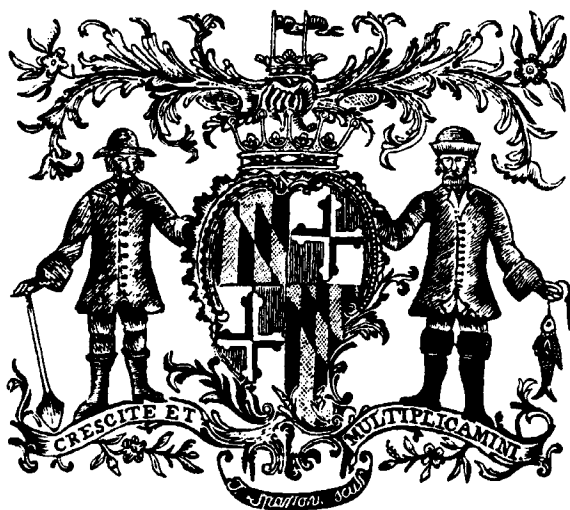


A
BIOGRAPHICAL
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THE MARYLAND
LEGISLATURE,
1635–1789



Volume 2: I–Z

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ELECTION AND DEATH: sold part of lot 11 in Snow Hill Town, bought lots 17 and 18 in Snow Hill Town, Worcester County. **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** Robert Martin, Mary's first husband and James's cousin, was a large landholder in Snow Hill Town. James's stepson John inherited all his father's lands there and from then on he and James Martin exercised considerable influence over the development of the town. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** between December 12, 1747, and March 3, 1747/48, in Worcester County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £1,117.5.7 current money (including 10 slaves, 1 servant man with two and one-half years to serve, 24 books, and 1 horseboat); FB, estate overpaid £20.13.5. **LAND:** 250 acres in Worcester County, plus part of lot 11 and lots 17 and 18 in Snow Hill Town, Worcester County.

MARTIN, LUTHER (1748–1826). **BORN:** on February 20, 1748, in New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey; his father's farm was located above the Raritan River in the neighborhood of Piscataway; the third of nine children. **IMMIGRATED:** in 1767 in order to take a position as schoolteacher; was sixth generation in America. **RESIDED:** in Queenstown, Queen Anne's County, 1767–1770; Onancock, Accomac County, Virginia, 1770–1771; Somerset County, 1771–1778; Baltimore Town, 1778–1823; Aaron Burr's home in New York City, 1823 until death. **FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER:** Benjamin Martin. **MOTHER:** Hannah. **BROTHER:** Lenox, Esq., who resided in Montgomery and Allegany counties, was a lawyer and justice, and who married Elizabeth Cresap, daughter of Capt. Michael Cresap (1742–1775). **MARRIED** on December 25, 1783, Mary Cresap (?–1796), daughter of Capt. Michael Cresap (1742–1775), a prominent frontiersman, and wife Mary Whitehead (?–by 1821), of Philadelphia. Mary was the stepdaughter of *John Jeremiah Jacob* (1757–1839). She was the granddaughter of *Thomas Cresap* (ca. 1703–1788). Her brothers were James Cresap; Michael Cresap, Jr. Her sisters were Elizabeth, who married Lenox Martin, Esq.; Sarah, who married Osborn Sprigg and resided in Hampshire County, Virginia. **CHILDREN. SONS:** five children, including one child, sex unknown, who died in 1789. **DAUGHTERS:** Juliet; Maria, who married Lawrence Keene, with the marriage ending in separation and Maria dying in an insane asylum shortly thereafter; Elinor (1785–1807), who married on February 24, 1801, Richard Raynal Keene, and who was said to have been ill treated by her husband at the time of her death; and Elizabeth

Sophia (1791–1792). **PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION:** graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1766, the head of his class of 35; studied law and qualified as an attorney in Accomac County, Virginia, in 1771. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Anglican; pewholder of St. Paul's Parish in Baltimore City, 1800–1824. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Esq., by 1784; a founder of the Cliosophic Society, he was elected president at the annual meeting in 1815, but declined with regret. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** schoolmaster in Queenstown, Queen Anne's County, 1767–1770; schoolmaster of a grammar school, Onancock, Accomac County, Virginia, 1770–1771; passed the bar in Williamsburg, Virginia, ca. 1771, and settled in Somerset County as a lawyer; admitted to the following courts: Somerset County, from 1773, qualified to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1791; officeholder. **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** 3rd Convention, Somerset County, 1774. **OTHER STATE OFFICES:** attorney general, 1778–1805, 1818–1822; Constitution Ratification Convention, Harford County, 1788. **LOCAL OFFICES:** Committee of Observation, Somerset County, elected 1774; commissioner to oppose British claims, Somerset County, appointed 1774; chief justice, Court of Oyer and Terminer, city and county of Baltimore, 1813–1816; district attorney, Baltimore City, 1818. **MILITARY SERVICE:** member of the Baltimore Light Dragoons (a company of 50 mounted gentlemen); the Dragoons assisted Lafayette on the Virginia Peninsula in 1781, but Martin was called back to Maryland for official duties and apparently saw no action. **OUT OF STATE SERVICE:** delegate, Continental Congress, 1784 (elected on December 17, 1784, to fill a vacancy, but did not attend); delegate, Federal Constitutional Convention, 1787. **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES:** At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, Martin's speeches were in vehement opposition to the Constitution. His views on states' rights were extreme; he believed the federal government was not meant to govern individuals, but existed only to preserve the state governments. On his return to Maryland he reiterated his opposition in arguments before the General Assembly. The federal principles in the Constitution are largely a result of concessions to his demands. He took a strong public stand against what he felt was the license allowed the African slave trade in the Constitution. His name was consistently linked in 1789 with *Samuel Chase* (1741–1811) for promoting the abolition of slavery. His intense

