

NAME ~~Littleton~~ Purnell Dennis

DATES 1786-1834

MSA SC 1138-001-2009

SUMMARY SHEET  
NOTES

Date	Initials	Number (circled)	Citations
6/30/92	LF	①	<u>Historical List</u> , Papenfuse, et al. 354, 40, 41
		②	<u>Biographical Directory of US Congress 1774-1989</u> 896-7.
		③	MD E.S. Newspaper Abstracts Northern Counties 1830-4 Volume 7 (Harper + Wright) 156.
		④	Truitt, Reginald V. + Millad G. Les Callette. <u>Worcester County,</u> <u>Maryland's Arcadia</u> : Snow Hill, WO: 1977
		⑤	<u>Presidential Electors in MD</u> <u>1789-1980</u> , p. 6, 8, 9
LB	7/15/92	①	Eale, Swepson, MD's Colonial Eastern Shore Bull: 1916, p. 140

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Dennis  
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NAME Littleton Purnell Dennis ①

Hon. Littleton P. Dennis ③

BORN July 21, 1786 at "Beverly", WO ②

↑  
on east bank of  
Pocomoke River, WO, 8  
mi. from its  
mouth ⑥

in Washington, D.C. ②

DIED April 14, 1834 ① ② Buried in the  
Congressional Cemetery ②

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Dennis  
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FAMILY BACKGROUND

son of Henry and Ann (Purnell) Dennis ④

MARRIED

NA never ④

CHILDREN

NA

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NAME Littleton Purnell<sup>D</sup>  
Dennis

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RELIGION

2

EDUCATION

Tutored at home; (4)  
Attended Washington Academy, Princess Anne, SO, (4)  
Graduated Yale College, 1803;  
Studied law. (4)

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NAME

<sup>E</sup>  
Littleton Purnell  
Dennis

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001-2009

MILITARY SERVICE

n/a

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Admitted to WD and SO bars, 1804; practiced law,  
Princess Anne, SO. (4)

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Dennis

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POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION

Whig (1) (4)

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE POLITICS

House, S, 1810, 1815-16, 1819-21, (4) (1)

Senate, ~~S~~, 1826-1833 (resigned) (1)

ES,

OTHER MARYLAND POLITICS

1812 (4)  
Presidential Elector, 1812, 1818, 9<sup>th</sup> District, 1824, 1828 (4) (5)

(Littleton J. Dennis served at same time - not sure)

Nat  
Service

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NATIONAL POLITICS

U.S. Rep, 1st District, 23rd Congress, served  
March 1833 - April 14, 1834. (Died) (14)

T. Littleton Purnell, 1833, 1834

OTHER POLITICS

Dennis, Littleton P.  
50

Maryland Manual, 1984

p. 757 Littleton Purcell Dennis U.S. Representative  
for Md, elected 1833 (died April 14, 1834).



Yale University  
George Washington)  
in 1899; was ad-  
mised practice in  
ing business for  
ty-fourth and to  
, 1915-March 3,  
in 1930 to the  
1932 to the Sev-  
practice of law in  
suit judge of the  
d in Carbondale,  
wood Cemetery,

nison), a Repre-  
ngston, Luzerne  
mercantile pur-  
y; clerk of the  
d member of the  
ent in 1823 and  
ounty 1812-1815;  
and commenced  
State house of  
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-March 3, 1823);  
the Post Office  
a candidate for  
deputy attorney  
elected to the  
served until his  
1829 and 1830;  
1; interment in

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County, Iowa,  
High School in  
and the Univer-  
Creighton Uni-  
w in Fairbury,  
nvestigation for  
d Chicago, Ill.;  
s, October 1942,  
dion; remained  
erve until 1960,  
med practice of  
ounty attorney  
nty Republican  
publican Party;  
and Ninety-first  
71); was not a  
d Congress; ap-  
1971; resided in  
1; interment in

om New York;  
in April 1740;  
and engaged in  
ee of One Hun-  
vincial congress  
ate representa-  
assembly 1784-  
member of the  
Eleventh Con-  
s resignation in

1810, never having qualified; died in New York City October 30, 1819; interment in St. Paul's Churchyard.

