

1788, *William Purnell* (?–1798), was apparently too young to have served in 1773–1774 or in the third Convention.

PURNELL (PURNALL), WILLIAM (1739–1796). BORN: in 1739, probably in Worcester County. NATIVE: fourth generation. RESIDED: in Worcester County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: Elisha Purnell (1706–1767), son of *Thomas Purnell* (?–1723). MOTHER: Mary Ann, daughter of William Selby (1683–1762). UNCLES: *John Purnell* (?–1755); *John Selby* (?–1754). BROTHERS: Lemuel (?–1772), who married Dennis (?–1776), widow of David Johnson (?–1753), daughter of *Nathaniel Hopkins* (?–1739/40); Cheseed (?–by 1772), who married Mary, and had moved to Virginia by 1772. SISTERS: Luranah; Sarah, who married (first name unknown) Franklin. FIRST COUSINS: *Zadock Purnell* (?–1805); *William Purnell* (?–1777), a possible legislator; *Thomas Purnell, of John* (?–1796); *Thomas Purnell, of Thomas* (?–1790); and Arralantar Purnell (?–1782), who married *Thomas Robins* (ca. 1702–1766). NEPHEW: *John Selby Purnell* (?–1799). MARRIED by 1762 Mary (1743–1809), daughter of *Thomas Robins* (ca. 1702–1766) and wife Arralantar Purnell (?–by 1782). Mary was the granddaughter of *John Purnell* (?–1755). She was the niece of *Zadock Purnell* (?–1805); *William Purnell* (?–1777), a possible legislator, and *Thomas Purnell, of John* (?–1796). Her brothers were *John Purnell Robins* (ca. 1742–1780); Littleton; and Bowdoin (?–by 1786). Her half brother was Thomas (1740–1776). Her sisters were Elizabeth; Andasiah (Andasia); Easter (Ester); and Arralanta. Her first cousins were Ann Purnell, who married first, *Henry Dennis* (?–1785), and second, *William Polk* (1752–1812); *William Purnell* (?–1798). CHILDREN. SONS: Elisha; Thomas Robins (?–by 1794); John (?–ca. 1800), a physician, who married Henrietta; Littleton Robins (1770–1824), who married Mary Ironshire; and George Washington (?–1844). DAUGHTERS: Esther Robins, a minor in 1794; Mary Selby, a minor in 1794. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Esq., by 1792. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: probably planter. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Worcester County, 1773–1774; 3rd Convention, Worcester County, 1774. LOCAL OFFICES: justice, Worcester County, 1786–1795. MILITARY SERVICE: captain, Sinepuxent Battalion, Worcester County Militia, commissioned 1777; major, Sinepuxent Battalion, Worcester County, commissioned 1782. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL

PROPERTY: assessed value £1,011.8.4, including 24 slaves, 1783; 16 slaves, 1790. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: at least 1,385 acres in Worcester County (at least 400 acres inherited from father; 543 acres through marriage; 442 acres through personal acquisition). ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Purnell inherited 100 acres from his grandfather William Selby (?–1762), but sold it before his first election. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: resurveyed all of his lands in Worcester County into one 1,524-acre tract, 1794. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: will probated on December 2, 1796, in Worcester County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, \$3,884.10 (including 19 slaves and 3 oz. old silver); FB, \$3,876.42. LAND: 1,524 acres in Worcester County. IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS. There were two candidates for the legislative service of William Purnell in the Lower House from 1773–1774 and in the third Convention of December 1774. Both men, who were first cousins, were large landowners and military men. It was not possible to determine which one served, hence both biographies have been included and the same legislative service is assigned to both. See also *William Purnell* (?–1777). It is also possible that *William Purnell* (1739–1796) held part of the legislative service 1785–1788, 1792, 1793, which has been assigned to *William Purnell* (?–1798).

PURNELL (PURNALL), WILLIAM (?–1798). BORN: probably in Worcester County, of age by 1783; possibly only son. NATIVE: fifth generation. RESIDED: Crappers (Croppers) Neck, Worcester County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: Capt. John Purnell (?–ca. 1761), son of *John Purnell* (?–1755). MOTHER: Euphame (1734–?), daughter of Gen. William Arbuckle (1689–1751), of Virginia. UNCLES: *William Purnell* (?–1777), a possible legislator; *Zadock Purnell* (?–1805); and *Thomas Purnell, of John* (?–1796). AUNT: Arralantar Purnell (?–1782), who married *Thomas Robins* (ca. 1702–1766). SISTER: Ann, who married first, *Henry Dennis* (?–1785), and second, *William Polk* (1752–1812). FIRST COUSINS: *John Purnell Robins* (ca. 1742–1780); Mary Robins (1743–1808), who married *William Purnell* (1739–1796), a possible legislator. MARRIED by 1791 Gertrude (?–1831), daughter of *Robert Jenkins Henry* (ca. 1712–1766). CHILDREN. Five. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Esq., at death. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: probably planter. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Worcester County, 1785, 1786–1787, 1787–