

officeholder, 1717–1740; attorney, admitted to Charles County Court in 1720; planter, 1729–1730; merchant, 1730. **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Charles County, 1720–1721/22 (elected to the 3rd session to fill vacancy; Laws 3–5). **LOCAL OFFICES:** deputy commissary, Charles County, in office 1716–out of office by 1721; clerk, Charles County, 1717–1720, Prince George's County, 1720–1740; recommended by the court to be clerk of Indictments, Charles County, 1721. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 427 acres in Prince George's and Charles counties (inherited from his uncle, 1708). **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** sold 250 acres in Charles County, 1726; acquired 458 acres (his wife's dower) in Prince George's County, 1726; patented 2,921 acres in Charles County, 1727–1737; leased 200 acres in Charles County, 1729–1730. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** on December 24, 1740, in Prince George's County; buried at "The Valley," Brookefield, Prince George's County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £1,613.2.11 sterling, plus £3,827.19.8 current money (including 32 slaves, 2 servants, books, and clerk's writing equipment). **LAND:** at least 2,598 acres in Charles and Prince George's counties.

**CONTEE, JOHN** (?–1708). **BORN:** in Barnstable, Devonshire, England. **IMMIGRATED:** ca. 1699 as a free adult with a kinsman from England. **RESIDED:** in Charles County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER:** probably Peter Contee, son of Adolphe de Conti, a Huguenot who immigrated to England from France during the reign of Louis XIII; he was lord mayor of London, England, in 1643, and sheriff of Middlesex, England. **MOTHER:** Grace. **BROTHER:** Peter Contee (?–ca. 1714), of Barnstable, England, physician. **SISTER:** Agnes Contee Berry. **NEPHEW:** *Alexander Contee* (ca. 1691–1740), who married Jane, daughter of *Thomas Brooke* (ca. 1659–1730/31). **MARRIED** first, in 1703 Charity (?–1703), widow of *John Courts* (1655/56–1702); daughter of *Robert Henley* (ca. 1617–1684). **MARRIED** second, ca. June 1704 Mary Townley (?–by 1725). She subsequently married both *Philemon Hemsley* (1670–1719) and Capt. William Rogers of Annapolis. Her sisters were Frances, who married James Wotton, of Wiltshire, England; Judith, who married John Bruce. Her first cousin was Gov. *John Seymour* (1649–1709), with whom she immigrated in 1704. **CHILDREN. STEPSONS:** *John Courts* (1691/92–1747/48); Henley Courts; Charles Courts; and William Courts. **STEPDAUGHTERS:** Ann Courts (1693–?), who married John

Rogers; and Charity Courts (1680–1711), who married first Bayne Smallwood, son of *James Smallwood* (ca. 1639–ca. 1714/15), and second, in 1710 *Daniel Dulany* (1685–1753). **PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION:** literate. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Anglican. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Contee arrived with important mercantile connections. Two marriages within a year brought important family connections and control of the substantial estate of *John Courts* (1655/56–1702). His second marriage to Mary Townley, a favorite cousin of Gov. Seymour, was reported by a contemporary to have been responsible for his appointments to office. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** factor for Sir John Rogers, of Plymouth, England, 1699; merchant; planter. **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Charles County, 1705–1707 (elected to the 3rd session; Laws 4, 5). **OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICES:** commissary general and judge of probate (joint appointment, 1704–1706; sole appointment, 1706–1708); naval officer, Pocomoke, 1705–1708; Council, 1708. **LOCAL OFFICES:** justice, Charles County, 1704–1708 (quorum, 1705–1708); William and Mary Parish Vestry, Charles County, 1705. **MILITARY SERVICE:** major, 1704/5–1705/6; colonel, 1705–1708. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** ca. 2,500 acres, plus 1,000 acres he held for the orphans of *John Courts* (1655/56–1702). **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** by August 3, 1708. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £2,252.17.8 sterling (including 13 slaves). **LAND:** ca. 3,697 acres. **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** Depositions taken in 1725 at the request of *Alexander Contee* (ca. 1691–1740) revealed that the "pretended will" of John Contee, which was confirmed by Act of Assembly in 1708 and which named Mary, his wife, sole executrix, had actually been written by *Philip Lynes* (1649–1709), a person "Very Officious to Oblige The said Mary," and that Contee had refused to sign it. An Act of Assembly passed in 1725 repealed this earlier act, stating it had passed both Houses through "perjury" and "other means too shocking to be transmitted to posterity."

**CONTEE, JOHN** (1722–ca. 1796). **BORN:** in 1722 near Nottingham, Prince George's County; eldest son. **NATIVE:** second generation. **RESIDED:** at "Ranelagh," Prince George's County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER:** *Alexander Contee* (ca. 1691–1740). **MOTHER:** Jane (?–1779), daughter of *Thomas Brooke* (ca. 1659–1730/31) and wife Barbara Dent (1676–1754). **HALF UNCLE:** *Thomas Brooke* (1683–1744). **HALF AUNTS:** Priscilla Brooke, who married *Thomas Gantt* (?–1765); Sa-