**DENNIS, David Worth**, a Representative from Indiana; born in Washington, D.C., June 7, 1912; graduated from Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C., 1929; Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., A.B., 1933; Harvard Law School, LL.B. now J.D., 1936; admitted to the bar in 1935 and commenced practice in Richmond, Ind. in 1936; prosecuting attorney, Wayne County, Ind., 1939-1943; enlisted in the United States Army, 1944-1946, commissioned first lieutenant, JAG department, and served in the Pacific; elected State representative from Wayne County to Indiana general assembly, 1947-1949; joint State representative, Wayne and Union Counties, 1953-1959; elected as a Republican to the Ninety-first and to the two succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1969-January 3, 1975); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1974 to the Ninety-fourth Congress; resumed the practice of law in Richmond, Ind.; is a resident of Richmond, Ind.

**DENNIS, George Robertson**, a Senator from Maryland; born in Whitehaven, Somerset County, Md., April 8, 1822; was graduated from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., and entered the University of Virginia at Charlottesville; studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia; was graduated in 1843 and practiced in Kingston, Md., for many years; later devoted himself to agricultural pursuits; member, State senate 1854; member, State house of delegates 1867; member, State senate 1871; elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate and served from March 4, 1873, until March 3, 1879; died in Kingston, Somerset County, Md., on August 13, 1882; interment in St. Andrew's Churchyard, Princess Anne, Somerset County, Md.

**DENNIS, John** (father of John Dennis [1807-1859] and uncle of Littleton Purnell Dennis), a Representative from Maryland; born at "Beckford," Worcester County, Md., December 17, 1771; completed preparatory studies in Washington Academy; attended Yale College; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1793 and commenced practice in Somerset County; served two terms in the State house of delegates; elected as a Federalist to the Fifth and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1797-March 3, 1805); one of the managers appointed by the House of Representatives in 1798 to conduct the impeachment proceedings against William Blount, a Senator from Tennessee; died in Philadelphia, Pa., August 17, 1806; interment in Old Christ Church Graveyard.

**DENNIS, John** (son of John Dennis [1771-1806] and cousin of Littleton Purnell Dennis), a Representative from Maryland; born at "Beckford," Princess Anne, Somerset County, Md., in 1807; completed preparatory studies; studied law; was admitted to the bar and practiced; also engaged in agricultural pursuits; served in the State house of delegates; elected as a Whig to the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Congresses (March 4, 1837-March 3, 1841); delegate to the State constitutional convention in 1850; died at "Beckford," November 1, 1859.

**DENNIS, Littleton Purnell** (nephew of John Dennis [1771-1806] and cousin of John Dennis [1807-1859]), a Representative from Maryland; born at "Beckford," Worcester County, Md., July 21, 1786; attended Washington Academy, Somerset County, Md.; was graduated from Yale College in 1803; studied law; was admitted to the bar and practiced; member of the State house of delegates in 1815, 1816, and 1819-1827; member of the executive council of Maryland in 1829; an elector of the Maryland State senate in 1831; elected as an

Anti-Jacksonian to the Twenty-third Congress from March 4, 1833, until his death April 14, 1834; interment in the

**DENNISON, David Short**, a Representative from Ohio; born in Poland, Mahoning County, Ohio; graduated in Warren, Ohio, public school; attended Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, Ohio; graduated from Amherst College, Williamstown, Mass., in 1940; graduated from Harvard University Law School in 1945; admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of law in 1946; served as a volunteer ambulance driver with the American Red Cross and assigned to British Eighth Army in 1943; served as special counsel to the State in 1950 and 1951; special assistant in the State attorney general 1953-1956; elected to the Eighty-fifth Congress (January 3, 1917); unsuccessful candidate for reelection to the Ninety-sixth Congress and for election to the Ninety-seventh Congress in 1960; admitted to District of Columbia bar; served as consultant to Civil Rights Commission, D.C., in 1959; resumed the practice of law in Federal Trade Commission, 1970-1971; served as secretary, and general counsel, Wheeling, West Virginia, 1975-1978; resumed the practice of law in 1979; is a resident of Pebble Beach, Calif.

**DENNY, Arthur Armstrong**, a Representative from Washington; born in Sale, Ind., June 20, 1822; moved with his family to Putnam County, Ind. in 1823 and to Knox County, Tenn. in 1834; surveyor of Knox County 1845-1846; engaged in cutting timber and mercantile business; county commissioner of Thurston County, Wash.; first postmaster of Thurston County; engaged in the organization of Washington Territory; served until 1861; elected speaker in the Territorial house of representatives in 1855 served in the Volunteer Army; register of the land office in Olympia, Wash.; member of the Territorial council in 1862 and 1863; elected a Delegate to the Thirty-ninth Congress (March 3, 1867); was not a candidate in 1866; entered the banking business in 1866; as an author; died in Seattle, Wash. in 1910; interment in Lakeview Cemetery.