hatred of Thomas Jefferson was well known at the time. He was counsel for the defense in the impeachment trial of *Samuel Chase* (1741–1811) in the U.S. Senate, 1804, and was one of five counsels for the defense at the famous trial of Aaron Burr in Richmond, 1807. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: mortgaged his law books (130 titles) to his friend *Samuel Wilson* (1735–1790) for £246.8.8, 1775; assessed value £380.0.0, including 5 slaves, 1783; 6 slaves, 1790; £492.3.8 specie from the estate of his wife's father, 1790. **ANNUAL INCOME:** claimed to have an income of £12,000.0.0. from his law practice in 1800. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** no evidence of land ownership. **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** Martin purchased 2 lots of confiscated British property in Baltimore Town in 1781; in 1784 he leased out 2 adjacent lots on Market Street, possibly the same 2 lots; in 1787 and 1789 he sold both lots which he had been leasing out. In the 1780s and 1790s he purchased well over 3,000 acres in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties and in what is now Howard County. Some of this was land owned previously by Charles Carroll and Company (the Baltimore Company) under the tract name "Orange," but which had been sold off in numbered lots. During this same time period he purchased lots in Baltimore Town on Charles Street in partnership with *Samuel Chase* (1741–1811), *Jeremiah Townley Chase* (1748–1828), and *Charles Ridgely* (1733–1790); he also bought lots on Whetstone Point (now called Locust Point and the site of Fort McHenry), which had been part of the extensive holdings of the Principio Company. Much of this land was mortgaged to Chase in the late 1780s. Chase had become security for Martin in a bond given to the Baltimore Company for ca. £4,150.0.0 in 1785, and then became the mortgage holder of Martin's land as an indemnity against loss. In 1802 at least 1,800 acres of this land was remortgaged to the Bank of Maryland for \$20,000.00. In 1791 Martin's wife and her two sisters inherited from their father all of his real property in Allegany County and Hampshire County, Virginia, a total of probably ca. 1,350 acres, plus 10 town lots in Skipton (Old Town), Allegany County. In 1792 Martin sold 500 acres, and between 1799 and 1824 he sold an additional 525 acres and 6 lots of his Allegany County land. In 1796 he sold a lot and house on Charles Street in Baltimore Town and 100 acres outside of town, land which formerly belonged to the Baltimore Company. In 1797 the land office issued Martin

a warrant of resurvey on a tract in Allegany County. A certificate of survey was issued for 10,423 acres, but a patent was never taken up. In 1816 and 1817 Martin patented 56 acres in Allegany County along with Robert Martin, possibly a nephew. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** on July 8, 1826. Martin was said to be improvident by nature, with his greatest fault being an excessive indulgence in alcohol. He suffered a stroke in 1820. Paralyzed, infirm, and allegedly poor, Aaron Burr took him in when no one else would. In his last years each lawyer in Baltimore City was taxed \$5.00 for his support as evidence of the esteem with which he was still held; and in 1822, the General Assembly resolved that Martin be paid \$300.00 a year for the rest of his life since he was "labouring under providential affliction." He died in New York City. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** size of estate unknown.

MARTIN, NICHOLAS (ca. 1749–1783). **BORN:** ca. 1749 in Talbot County; third son. **NATIVE:** at least fourth generation. **RESIDED:** in Talbot County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER:** Philip Martin (?–1758) of Talbot County, a planter, son of William Martin (?–1722). **STEPFATHER:** by 1762, Stephen Bowdle (?–1791). **MOTHER:** Phebe (1721–?), daughter of Henry Bowdle and wife Mary Gould. **BROTHERS:** Henry (ca. 1741–?); William (1745–?); and Robert (ca. 1753–?). **HALF SISTER:** Mary Bowdle, who married (first name unknown) Turbutt. **MARRIED** probably never. **CHILDREN.** probably none; if so, none survived their father. **PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION:** literate. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Mr., by 1780. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** senior captain for Stephen Steward & Son, of West River, Anne Arundel County, shipbuilders, shipowners, and merchants; master of the sloop *Morris and Wallace* with letters of marque and reprisal dated October 19, 1777; commander of the sloop *Porpus* with letters of marque and reprisal granted April 23, 1779; captain of the brig *Nesbitt* by March 8, 1781, to at least January 1782 (a voyage of the *Nesbitt* prior to January 1782 brought 5,000 Mexican dollars to Maryland for the use of the State in recruiting); captain of the *Dauphin* for Stephen Steward & Son by 1782. Martin's last voyage was as captain of the *Dauphin* carrying cargo for the mercantile firm of Wallace, Johnson, & Muir from Nantes, France, to America. On November 23, 1782, ten days out of Nantes, the *Dauphin* was captured by a Guernsey privateer after a six-hour chase. Martin was transported to a prison on Jersey,