

tee of Observation, Baltimore County, 1776; chief judge, Baltimore City Court, appointed 1791. **MILITARY SERVICE:** captain, Baltimore County Militia, by 1776; major, Baltimore Town Battalion, Baltimore County Militia, commissioned on May 25, 1776; lieutenant colonel, Baltimore Town Battalion, Baltimore County Militia, 1777–1781 (commissioned on September 12, 1777); captain, Volunteer Troop of Light Dragoons, Baltimore County Militia, by October 1781. Nicholson undertook the last command at the request of the “youth in his neighborhood,” even though it meant accepting a lower rank. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** assessed value £1,222.17.6, including 13 slaves and 24 oz. plate, 1783; charged with 14 slaves, 1790. **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** Nicholson was an executor of the estate of his father-in-law, *John Ridgely* (by 1724–1771), which was not settled until 1787. His financial troubles during the late 1780s were apparently exacerbated by Ridgely's outstanding debts. In 1791 Nicholson mortgaged 16 slaves, livestock, plantation equipment, and household furniture to Charles (Carnan) Ridgely. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 513 acres in Baltimore County, one-half interest in 135 acres in Anne Arundel County, and one-third interest in the lease of a lot on Fell's Point, Baltimore Town (all by purchase), plus an undetermined number of lots in or near Baltimore Town left to his wife by her father. **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** purchased 25 acres in Baltimore County, 1775; sold Mary's Baltimore Town lots in 1775 and the Anne Arundel County land in 1779; charged with 4 improved lots in Baltimore Town, 1783. In partnership with *Charles Ridgely* (1733–1790), *Darby Lux* (?–1795), *John Sterett* (1750/51–1787), *Samuel Chase* (1741–1811), and three others, purchased the confiscated Nottingham Ironworks in 1782, giving Nicholson a one-eighth interest in ca. 4,000 acres of land in Baltimore County; mortgaged his 539 acres in Baltimore County to his brother-in-law, John Ridgely, to secure settlement of the estate of his father-in-law *John Ridgely* (by 1724–1771) in 1786; mortgaged the one-eighth interest in the Nottingham Ironworks to *Charles Ridgely* (1733–1790) in 1788; obtained the release of the mortgage on the 539 acres in 1789 and immediately sold 531 acres of the land plus a certificate of survey for an additional 106 acres in Baltimore County; purchased another 530-acre tract, which included a grist mill, in Baltimore County, 1789; mortgaged this 530-acre tract and sold his ironworks interest (already mortgaged)

to Charles (Carnan) Ridgely, 1791. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: between March 10 and May 2, 1792, in Baltimore County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £2,076.16.5 current money (including 19 slaves, 1 servant, at least 3 books, 54 oz. plate, beehives, 2 and one-half tons of “ship stuff,” and 74 barrels of “fine flour in the mill”). Most of this property was already mortgaged). FB, £2.9.3. **LAND:** probably 30 acres in Baltimore County.

NICHOLSON, FRANCIS (1655–1727/28). BORN: in 1655, in Yorkshire, England. IMMIGRATED: on July 6, 1694, as governor; first visited Maryland in the fall of 1692 as lieutenant governor. RESIDED: in St. Mary's City, St. Mary's County, 1694; Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, 1695 until 1698/99 when he moved to Virginia. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: probably Thomas Nicholson of Downholme, Yorkshire. **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: literate. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Anglican; energetic promoter of the established church; member of the Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** enjoyed support of Charles Paulet, later Duke of Bolton, in whose home he was raised as a page; served as chief executive of five colonies; member of the Royal Society; knighted in 1720. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** military officer and colonial bureaucrat. **PUBLIC CAREER.** **PROVINCIAL OFFICES:** Council, 1691/92–1693/94; lt. governor, 1691/92–1693/94; governor, 1693/94–1698/99. **MILITARY SERVICE:** ensign, King Holland Regiment, 1678, in Tangiers, where he was promoted to captain, 1680–1683/84; captain under Edmund Andros in New York, 1686/87; general, led expeditions to northern colonies, 1708/9, 1710, 1711. **OUT OF COLONY SERVICE:** Council of Dominion of New England, 1687–1689; governor, Dominion of New England, 1688–1689; lt. governor of New York, 1689–1690; lt. governor of Virginia, 1690–1692; captain general and governor of Virginia, 1698–1705; governor and lt. general of Nova Scotia, 1712–1715; governor and major general of South Carolina, 1720–1725. **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES:** attempted ambitious reforms of provincial and local government; brought back into office men who had opposed the Protestant Associators' Revolution in 1689; moved the capital of Maryland to Annapolis, 1695; target of alleged conspiracy and attempted rebellion, 1696–1698, led by *John Coode* (ca. 1648–1708/9); helped to found William and Mary College, Virginia, and King Wil-