**DENNY, Harmar** (great-grandfather of Harmar Denny, Jr.), a Representative from Pennsylvania; born in Pittsburgh, Pa., May 13, 1794; was graduated from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., in 1813; studied law; admitted to the bar in 1816 and commenced practice in 1816; member of the State house of representatives in 1816; elected as an Anti-Masonic candidate to the Twenty-third Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of William Wilkins; reelected to the Twenty-fourth Congress and served from March 3, 1837, to March 3, 1837; was not a candidate in 1836; resumed the practice of law; elected as a delegate to the State constitutional convention in 1836; elected as an elector on the Whig ticket in 1840; elected under act of incorporation of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. April 13, 1846; incorporator of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad Co., 1848; declined the nomination to the Twenty-fifth Congress in 1850; president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. in 1851 and 1852; trustee of the University of Pennsylvania and director

Anti-Jacksonian to the Twenty-third Congress and served from March 4, 1833, until his death in Washington, D.C., April 14, 1834; interment in the Congressional Cemetery.

**DENNISON, David Short**, a Representative from Ohio; born in Poland, Mahoning County, Ohio, July 29, 1918; educated in Warren, Ohio, public schools; graduated from Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, Ohio, in 1936, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., in 1940, and Western Reserve University Law School in 1945; admitted to the bar in 1946 and commenced the practice of law in Warren, Ohio; served as a volunteer ambulance driver with American Field Service and assigned to British Eighth Army in Africa in 1942 and 1943; served as special counsel to the city of Warren in 1950 and 1951; special assistant in Trumbull County to Ohio State attorney general 1953-1956; elected as a Republican to the Eighty-fifth Congress (January 3, 1957-January 3, 1959); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1958 to the Eighty-sixth Congress and for election to the Eighty-seventh Congress in 1960; admitted to District of Columbia bar in 1959; served as consultant to Civil Rights Commission, Washington, D.C., in 1959; resumed the practice of law; member, Federal Trade Commission, 1970-1974; vice president, secretary, and general counsel, Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp., 1975-1978; resumed the practice of law in California in 1979; is a resident of Pebble Beach, Calif.

**DENNY, Arthur Armstrong**, a Delegate from the Territory of Washington; born in Salem, Washington County, Ind., June 20, 1822; moved with his parents to Greencastle, Putnam County, Ind. in 1823 and to Knox County, Ill. in 1834; surveyor of Knox County 1843-1851; moved to Oregon Territory in 1851 and settled at Alki Point on Elliott Bay; engaged in cutting timber and mercantile pursuits; served as county commissioner of Thurston County, Oreg., and King County, Wash.; first postmaster of Seattle 1853-1855; upon the organization of Washington Territory in 1853 was elected a member of the Territorial house of representatives and served until 1861; elected speaker in 1857; during the Indian war of 1855 served in the Volunteer Army for six months; register of the land office in Olympia 1861-1865; member of the Territorial council in 1862 and 1863; elected as a Republican a Delegate to the Thirty-ninth Congress (March 4, 1865-March 3, 1867); was not a candidate for renomination in 1866; entered the banking business in 1872; also engaged as an author; died in Seattle, Wash., on January 9, 1899; interment in Lakeview Cemetery.

**DENNY, Harmar** (great-grandfather of Harmar Denny, Jr.), a Representative from Pennsylvania; born in Pittsburgh, Pa., May 13, 1794; was graduated from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., in 1813; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1816 and commenced practice in Pittsburgh, Pa.; member of the State house of representatives 1824-1829; elected as an Anti-Masonic candidate to the Twenty-first Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of William Wilkins; reelected to the Twenty-second through Twenty-fourth Congresses and served from December 15, 1829, to March 3, 1837; was not a candidate for renomination in 1836; resumed the practice of law in Pittsburgh, Pa.; delegate to the State constitutional convention in 1837; presidential elector on the Whig ticket in 1840; commissioner under act of incorporation of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. April 13, 1846; incorporator of Ohio & Pennsylvania Railroad Co., 1848; declined the nomination to be a candidate for Congress in 1850; president of the Pittsburgh & Steubenville Railroad Co. in 1851 and 1852; trustee of the Western University of Pennsylvania and director of the Western Theo-

logical Seminary; died in Pittsburgh, Pa., January 29, 1852; interment in Allegheny Cemetery.

