

until ca. December 1780. By 1789 the other partners in the company were insolvent; the partnership owed £42,000 when dissolved and had assets of less than £5,000. In partnership with *John Sterrett* (1750/51–1787), *Charles Ridgely* (1733–1790), *Benjamin Nicholson* (?–1792), *Darby Lux* (?–1795), and others in the purchase and operation of the Nottingham Ironworks Company, bought as confiscated property, 1782. Later Chase owned a wharf on the west side of Jones Falls, Baltimore City, and had a lumberyard built on the wharf in 1806 that dealt mainly in barrel staves. He had a “mud machine” built in 1809, and a device described as a “mud and pile driving machine with equipment” was valued at \$750.00 in his inventory at death. **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Annapolis, 1765–1766 (Grievances 2, 3; Public Offices 2, 3; Laws to Expire 2, 3), Anne Arundel County, 1768–1770 (Grievances 2, 3; Public Offices 1; Laws to Expire 3, 4), 1771 (Elections; Grievances; Laws to Expire), 1773–1774 (Elections 1, Cv; Laws to Expire 1, Cv, 3); Conventions, Anne Arundel County, 1st, 1774, 2nd–3rd, 1774, 4th, 1775, 5th, 1775, 6th–8th, 1775–1776 (did not attend the 7th Convention), 9th, 1776 (Elections; resigned on August 27, 1776, because the opinions of his constituents concerning the establishment of a state government were “incompatible with good government and the public peace and happiness”; subsequently he was reelected and seated); Lower House, Annapolis, 1777, 1777 (Grievances 1; resigned from the 1777–1778 Assembly on November 22, 1777), 1779 (elected to the 3rd session of the 1778–1779 Assembly to fill vacancy; Elections 3), 1779–1780 (Elections 1–3), 1780–1781, 1781–1782, 1782–1783 (Grievances 1, 2; Manufactories 2), 1783 (elected, but did not attend), 1784, 1785 (Grievances; Laws to Expire), Anne Arundel County, 1786–1787 (Grievances 2), Baltimore Town, 1787–1788; Senate, Western Shore, Term of 1791–1796: 1791 (did not serve; probably declined). **OTHER PROVINCIAL/STATE OFFICES:** His long public career included the following positions: Provincial Committee of Correspondence, in office 1773–1775; 1st Council of Safety, Western Shore, 1775; agent for the recovery of Maryland bank stock from England, appointed 1783; Potomac River Commission, in office 1784–1785; Constitution Ratification Convention, Anne Arundel County, 1788; judge, General Court, 1791–1796 (resigned). **LOCAL OFFICES:** prosecutor, Mayor’s Court, Annapolis, appointed 1761; justice, Anne Arundel County, commissioned 1764 (quorum) and 1779 (“desires to be left out”); common councilman,

Annapolis, elected 1766; St. Anne’s Parish Vestry, Anne Arundel County, in office 1770–1773, 1774, and 1779; alderman, Annapolis, 1773–1779; recorder, Annapolis, in office ca. 1773–1786; churchwarden, St. Anne’s Parish, Anne Arundel County, 1774–1775; Committee of Observation, Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, elected 1774 and 1775; Committee of Correspondence, Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, elected 1774; justice, Orphans’ Court, Anne Arundel County, commissioned 1779; Maryland Senate elector, Anne Arundel County, elected 1786; chief justice, Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, Baltimore Town, 1788–1789 (resigned), 1792—at least 1794; commissioner, Baltimore Town, 1788–1796. **OUT OF STATE SERVICE:** delegate, Continental Congress, 1774–1778 (elected in June 1774, December 1774, April 1775, August 1775, May 1776, July 1776, November 1776, February 1777, and December 1777), 1781 (elected in November 1781, but did not attend; resigned on May 31, 1782), 1783 (elected in November 1783, but did not attend), 1784 (elected in December 1784, but did not attend). Journeyed to Canada with *Charles Carroll of Carrollton* (1737–1832), Benjamin Franklin, and Rev. John Carroll on a congressional mission to enlist Canadian support for the revolt against Great Britain, 1776. Associate justice, U.S. Supreme Court, 1796–1811. Chase was impeached by the House of Representatives in 1804 for his supposedly improper judicial behavior during the Fries and Callender trials in 1800 and while instructing a grand jury in New Castle, Delaware, in 1800, and for his partisan remarks in his capacity as associate justice before a Baltimore grand jury in 1803. He was acquitted by the Senate on March 1, 1805. Among Chase’s defense lawyers were Robert Goodloe Harper, Philip Barton Key, and *Luther Martin* (1744–1826). The defense argued that any action which was not indictable was also not impeachable. Of the eight articles of impeachment Chase was judged guilty on three by only a two vote majority in each case. Chase’s impeachment is thought by some historians to have been the opening move in a Republican attempt to purge the Supreme Court of Federalists. **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES:** Chase took a leading role against the Annapolis government in a dispute over alleged violations of the city charter and the government’s denial of the citizens’ rights, 1763. Admitted leader of opposition to the Stamp Act, 1765. Opposed the poll tax for the support of the Anglican clergy in Maryland, 1772–1774. Joined *Baker Johnson* (1747–1811), *William Paca* (1740–1799), and *Thomas*