On the 21st. Day of September 1771 Came Joseph Wood George Dickson and Michael Trisler the three Subscribing Witnesses to the aforegoing Will and made Oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that they did see the Testator Arthur Charlton Sign and Seal the Said Will and heard him publish pronounce and declare the Same to be his Last Will and Testament and that at the Time of his so doing he was to the best of of their Apprehension of a Sound and disposing mind and Memory and that they Severally Subscribed their names as Witnesses to the Said Will in the presence of the Testator and in the presence of each other —

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In Name of God Amen I John Retter of Frederick County and Province of Maryland Yeoman being very weak in Body but of perfect mind and Memory calling into mind & knowing the Mortalety of my Body & knowing that it is appointed for all Men once to die & first of all I Recommend my Soul into the Hands of Almighty God that gave it hopeing at ye. Resurrection he will receive the same & my Body I recommend to ye. Earth to be buried in a decent manner at ye. Discretion of my Executors and as touching Such Worldly Affairs as it hath pleased God to endue me with I give and dispose of the Same in the following Manner &c. First of all I give and Bequeath to Margret my Dear beloved Wife fifty Acres of Land with my Dwelling House during her Life if she continueth a Widow but if she should Marry the ye. said Land to be equally divided between my Son John and Abraham and likewise after her Decease to be devided as beforementioned I likewise give and bequeath to my beloved Son Conrod fifty Acres of Land to be taken out of the Tract where he now lives and then the remainder of the Lands to be Equally devided between my above mentioned two Sons John & Abraham I likewise give to beloved Daughter Ealse my Case of Drawers, I likewise give to my Sons John and Abraham my Waggon & four Horses when they shall arive at their full Age. I likewise give to my beloved Wife one Black pacing Mare and the thirds of all my Moveable Effects and I likewise make and ordain my beloved Wife my hole Executrix & after She hath got her thirds & all Charges Legacys Debts and funeral Expences paid then the Remainder of the Moveable Effects to be equally devided amongst all my Children In Witness where of I do hereby make Constitute and Ordain ye. my last Will & Testament Disannuling Revokeing & disallowing all other Wills Testaments in any manner by me before bequeathed In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this Seventh Day of September and in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Seven hundred and Siaty One —

(Signed)

Signed Seald pronounced & Declared as my John Retter last Will and Testament in the presents of us
John his ✗ mark Wolarigh
George his KR mark Rasner
William Postlethwait

John his R mark Retter (Seal)

On the back of the aforegoing Will was thus written Viz:

On the 25th. day of September 1771 Came John Walrey and Solemnly Affirmed, and at the same time came George Rasner and made Oath that they saw the Testator John Recter Sign and Seal the within Will and heard him publish pronounce and declare the same to be his Last Will and Testament and that at the time of his so doing he was to the best of their Apprehension of a Sound and disposing mind and Memory and that they Severally Subscribed their names as Witnesses to the said Will in the presence of the said Testator and in the presence of each other, and that they also saw William Postlethwaite the other Subscribing Witness Sign his name thereto in presence of the Testator, —

6 fols. Examined — Sworn before J Bowles Dy Comty

In the Name of God Amen, The second Day of September in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy one I Benjamin Perry of Frederick County in the Province of Maryland, being very Sick and weak in Body, but of perfect mind and Memory thanks be given unto God therefore, calling unto mind the Mortallity of my Body and knowing that it is appointed 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 Soul into the Hands of God that gave it, and for my Body, I Recommend it to the Earth, to be Buried in a Christian like and decent manner, at the discretion of my Executors, 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 wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this Life, I give, devise & dispose of the same in the following manner & form. Imprimis, It is my Will, and I do order, that in the first place, all my just Debts and Funeral Charges be paid and Satisfied. Item, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my Dearly beloved Wife, the following Negroes during the time of her living my Widow Viz: Goolah, Molt, London, Harry, Charles and Clare, and then to be divided as I shall hereafter direct. Item, I likewise give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my Dearly beloved Wife, all the Increase of Children that shall hereafter arise from the aforesaid two Negro Women Molt & Clare during the time of her living my Widow, likewise all my Household Furnitures except what shall be hereafter bequeathed, and my working Utensils belonging to my dwelling Plantation, to her her Heirs and Assigns for ever. Item, I give and bequeath unto Alexander Clagett my beloved Son in Law, one of my Cotton Velvet Jackotts. Item, I give and bequeath unto Clement Boalle my beloved Son in Law, one of my Cotton Velvet Jackotts. Item, I give and bequeath unto Erasmus my Dearly beloved Son the following Negroes Viz: Bambo, Mark, Sawny, Tan, Simon and Ned, likewise one Old Desk, and old Chest of Drawers, my best Table, one Seal skin Trunk, one Cart half

(a)