

liam's School, Annapolis. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: on March 5, 1727/28, in London, England.

**NICHOLSON, JOSEPH, JR.** (?–1786). BORN: in Kent County, of age by 1755; probably eldest son. NATIVE: third generation. RESIDED: in Anne Arundel County by 1755; Kent County by 1757 (Chestertown, Kent County, by 1769 until at least 1770); Queen Anne's County by 1776 until death (at "Chesterfield," part of which later became Centreville). May also have lived in Queen Anne's County during the early 1760s. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: Col. Joseph Nicholson (1709–ca. 1787) of Chestertown, Kent County, a merchant; son of William Nicholson (?–1719) of Anne Arundel County, a merchant, and wife Elizabeth (?–1716/17). MOTHER: Hannah (ca. 1708–?), daughter of *James Smiuh* (ca. 1683–1760) and wife Sarah Hynson. Hannah was the granddaughter of *John Hynson* (?–1705). Hannah married first, in 1725, Edward Scott (?–1729), son of *Edward Scott* (?–1725). STEPMOTHER: by 1772 Mary (?–ca. 1799), daughter of *William Hopper* (1707–1772). BROTHERS: William; James (ca. 1736–1804), captain of the Maryland ship *Defence* and a senior officer in the Continental Navy, 1778–1783; *Benjamin Nicholson* (?–1792); Samuel (1743–1811), a captain in the Continental Navy, 1776–1783, who married in 1780 Mary Dowse of Boston; Thomas (?–1783), who married in 1774 Rachel, daughter of *John Ridgely* (by 1724–1771); and John, a captain in the Continental Navy. HALF BROTHERS: Edward Scott (1726–?); *John Scott* (ca. 1727–1790); and Joseph Hopper Nicholson, Jr. SISTER: Elizabeth, who married Charles Gordon (?–1787). HALF SISTERS: Mary (by 1772–by 1797); Henrietta, who married first, John Bracco, Jr. (ca. 1763–1797), son of *John Bracco* (?–1794), and second, Robert Goldsborough, son of *John Goldsborough* (1711–1778). NIECE: Frances Nicholson, who married *Joshua Seney* (1756–1798). MARRIED on July 28, 1757, Elizabeth (1739–1806), daughter of *William Hopper* (1707–1772) and first wife Esther Sweatnam (?–1740). Elizabeth was the stepdaughter of both Mary Anne Wright (?–1747) and Sarah Dockery (?–ca. 1775). Her half brother was *William Hopper* (by 1747–1806). Her sisters were Mary (?–ca. 1799); Henrietta (?–by 1772); and Sally (?–1761). Her half sisters were Mary Ann (1742–?), who married second, *James Bordley* (?–ca. 1793); Dorothy. CHILDREN. SONS: Joseph Hopper (1770–1817), a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, 1796–1798, a representative in the U.S. Congress, 1799–1806, and

chief judge of the sixth Maryland Judicial Circuit, 1806–1817, who married in 1793 Rebecca, daughter of *Edward Lloyd* (1744–1796); William H., and James. DAUGHTERS: Esther, who married first, Dr. John Hindman (?–by 1794), son of *Jacob Hindman* (by 1713–1766), and second, William Chambers (?–1837); Sarah (1776–1840), who married Dr. Pere E. Niel (Noel) (1768–1814). **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: probably studied law in Annapolis during the mid–1750s. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican; held pew in Chester Parish Church, Kent County, 1772. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1770; Esq., by 1776. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: lawyer, admitted to the following courts: Mayor's Court, Annapolis, January 1755; Queen Anne's County, November 1755; Cecil County, by March 1757; Kent County, by November 1757. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Conventions, Kent County, 1st, 1774, 4th, 1775, 5th, 1775; Senate, Eastern Shore, Term of 1776–1781: 1777, 1777–1778, 1778–1779, 1779–1780 (did not attend), 1780–1781. OTHER STATE OFFICES: Councils of Safety, Eastern Shore, 4th, 1776, 5th, 1776–1777. LOCAL OFFICES: sheriff, Queen Anne's County, 1760–1763; clerk of indictments, Cecil County, in office November 1769; Committee of Correspondence, Queen Anne's County, 1774. OUT OF STATE SERVICE: delegate, Continental Congress, 1777 (elected in December 1777, but did not attend; resigned on December 22, 1777). **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £1,045.0.0, including 15 slaves and 197 oz. plate, 1783. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 95 acres in Kent County and one-half of a lot with a house in Chestertown, plus ca. 275 acres in Queen Anne's County owned jointly with his wife (lot and land in Kent County by purchase and patent, land in Queen Anne's County through his wife as part of her inheritance from her grandfather, William Sweatnam). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: In further divisions of the Sweatnam land in 1779, Joseph and Elizabeth received title to an additional 290 acres in Queen Anne's County and a one-third interest in 10 additional acres in that county on which there was a grist mill. The grist mill was to be rebuilt and the profits shared equally among Joseph and Elizabeth, Joseph Nicholson, Sr., and wife Mary, and William Charles Niell. Joseph deeded his interest in all the Queen Anne's County land (except the mill land) to his wife in 1781. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: will probated on November 11, 1786, in Queen Anne's County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:**