

partnerships. In the resulting Chancery case in 1794, Sterett's father testified that John was heavily indebted to him on private accounts and that he had been sued as surviving partner in their firm and had paid or secured to be paid large sums of money to settle their accounts. Sterett's partnership with his brothers apparently fared no better. His brother David died in 1791 with no estate, and his brother *Samuel Sterett* (1758–1833) was forced to file as an insolvent debtor because of the many debts and claims outstanding against the firm. John's widow stated that she believed it would take most, if not all, of Sterett's real and personal estate to satisfy his creditors. The court ordered that Sterett's estate, both real and personal, be sold to satisfy the debts owed to Yellot and many others as a result of his mercantile ventures. The property sold included his one-eighth interest in the Nottingham Ironworks, plus lands, slaves, and other goods, which brought a total of £2,800.0.0 current money to the estate. **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** OWNED A PRIVATEER during the Revolution. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Baltimore Town, 1783 (Claims), 1784, 1785 (Claims). **LOCAL OFFICES:** Committee of Observation, Baltimore County, in office by 1776; purchasing agent, Baltimore County, appointed 1778 (declined); warden, port of Baltimore, 1782–1787; commissioner, Baltimore Town, 1784–1786. **MILITARY SERVICE:** captain, Baltimore County Militia, by 1776; taken prisoner at Eutaw Springs, 1781. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: an eighth of all negroes, stock, and other goods belonging to Charles Ridgely & Co., the former Nottingham Ironworks, 1782; assessed value £1,245.0.0. including 15 slaves, Anne Arundel County only, 1783; one-third interest in the goods and ships' property belonging to John Sterett & Co., no date. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 3,140 acres in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, plus 5 unimproved lots in Baltimore Town, plus one-eighth part of at least 4,738 acres in Baltimore County, formerly the property of the Nottingham Ironworks (195 acres through marriage, remainder by purchase). **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: on January 1, 1787, probably at Elkridge, Anne Arundel County; buried in Westminster Presbyterian Churchyard, Baltimore Town. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £10,756.8.10 current money, or \$28,683.89 as calculated and converted (including 41 slaves, 877 oz. plate, books, one-third interest in the goods and ships' property belonging to John Sterett & Co., one-eighth interest in 62 slaves,

25 servants, and other personalty valued at £529.0.0, which was his interest in Charles Ridgely & Co.); FB, estate overpaid £294.12.8, or \$785.68. **LAND:** 3,140 acres in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, at least 11 lots in Baltimore Town, and one-eighth of the lands belonging to Charles Ridgely & Co. in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties.

**STERETT (STERRETT), SAMUEL** (1758–1833). **BORN:** in 1758, probably in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; younger son. **NATIVE:** second generation. **RESIDED:** in Baltimore Town; New York City, ca. 1797–1798; Baltimore City, at 32 South Gay Street, ca. 1806. **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:** *John Sterett* (1750/51–1787); David (1765–1791), who was killed in a duel in Baltimore Town by Thomas Hadfield; Joseph; George; and William (?–1787). **SISTER OR HALF SISTER:** Mary, who married in 1778 Mordecai Gist (?–1792). **MARRIED** by 1792 Rebecca (?–by 1833), possibly the daughter of Isaac Sears (1730–1786) of New York, merchant. **CHILDREN.** **SONS:** William (by 1797–probably by 1833); Isaac Sears, who married in 1832 Jane S. Hollins. **DAUGHTERS:** Mary (1794–?), who married in 1821 Henry Carroll; Augusta Temple (1795–by 1833), who married in 1818 Thomas Dance; Harriet Antoinette Smith; and Sarah Caroline Sears, who married in 1834 Samuel T. Thompson. **PRIVATE CAREER.** **EDUCATION:** literate, graduate of the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Presbyterian, member of the First Presbyterian Church, Baltimore Town. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Esq., by 1782; described by a Baltimore newspaper in 1789 as “a young gentleman of fair character.” **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** merchant, with connections in Europe and the West Indies as well as with other cities in America. In 1788, Sterett was the agent for Messrs. Van Staphorst & Co. to obtain reimbursement from Maryland for money loaned by the company during the Revolution. In 1792 he served as attorney for Butler Claxton, merchant, of the Island of Nevis, West Indies. Sterett