In Testimony whereof I do hereby set my hand and Seal affix this 25th day of November Anno Dominii 1705. James Rowns Seal — Signed Sealed publiished pronounced and declared this to be my last Will and Testament revoking all other Will or Wills heretofore by me made — Samuel Piles — Eli Campbell — Nath. Ho. Murray —

Annexed to the aforegoing Will was thus written Viz.t

Maryland ss. **Henry Harford Esquire** absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Province of Maryland.

To Benjamin Chew and James Tilghman Esquires and to Doctor Thomas Bond of the City of Philadelphia **Greeting**

Whereas a Petition hath been preferred to our Commissary General and Judge for probate of Wills &c. within this our Province of Maryland, setting forth that James Rowns late of Worcester County deceased, when in life only made and executed his last Will and Testament in writing in the presence of 3 Witnesses who signed their names as Evidences thereto that two of those Evidences died in the life of the deceased James Rowns and that Samuel Piles the only surviving Witness is a resident of the City of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania and as such not amenable to our Prerogative Court by any process Issuable out of said Court. and therefore praying a Commission to issue to one or more Commissioners residents of the City of Philadelphia to Examine the said Samuel Piles on Oath and to take his Deposition in writing as a probate to said Will **We do** therefore hereby Authorize you the said Benjamin Chew James Tilghman and Thomas Bond or any two or one of you to take the probate of the said James Rowns his Will (which said Will is annexed to this Commission) by the Oath of said Samuel Piles in the manner and form as expressed on the back of this our Commission Nevertheless should the said Samuel Piles object to any part of the precise words expressed in that probate you are to take his Deposition in his own words and when you have so done You are to certify the same upon the return of this Commission and send the same with this our Commission thereunder your hands and Seals with all convenient speed to us in our Prerogative Court

Witness **William Fitzhugh** Esquire our Commissary General and Judge for probate of Wills &c. this 13th day of May Anno Dominii 1774

Test Eli Vallette Reg. Cur. Pro.

Probate to be taken by Samuel Piles the Surviving Evidence to the Will of James Rowns —

"You make Oath that you saw James Rowns the Testator whose name is signed "to this Will sign and Seal the same Will and that you heard him publish pronounce "and Declare the same to be his last Will and Testament that at the time of his so doing "he was to the best of your apprehension of a sound and Disposing mind memory and "understanding and that you together with Eli Campbell and Nath.l Hopkins Murray "that two other persons whose names are Subscribed as Witnesses thereto Subscribed

"your names as Evidences to the execution thereof in the presence and at the request of the Testator and in the "presence of each other"

So help you God Samuel Piles

Taken and Sworn at Philadelphia the thirty first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy four — before me Benjamin Chew

The Execution of this Commission appears by the above endorsement on the back of the said Commission

Witness my hand and Seal at Philadelphia the thirty first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy four —

Benjamin Chew Seal

In the name of God Amen I

Benjamin Ricaud of Kent County in the Province of Maryland being in a low state of health but of sound and perfect knowledge mind and memory do make this my last Will and Testament and first of all I resign my Soul into the hands of God that gave it hoping he will pardon my sins and receive it thro' the merits of my blessed Saviour Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in a christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my Executor hereafter named and as to what worldly Estate it hath pleased God to bestow on me I give devise and Dispose of the same in manner and form ffollowing Viz.t 1st I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Worrell one negroe fellow named Sampson one feather bed and furniture one heifers two years old and no more of my Estate 2dly I give and bequeath to John Matthison my son in law the use and service of one negro boy named Tom untill my grandson Richard Matthison shall arrive at the age of eighteen years at which age (if he arrives thereto) I give the aforesd negro to my grandson aforesd and if he should not arrive to that age I give the said negro to my grandson Benjamin Matthison to be enjoyed at the time aforesd 3dly I give and bequeath to my daughter Martha Matthison one negro woman named Jenny one feather bed and furniture and one heifer and no more of my Estate 4thly I give and bequeath to my grandson Richard Blackston one negro girl named Sall to remain in his mothers possession and service till he arrives at the age of eighteen and if my said grandson dies before that age I give and bequeath the said negro girl to my daughter Rachel Bradshia — 5thly I give and bequeath to my daughter Rachel Bradshia one negro fellow named Sam one feather bed and furniture and one heifer I also give to my said daughter Rachel my riding chair and my roan horse Surly that draws the same and no more of my Estate 6thly I give and bequeath to my son Richard Ricaud all the remainder and residue of my personal Estate whatever and if please God I die after the middle of March in any year my Will is that my son shall have the service of all the negroes to the end of that year 7thly My Will is that my son Richard shall have his choice of the first best bed and furniture and my daughters to draw Lots for their choices of the next best one apiece 8thly I Constitute and Appoint my son Richard Ricaud whole and sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament and Lastly I make ordain and confirm this and no other to be my last Will and Testament as Witness my hand