Will of James Rampley 3 July 1812 (proved[[1]](#footnote-1) 30 September 1817)

In the name of God Amen. I James RAMPLEY Senr. of Harford County in the State of Maryland being weak in body but of sound and disposing mind Considering the Certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof and being desirous to settle my worldly affairs and thereby be unincubered[sic] with the affairs of this world when it shall please God to call me hence do therefore make and publish this my last Will and Testament revoking all others in manner and form following that is to say.

First and principally I commit my soul into the hands of almighty God and my body to the Earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named and after my debts and funeral Expences are paid I devise and bequeath as follows.

to my dearly beloved wife Sarah RAMPLEY I give and bequeath one third of the tract of land whereon I now reside called GRAYs Choice together with one third of a lot of Land I purchased from Benjamin MORTON supposed to contain about fifty nine Acres more or less during her Natural life then to be as hereafter disposed of also I give and bequeath to my wife one Negro woman named Dinah one bed bedstead and furniture and case of drawers one fawling[sic] leaf walnut table one small square pine table to be at her disposal

I also give to my wife the use of two horses one called durjing[sic] and the other [parman?] and three Milk Cows and the use of one third of all my farming utensils and house and kitchen furniture during her natural life then to descend to my son James RAMPLEY to enable him to defray expences[sic] and pay pay[sic] debts.

I give and bequeath to my son William RAMPLEY the plantation whereon he now lives being part of a tract of land called RAMPLEYs venture a tract called poverty hills and a tract called Peaceable Mountains also part of a tract of Land called Expense[sic] which has been already conveyed to him, in the whole supposed to contain about one hundred and fifty acres more or Less all of which I give to my son William RAMPLEY her[sic] heirs and assigns forever.

I give and bequeath unto all the surviving children of my daughter Nancy BEATY at her decease sixty acres of Land adjoining Benjamin BRINDLE and John GLADDEN it being part of a tract of Land called RAMPLEY's Venture to them their heirs and assigns forever reserving the use and occupation thereof during the natural life of my said daughter Nancy BEATY to my son James RAMPLEY to take care of as Trustee for the maintainence[sic] of my said daughter Nancy and her Children until the decease of my said daughter Nancy BEATY my Son in law John BEATY to have no claim Right or title to said Land or the profits thereof

Whereas I have put my son in Law John GLADDEN in possession of fifty acres of Land which I intended for the benefit of his two children James and Sarah GLADDEN I give him the said John the use and occupation of the same during his natural life but in case that my said son in law should think it an advantage to dispose of the same I give him liberty to sell, and do hereby authorise[sic] him to give by deed of conveyance a good and sufficient title in fee Simple for the Same Land and premises, but he shall before he make any sale thereof give security to the Justices of Harford County orphans Court which the court will aprove[sic] of that he will well and truly pay over the said money or secure the payment of the proceeds of the Sale to the before mentioned James and Sarah Children of John GLADDEN and my daughter Elizabeth GLADDEN and after the sale is made it shall not stand good unless the Said Court shall approve thereof But in case the said John GLADDEN should not Sell the above mentioned land or if he should sell and the orphans Court not agree to the sale I give and bequeath the said fifty acres of Land being part of a tract called RAMPLEY's Venture unto James GLADDEN and Sarah GLADDEN my two Grandchildren their heirs and assigns forever.

Whereas I have sold unto Thomas AYRES Sr. one hundred and sixty three Acres three quarters and twenty Six perches of Land part of RAMPLEY's Venture at eight dollars per acres payable in five annual Instalments[sic] form[sic] the eighteenth day of March last and received two hundred dollars and am to receive one hundred dollars more in hand agreeable to contract And my will and desire is that my three daughters Sarah SPARKS, Mary HUTCHINS and Jemima ELLIOT shall receive an equal portion of the money due from Thomas AYRES Senr. until they receive three hundred dollars Each to be paid unto them as soon as received from said AYRES but in case the Said AYRES should refuse or neglect to comply with said contract I then give unto my said daugters[sic] Sarah SPARKS, Mary HUTCHENS[sic] and Jemima ELLIOTT fifty acres Each of the before mentioned land that was agreed to be sold to the said Thomas AYRES the said land to be laid of and divided by lot to them their Heirs and assigns forever. I give and bequeath the Remainder of the said tract supposed to contain about thirteen Acres and three fourths unto my son Thomas Johnson RAMPLEY his heirs and assigns forever to laid of adjoining the land of William GIBSON and Thomas MONTGOMERY but in case Thomas Senr. Complys with his contract this devise to be void.

