by his privity or Consent to or with the said Mary Keene in the presence of the Witnesses to the said last Will, and this Respondent saith, that the said Mary was of perfect and sound disposing mind and memory and at the time of her Executing her said last Will as aforesaid and so continued to be till the time of her Death which happened about Eight or ten hours afterwards. And this Respondent absolutely denies that the said Mary after the Execution of her said Will ever said she desired to have the same (altered) as this Respondent ever heard from any Person whatsoever) as in the Libell is untruly set forth. Without That, that there is any other matter or thing in the Libellants said Libell contained material or Effectual to be answered to and not herein before well and sufficiently answered unto Confessed or avoided traversed or Denied is true. all which matters and things this Respondent is ready Ave maintain and prove as this Honourable Court shall award and humbly prays to be hence dismissed with his reasonable costs and charges in this behalf most wrongfully Sustained ——

Dorsey

Sworn to by Zebulon Keene the Respondent before me this 14th. July 1750

Dulany Clerk

The Will Referred to in (& which is made part of) the aforegoing Answer is as follows

In the name of God Amen the Twenty fifth day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and forty Nine I Mary Keene of Dorchester County and in the province of Maryland Gentle Woman being Sick and weak of body but of perfect mind and sound memory, thanks be given unto God therefore calling to mind the mortality of all Mens Bodies and knowing that it is apointed for all Men once to die do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament that is to say principally and first of all I give and Recommend my Sole into the hand of God that gave it and for my body I bequeath to the Earth from whence it was taken to be buried in a Decent Christian like manner as my Executor hear after named shall think fitt nothing Doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty Power of God

and as touching such Worldly Estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this Life I Give Devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form as followeth Viz.

First of all I ~~make~~ make and ordain my dear and loving Brother in Law Zebulun Keene my whole and Sole Executor —

Item I Give and bequeath unto my dear and loving brother in Law Zebulun Keene one Negro Man named Frank to the Said Zebulun Keene and his Heirs till my Gran Sun Henry Keene cums to the Ears of Twenty one and then to be delivered to him the said Henry Keene to have the proper wright in case the Negro lives, but if he dies the loss to be my Gran Sons

Item I give and bequeath unto my dear and loving Brother in Law Zebulun Keene and his Heirs one Negro Woman named Hannah till my Grandaughter Molle Keene comes to the age of Sixteen and then to be delivered to her the said Molle Keene to have the proper wright in case the Negro lives but if she dies the loss to be my Grandaughters —

Item I Give and bequeath unto my dear and loveing Brother in Law Zebulun Keene and his Heirs one Negro Girl named Rose till that Child my Daughter in Law now goes with comes to age if it be a Son to the age of Twenty one and if it be a Daughter at the age of Sixteen to be delivered to him or her in Case the Negroe lives but if she dies the loss to be my Gran Childs

Item I Give and bequeath unto my dear and loveing Grandaughter Mollie Keene one Silk Goun and one Silk Apron and one pair Silver Shu buckles

Item I Give and bequeath unto my dear and loving Couzon Mary Martain all the rest of my Wairing apaill —

Item I Give and bequeath unto my dear and loving Son William Keene all the rest of my moveable Estate as Witness my hand and Seal

Signed Sealed and delivered in the presents

Witness Thomas Murphey

Richard his R mark Gadd

Thomas his + mark Woollin

Mary her + mark Keene (Seal)

And Citations having issued at the instance of the Libellants Procurator for William Traverse, Edward Woollin, Richard Gadd, Henry Traverse, and Innalls Hooper of Dorchester County to Testify for the said Libellant. Returnable to this Court — The Sheriff of Dorchester County aforesaid