

trolled 2,504 acres for four of his children in Dorchester County.

STERETT (STARETT, STARRETT, STERRETT), JOHN (1750/51–1787). BORN: on February 1, 1750/51, probably in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. NATIVE: second generation. RESIDED: in Baltimore Town, Baltimore County, but also owned a dwelling plantation at Elk Ridge, Anne Arundel County, where he was living when he wrote his will in September 1786. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: James Sterett (1721–1796), who immigrated from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, ca. 1761, to Baltimore Town, where he was a merchant in partnership with his son John from early 1771. A Presbyterian, James was the son of John Sterett (?–1748), who immigrated from Ireland (now Northern Ireland) to Pennsylvania, and his wife Martha Work. MOTHER: (first name unknown) McClure. MOTHER OR STEPMOTHER: Mary (?–ca. 1794). BROTHERS OR HALF BROTHERS: *Samuel Sterett* (1758–1833); David (1765–1791), who was killed in a duel in Baltimore by Thomas Hadfield; Joseph; George; and William (?–1787). SISTER OR HALF SISTER: Mary, who married in 1778 Mordecai Gist (?–1792). MARRIED on November 19, 1771, Deborah (1749–1817), who died in Anne Arundel County, the daughter of *John Ridgely* (by 1724–1771) and wife Mary Dorsey (1725–ca. 1786). Deborah was the granddaughter of *Charles Ridgely* (by 1705–1772). She was the niece of *Charles Ridgely* (1733–1790); *Edward Dorsey* (1718–1760); and Rachel Ridgely, who married *Darby Lux* (?–1795). Her brothers were (first name unknown) (ca. 1746–1748); William (?–1797); John (1764–1814); Edward (1771–?); and *Charles Ridgely, of John* (ca. 1749–1786). Her sisters were Rachel; Mary (?–1804), who married *Benjamin Nicholson* (?–1792); Eleanor; and Achsah. Her first cousins were *Harry Dorsey Gough* (ca. 1745–1808); *Thomas Dorsey* (?–1790); Prudence Carnan (1755–1822), who married *Harry Dorsey Gough* (ca. 1745–1808); Rachel Goodwin (?–1819), who married *Jesse Hollingsworth* (1732/33–1810); Frances Todd, who married *George Risteau* (?–1792); Deborah Lynch (?–1810), who married *Samuel Owings, Jr.* (1733–1803); Achsah Dorsey (1746–1799), who married *Ephraim Howard* (1745–1788); Rebecca Dorsey (1739–1812), who married *Charles Ridgely* (1733–1790); Eleanor Dorsey (ca. 1739–1805), who married *John Hall* (1729–1797); Eleanor Dorsey, who married *Up-ton Sheredine* (1740–1800); Mary Dorsey (?–1816), who married *John Weems* (1727–1794); Elizabeth

Dorsey (?–ca. 1811), who married *Richard Ridgely* (1755–1824); and *Henry Woodward* (1733–1761). CHILDREN. SONS: McClure (1773–?), probably died young; Andrew (1778–1808), a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in 1798, executive officer of the frigate *Constellation*, commander of the schooner *Enterprise* in 1800 and participated in the war between the U.S. and Tripoli in the Mediterranean in 1801, after which he was promoted to master commandant, resigned his commission in 1805 and joined the merchant marine, died on his way to Lima, Peru, called a captain of the U.S. Navy and late commander of the ship *Warren* of Baltimore at death, married Henrietta; James (1783–?), of Borden Town, New Jersey, by 1797; John (1784–?), of Borden Town, New Jersey, by 1797; and Charles Ridgely. DAUGHTERS: Polley (Mary) (1772–?), who married Richard Gittings (1763–1830), son of *James Gittings* (1735–ca. 1823); Harriet (1775–1822), who married James Gittings (1769–1820), son of *James Gittings* (1735–ca. 1823); Eliza (1779–?), who married William P. Matthews; Juliet (1780–?); and Sophia (1786–?). PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Presbyterian, First Presbyterian Church, Baltimore City; however, in ca. 1785 he rented a pew in St. Paul's Parish Church (Anglican), Baltimore County. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: merchant; in partnership with his father James Sterett in a mercantile firm in Baltimore Town from early 1771; in partnership with his brothers David and *Samuel Sterett* (1758–1833) in the firm of John Sterett & Company, which dealt in merchandise such as cloth and salt and had an interest in various ships and their cargoes, from at least 1782 until his death; in partnership with Jeremiah Yellot, with whom he entered into an agreement in July 1781 to buy and sell tobacco; involved with Yellot and others in several ships and their cargoes trading from America to "parts beyond the sea"; had a store, probably in Baltimore Town, in 1782. Sterett purchased one-eighth interest in the Nottingham Forges and Ironworks in Baltimore County in 1782 from the commissioners of confiscated British property. The ironworks then became known as the Ridgely Forges and Furnace, operated by Charles Ridgely and Company. This partnership consisted of Sterett, *Charles Ridgely* (1733–1790), *Benjamin Nicholson* (?–1792), *Darby Lux* (?–1795), *Samuel Chase* (1741–1811), Henry Howard, William Goodwin, and John Dorsey. After Sterett's death, Jeremiah Yellot brought suit against his heirs for money he claimed was due him as a result of their various