

Francis Sellers (?–1804), merchant; (first name unknown) (?–by 1816), who married Henry Nichols (?–1831); possibly other children; probably no surviving children at the time of his death. **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Methodist Episcopal, 1797. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: trustee for *William Hopper* (by 1747–1806) and *James Kent* (ca. 1738–1805), insolvent debtors; his will mentioned “my old respectable master,” *Richard Tilghman Earle* (1728/29–1788). OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: planter, 1774; farmer, 1779. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Caroline County, 1777, 1777–1778 (elected, but did not attend; resigned on March 3, 1778 to “attend to private affairs” ), 1784, 1785, 1787–1788, 1790. LOCAL OFFICES: justice, Caroline County, commissioned 1777, 1778, 1783 (“will not qualify” ), 1785, and 1786, in office 1791, 1797, 1801–1806; sheriff, Caroline County, in office 1778, elected 1779; purchasing agent, Caroline County, 1779; subscription officer, Continental Loan Office, Caroline County, appointed 1779; justice, Orphans’ Court, Caroline County, commissioned 1783 (“will not qualify” ) and 1785 (“did not qualify” ); commissioner of tax, Caroline County, appointed 1783; judge, Court of Appeals for Tax Assessment, Caroline County, appointed 1786; associate justice, Fourth District, Caroline County, commissioned 1791, 1793; president, Hillsborough School, Caroline County, at his death, a post that then passed to his grandson Henry Downes Sellers. **MILITARY SERVICE:** 2nd major, Twenty-eighth Battalion, commissioned January 1776; resigned commission to become adjutant under Col. Federman, April 1776. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: manumitted three slaves, 1803; inventory mentioned freeing some additional slaves after a period of years, 1816. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £283.0.0, including 5 slaves, 1783; 5 slaves, 1790; 13 slaves, 1798. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 253 acres in Caroline County (137 acres through his marriage, 116 acres by purchase). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: a further partition of his first wife’s inherited land brought the total acreage he acquired through marriage to 214 acres, 1784; 200 acres of first wife’s land were given by deed of gift to their daughter, 1784; purchased at least 1,614 acres in Caroline, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot counties between 1792 and 1814; sold at least 205 acres in Caroline County between 1808 and 1813. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: on December 4, 1816, in Hillsborough, Caroline County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, \$5,611.78 (including

11 slaves, 1 servant, books, and 2 shares of Bank of Baltimore stock); FB, \$2,946.40. LAND: at least 1,394 acres in Talbot, Caroline, and Queen Anne’s counties, plus houses and lots in Hillsborough, Caroline County, and Centreville, Queen Anne’s County.

**DOWNES (DOWNS), PHILEMON** (ca. 1741–ca. 1796). BORN: ca. 1741, probably in Queen Anne’s County; elder son. NATIVE: at least third generation. RESIDED: in Queen Anne’s County; in Baltimore County, 1778–1779; in Caroline County, ca. 1780. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: Henry Downes (1707–by 1772), of Queen Anne’s County, son of John Downes (?–1707), of Talbot County. MOTHER: Frances Noble (?–by 1775). BROTHER: *Henry Downes* (ca. 1748–1816). FIRST COUSIN: Henrietta Downes (1739–1812), who married *Thomas Hardcastle* (ca. 1737–1808). MARRIED first, by 1776 Mary (?–by 1779), widow of Jacob Seth (?–1773), of Queen Anne’s County. MARRIED second, in August 1780 Elizabeth (1748–1809), widow of John Tillotson, Jr. (?–by 1777), of Caroline County; daughter of Thomas Baynard (?–1753), of Talbot County, a planter who died a minor under 21-years of age, and wife Hannah Clarke; stepdaughter of Henry Thompson; niece of both *Joshua Clarke* (?–1781) and Margaret Baynard (?–by 1777), who married second, *Matthew Driver* (1740–1798). Her sisters were Lydia (1750–by 1769); Margaret (1752–by 1788), who married *Henry Downes* (ca. 1748–1816). Her first cousin was Elizabeth Driver (by 1777–?), who married *Peter Edmondson* (ca. 1753–1819). \* **CHILDREN.** SONS: Philemon; Henry. STEPSONS: Thomas Baynard Tillotson; John Tillotson. DAUGHTER: Mary. **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: literate. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: farmer. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Caroline County, 1782 (elected, but did not attend; resigned on November 13, 1782), 1795. LOCAL OFFICES: sheriff, Queen Anne’s County, 1773–1775; justice, Queen Anne’s County, commissioned 1778 (moved to Baltimore County), 1779 (moved to Baltimore County), Caroline County, 1781–at least 1795; subscription officer, Continental Loan Office, Queen Anne’s County, appointed 1779; justice, Orphans’ Court, Caroline County, 1782–at least 1792. JURY SERVICE: foreman, grand jury, Eastern Shore, 1792. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £671.0.0, including 14 slaves and 32 oz. plate, 1783; 6 slaves, 1790. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 394 acres in Caroline County (all acquired through his marriage to his second wife). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES