

Ridgely's property was inventoried in 1773, the first account was not filed until 1788. LAND: ca. 6,300 acres in Baltimore County, plus his one-third interest in the lands of the Northampton Ironworks.

RIDGELY, CHARLES (1733–1790). BORN: on September 17, 1733, in Baltimore County; younger son. NATIVE: fourth generation. RESIDED: on “Hampton Estate,” Baltimore County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: *Charles Ridgely* (by 1705–1772). MOTHER: Rachel Howard (?–1750). STEPMOTHER: as of ca. 1750 Lydia Warfield Stringer. BROTHERS: Charles (1727–died young); *John Ridgely* (by 1724–1771); and William (?–died young). STEPBROTHERS: Samuel Stringer; Richard Stringer. SISTERS: Pleasance (1724–1777); Achsah (1731–1785); and Rachel, who married *Darby Lux* (?–1795). STEPSISTERS: Ann Stringer; Lucy Stringer. FIRST COUSIN: *Charles Ridgely, of William* (?–1810). NEPHEW: *Charles Ridgely, of John* (ca. 1749–1786). NIECES: Rachel Goodwin (?–1819), who married second, *Jesse Hollingsworth* (1732/33–1810); Prudence Carnan (1755–1822), who married *Harry Dorsey Gough* (ca. 1745–1808); Deborah Ridgely (1749–1817), who married *John Sterett* (1750/51–1787); and Mary Ridgely (?–1804), who married *Benjamin Nicholson* (?–1792). MARRIED ca. 1760 Rebecca (1739–1812), daughter of Caleb Dorsey (1710–1772) of “Belmont,” Anne Arundel County, an ironmaster, and wife Priscilla Hill. Rebecca was the niece of *Edward Dorsey* (1718–1760); Mary Dorsey (1725–ca. 1787), who married *John Ridgely* (by 1724–1771). Her brothers were Henry (1735/36–1772), who married Elizabeth Goodwin; Samuel (1741–1777), who married Margaret Sprigg (?–1783); and Edward (1758–1799), who married Elizabeth Dorsey (?–1802). Her sisters were Mary (1744–1833), who married in 1769 Dr. Michael Pue; Milcah (1747–1829), who married William Goodwin (?–1809); Eleanor (1749–1813); Margaret Hill (1752–1797), who married in 1772 William Buchanan; Priscilla (1754–1756); and Priscilla (1762–?), who married in 1782 Charles Carnan Ridgely (1760–1829), governor of Maryland, 1816–1819. Her first cousins were Frances Todd, who married *George Ristean* (?–1792); Deborah Lynch (?–1810), who married *Samuel Owings, Jr.* (1733–1803); *Thomas Dorsey* (?–1790); *Harry Dorsey Gough* (ca. 1745–1808); Achsah Dorsey (1746–1799), who married *Ephraim Howard* (1745–1788); Eleanor Dorsey, who married *John Hall* (1729–1797); Mary Dorsey (?–1816), who married *John*

Weems (1727–1794); *Charles Ridgely, of John* (ca. 1749–1786); Deborah Ridgely (1749–1817), who married *John Sterett* (1750/51–1787); Mary Ridgely (?–1804), who married *Benjamin Nicholson* (?–1792); Eleanor Dorsey, who married *Upton Sheredine* (1740–1800); Elizabeth Dorsey (?–ca.1811), who married *Richard Ridgely* (1755–1824); and *Henry Woodward* (1733–1761). CHILDREN. None who reached adulthood. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate, but apparently had little formal education. Ridgely has been described by a modern historian familiar with his correspondence as a man who “could neither speak nor write exceptionally well.” RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican, St. Paul’s Parish, Baltimore County. Rebecca Ridgely became a Methodist and Ridgely is reported to have given a farm to Robert Strawbridge (?–ca. 1781), a “Wesleyan lay preacher from Ireland,” in 1773. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Esq., by 1774. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: mariner by 1756, probably sailing first as supercargo on his father’s ships; taken prisoner by the French in April 1757. By July 1757, Ridgely was captain of the snow *Baltimore Town* on a voyage from London to Maryland and Virginia; by 1759 he was master of the ship *Charming Nancy*. Ridgely joined his father and brother *John Ridgely* (by 1724–1771) in establishing the Northampton Ironworks in 1761. When his brother died, Ridgely purchased his share of the ironworks, giving him a two-thirds interest in the business, which was later known as Ridgely, Howard & Lux and Ridgely, Lux & Co. During the Revolution, the Northampton Ironworks produced cannon, cannon balls, shot, kettles, and pig iron for Maryland troops. From the early 1770s until ca. 1784, Ridgely was a partner in the mercantile firm of Ridgely, Goodwin & McClure. The firm continued as Ridgely and Goodwin until Ridgely’s death. Ridgely backed at least two schooners as privateers during the Revolution. In partnership with Michael Pue, William Buchanan, Samuel Dorsey, and William Goodwin, Ridgely purchased and operated his father-in-law’s extensive ironworks operation in Anne Arundel County. During the 1780s, in partnership with *Benjamin Nicholson* (?–1792), *Darby Lux* (?–1795), *John Sterett* (1750/51–1787), *Samuel Chase* (1741–1811), and three others, Ridgely purchased the Nottingham Ironworks in Baltimore County. In partnership with William Goodwin and Edward Dorsey, he also purchased part of the Principio Ironworks. Both companies had been sold by the state as confiscated British property. Ridgely owned a one-eighth