up of my son William Pratt & that he should live with her untill he shall be of the age of twenty one years & that my said wife should have the Possession of my Dwelling Plantation untill my aforesaid son William shall arrive to the age aforesaid. Item all the Remainder of my Personal Estate after paying my just & lawfull Debts & the above Legacies, I give & bequeath to be equally devided among my children. And I do hereby nominate & appoint my beloved wife Elizabeth Pratt Executrix of this my last will & Testament hereby revoking all former wills and wills by me heretofore made. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & affixed my seal this 21st day of November Anno Domini 1770

Signed Sealed published & declared by the above named John Pratt as & for his last will & Testament in the Presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our Names as Witnesses thereto in the Presence of the said Testator & in the Presence of each other (my & that interlined) — John Pratt (Seal)

Rich.d Hall
Richard Weeks
John Merton

The Deposition of Richard Hall one of the subscribing Evidences to the Paper purporting to be the last will & Testament of John Pratt late of Queen Anne's County deceased, who being duly sworn doth depose and say that on the same day John Pratt died he this Deponent was sent for to the House of the said deceased, as he imagines in order to be a Witness to the will that he saw the deceased sign & seal the paper now produced and heard him Deliver the same and publish it as his last will & Testament, to which at his Request he signed his name as an Evidence, in the Presence of the Testator and also saw Rich. Weeks and John Merton the other two Subscribing Evidences sign the same in the presence of the Testator. And being asked if he thought the deceased was of a sound & disposing mind at the Time of Executing the said will, says he thought he was not, & for Reasons thereof says that the Testator when about to sign his will made the Letter P. instead of an S. at two different Times, which were obliged to be erased, but that afterward he wrote his name, as it now stand in the said will — thats when the deceased had made the P. he corrected himself saying, "what have I been about I made a P instead of an S. — I am but a bad writer at best, but I have now made a worse hand of it than ever" and being asked whether he had any other Matter to alledge to prove the Insanity of the Testator, says he hath not and further saith not —

Rich.d Hall

sworn to in Court march 13th 1771 } Test. Elie Vallette Regr.

The Deposition of Richard Weeks one of the subscribing Evidences to a paper purporting to be the last will & Testament of John Pratt late of Queen Anne's County deceased being duly sworn deposeth & saith, that on or about wednesday the 21st day of November 1770 he was sent for to sign the will of said John Pratt, on which he went to the house of said John Pratt & at the Request of the Testator signed the will, that previous to signing his name he this Deponent asked the deceased if he was sensible of what had been done (meaning the writing of the will) to which he answered that he was. This Deponent further says that he saw him sign & seal & heard the Testator publish (and)

and acknowledge the said writing as and for his last will & Testament and that he hath no reason to induce him to believe the Deceased not to have been of sound & perfect mind at the Time he signed and Executed the said will but believes that he was perfectly in his senses at that Time, he further saith that he also saw Rich.d Hall and John Merton, the other two subscribing Evidences sign their Names as Witnesses thereto in the Presence of the Testator — This Deponent further saith that after the will was Executed some one of the standers by inquired for wafers or sealing wax, to inclose the said will but none being in the House, the deceased said give it to me I can put it where it will be safe, on which he got up from the Chair on which he was sitting, took the Key of the Desk out of the Fob Pock of his Breeches opened the Desk with it & put the will in the Desk but on endeavouring to lock the Desk finding some Resistance Mr. Ruth stepped forward and locked the Desk, he further says that the above Resistance was occasioned by the Brim of a hat being between the Lid & the Desk. He also saith that after the Desk was shut the Testator took notice of a Key which was in one of the Drawers of the Desk & told Mr. Ruth that some one of his Family had forced the Lock & spoiled it, and Mr. Ruth answering that if his Smith had it he could mend it, the deceased answered, he believed he might. He further saith that being a near Neighbour of the deceased, he was very frequent at the House of the deceased, and from the Time he fell sick seldom failed to see him every Day. This Deponent further saith, that to the best of his Knowledge & Remembrance before the was signed asked John Merton (one of the Persons now signed as a Witness to the Will) whether he thought that the deceased was in his proper senses, and the said John Merton answered he thought he was. — and further saith not

Richard Weeks

sworn to in Court 13th March 1771 } Test Elie Vallette Regr

Prerogative Office to wit the 12th March 1771 — The Deposition of John Merton one of the subscribing Evidences to the Instrument of writing purporting to be the last will & Testament of John Pratt late of Queen Anne's County deceased who being duly sworn doth depose & say that some time in October or November 1770 he was sent for to write the will of said John Pratt, that on his coming in the yard he was met by Mr. Chr. Cops Ruth who told him that the said John Pratt was very uneasy & thought that he this Deponent was a long while a coming & desired him to goin which this Deponent did, and then & there wrote the said will, by the Verbal Directions of the Testator, that on this Deponent's coming into the room the deceased seemed to be very low & had a wild Look but that he gave the directions for writing the will very distinctly, he further says that having finished the will he this Deponent read it to the Deceased 2 or 3 Times and asked him if the Disposition therein were made to his approbation, to which he answered yes; & this Deponent being asked whether the Testator was of sane memory, says he thought he was not, and for Reason thereof says that when the Testator was about signing the will he made the Initial Letter P of his Surname instead of his Christian name which this Deponent erased with his Knife on which the Testator endeavouring to write his name again made P for the second Time & recollecting himself said that he was but an indifferent writer at any Time, but that he had made a very bad hand of it now, the deceased wife being then in the room advised that some

(one)