

usually list half brothers, unless they were legislators, or half sisters, unless they married legislators.

Under **MARRIED**, the name or names of a legislator's wife or wives are in chronological sequence. Because marriage into a politically influential family began or greatly enhanced many legislative careers, the same criteria that applied to **FAMILY BACKGROUND** determined which of the wife's relations merited inclusion.

The element **CHILDREN** encompasses a chronological ordering by sex of the legislator's progeny. Last names are given only for male offspring who became legislators, and for illegitimate sons and daughters.

Most of the categories in the element **PRIVATE CAREER** are self-explanatory. Caution should be exercised in interpreting titles in **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES** because they no longer bore the same social connotation after the mid-eighteenth century as in the first hundred years of settlement. Both this category and **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE** are chronological, with dates noted where possible. No date appears, however, if a man held one occupation throughout his adult career. The occupational entry "officeholder" signifies that at least a portion of the legislator's income derived from a public office in which he performed the duties of the post. The term "placeman" means that a man secured one or more lucrative positions in the colonial bureaucracy through the intercession of the governor, the proprietor, or, during the period of crown rule, the monarch. Before 1692, Catholics as well as Protestants could hold office in Maryland. From that year until 1774, when the first extralegal convention met, only Protestants who took an oath of office could serve in the legislature. Therefore, under **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**, legislators who served between 1692 and 1774 for whom we cannot find definite proof of church membership carry the designation "probably Protestant." Under the constitution of 1776 discrimination abated, with Catholics, Quakers, and other religious groups again permitted to participate in public life.

Within the element **PUBLIC CAREER** the category **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** is chronological according to each assembly or convention a legislator attended. Committee service, along with any necessary explanatory information, is in parentheses after the relevant assembly or convention. **MILITARY SERVICE** is by no means comprehensive for many legislators, because the information came incidentally during the process of identification, rather than through a concerted attempt to search all military-related records. **OUT OF COLONY/STATE SERVICE** is also not complete, because we did not always have the resources to trace a man's public career outside of Maryland.

The crucial category **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES** is used sparingly in most biographies of eighteenth-century legislators, and then chiefly for matters of a private nature. The quantitative analysis of legislative behavior in progress will determine more sharply than presently possible what constituted public issues for these men and will be a focus of the subsequent monographs.

The appraisal of total personal property for the element **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME** was possible only for a fraction of the legislators. Nonetheless, for specific points in time considerable information did accrue for many men from the few assessment and census lists that survive as well as from extant records of mortgages, inheritances, insolvencies, and bankruptcies.

Because of the abundance of documentation, a much greater degree of precision proved feasible in computing a legislator's interest in land, the prerequisite of social, economic, and political status in early America. In many cases research not only determined the amount, geographical distribution, and method of acquisition of real property at first election but also charted any significant changes between the beginning of a legislative career and death.