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Robert Cole's Will, 1662

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In the name of God amen the Second day of Aprill in the yeare of Our Lord 1662 I Robert Cole of St Clements Bay in the Province of Maryland Yeaman being in Good health and perfect memory praise bee Given to God for the Same and being desirous to settle thinges doe make this my last will & testament in manner and forme following.

That is to say, first and principally I comend my Soule to Almighty God my Creator and my Body to the Earth from whence it was taken and touching such worldly Estate as the lord in mercy hath lent my will and meaning is the same shall be imployed and bestowed as hereafter by this my will is Expressed, and first I doe revoke renounce frustrate and make voyd all wills by mee formerly made and declare & appointe this my Last will and Testament after my death Certainly knowne.

1. Item I give and bequeath to my honored friend Mr Francis Fitzherbert or his Successor the best hogshead of tobaccoe of my Crop and the best Steere of my Stock in Testimony that I dye a Roman Cathelicke and desire the prayers of the holy Church.

2. Item I give and bequeath unto my Loving Sonn in Law Francis Knott the eighth part of all my Cattle when hee doth attaine the age of eighteen yeares but in Case he should dye before that time then my will is that his Sister Ann Harinton shall have one halfe of the Eighth part and my owne Children the other halfe but in Case Ann Harinton be dead before Francis come to that age and Leave no issue that then my Children shall have the whole gift equally amongst them.

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3. Item I give and bequeath unto my sonn Robert Cole my Daughter Mary Cole my sonn William Cole my sonn Edward my daughter Elizabeth Cole all the rest of my Cattle to bee equally shared amongst them as each of them to the age of Eighteene yeares that is to say when my Sonn Robert comes to that age hee shall the fift part of my Cattle taken from the rest and knowne to bee his and so forth till the two youngest com to the same age as aforesaid.