

(ca. 1691–1740), daughter of John Skinner (?–1764), a merchant of Calvert County. Her sister was Ann, who married Benjamin Rogers. **CHILDREN. SONS:** John Skinner (ca. 1775–?), who married in 1800 Elizabeth Thornburg; Isaac Lee (by 1784–?). **DAUGHTERS:** Elizabeth, who married in 1804 John C. Weems of West River, Anne Arundel County, son of *John Weems* (1737–1813); Anne, who married in 1813 John W. Thomas of Cecil County. **PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION:** literate and well read. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Quaker. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Gent., by 1776; Esq., by death. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** partner in Bush River Ironworks, planter, moneylender. John Lee Webster and his brothers James and Isaac became formal partners in the Bush River Ironworks Co. in 1765 through the original one-third share owned by their father. The other partners were John Bond and Jacob Giles (1705–1784). In 1767, Bush River Ironworks Co. owned a furnace, 3 mills, about 20 slaves, 3,000 acres of land, a large bay schooner and other watercraft, plus all the equipment required for the iron and milling business. **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Harford County, 1788 (elected, but did not attend, resigned), 1789 (elected, but did not attend). **MILITARY SERVICE:** possibly a member of Company 1, Harford County Militia, September 1775, but no evidence of any service or commission as an officer. **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES:** provided for the manumission of his slaves after his death. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY:** valued at £300.0.0 or more, 1759–1763; 64 slaves, 1776; assessed value £3,225.05.0, including 61 slaves and 111 oz. plate, 1783; 94 slaves, 1790. **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** Both of Webster's wives had fathers and former husbands who were wealthy merchants or planters, and both brought significant amounts of property with them when they married Webster. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** ca. 2,100 acres in Harford County (420 acres of Bush River Ironworks land; 460 acres inherited from his father; ca. 858 acres acquired through first marriage; ca. 86 acres by purchase; half of 538 acres purchased with a partner). Webster had acquired at least 878 acres in Calvert County through his second marriage, but the land had been sold before his first election. **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** purchased 130 acres in Harford County, 1789, and the 420 acres of Bush River Ironworks land on which he had been paying taxes, 1790; purchased three small tracts totalling 157

acres in Harford County, 1793–1795; acquired an unknown amount of land in Pennsylvania and Virginia prior to death; purchased 2 lots in Baltimore City, 1794. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** on June 9, 1795, in Harford County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, at least £5,439.5.3 current money, 1795 (including 36 slaves, 74 oz. plate, ca. 36 books, and £190.0.0 in cash); TEV in 1806, £38,564.11.9 current money (including debts received and profits on land, 1796–1799); FB, £12,559.1.4 (after payment of over £7,200 in legacies and maintenance of his orphans, 1795–1806). By 1806, at the time of the final account, over £33,000 had been received by Webster's estate in payment of principal and interest on bonds and notes he had owned, and there were still outstanding, but considered good, debts of over £17,000. **LAND:** ca. 2,400 acres in Harford County, 2 lots in Baltimore City, and land in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

WEEMS, JAMES (ca. 1707–1781). **BORN:** ca. 1707, probably in England or Scotland. **IMMIGRATED:** as a minor, possibly with his mother, brother, and sister, to live with his uncle, Dr. William Loch (?–1732) of Anne Arundel County. **RESIDED:** in Anne Arundel County; Calvert County by at least 1734. **FAMILY BACKGROUND. MOTHER:** possibly Elizabeth Loch Weems. **BROTHER:** David (1706–1779) of Anne Arundel County, who married first, Elizabeth Lane (?–1738), and second, Esther Hill (1717–1776). **SISTER:** Williamina (?–1784), who married ca. 1722 William Moore (1699–1783) of Philadelphia and “Moore Hall,” Chester County, Pennsylvania, a member of the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly, 1733–1740, justice, 1741–1783. **NEPHEW:** *John Weems* (1727–1794). **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** Family tradition ties James Weems to the Earl of Wemyss in Scotland and states that Elizabeth Loch Weems's husband was William Weems (Wemyss), who was killed November 12, 1715, at Preston, Lancashire, England. After his death she and her children emigrated to Maryland; James may have left first, ca. 1715, and the others ca. 1720. **MARRIED** first, by November 20, 1727, Sarah, widow of James Stoddert, Jr. (?–ca. 1726), who was the son of *James Stoddert* (ca. 1667–1726). Sarah was the daughter of George Parker (?–1711) of Calvert County and his wife Susanna Parrott (1675–1762), and the stepdaughter of *John Mackall* (1669–1739). Her brother was Gabriel (?–by 1762). Her half brother was *James John Mackall* (1717–1772). Her sisters were Elizabeth; Susanna, who married Gidion Dare, son