

ginia with his family. STEPFATHER: Thomas Blackwell (?–1700), of Anne Arundel County, a carpenter and an innholder. MOTHER: Sarah, daughter of Lawrence Richardson and wife Elizabeth. UNCLES: *Edward Dorsey* (?–1705); *John Dorsey* (ca. 1645–1714/15). MARRIED on August 22, 1702, Comfort (ca. 1684–ca. 1747), daughter of John Stimpson, Gent. (?–by 1692), of Anne Arundel County, and wife Rachel (?–after 1724), widow of Neale Clarke (?–1676); stepdaughter of Robert Proctor (?–by 1695), Richard Kilburne (?–by 1698), and Thomas Freeborne (?–1713); granddaughter of *Richard Beard* (?–1681). Her brother was John (?–by 1718). Her sister was Rachel (?–1748/49), who married first, *Charles Greenberry* (1672–1713), and second, *Charles Hammond* (1692/93–1772). Her niece was Ann Hammond (1716–?), who married second, *William Govane* (1716/17–1768). CHILDREN. SONS: Joshua (1711–by 1784), who married Flora Fitzsimmons; Greenbury (1711–?), who married Mary Belt; Vincent (?–1753), who married Sarah Day; and *John Hammond Dorsey* (1718–1774). DAUGHTERS: Sarah (?–died young); Venetia (?–died young); Comfort (1710–?), who married Joseph Cromwell; Sarah (?–by 1788), who married Alexander Cromwell and died in Edgecombe County, North Carolina; and Venetia, who married Woodquist Cromwell. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: apprenticed to *William Dent* (ca. 1660–1704), a lawyer, ca. 1698. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1708; Esq., by 1715. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: planter; surveyor, laid out Joppa Town, Baltimore County. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Baltimore County, 1721/22 (elected to the 5th session to fill vacancy). LOCAL OFFICES: sheriff, Baltimore County, 1713–1715; justice, Baltimore County, 1716–at least 1727 (quorum, 1727); justice, Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, Baltimore County, commissioned 1718 and 1722; deputy surveyor, Baltimore County, commissioned 1720; “committee for laying the county levy,” Baltimore County, appointed 1721; coroner, Baltimore County, in office 1722; commissioner, Baltimore County, by 1724. MILITARY SERVICE: captain, Baltimore County Militia, by 1717; colonel, by 1724. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: gave livestock, books, and musical instruments to his son Greenbury at the time of his marriage, 1726. A chancery case in 1733 described Dorsey as having a lower court judgment against him for £70.13.7 sterling and 8,713 pounds of tobacco that was owed to John Stokes, sheriff of Baltimore County from 1718 to 1721, and accused

Dorsey of leaving Maryland ca. 1727 “in a private and clandestine manner” to escape payment. Comfort Dorsey, his wife, denied that Dorsey left secretly, but other witnesses refuted her statement. Stokes’s widow wanted Dorsey’s land sold to pay his debts, but John Hammond proved his ownership and the case was dismissed in 1737. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: ca. 1,150 acres in Baltimore County (probably inherited 598 acres, at least 148 from his stepfather; 559 acres through his marriage). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: patented 1,145 acres and purchased 815 acres in Baltimore County between 1720 and 1725; sold 198 acres in Baltimore County during this period. By March 1726 Dorsey and his family were living with John Hammond, of Cecil County, to whom Dorsey deeded his dwelling plantation a few months later. Testimony in the 1733 Chancery Court case stated that the transfer to Hammond was made to protect the property from Dorsey’s creditors and Hammond’s will devised the land back to Dorsey’s family. Dorsey mortgaged 1,725 acres in Baltimore County in August 1726 and January 1726/27. Soon after that he left Maryland, possibly for the Carolinas.

DORSEY, JOHN (1734–1779). BORN: on July 3, 1734, in Anne Arundel County; eldest son. NATIVE: at least fourth generation. RESIDED: in Upper Fork Hundred or Bearground Hundred, Anne Arundel County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: Michael Dorsey (1712–1776), son of John Dorsey and wife Honor Elder. MOTHER: Ruth, daughter of Lancelot Todd and wife Elizabeth. BROTHERS: Lancelot (1742–?), who married Sarah Warfield; Michael, who married Honor Howard. SISTERS: Elizabeth (1735–?), who married John Burgess; Sarah (1739–?), who married Richard Berry, of Prince George’s County; Ruth (1743–?), who married Ely Dorsey; Honor Elder (1737–?), who married John Elder; Anne Elder; and Lydia, who married (first name unknown) Talbott. MARRIED by 1771 Anne (1740–1795), daughter of Philemon Dorsey (1714–1772) and wife Catherine (1723–ca. 1751); stepdaughter of Rachel Lawrence; granddaughter of Henry Ridgely; niece of *Henry Ridgely* (1728–1791), Elizabeth Ridgely, who married *Thomas Dorsey* (?–1790), Anne Ridgely, who married *Brice T. B. Worthington* (1727–1794), and Sarah Ridgely, who married *Charles Greenbury Griffith* (1744–1792). Her brother was Philemon (1743/44–1806). Her half brother was *Joshua Dorsey* (?–1818). Her sisters were Elizabeth (1742–?), who married William Ridgely; Catherine (1745–