

AND ACTIVITIES: second generation burgess; Gent. on coming of age; he enjoyed considerable patronage from Gov. Francis Nicholson, who was possibly a kinsman. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: prominent lawyer, admitted to the following courts: Charles County in 1682/83; Provincial Court in 1684/85. Planter; merchant. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Charles County, 1692–1693 (Laws, chairman 1; Aggravances, chairman 2), 1694–1697 (Laws 3–5, 7, 8, probably chairman 3–5); Upper House, 1698 (special writ 2); Lower House, Charles County, 1701–1704 (Laws, chairman 1–3; speaker 4), 1704 (speaker 1; died before the 2nd session). OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICES: clerk, Lower House, 1686–1688; solicitor general, 1688–1689, 1694; naval officer, North Potomac (joint appointment, 1694–1696, sole appointment, 1696–1704); deputy attorney general, 1694–1698; Council, attended meetings in 1698, but was never officially commissioned; attorney general, 1698–1704; advocate, Court of Admiralty, 1698; commissary general, 1704. LOCAL OFFICES: clerk of Indictments, Charles County, 1685; Nanjemoy Parish Vestry, Charles County, 1696–1697; justice, Charles County, 1700–1704 (president). MILITARY SERVICE: major, 1696–1704; lieutenant colonel, 1704; colonel, 1704. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: over 2,171 acres. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: in November 1704. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, £3,023.19.1 sterling (including 34 slaves, 7 servants, 153 books, considerable silver plate, a sloop, and merchandise worth £300); FB, £783.9.3. LAND: 6,000 acres.

**DENTON, VACHEL** (ca. 1696–1752). BORN: ca. 1696. NATIVE: at least second generation. RESIDED: in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, by 1722; Anne Arundel County, by 1742. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: Henry Denton, Gent. (?–1698), of St. Mary's County, clerk of St. Mary's County from 1692 to 1695, clerk of the Lower House from 1692 to 1693, clerk of the Council from 1693 to 1698, appointed first register of the Admiralty Court in 1694, and naval officer of Annapolis from 1696 to 1698. GUARDIANS: *Thomas Beale* (?–1713); *John Beale* (?–1734). MOTHER: Mary, who subsequently married Andrew Price, of Queen Anne's County. She left Vachel in the care of his guardians. MARRIED in 1721 Anne (1708–1765), daughter of *John Brice* (?–1713); niece of *Matthew Howard* (ca. 1675–1750). Her brother was John (1705–1766), who married Sarah, daughter of *James Frisby* (1684–1719). Her half brother was *Thomas Worthington* (ca. 1691–1753). Her sister

was Rachel (1711–1786), who married *Philip Hammond* (1697–1760). Her nephews were *John Hammond* (1735–1784); *Rezin Hammond* (1745–1809); *Matthias Hammond* (1740–1786); *John Brice* (1738–1820); *James Brice* (1746–1801); and *Benedict Brice* (1749–1786). Her half nephews were *Samuel Worthington* (1734–1815); *Brice T. B. Worthington* (1727–1794); and *Nicholas Worthington* (1734–1793). CHILDREN. No surviving children. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Mr., 1715; Esq., 1727; Gent., 1726 until death. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: officeholder; merchant. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Annapolis, 1725–1727 (Laws 1–4), Anne Arundel County, 1734/35–1737 (Accounts 1, Cv, 2–4), 1738 (Accounts; Laws), 1739–1741 (Accounts Cv–3; Laws Cv–3). OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICES: clerk, Secretary's Office and Provincial Court, 1718–1732; register in Chancery, 1718–1720 (resigned); clerk, Prerogative Office, 1721–1723 (resigned). LOCAL OFFICES: justice, Anne Arundel County, in office 1717; alderman, Annapolis, in office by 1720–1721, 1723–at least 1730; mayor, Annapolis, 1722–1723; churchwarden, St. Anne's Parish, Anne Arundel County, in office 1723; St. Anne's Parish Vestry, Anne Arundel County, 1724–1727, 1733–1736. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: probably 2,459 acres in Dorchester, Cecil, and Anne Arundel counties (1,904 acres in Dorchester and Cecil counties inherited from his father; probably 555 acres in Anne Arundel County acquired through his marriage). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: sold 400 acres in Dorchester County in 1726; purchased 2 lots in Annapolis and 662 acres in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, 1727–1728; sold 280 acres in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties, 1737–1742, and in 1747 put his remaining 938 acres in Anne Arundel County and 4 lots in Annapolis under the trusteeship of *Alexander Hamilton* (1712–1756) for his heirs, reserving a life estate in the land for himself and his wife; probably sold 1,000 acres in Cecil County before his death. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: held a number of mortgages, especially during the 1730s, and as early as 1729 he was accepting goods to cancel debts owed to him. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: will probated on August 25, 1752, in Anne Arundel County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, £10.17.0 gold, £139.16.0 sterling, £1,486.8.0 current money (including 21 slaves and 1 servant); FB, £9.11.2 gold, £110.15.9 sterling, £1,411.14.2 current money; however, his estate was still liable for a