

of Col. Philip Henry Feddeman and his wife Margaret Earle; William Henry DeCoursey (1795–1864), U.S. consul to Brazil in 1825, who married Eliza Lea Warner of Delaware; Gustavus William Tidmarsh (1784–1823), who married Eliza Ann Clayland, daughter of Susanna Clayland Watson; and Clinton. DAUGHTERS: Caroline Augusta (ca. 1782–?), who married Samuel Anderson of Chestertown, Kent County; Victoria Louisa. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: graduated from Kent County school, the forerunner of Washington College; studied law. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican, St. Luke's Parish, Queen Anne's County; Chester Parish, Kent County. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Esq., by 1787; enthusiastic supporter of horse racing and a breeder of fine horses at "Blakeford;" active in promoting agricultural improvement in Queen Anne's County; chosen as a Maryland member of the committee of correspondence of the American Board of Agriculture, ca. 1803. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: lawyer, admitted to the bar in 1773; possessed excellent oratorical skills. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Queen Anne's County, 1777, 1777–1778 (resigned on February 28, 1778, prior to the 2nd session), 1780 (resigned on December 23, 1780, during the 1st session of the 1780–1781 Assembly), 1784 (Elections), Kent County, 1786–1787, Queen Anne's County, 1791–1792; Senate, Eastern Shore, Term of 1801–1806; 1801 (resigned on November 14, 1801, after election to the U.S. Senate). OTHER STATE OFFICE: governor, 1806–1809 (elected on November 10, 1806; resigned on May 6, 1809, in anticipation of being appointed a justice of the Court of Appeals to replace *James Tilghman* (1743–1809), deceased, but the appointment went to Richard Tilghman Earle (1767–1843) instead); associate justice, Second District, appointed May 5, 1823, and served until his death in 1826. LOCAL OFFICES: St. Luke's Parish Vestry, Queen Anne's County, 1792–1794; Chester Parish Vestry, Kent County, 1798–1801; clerk, Queen Anne's County, 1810. MILITARY SERVICE: private, Capt. James Kent's Militia Company, 1776; captain, Col. William Richardson's battalion of the Maryland Line, commissioned July 7, 1777, mustered out in October 1777. OUT OF STATE SERVICE: senator, U.S. Congress, 1801–1803 (elected to fill vacancy; seated on December 7, 1801), 1803–1805, 1805–1806 (resigned to run for governor); representative, U.S. Congress, 1810–1811 (elected to fill vacancy; seated on December 3, 1810), 1811–1813, 1813–1815, 1815–1817, 1821–1823. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: Dem-

ocrat; staunch supporter of Jefferson. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £743.0.0, including 14 slaves and 24 oz. plate, 1783. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 312 acres in Queen Anne's County (all received by deed of gift from his father). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: purchased 1,568 acres in Queen Anne's and Kent counties (including the 475-acre estate "Blakeford," his residence until his death); probably inherited about 250 acres and a lot in Chestertown, Kent County, from his brother William, 1783; inherited at least 337 acres of land in Queen Anne's County and Kent and New Castle counties, Delaware, from his father, 1792; purchased 6 lots in Chestertown, Kent County, between 1783 and 1801; sold 1,663 acres of land in Queen Anne's and Kent counties, including the lots in Chestertown, between 1786 and 1818. In 1802 Wright exchanged 320 acres of the land he inherited from his father for 320 acres of Richard Tilghman's land located in Kent County, Delaware. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: September 7, 1826, at "Blakeford," Queen Anne's County; buried at "Cheston-on-Wye" in the DeCoursey family cemetery, Queen Anne's County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, at least \$6,788.19 (including 27 slaves, 21 horses, a law library, and sundry other books); FB, \$618.26. LAND: at least 759 acres of land in Queen Anne's and Kent counties and Kent and New Castle counties, Delaware. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: In 1824 "Blakeford," Wright's estate, was seized by the sheriff of Queen Anne's County and sold in order to satisfy his creditors. The sale was completed in 1826, the year he died. In 1833 the estate was repurchased by his son, William H. DeCoursey Wright.

**WRIGHT, ROBERT NORREST** (?–ca. 1746/47). BORN: in Queen Anne's County; eldest son. NATIVE: third generation. RESIDED: in Queen Anne's County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: *Charles Wright* (?–1720), son of *Solomon Wright* (ca. 1655–1717). MOTHER: Katherine Norrest. BROTHERS: Charles; Jonathan (?–1740); and Nathan (?–1767). SISTER: Mary. FIRST COUSINS: *Thomas Wright* (?–ca. 1784); Mary Ann Wright (?–1747), who married *William Hopper* (1707–1772); and Anne Wright (?–by 1754), who married *Edward Oldham* (1709–1773). NEPHEW: *Turbutt Wright* (ca. 1741–1790). NIECE: Catherine Wright (1743–?), who married *William Bruff* (ca. 1741–1802). PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican, Old Chester Church, St. Paul's Parish,