*Bibliography:* Backofen, Catherine. "Congressman Harmar Denny." *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* 23 (June 1940): 65-78.

**DENNY, Harmar Denny, Jr.** (great-grandson of Harmar Denny), a Representative from Pennsylvania; born in Allegheny, Pa., July 2, 1886; attended Allegheny Preparatory School and St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H., in 1904; was graduated from Yale University in 1908, and from the law school of the University of Pittsburgh in 1911; was admitted to the bar in 1911 and commenced the practice of law in Pittsburgh, Pa.; during the First World War served in the United States Army Air Corps as a first lieutenant and bombing pilot; director of public safety, Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1933 and 1934; unsuccessful Republican candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1941; served as a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army Air Corps as assistant air inspector, Eastern Flying Training Command, 1942-1945; commissioned lieutenant colonel, Air Force, retired; elected as a Republican to the Eighty-second Congress (January 3, 1951-January 3, 1953); was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1952 to the Eighty-third Congress; served as a member of Civil Aeronautics Board from April 7, 1953, to November 15, 1959; retired and resided in Pittsburgh, Pa.; died in Buxton, Derbyshire, England, January 6, 1966; interment in Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**DENNY, James William**, a Representative from Maryland; born in Frederick County, Va., November 20, 1838; attended the academy of the Rev. William Johnson, Berryville, Clarke County, Va.; was graduated from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville; principal of Osage Seminary, Osceola, St. Clair County, Mo.; during the Civil War he returned to his native State and enlisted in Company A, Thirty-ninth Virginia Battalion of Cavalry, Confederate Army, in which he served until 1863, when he was detailed for service at Gen. R. E. Lee's headquarters, where he continued until the surrender at Appomattox Court House; returned to Clarke County, Va., and began the study of law in Winchester, Va.; was admitted to the bar in Baltimore, Md., in 1868 and commenced practice in that city; elected to the first branch of the city council in 1881; reelected in 1882 and became its president; member of the State house of delegates 1888-1890; colonel on the staff of Gov. E. E. Jackson; member of the Baltimore School Board for eight years; elected as a Democrat to the Fifty-sixth Congress (March 4, 1899-March 3, 1901); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1900 to the Fifty-seventh Congress; elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress (March 4, 1903-March 3, 1905); engaged in the practice of law until his death in Baltimore, Md., April 12, 1923; interment in Loudon Park Cemetery.

**DENNY, Walter McKennon**, a Representative from Mississippi; born in Moss Point, Jackson County, Miss., October 28, 1853; attended the common schools and Roanoke College, Salem, Va.; was graduated from the law department of the University of Mississippi at Oxford in 1874; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Pascagoula, Jackson County, Miss.; clerk of the circuit and chancery courts of Jackson County, Miss., from November 1883 until January 1, 1895; delegate to the State constitutional convention in 1890; elected as a Democrat to the Fifty-fourth Congress (March 4, 1895-March 3, 1897); unsuccessful candidate for renomination in 1896; joined the Republican Party in 1896; resumed the practice of law at Pascagoula, Miss., and for fifteen years was legal adviser to the Jackson County Board of Supervisors; died in Pascagoula November 5, 1926; interment in Machpelah Cemetery.

Barron and, as a matter of honor, accepted intending only to wound the antagonist, while the latter intended to kill. On that fateful day in 1820, Decatur died. There followed deep mourning throughout the Nation. As the National Intelligencer put it: "A hero has fallen! Commodore Stephen Decatur, one of the first officers of the navy - the pride of his country - the gallant and noble-hearted gentleman - is no more!...Mourn, Columbia! for one of thy brightest stars is set ... in the freshness of his fame ...." 11

#### JOHN DENNIS

In 1771 John Dennis was born at "Thrum Capped", better known as Beverly. He was the father of John II, and an uncle of Littleton Purnell Dennis, both of whom were outstanding in public service including terms in the House of Representatives. George Robertson Dennis, elected to the U.S. Senate from Maryland was a cousin two times removed, thus with the others, indicating the prominence of the Dennis family. John was tutored at home, graduated from Washington Academy at Princess Anne and attended Yale College. Studying law privately and successfully, he was admitted to the bar in 1793 and opened an office in Princess Anne. Recognizing his ability and leadership, he was sent to the Maryland House of Delegates where he served with such distinction as to be named in 1797 the candidate of the dominant Federalist Party for the U.S. Congress, although only twenty-six years of age. He served four terms as Representative and achieved a reputation of distinction for attendance and devotion to his office in the fledgling Congress meeting in the then Capital, Philadelphia.

