

I CHASE, Samuel 1741-1811

- A. Provincial Court April 1765
(P.C. Judgments, D.D. No.7, f.288)
- Court of Chancery by February 1768
(C.R., 11)
- Anne Arundel County June 1763
(A.A. Judgments, I.M.B. No.1, f.762)
- Baltimore County March 1763
(B.C. Court Minutes, B.B., 1755-1762, no folio)
- Charles County November 1772
(Ch.C. Court Record, U. No.3, f.161)
- Frederick County March 1763
(F.C. Judgment Record, 1763-1766, f.3)
- Prince George's County August 1763
(P.G. Court Record, 1761-1763, f.603)
- Mayor's Court, Annapolis October 1761
Sworn in as attorney, then as Clerk of
Indictments (A.R., 2, f.173).
- B. Born on Eastern Shore in 1741.¹
- C. Moved to Annapolis in 1759 and in 1786 moved to Baltimore
City.
- D. Eldest son of Thomas Chase (1703-1779) who was the brother
of Richard Chase Sr. (see under Richard CHASE for details).
Thomas was educated at Eton and Cambridge where he also
studied medecine and taught Greek. He then emigrated to

the West Indies where he practiced medicine. He became an Anglican clergyman and came to Maryland in 1739 as pastor of a Somerset County parish. He moved to the curacy of St. Paul's Parish in the early 1740's.

E. Studied law under John HALL (see under for details) in Annapolis.

F. Only had 2 Bibles worth \$14 in inventory.²

G. Married 1. May 1762 Anne, daughter of Thomas Baldwin, a bankrupt.

2. 1784 Hannah Giles

Children: 2 daughters.

H. Burgess, Annapolis, 1765-1766.

Burgess, Anne Arundel County, 1768-1770, 1771, 1773-1774

Delegate, Anne Arundel County, Annapolis Convention, 1774-1776
Sessions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9

1775-1777, 1st session On Council of Safety

Delegate, Annapolis, Lower House, 1777, 1777-1778, 1778-1779,
1779-1780, 1780-1781, 1781-1782,
1782-1783, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786-1787

Delegate, Baltimore City 1787-1788

1774, 1775, 1776, 1784, 1785 Member of Continental Congress

1776 Signed Declaration of Independence

1788 Member of Ratification Convention.³

I. Lawyer.

- J. 1788 Appointed Chief Justice, Baltimore County
- 1791 Appointed Chief Justice, General Court of Maryland
- 1796-1811 Associate Justice, Supreme Court. In 1804 he was impeached by the House of Representatives but acquitted at his trial in 1805.
- 1783 Appointed as agent to recover funds the colony had invested in Bank of England stock.

K. Dollars

14,866.01	Inventories
16,606.63	Accounts
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1,740.62	Overpaid

Owned 15 slaves.

Chase constantly over extended himself financially. As early as 1760, he was apparently behind in payment for his room and board in Annapolis. In 1771, he had to sell the house he was building in Annapolis to extricate himself from financial difficulties. By 1787, his speculation in confiscated property had resulted in debts over £3500. He petitioned the General Assembly for discharge from debts with the provision that he would surrender all his property for the use of his creditors.⁴

- L. Speculated heavily in land on both sides of the Bay and in confiscated property. Between 1762 and 1764, he acquired 2036 in his own name and 5446 acres in partnership with Thomas JOHNSON (see under for details). In 1765, he acquired a further 1197 acres.⁵
- M. 1761 Admitted as member of the Forensic Club after being refused membership in 1760 but in 1762 he was expelled for misbehavior.
1. Unless otherwise cited, all information on Chase is from Neil E. Strawser, "The Early Life of Samuel Chase" (Master's thesis, George Washington University, 1958); Rosamond R. Beirne, "The Reverend Thomas Chase: Pugnacious Parson", MHM, LIX (1964), 1-14; John Sanderson ed., Biography of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, 9vols. (Philadelphia: R.W. Pomeroy, 1823-1827), IX, 185-235.
 2. B.C. Inventories, D.D., ff.89, 90.
 3. See also Papenfuse et.al., Directory, 32-33.
 4. B.C. Inventories, D.D., ff.88-93, 93; B.C. Administration Accounts No.U, ff.237-240. For details of Chase's financial difficulties, see A.A. Judgments, I.M.B. No.1, f.40; Strawser, "The Early Life of Samuel Chase", 232-233; Philip A. Crowl, Maryland During and After the Revolution: A Political and Economic Study (Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1943), 96-97.
 5. Patents, B.C. & G.S. No.18, ff.383, 386, 388, 398, 401, 404; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.20, ff.239, 242, 703; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.17, f.60; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.22, f.708; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.23, f.16; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No. 25, f.1; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.33, f.297; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.34, ff.336; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.35, ff.136-137; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.37, f.128; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.42, f.216; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.39, f.459; ibid., B.C. & G.S. No.46, f.416; ibid., I.C. No.A, ff.721, 722, 724; ibid., I.C. No.C, f.303; ibid., I.C. No.D, ff.79, 85, 87, 95; ibid., I.C. No.G, f.626; ibid., J.K. No.T, f.258; Certificate of Survey Nos 298, 306, 217, (1762,1782,1790).