

ICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: sold 234 acres in Talbot County between 1719 and 1720; purchased 700 acres in Dorchester County, 1720/21. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: inherited ca. 2,200 acres in Talbot County from his father, but sold it to his brother before his first election. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: between December 28, 1721, and February 13, 1721/22, probably in Talbot County. LAND: at least 700 acres in Dorchester County.

EDMUNDSON (EDMONDSON), JOHN (?-1697/98). BORN: probably in Ireland. IMMIGRATED: in 1658 from Barbados as an indentured servant to John Horne, a merchant of London, England. RESIDED: in Calvert County; Talbot County after 1664. MARRIED Sarah, daughter of *William Parker* (?-1673/74). CHILDREN. SONS: John (1666-1687), who married Susannah (1673-1685), daughter of Bryan Omealey; James (1670-1702), who married in 1691 Magdalen (?-1739), daughter of *John Stevens* (?-1692); William (1677-1702), a justice of Talbot County in 1701, who married Sarah (?-1702), daughter of *William Sharpe* (ca. 1655-1699); *Thomas Edmondson* (?-ca. 1721/22), who married in 1699 Mary Grason; and Samuel (1684-1704). STEPSON, NATURAL SON, OR SON-IN-LAW: Abraham Morgan. DAUGHTERS: Sarah (1665-?), who married William Johnson, of Radcliffe, England; Grace (1668-?); Henrietta Maria (1671-?); Martha (1673-?); and Elizabeth (?-1709), who married in 1695 William Stevens, Jr. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Quaker. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: helped to establish a library at Third Haven, Talbot County. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: indentured servant, who was free by 1663 when he served as John Horne's attorney in the Provincial Court; owned a corn mill in the 1660s, which he sold by 1671; a merchant from 1664 until his death (served as a factor for Andrew Cooke, of England, 1677, and later for Josias Beale and Thomas Legge); called John Edmundson & Co., 1689 (a firm trading with Barbados); one of the most active land speculators in Maryland and Delaware, buying and selling over 68,000 acres. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Talbot County, 1676-1682 (Accounts 3; Trade 5), 1686-1688, Associators' Convention, Talbot County, 1689-1692; Grand Committee of Twenty, 1690-1692; Lower House, Talbot County, 1692 (dismissed from the 1st session, because as a Quaker would not subscribe to the required oaths), 1694 (dismissed from the 1st session, because as a Quaker would not subscribe

to the required oaths). OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICE: justice, Provincial Court, 1691-1692. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: strong lobbyist in the 1680s for dispensation of oaths for Quakers; active supporter of the Protestant Associators' revolution in 1689, but lost his eligibility for offices with the establishment of the royal government; he was the object of much controversy in the Talbot County elections of 1692 and 1694, because the freeholders insisted on returning him as a delegate. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: owned the ship *Holly Merchant*, 1689. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: had patented over 12,000 acres. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: will probated on March 9, 1697/98. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, £387.13.3 sterling (including 18 slaves). LAND: over 7,450 acres.

EDWARDS, BENJAMIN (1753-1829). BORN: on August 12, 1753, in Stafford County, Virginia. IMMIGRATED: ca. 1777 from Virginia. RESIDED: in Montgomery County, ca. 1777-ca. 1800; Nelson County, Kentucky, ca. 1800-1829. MARRIED by 1775 Margaret, daughter of Ninian Beall, Gent. (?-1790), of Montgomery County. Her brothers were Andrew (?-by 1777), who never married; Charles (?-by 1790), who married Tabitha Beall. Her sisters were Susannah, who married Alexander Catlett; Eleanor, who married Zachariah Offutt; Ruth, who married Charles Gassaway; Mary, who married John Watkins, Jr.; and Rachel, who married Hardage Lane. CHILDREN. Probably five sons and five daughters, including SON: Ninian (1775-1833), who studied medicine and law; was elected to the Kentucky legislature; served as a judge of the General Court, Circuit Court, Court of Appeals, and chief justice of Kentucky; was appointed governor of Illinois by President Madison in 1809; elected to the U.S. Senate from Illinois, 1818-1824; elected governor of Illinois in 1826. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: obtained a tract from his brother-in-law for "a Society of Christians called Baptists"; his wife's father donated land to the Baptists out of "natural love, good will and affection." OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: planter, by 1784; merchant in Georgetown, Montgomery County, 1790. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Montgomery County, 1782-1783, 1783, 1784. OTHER STATE OFFICE: Constitution Ratification Convention, Montgomery County, 1788. LOCAL OFFICES: trustee of the poor, Montgomery County, in office 1789; associate justice, Circuit Court, Montgomery County, appointed 1793. OUT OF STATE SERVICE: representative, U.S.