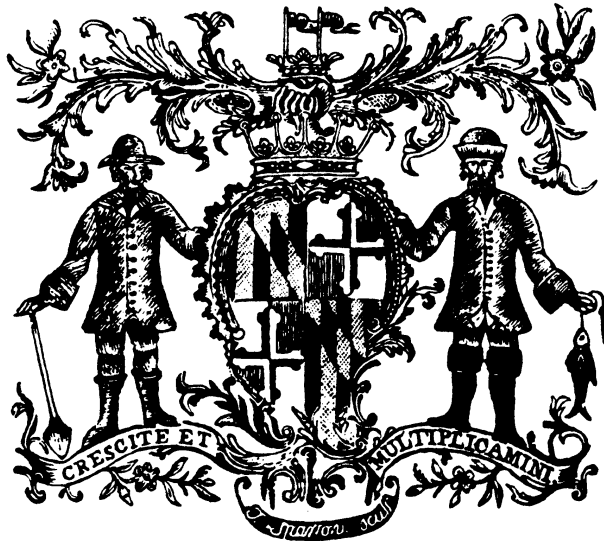


A  
BIOGRAPHICAL  
DICTIONARY OF  
THE MARYLAND  
LEGISLATURE,  
1635-1789



Volume 1: A-H

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mained unpatented. While in Maryland Bladen sold at least 6,850 acres inherited from his father, plus about 1,000 acres in Frederick and Anne Arundel counties that he had obtained by patent and purchase. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: in 1780 in England. **LAND:** 80 acres in Charles County and land in Baltimore County that was confiscated by the state in 1782; holdings in England are unknown.

**BLADEN, WILLIAM** (1670–1718). BORN: in 1670 in London or Yorkshire, England; eldest son. IMMIGRATED: in 1690 as a free adult from London, England. RESIDED: in St. Mary's County; Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, by the mid-1690s. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: Nathaniel Bladen, Esq., of Hemsworth, Yorkshire, England; a barrister who attended Lincoln's Inn. MOTHER: Isabella (?–1691), daughter of Sir William Fairfax (1609–1644), of Steeton, Yorkshire, England, a cousin of Sir Thomas Fairfax (1612–1671). BROTHERS: Francis; Martin (ca. 1680–1746), who was comptroller of the mint in 1714, M.P. for Hampshire from 1715 to 1734, for Maldon, Essex from 1734 to 1741, and for Portsmouth from 1741 to 1746, a Lord of Trade from 1717 to 1746, and a director of the Royal African Company from 1717 to 1726. MARRIED first, Letitia, daughter of Judge Dudley Loftus, vicar general of Ireland. MARRIED second, in 1695/96 Ann, daughter of Garrett Van Swearingen and wife Mary. CHILDREN. SONS: *Thomas Bladen* (1698–1780), who married Barbara, daughter of Sir Theodore Janssen, Bart. (ca. 1658–1748); Christopher; William; and Martin. DAUGHTERS: Ann, who married in 1711 *Benjamin Tasker* (ca. 1690–1768); Priscilla. **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: literate; admitted to the Inner Temple in 1687. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: a member of a prominent English family; his education quickly brought him profitable clerkships and legal business; he was hired in 1692 by Gov. Lionel Copley to handle all of his business and legal affairs. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: placeman; lawyer, admitted to the following courts: Provincial Court in 1693; Cecil County in 1693/94; Prince George's County in 1696; Anne Arundel County by 1703. Contractor; merchant. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Annapolis, 1708A (election voided). OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICES: clerk, Lower House, 1695–1698; register of the Admiralty Court, 1698–still serving in 1703; clerk, Council, 1698–1716; naval officer, Annapolis, 1698/99–1718; clerk, Prerogative Office, 1699–1700; secretary of Maryland, 1701; deputy auditor

and surveyor general of customs, 1703–1715; attorney general, 1704–1718; commissary general, 1708–1718. LOCAL OFFICES: clerk, St. Mary's County, 1695–1698; clerk of Indictments, Prince George's County, 1696; surveyor of Annapolis, 1697–1718; St. Anne's Parish Vestry, Anne Arundel County, 1704. MILITARY SERVICE: colonel at death. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: actively sought permanent appointment as secretary of the colony in 1701 and years following, and led the opposition to Sir *Thomas Lawrence* (ca. 1645–1714), the incumbent secretary. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: part owner of the ship *Tryon*, of London, England, 1699. ANNUAL INCOME: as clerk of the Council, one of his many patronage positions, he received 12,000 pounds of tobacco a year. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** at least 6,000 acres. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: on August 7, 1718. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, £2,106.14.1 (including 26 slaves, 9 servants, a printing press, and books, including 48 law titles); FB, £1,646.1.2. **LAND:** at least 15,745 acres.

**BLAKE, THOMAS** (?–?). BORN: in Calvert County, of age in 1753. NATIVE: third generation. RESIDED: First District, Calvert County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: Richard Blake (?–ca. 1764), son of Capt. Thomas Blake and wife Jane Sutton Isaac. MOTHER: Susanna Nicols. MARRIED by June 1766, probably Barbara Bond, widow of William Hamilton Smith. CHILDREN. SON: Thomas Blake, who possibly married Elizabeth, daughter of *James Heighe* (?–1757). **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Mr., 1788; Esq., 1788. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: probably a planter. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Calvert County, 1788. LOCAL OFFICES: churchwarden, All Saints' Parish, Calvert County, in office 1753; All Saints' Parish Vestry, Calvert County, in office 1761; commissioner of tax, Calvert County, 1779—at least 1783; justice, Calvert County, in office 1781 and 1794. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £850.3.4, including 20 slaves and 16 oz. plate, 1783. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 767 acres in Calvert County (545 acres inherited from his father; 222 acres probably by personal acquisition). **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: probably in Calvert County, after 1795; size of estate unknown.

**BLAKISTON, NATHANIEL** (ca. 1663–1722). BORN: ca. 1663 in England; first son. IMMIGRATED: in 1698 as a free adult. RESIDED: in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County; returned to Eng-