

est. LAND: probably at least 2,500 acres in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties; 1,867 acres were sold in 1792 to raise £26,000.0.0 current money needed to pay outstanding debts.

**RIDGELY, CHARLES, OF WILLIAM** (?–1810). BORN: in Anne Arundel County, of age by 1771; younger son. NATIVE: fourth generation. RESIDED: in Anne Arundel County until ca. 1772; Baltimore County, 1773 until death. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: William Ridgely (?–1755) of Anne Arundel County, son of Charles Ridgely (?–1705). MOTHER: Elizabeth, daughter of Lewis Duvall and wife Martha Ridgely. UNCLE: *Charles Ridgely* (by 1705–1772). BROTHERS: Samuel; William, who married Elizabeth Dorsey (1742–?). SISTERS: Martha, who married Henry Gaither (1724–1783); Margaret, who married Samuel Farmer; Deborah, who married Lancelot Dorsey; Elizabeth, who married Aquilla Duvall; Rachel, who married Joseph Howard (?–1777); Mary; Eleanor; Anne, who married Brice Howard; Sarah; Delilah; and Asenah. FIRST COUSINS: *Charles Ridgely* (1733–1790); *John Ridgely* (by 1724–1771); and Rachel Ridgely, who married *Darby Lux* (?–1795). MARRIED by July 1773 Ruth (?–by 1810), only child of Samuel Norwood (?–1773) of Baltimore County. CHILDREN. SONS: Samuel Norwood, who married Deborah Dorsey; Charles Carnan, who married Elizabeth Dorsey (1787–1866); William Augustus; John Coleman; Thomas Perkin; Benjamin Franklin; George Washington; and probably Robert (?–1804). DAUGHTERS: Julia, who married Dr. Alexander Barron; Susannah; Elizabeth, who married Robert Richardson; and Ruth (1800–?), who married Dr. John Baltzell. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate; directed in his will that his sons have an “English education.” RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican, St. Paul’s Parish, Baltimore County. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., by 1775; Esq., by 1778. Distinguished by contemporaries as “Blackhead Charles Ridgely.” OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: merchant; planter. From at least 1771 until ca. 1778, Ridgely was a merchant in partnership with Vachel Denton Howard (1751–1778), brother of *Ephraim Howard* (1745–1788), with a store in Anne Arundel County “for retailing goods, wares, and merchandize.” They imported goods from England and by 1778 were in debt to John and Gilbert Buchanan of London, merchants, for £1,923.4.10 sterling. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: 5th Convention, Baltimore County, 1775; Lower House, Baltimore County, 1781 (elected

to the 2nd session of the 1780–1781 Assembly; Manufactories 2; Public Taxes 2), 1781–1782 (Elections 1), 1782–1783 (Manufactories 2), 1783 (Grievances), 1784, 1785 (Grievances, Claims), 1788 (Claims), 1789 (Elections; Claims), 1790, 1791–1792, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1798, 1799, 1803. OTHER STATE OFFICES: Constitution Ratification Convention, Baltimore County, 1788; associate judge, 3rd District of Maryland, appointed 1791, resigned 1791; Maryland Senate elector, Baltimore County, 1791, 1796. LOCAL OFFICES: Committee of Observation, Baltimore County, 1776; justice, Baltimore County, 1777–at least 1780, 1782–at least 1787, 1789, 1792–at least 1797, 1799–1800; justice, Orphans’ Court, Baltimore County, 1783–1784, 1787, 1789–1790, 1799–1800. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: pledged £300.0.0 to defray the expenses of the “present campaign,” 1781; described by George Lux as “clever and respected at Annapolis,” 1782. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value more than £ 668.0.0, including 13 slaves, in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties (not including his dwelling plantation), 1783; 13 slaves in Anne Arundel County, 1798. ANNUAL INCOME: rents from 2 plantations totalled ca. \$335.00 per year by 1810. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: probably ca. 1,292 acres in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Frederick counties (at least 452 acres in Anne Arundel and Frederick counties inherited from his father; ca. 740 acres in Baltimore County acquired through marriage; 100 acres in Anne Arundel County by purchase). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: purchased 132 acres in Anne Arundel County, 1792; obtained 500 acres in Anne Arundel County as a result of a Chancery Court case over a debt owed him by the estate of his former partner Vachel Denton Howard, 1799; enlarged his home plantation, formerly owned by his father-in-law, to 500 acres, and purchased a small amount of additional land for one of his father-in-law’s other plantations, all in Baltimore County by 1798; sold his Frederick (then part of Montgomery) County land after 1783. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: in October 1810 in Baltimore County; buried October 19, 1810, at his home plantation. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, \$16,984.80 (including 64 slaves, more than 35 books, and plate valued at \$8.75); FB, \$1,215.31 as calculated before payment of legacies, overpaid \$384.69 according to records. LAND: 1,946 acres in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties encompassed in 6 separate plantations.