

Joseph Helms. Joseph applied 4 shillings and 7 pence and Richard (II) paid out the balance of 1 pound, 1 shilling and 7½ pence. With the debt settled, Richard, Jr. (III) then bought, on credit, a quart of rum and 400 nails and drew out 16 shillings in cash. His brother John also opened an account and bought sheeting and thread. It seems possible that John, also, was making marriage preparations of his own.

William seems to have been the most prosperous of the four sons. Land records in the Frederick County Court House show that he owned land on the west side of the Shenandoah river, just south of Ashby's Gap. Other records show that he made other land purchases and also land sales. He did not seem to have incurred the financial difficulties that beset the other brothers.

The frontier planters were more or less at the mercy of the merchants and many fell into debt. The merchants charged high prices for imported necessities while paying very little for the settlers' products. (Remember the price paid for the pork?) From the Frederick Court Records, we find that Richard, Jr. (III) had a judgment of 3 pounds rendered against him in 1774 -- for unpaid debts. In 1785 a suit was brought against John Tidwell for unpaid debts but he apparently settled out of court. In 1745, also in Frederick County, Francis was sued for a debt of 2 pounds,