

1797 in Frederick County Ann Benton. DAUGHTERS: possibly included Catherine, who married in 1792 Jacob Sprigg. STEPDAUGHTER: Mary Walker Rankin (1775–by 1813), who married in 1804 Leonard Sellman (?–1814). ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Testimony in a Chancery Court case dealing with Wallace's estate stated that he did have children, and the 1790 census shows one male under 16 years and two females besides his wife living in his household. However, any children he may have had were apparently dead without heirs by the time Wallace made his will in 1810. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican; purchased pew in St. Anne's Church, Annapolis, 1754. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1757, Esq., by 1776. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Charles Willson Peale called Wallace a "good and benevolent man" and friend. During a visit to Wallace in 1804, Peale advised him to consult a Philadelphia specialist to receive therapy for his crippled right leg, which Wallace had injured in a carriage accident two years earlier. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: staymaker, tavern keeper, land developer, merchant. Wallace began his career as a staymaker in Annapolis by 1749. He obtained an ordinary license in 1752, and kept a tavern in Annapolis until 1756 in addition to his staymaking business. By 1763 Wallace had opened a store in Annapolis selling goods imported from Osgood Hanbury & Co., London. The following year he gave up staymaking and two years later went to England for several months, presumably to strengthen his contacts with British merchants. In 1770 Wallace bought ca. 5.5 acres of undeveloped land in the center of Annapolis, laid out streets and lots, and began granting long-term leases, primarily to craftsmen and the owners of small businesses. His venture was successful; at least 26 lots were taken up within the first two years of development. Early in 1771, Wallace formed a mercantile partnership with John Davidson and Joshua Johnson capitalized with £1,000.0.0 sterling from each partner. Known as Wallace, Davidson & Johnson, the firm imported goods valued at £37,751.0.0 sterling, 1772–1775, and became the first American mercantile house to be successful in the tobacco consignment trade without the backing of British capital. Wallace, Davidson & Johnson operated from a large brick building on the dock in Annapolis. After the original partnership was dissolved in January 1777, Wallace and Davidson continued a sharply reduced retail business during the war. In June 1781, Wallace and Johnson signed a new

partnership agreement with John Muir, with an initial capital of £1,000.0.0 sterling in France and about that amount in Maryland. Wallace, Johnson & Muir concentrated on the wholesale commission trade with Europe, and maintained only one retail outlet in Annapolis. As well as accepting tobacco consignments, Wallace, Johnson & Muir purchased tobacco outright from the growers and shipped it to France in their own vessels. After the war, Wallace, Johnson & Muir was one of many Maryland firms that overextended itself buying goods from English merchants and advancing credit to cargo customers. Wallace, Johnson & Muir owed £240,000.0.0 to London businessmen by 1785, and Wallace spent the next fifteen years exploring ways to pay that debt. Among his schemes were a brief partnership with Robert Morris to purchase tobacco in Maryland, for which Wallace, Johnson & Muir built a stone warehouse on the Annapolis dock, and another brief partnership with Richard Caton of Baltimore and Peter Whiteside of Philadelphia. By 1787, the London debt had been reduced to about £170,000.0.0 sterling, and the firm's London affairs were being supervised by thirteen of its major creditors as trustees. The partnership with Joshua Johnson was dissolved on January 1, 1790, but Wallace and Muir continued the business and concentrated on prosecuting for debts in Maryland. By 1801, when Wallace retired from active participation in the firm, the London debt had been reduced to only about £27,500.0.0 currency. In addition to his interests in Wallace, Davidson & Johnson and Wallace, Johnson & Muir, Charles Wallace had other investments of his own, particularly during the Revolution. He undertook to contract for the construction of Maryland's State House, but because of bad weather, labor problems, and the war, he lost money on the venture. More typical of Wallace's enterprise was his involvement in salt making. Wallace contracted in 1776 to supply salt to the state and was advanced £5,000.0.0 to build a saltworks. Investing the £5,000.0.0 for one year in loans to the continental government, he imported salt in Wallace, Davidson & Johnson ships. Finally, in January 1778, he set up a saltworks on Sinepuxent Inlet, Somerset County, which served not only as a local source of salt but also as a port for Wallace, Davidson & Johnson ships, which were by then blockaded from the Chesapeake by British vessels. Wallace also owned shares in at least three privateers, 1777–1780. In 1785, Wallace and John Muir joined with an Annapolis