

hood. **STEPCHILDREN:** names unknown; wife Sarah mentioned grandchildren in her will made in 1783. **PRIVATE CAREER.** **EDUCATION:** literate. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Anglican. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Gent., by 1768. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** lawyer, admitted to the following courts: Talbot County in June 1765; Somerset County in June 1765; Queen Anne's County in August 1765; Frederick County in November 1766; Charles County in March 1768; Provincial Court in May 1769. After the Revolution, Thomas represented Alexander Hamilton, factor for James Brown & Co. of Glasgow, in claims against Maryland debtors. In 1786, angry planters appeared in the Charles County Court and forced Thomas to withdraw the actions he had brought against men indebted to Brown & Co. Gov. *William Smallwood* (1732–1792) issued a proclamation deploring the “riotous behaviour” of the “disorderly persons lately assembled at Port Tobacco,” enjoining civil officers to suppress any such conduct which might prejudice the administration of “right and justice.” **PUBLIC CAREER.** **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Conventions, St. Mary's County, 3rd, 1774, 4th, 1775, 5th, 1775, 6th–8th, 1775–1776 (did not attend the 7th and 8th Conventions); Lower House, St. Mary's County, 1778–1779 (Elections 1; Laws to Expire 3); 1781–1782 (Grievances 2). **OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICE:** clerk, Lower House, 1761–1762. **LOCAL OFFICES:** deputy commissary, St. Mary's County, 1771–1776; justice, Court of Oyer, Terminer, and Gaol Delivery, St. Mary's County, commissioned 1771 (clerk and cryer, 1772); St. Andrew's Parish Vestry, St. Mary's County, 1790–1793; churchwarden, St. Andrew's Parish, St. Mary's County, 1793; trustee of alms and workhouse, St. Mary's County, July 1795. **MILITARY SERVICE:** captain, 5th Independent Company of Regular Troops, commissioned January 17, 1776; major, Upper Battalion, St. Mary's County Militia, appointed August 26, 1777. In July 1776, Thomas was ordered by the Convention to take his company to Philadelphia; he was present in Harlem, New York, in September 1776. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** assessed value £662.7.8, including 17 slaves and 89 oz. plate, 1793; assessed value £639.2.6, including 15 slaves and 89 oz. plate, 1796. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** probably none (had sold land in Talbot County inherited from his father prior to his first election). **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** acquired, possibly through marriage, 637 acres in St. Mary's County, including a mill, by 1793; held certificate

for an additional 127 acres in St. Mary's County, 1796. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** **DIED:** between September 22, 1796, and January 23, 1797, in St. Mary's County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, at least £1,474.10.2 current money (including 15 slaves, plate valued at £114.15.5, and law books valued at £57.8.0). **LAND:** 763 acres, including a mill, in St. Mary's County. Principal heirs were his wife, his brother James, and his nephews William and John Thomas.

THOMAS, NICHOLAS (?–ca. 1784). **BORN:** in Talbot County; probably third son. **NATIVE:** fourth generation. **RESIDED:** in Talbot County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** **FATHER:** *William Thomas* (1705–1767). **MOTHER:** Elizabeth Allen (by 1705–by 1757). **STEPMOTHER:** by 1757, Margaret Finney Edmondson (?–ca. 1766). **AUNT:** Elizabeth Thomas (ca. 1701–1755), who married *Edward Needles* (1695/96–1751/52). **BROTHERS:** *John Allen Thomas* (1734–ca. 1797); William (?–1789); and James (?–1810). **STEPBROTHER:** Samuel Edmondson (?–1751). **SISTER:** Mary (ca. 1741–by 1767). **STEP-SISTER:** Rachel Edmondson. **FIRST COUSIN:** *John Stevens* (ca. 1735–1794). **PRIVATE CAREER.** **EDUCATION:** literate. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** father and brother were Anglicans. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Gent., by 1768. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** lawyer, admitted to the following courts: Queen Anne's County in August 1759, Talbot County in November 1759, Provincial Court in September 1760, Cecil County in November 1760, Somerset County in June 1765, and Dorchester County by March 1773. **PUBLIC CAREER.** **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Talbot County, 1768–1770 (Public Offices 1; Grievances 1–3; Laws to Expire 1–4), 1771 (Laws to Expire), 1773–1774 (Grievances 1, Cv, 2, 3; Public Offices 1, Cv, 2, 3); Conventions, Talbot County, 1st, 1774, 4th, 1775, 5th, 1775, 6th–8th, 1775–1776; Lower House, Talbot County, 1777 (elected elected during the 1st session to fill vacancy; speaker 1, 2), 1777–1778 (speaker 1, 2; resigned in March 1778 when he accepted a commission as judge of the General Court). **OTHER STATE OFFICES:** Councils of Safety, Eastern Shore, 4th, 1776 (appointed on September 18, 1776), 5th 1776–1777; judge, General Court, 1778 to death. **MILITARY SERVICE:** quartermaster general, 4th Battalion, Talbot County Militia, appointed on January 14, 1776, resigned on August 8, 1776. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** assessed value £351.6.4, including 8 slaves and 67 oz. plate, 1783. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 73 acres in Talbot County