

1, 2; Accounts 2). **LOCAL OFFICES:** St. Peter's Parish Vestry, Talbot County, 1732-1735, 1758-1761, possibly St. Michael's Parish Vestry, Talbot County, 1742-1744, elected 1752; sheriff, Talbot County, 1734-1736, 1748-1751; justice, Talbot County, 1737-1748, 1751—at least 1759, appointed 1761 (county records not usable 1760-1762), by 1762-1766 (quorum, 1741-1748, 1751—at least 1759, appointed 1761, by 1762-1766). **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** probably 945 acres in Talbot and Queen Anne's counties (125 acres in Talbot County and 200 acres in Queen Anne's County acquired through his marriage, probably 200 acres in Talbot County from his father, remainder through purchase). **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** sold 200 acres in Talbot County, 1740; received 235 acres in Queen Anne's County as a gift from his mother, 1741; sold 117 acres of his wife's Queen Anne's County land, 1744; purchased probably 55 acres in Queen Anne's County in 1745 and sold it in 1752; purchased 50 acres in 1747, acquired 600 acres in 1748, and purchased ca. 73 acres in 1750, all in Talbot County; sold 80 acres in Queen Anne's County in 1755 and 280 acres in Talbot County by 1756; by 1757 acquired at least 386 acres in Talbot County through marriage to his second wife, and established her life estate to this land in 1765. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** **DIED:** in April 1767 in Talbot County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** will mentioned 17 slaves and plate; sons were directed by his will to pay £110.0.0 toward his outstanding debts; no inventories or accounts found. **LAND:** probably 1,208 acres in Talbot and Queen Anne's counties, plus his wife's life estate in at least 386 acres in Talbot County. **IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS.** It is possible that the Lower House service for William Thomas in the 1762-1763 Assembly should be attributed to his son William Thomas (?-1789). William, Jr., however, had no further legislative service. In addition, William, Sr., was still serving as a county justice in the 1760s, and he had served on the Committee on Arms and Ammunition in earlier assemblies. As a result it was determined probable that William, Sr., simply resumed his legislative career in the 1762-1763 Assembly after a fourteen-year hiatus.

THOMAS, WILLIAM (1714-1795). **BORN:** in 1714, in Charles County; fourth son. **NATIVE:** fourth generation. **RESIDED:** on "Deep Falls," near Chaptico, St. Mary's County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** **FATHER:** John Thomas (1682-1757) of

Charles County, a planter, son of James Thomas (?-ca. 1701) and wife Teratia (Teresa). **STEP-MOTHER:** by 1734, probably Anne, widow of William Atkinson. **BROTHERS:** John, who married Mary Wilson; Leonard; and James. **SISTERS:** Jane (?-by 1757), who married Edward Swann; Elizabeth (?-by 1757), who married Benjamin Wood. **MARRIED** by 1751 Elizabeth (ca. 1714-1808), daughter of Thomas Reeves (?-ca. 1752) of St. Mary's County and wife Mary. Her sister (first name unknown) married Thomas Hobson. **CHILDREN.** **SONS:** Maj. William (1758-1813), of St. Mary's County, a member of the Lower House, 1791-1792, 1792, 1793, 1795, 1796, 1797, and the Senate, 1804-1813, who married in 1782 Catherine, daughter of Richard Boarman; Col. John (?-by 1808) of Charles County, a member of the Lower House from Charles County, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, who married Ann; **George Thomas** (?-1789); and James (?-1781). **DAUGHTER:** Elizabeth (Betsy) (?-by 1808), who married **William Courts** (ca. 1753-1792). **PRIVATE CAREER.** **EDUCATION:** literate. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** son William served as an Anglican vestryman in All Faith Parish, St. Mary's County, 1800. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Gent., by 1767; Esq., by 1789. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** planter. **PUBLIC CAREER.** **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, St. Mary's County, 1760-1761 (elected to the 3rd session of the 1758-1761 Assembly), 1768-1770 (Public Offices 2, 3; Grievances 3), 1771 (Public Offices), 1777. **MILITARY SERVICE:** major, St. Mary's County Militia, by 1754; attended as adjutant, 25th Battalion, St. Mary's County Militia, 1776. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** wife inherited 4 slaves and two-thirds of the personal estate of her father, 1752; 30 slaves, 1790; assessed value, St. Mary's County only, £763.12.6, including 18 slaves and 24 oz. plate, 1793. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 688 acres in St. Mary's and Charles counties (341 acres in St. Mary's County through marriage, 19 acres in St. Mary's County by patent, and 328 acres in Charles County inherited from his father). **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** purchased 246 acres in St. Mary's County, 1764 and 1765; sold all his Charles County land, 1767; purchased 652 acres in St. Mary's County, 1767-1791; sold at least 598 acres to his son William, Jr., in 1791. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** **DIED:** on March 25, 1795, in St. Mary's County; buried at "Deep Falls," St. Mary's County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £5,020.9.9 current money (including 48 slaves, 26 oz. plate, and more than 34