunition 1, 2), 1765–1766 (Grievances 2, Arms and Ammunition 2, 4), 1768–1770 (Arms and Ammunition 1–3), 1771, 1773–1774 (Public Offices 2, 3); Conventions, Charles County, 1st, 1774, 2nd, 1774, 4th, 1775 (elected, but did not attend), 5th, 1775, 6th–8th, 1775–1776 (did not attend the 7th and 8th Conventions); Senate, Western Shore, Term of 1791–1796: 1791 (president, 1st session; died before 2nd session of the 1791–1792 Assembly). OTHER STATE OFFICE: governor, 1785–1788. As governor, Smallwood called the Maryland convention that ratified the U.S. Constitution in 1788; in 1785 he formed a compact with Virginia to improve navigation on the Potomac River. LOCAL OFFICES: justice, Charles County, 1762, 1770–1773; Committee of Observation, Charles County, 1774; Durham Parish Vestry, Charles County, elected April 1775, discharged April 1776; Maryland Senate elector, Charles County, 1791. **MILITARY SERVICE:** served in the French and Indian War; resumed his military career on January 14, 1776, when he was commissioned colonel of the First Maryland Regiment. In April 1775, led 1,400 men from Annapolis to join the Continental Army; participated in the Battle of Long Island, and on October 28, 1776, was wounded at the Battle of White Plains. That

same month he was commissioned brigadier general of the Continental Army, and later fought in the battles of Ft. Washington, Trenton, Princeton, and Germantown. In October 1777 at Germantown, he captured part of a British camp. Between 1779 and 1780, Smallwood was in charge of surveillance of the Chesapeake Bay, with his headquarters at Wilmington, Delaware. In September 1780, while headquartered in South Carolina, he was appointed major-general. After the Camden engagement, Smallwood was made a division commander, but when he refused to serve under the “foreigner” Baron von Stueben, he was sent back to Maryland to assist in raising supplies and reinforcements. Under the “Act to Raise Recruits” passed by the General Assembly in January 1782, Smallwood was given the task of enlisting troops to reinforce the Continental Army, and succeeded in raising 308 men. OUT OF STATE SERVICE: delegate, Continental Congress, 1784 (elected in December 1784, but declined to serve; chosen instead to succeed *William Paca* (1740–1799) as governor). STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: subscribed to Maryland Non-Importation Association, 1769; subscribed £20.0.0 towards the building of Charlotte Hall School. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £500.15.0, including 8 slaves, 1783; 56 slaves in 1790 (probably included some slaves of other family members living with him). LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 250 acres in Charles County (deed of gift from his father). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: Purchased ca. 5,500 acres in Charles and Frederick counties, 1763–1791, of which 339 acres in Frederick County was confiscated British property formerly belonging to the proprietor, Henry Harford; inherited 3,453 acres in Charles County from his father, 1768, and inherited 1,959 acres of Virginia land at his mother’s death in 1784; patented 722 acres in Charles County, 1771–1787, and was assessed for 400 acres of officer’s bounty land in Allegany County, 1793; sold 2 Charles County tracts totaling 189 acres, 1763 and 1777. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: on February 14, 1792, at his plantation on Mattawoman Creek; buried at “Smallwood’s Retreat.” Smallwood’s heirs consisted of his only surviving sister, Priscilla Courts, the several children of his two deceased sisters Elizabeth and Eleanor, and his great-grandnephews John Truman Stoddert and Hebert Mitchell. In 1892 a bill to move his remains to a suitable place in Baltimore did not pass the Senate. Instead, the Senate