

Spinster }
Escheat } Rider P.O. - Balto. Co.
July 26 1964

My dear Mr. Emory:

I can give you only my opinion on your questions.

1. "Spinster" originally meant a woman who spins, whether married or single. The termination -ster marked the feminine, as "webbe, a weaver, webster a female weaver. In this original sense you find it in *Piers Plowman* and *Shakespeare*. I think it was late in the 17th century that it came to mean an unmarried woman whether she did any spinning or not. I doubt much if it was ever used with the original meaning in the 18th century. I should infer that the woman you refer to used it ignorantly for a woman who had no husband - was not under "covert-baron", at the time of making her will. I see no reason why she should hesitate to call herself "widow."

2. Lands might escheat to the Proprietary upon failure of heirs, upon long continued failure to pay quit-rents, upon conviction of treason against the Proprietary, and other causes.

I should understand that the holder, for