

**FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: David Polk (ca. 1705–1778), Gent., a planter of Somerset County. MOTHER: Elizabeth Gillis. BROTHERS: *William Polk* (1752–1812); *Gillis Polk* (?–1793); James (?–1795), who married Nancy (last name unknown), who subsequently married *William Morris* (?–ca. 1799). SISTER: Sinah (?–by 1807), who married Esme Bayly (?–1801). FIRST COUSINS: *John Williams* (1739–1797); *William Strawbridge* (?–by 1796). NIECE: Patience Bayly, who married *John Done* (ca. 1747–1831). MARRIED never. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate; helped to pay for the education of his younger brothers. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Presbyterian, Manokin Presbyterian Church, Somerset County. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1763; Esq., by 1777. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: attorney; owned a gristmill, sawmill, and bolting mill in partnership with his brother *Gillis Polk* (?–1793) and *Littleton Dennis* (ca. 1728–1774). The mills were located north of Salisbury on the main branch of the Wicomico River. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Conventions, Somerset County, 3rd, 1774, 5th, 1775; Lower House, Somerset County, 1778–1779 (Elections 1; Grievances 1); Senate, Eastern Shore, Term of 1781–1786: 1781–1782, 1782–1783 (did not attend), 1783 (did not attend), 1784 (did not attend; died before the Assembly met). OTHER STATE OFFICES: Executive Council, 1777, 1777 (reelected on November 11, 1777, but declined to serve). Special Council, Eastern Shore, (in case of invasion was empowered to act in place of the governor and Council), appointed 1780. LOCAL OFFICE: visitor, Eden School, Somerset and Worcester counties, 1771. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £942.0.0, including 22 slaves and 12 oz. plate, 1783. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 1,087 acres in Somerset and Worcester counties (purchased 738 acres, patented 279 acres, and held ca. 70 acres in partnership with his brother Gillis and *Littleton Dennis* (ca. 1728–1774). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: purchased 509 acres in Somerset County and held ca. 50 acres in Somerset County as a joint tenant with his brother *Gillis Polk* (?–1793), 1774–1783; sold 378 acres in Somerset and Worcester counties, 1775; inherited 440 acres in Somerset County from his father, 1778; patented 215 acres in Somerset (now Wicomico) County, 1783. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: will probated February 17, 1784, in Somerset County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: size of estate unknown. LAND: 1,923 acres in Somerset and Worcester counties, ca. 120 acres of which

were owned in partnership with his brother *Gillis Polk* (?–1793).

**POLK, WILLIAM** (1752–1812). BORN: in 1752 in Somerset County. NATIVE: fourth generation. RESIDED: in Manokin Hundred, Somerset County, 1783; on the south side of the Wicomico River three miles above Green Hill, probably at “White Hall,” Wicomico Hundred, Somerset County, 1798. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: David Polk (ca. 1705–1778), Gent., a planter of Somerset County. MOTHER: Elizabeth Gillis. BROTHERS: *Josiah Polk* (?–1784); *Gillis Polk* (?–1793); James Polk (?–1795), who married Nancy (last name unknown), who subsequently married *William Morris* (?–ca. 1799). SISTER: Sinah (?–by 1807), who married Esme Bayly (?–1801). FIRST COUSINS: *John Williams* (1739–1797); *William Strawbridge* (?–by 1796). NIECE: Patience Bayly, who married *John Done* (ca. 1747–1831). MARRIED first, by January 2, 1776, Esther (?–ca. 1790), widow of *Isaac Handy* (1743–ca. 1774). Esther was the daughter of *William Winder* (1714/15–1792) and wife Elizabeth Gillis (1724–by 1770), and the stepdaughter by 1770 of Mary (?–1799), widow of Thomas Denwood. She was the niece of Leah Gillis (1726–?), who married *William Adams* (?–1795). Her brothers were *John Winder* (1745–1822); *William Winder, Jr.* (?–1808); *Levin Winder* (1757–1819); and possibly Thomas. Her sisters were Jane; Leah (ca. 1760–?); and Priscilla (ca. 1740–by 1779). Her niece was Esther Wilson (?–by 1792), who married *William Morris* (?–ca. 1799). MARRIED second, probably by 1792, Ann (?–by 1800), widow of *Henry Dennis* (?–1785), daughter of Capt. John Purnell (?–ca. 1761) and wife Euphame Arbuckle (1734–?). Ann was the granddaughter of *John Purnell* (?–1755) and Gen. William Arbuckle (1689–1751), of Virginia. She was the niece of Aralantar Purnell (?–1782), who married *Thomas Robins* (ca. 1702–1766); *William Purnell* (?–1777), a possible legislator; *Zadock Purnell* (?–1805); and *Thomas Purnell, of John* (?–1796). Her brother was *William Purnell* (?–1798). Her first cousin was *John Purnell Robins* (ca. 1742–1780). MARRIED third, by 1810, Mary (last name unknown), who subsequently married ca. 1813 William Savage. CHILDREN. SONS: Josiah, who married Rebecca Troup of Talbot County; William Winder; and James (1792–1868), who was register of wills for Somerset County, collector of the port of Baltimore during President James K. Polk’s administration (1845–1849), and who married in 1816 Anna Maria Stuart (1800–