Two events of great concern to the new nation were to have the attention of young Congressman Dennis, the William Blount affair and the Aaron Burr election problem. He was named one of the managers in 1797 to conduct the impeachment proceedings against U.S. Senator Blount of Tennessee, an early test of its kind in the Congress. The second case was that of Aaron Burr who, through cunning and connivance, had reached the heights of politics to become Vice-President (1801-1805) under President Thomas Jefferson, and had created dissension to the extent that the President was challenged by him and was in a deadlock for renomination. By the system then in effect, the Burr-Jefferson election results were thrown into the House of Representatives for a decision. Viewing the situation studiously and conservatively he associated himself with three other Federalists and, withholding their votes, favored multifaceted Jefferson - writer, philosopher, ambassador, inventor, president and farmer - who as a result went on to reelection. John Dennis and the three statesmen correctly judged Burr whose career ultimately included the dueling death of Alexander Hamilton, a political opponent (an act many considered barely short of murder) and, later, his

planned enterprise for conquering Texas, a possession of Spain, and setting up a new nation with New Orleans as its capital.

The Representative was the son of Littleton and Suzanna Upshur Dennis. He married Elinor, daughter of Henry Jackson, and fathered seven children, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth, married the very competent Parker Upshur who later became Judge and then U.S. Secretary of State. Enroute home from a session of Congress the young statesman died suddenly in 1807, ending a constructive career of great national prominence.

One of the several prominent members of the Dennis family at Beverly, Littleton Dennis was the grandson of Littleton and Suzanna Upshur Dennis, the builders of the grand plantation house. A nephew of John Dennis, he was one of three distinguished Congressmen of the family. He was the son of Henry and Ann Purnell Dennis, she being the daughter of Lemuel Purnell of the Seaside plantation, Simpleton. Henry Dennis was a person of considerable commercial interest who, while on a business trip to the West Indies, was lost at sea with ship, crew and cargo, leaving the young son. Littleton was born at Beverly in 1784 and as with other early members of the family, he was tutored at home until he matriculated at Washington Academy, Princess Anne, to prepare for entrance at Yale College from which institution he was graduated in 1803.

Returning to Beverly, he read law and in 1804 was admitted to the bar of Worcester and Somerset counties where, especially in Princess Anne, he developed an extensive practice. From the first he was popular and a leader in his community and in matters relating to the Eastern Shore. Noted for his clever, ready and witty replies to questions, he was a skilled debator and much sought after post-prandial speaker. It was said of him that he was a lovable character. As is almost inevitable with persons possessed of such distinguished ability - the Dennises in general were prepossessing in appearance - he gravitated toward politics (perhaps another Dennis trait) and with marked success.

He held at first minor local offices and was named a Presidential Elector while still young, serving in that capacity in 1812, 1824 and 1828. In 1815, 1816 and from 1819 to 1827 he was elected a Delegate to the House of Maryland's General Assembly where he served brilliantly. He was an Elector of the Maryland State Senate in 1831 in which office his record was such as to have him nominated on the Whig ticket by which action he was sent to the Congress of the United States as Representative, and with great promise, on Capitol Hill. However, this promise was cut short in 1834 when he died after only one year in office

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Trent, Reginald V. & Millard G. Les Callette.  
Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia. Snow Hill, MD: 1977

His passing, that of a scholar, a distinguished public speaker, and an able political leader, was mourned nationally as well as in his home territory. He was buried in the Congressional cemetery in Washington, D. C. Despite Congressman Littleton Dennis' popularity and attractive personality, he did not marry, thus he was without issue.

#### SAMUEL KING DENNIS

Broad of mind, able, handsome of stature and almost uncannily adept in legal and political matters, Samuel King Dennis, known throughout his life as Sam Dennis, was born in 1874 of a settler family which gave repeatedly to leadership in Worcester County. His parents were Samuel King and Sally Crisfield Dennis of Beverly, the early and handsome plantation house on the lower Pocomoke River. His education was comprised of home tutoring, six years of public schooling and graduation from Blair Academy in New Jersey. Following this, he returned to Beverly to manage the family estate but later, in 1903, he was graduated from the College of Law of the University of Maryland.

