

Person, William ^[1]

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by Sue Dossett Skinner, 1994

30 Nov. 1734–1778

William Person, planter and member of the colonial [Assembly](#) ^[2] and [Provincial Congress](#) ^[3], the son of William and Ann Person, was born in Surry County, Va. When he was a small child, he moved with his parents to North Carolina and spent his life in [Granville](#) ^[4] (later [Bute](#) ^[5] and now [Warren](#) ^[6]) County. Among his large landholdings were six grants from [Earl Granville](#) ^[7].

William Person succeeded his brother, [Benjamin](#) ^[8], on 16 Dec. 1771 as representative of [Bute County](#) ^[5] in the colonial Assembly and was reelected for three successive sessions, serving until 1774. He then became a member of the first four [Provincial congresses](#) ^[3], which held sessions at New Bern in 1774 and 1775, at Hillsborough in 1775, and at [Halifax](#) in 1776 ^[9]. In the latter body he held a variety of committee posts. In addition, he was a [justice](#) ^[10] of the Bute County Court.

On 2 Sept. 1759 in Granville County he married Martha Eaton (b. 1742), the daughter of Colonel William and Martha Rives Eaton. Their children were Sarah (b. 30 July 1760, m. William Vaughan), Martha (b. 19 Jan. 1763, m. William Johnson), William (19 July 1765–1857, m. Elizabeth Holman), Thomas (b. 17 Feb. 1768), Mary (b. 15 Dec. 1771, m. one Williams), and Benjamin Eaton (b. 5 Mar. 1774). Person died in Bute County.

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