

**TWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** purchased at least 100 acres by 1783, and 12 acres in 1793; patented three tracts totalling 56 acres, 1793–1797, one of which, encompassing 7 and one-half acres, was sold in 1797; assessed for 688 acres in 1798; purchased rights to one-quarter of an estate with an unspecified amount of land in Spesutia Upper Hundred, 1801; sold at least 108 acres along the post road, 1804 and 1806; purchased an unknown quantity of land in 1807, of which he patented 17 acres in 1807, and added an adjoining patent of 3 acres, also in 1807. All of Smithson's land was in Harford County. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** on January 17, 1809, in Harford County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** size of estate unknown. **LAND:** at least 800 acres in Harford County. Smithson's principal heirs were two of his brother Daniel's children, Elizabeth Smithson, who married Henry Dorsey, of Edward, and William Smithson.

**SMOOT, JOHN** (1748–1793). **BORN:** in 1748, probably in Charles County. **NATIVE:** at least second generation. **RESIDED:** in Charles County; Dorchester County by 1770; at his dwelling plantation “Rehoboth,” Dorchester County, by 1787. **FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER:** Edward Smoot (?–1795). **MOTHER:** Mary Magdalene (?–by 1795). **BROTHERS:** Edward (?–by 1794); William Groves; Henry, of Dorchester County; Alexander; and Benjamin Stoddert. **SISTERS:** Lydia, who married Clement Kenedy; Jennett; and Mary. **MARRIED** first, by 1770, Elizabeth Douglass (1748–1787), who was probably related to John's business partner and friend, Alexander Douglass. **MARRIED** second, on April 9, 1790, Elizabeth Parker, a young woman of no property who was housekeeper in the Smoot home. John and Elizabeth Parker's first child was born out of wedlock. To protect the children of John's first marriage, Elizabeth signed a contract stating that she would receive only £300.0.0 of his estate if she survived him. **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** a Chancery Court case involving John's estate revealed that his circumstances greatly improved and his estate grew considerably following his marriage to his first wife, Elizabeth Douglass. **CHILDREN. SONS:** John (?–of age by 1800), eldest son, ward of Dr. John S. Crapper after his father's death; Henry (?–died a minor between 1787 and 1790); Robert (before 1790–?), the son of John and Elizabeth Parker; Joseph (after 1790–?); and John Henry (1794–?), who was born five months after his father's death. **DAUGHTERS:** Catherine (?–1795), who married Dr. John Sydenham Crapper; and

Amelia Lee (?–ca. 1788). **PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION:** literate; requested in his will that his sons be kept in school either until they came of age or their education was completed. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Anglican, probably Great Choptank Parish, Dorchester County. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Esq., by 1780. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** planter; merchant by 1770. His partner in trade in the firm of Smoot & Douglass was Alexander Douglass. Their business was in the town of Vienna, Dorchester County. **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Dorchester County, 1777 (elected to the 1st session of the 1777 Assembly to fill vacancy), 1777–1778, 1778–1779 (Claims 3), 1779–1780 (Claims 1, 2), 1781 (elected, but did not attend; resigned during the 1st session of the 1781–1782 Assembly), 1782–1783. **LOCAL OFFICE:** justice, Dorchester County, appointed 1777, 1780, 1782–1789, 1791. **MILITARY SERVICE:** captain, Upper Battalion of Militia, Dorchester County, by 1778. **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES:** manumitted two slaves, 1787. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY:** assessed value £994.0.0, including 30 slaves, 12 oz. plate, and a saw mill in Nanticoke, 1783; 41 slaves, 1790. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 1,203 acres in Dorchester and Charles counties (purchased 1,156 acres and patented 47 acres). **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** purchased at least 2,937 acres in Dorchester County (826 acres of this was confiscated British property), plus 3 lots in Vienna Town purchased with his business partner, 1780–1793; sold 147 acres in Dorchester County, 1790–1792. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** on September 5, 1793, in Dorchester County; buried in Great Choptank Parish, Dorchester County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** size of estate unknown, but included books, slaves, stock in the firm of Smoot & Douglass, one-fourth ownership of Payns Mills and the sloop *Peace and Plenty*. **LAND:** ca. 3,993 acres in Dorchester and Charles counties (at least 2,659 acres were in Dorchester County as specified in his will, plus 47 acres in Charles County which he probably still held; his remaining real property, ca. 1,334 acres, was mentioned in his will as the “residue of all my lands”). **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** Smoot wrote his will on August 27, 1787. At that time he was a widower with four children, and he devised his entire considerable estate to them. On April 9, 1790, John married his housekeeper, Elizabeth Parker, and had two more sons. Following his second marriage he declared his will null and void, breaking the seal on