Governor John Walter Smith selected him to fill the office of Gubernatorial Secretary, a work that occupied him from 1900 to 1904, at which time he opened an office, Attorney at Law, in Baltimore. However, he was still a resident of Worcester County from which he was elected to the lower house of the General Assembly in 1904. A happy event in his life was his marriage in 1910 to Helen Gordon Moore of Snow Hill, the daughter of State Senator John P. and Belle Purnell Moore. He was United States Attorney for the Baltimore District from 1915 to 1920, all the while gaining in popularity statewide through service to several charities, private and quasi-public organizations. Considered a "shoo-in" for Governor in 1928, he was appointed by Governor Albert C. Ritchie to the Supreme Bench in Baltimore City as Chief Judge, an office he filled with great dignity and judicial fitness until he retired in 1944.

Judge Dennis' honors were many, having served as President of the Maryland State Bar Association and as Chairman of the Baltimore Red Cross Association for a considerable period. He was active in several financial institutions - director of Eutaw Savings Bank, director of the Fidelity Trust Company and director of the Fidelity and Deposit Company. Following retirement he was named Professor of Equity Jurisprudence at the University of Baltimore's Law School. Among his several major interests over the years was the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanitarium of which he served, respectively, as Director, Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer and President over a period of twenty-three years. His interest in history led to the Vice-Presidency of the Maryland Historical Society. Eastern Shore's Washington College conferred upon him the Doctor of Law degree in 1931, while he was honored by Loyola

College of Maryland in 1938 when it conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Literature. Judge Dennis was a lifelong and prominent Democrat. He died in 1953 after a full and long life of service to the public, a leading Marylander with a passionate devotion to his native county.

#### EDGAR CLARKE FONTAINE

Dr. Clarke Fontaine was an educator in both the modern and older sense, believing, as he did, in cultural advancements while offering opportunity for specialization. He spent his entire career in the promotion of public school work. The son of Edgar and Alice Julian Fontaine, he was born in Pocomoke City in 1879 and died there in 1955. After attending public school and completing the courses at the local high school, he graduated from St. Johns College, Annapolis, a Bachelor of Arts degree being conferred on him in 1910. Returning to his home he was named Principal of the high school in Pocomoke where he remained until 1919, at which time he was appointed Principal of a much larger school, Allegheny High in Western Maryland. This position he held until 1921 when, having demonstrated marked ability following repeated summer study of school administration, he was named Supervisor of the High Schools of the Eastern Shore, together with those of Anne Arundel and Harford Counties.

He served in this important office for nearly three decades and contributed greatly to the advancement of education in the upper grades, having become an authority on junior and senior high school administration and courses of study in them. In his early career Clarke Fontaine was impressed by the relatively new Montessori system of education, that is, instruction of young children stressing development of the child's own initiative, a principle that he thought had much to offer throughout public education, thus leading him to urge laboratory study in such courses as chemistry, physics and biology, very little of which was a practice in the state when he was a pupil. He was a liberal in advancing new courses in the agricultural, commercial, home economics and shop areas of education. Moreover, he early recognized the place of physical education in schools of Maryland. Dr. Fontaine won the Master of Arts degree at Columbia University in 1925, a leading institution in the field of public school education. He was the author of educational publications, including Ways To Better Education in Secondary Schools, Standards For Maryland High Schools, and others.

In 1935 the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature was conferred on him by Washington College. He was a member of the Maryland State Teachers Association, National Association of Secondary School Principals, American Association of School Administrators and the Society of American Poets. A direct descendant of John Fontaine, a French Huguenot, whose son came to

**Littleton Purnell Dennis (Whig)**

*Born* Worcester Co., Md., July 21, 1786

*Died* Washington, DC, Apr. 14, 1834

*Family* son of John Dennis, Md. Rep.; brother of John Dennis Jr., Md. Rep.

*Education* attended Washington Academy; grad. Yale College, 1803; studied law

*Professional Positions* admitted to Bar; practiced law

*Maryland Politics* Md. House of Dels., 1815-16, 1819-27; member Executive Council of Md., 1829

*National Politics* Presidential Elector, 1800, 1812, 1816, 1824, 1828; elected as Whig to 23d Congress; served Mar. 1833- Apr. 1834 (died)