I also give to my [sic] Thomas John[sic] RAMPLEY my mill and Land that I purchased of Henry MYRES that he now occupies to him his heirs and assigns forever. I further give him one Hundred dollars to Enable him to rebuild his mill to be paid unto him by his two brothers William and James RAMPLEY that is to say fifty dollars each to be paid out of their parts allotted unto them.

I give and bequeath unto my son James RAMPLEY all my part of that Land where I now live called CRAIGHs Choice and also all that land I purchased from Benjamin MORTON containing about sixty acres to him and his heirs and assigns forever Reserving my wifes right of dower but in Case my son James RAMPLEY should die Leaving no lawfull Issue then I leave and bequeath said mentioned land called CREAGHs[sic] Choice and the land I purchased of Benjamin MORTON to be Equally divided between all my children.

I further give and bequeath unto my daughter Sarah SPARKS one Negro girl named Sukey. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary HUTCHINS one Mulatto girl named Press my wife to have the use of her during her Natural life.

I give and bequeath unto my son James RAMPLEY one Negro boy named George, but my wife to have the use and Service of him during her Natural life.

I give and bequeath unto my granddaughter Sarah BEATY one bed bedstead and furniture that she mow lays on one new spinning wheel and squeare[sic] Cherry tree table no drawer in it also one heifer named Barbara one new side saddle.

I further give and bequeath to my son James RAMPLEY all my Estate not otherwise disposed of and also oblige him to pay all my outstanding debts.

I further will and desire that my Executors hereinafter named or Either of them be and is hereby authorised[sic] to give good and sufficient titles in fee simple for all lands heretofore sold by me.

And further my Express will and meaning is and I do hereby order and appoint that if any difference dispute question of Controversy shall be moved arise or happen concerning any gift bequest[sic] or other matter or thing in this my will given and bequeathed Expressed or contained that then no suit or suits in law or Equity or otherwise shall be brought or commenced or prosecuted for and concerning the same but the same shall be referred wholy[sic] to the award order and determination of my friends Andrew TURNER Jesse JARRET and William R. GILLES and what they or any two of them or the survivors of them shall order direct and determine therein shall be biding[sic] and conclusive to all every person or persons who are concerned or have or benefit in or by this my last will.

And Lastly I do hereby constitue[sic] and appoint my sons William &;James RAMPLEY Executors of this my last Will and Testament ratifying and Confirming this to be my last will and Testament.

In testimony whereof I have unto set my hand and affixed my seal this third day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve

James RAMPLEY (SEAL)

Signed sealed published and declared by)

James RAMPLEY, Senr. the above named Testa-)

tor as and for his last will and Testament)

in the presence of us who at his request)

in his presence and in the presence of each)

other have subscribed our Names as witnesses)

thereto

William R. GILLES, Jesse JARRETT, Andrw. TURNER.

Harford County SS the 30th day of Sept. 1817 then came James RAMPLEY and William RAMPLEY the executors named in the foregoing Instrument of writing who produced the same and severally made oath on the holy evangels of almighty God that they found the same among the papers of James RAMPLEY late of Harford County deceased and that it is the true and whole last will and Testament of the said deceased that came to their hands &;possession and that they do not know of any other.

Certified by Saml. RICHARDSON RWHCy.

Harford County SS the 30th day of September 1817 then came Jesse JARRETT and Andrew TURNER two of the subscribing witnesses to the within &;foregoing last will and Testament of James RAMPLEY late of Harford County Deceased and made oath on the hole evangels of almighty God that they did See the Testator, therein named sign and seal this will that they heard him publish pronounce and delcare the same to be his last will and Testament that at the time of his so doing he was to the best of their apprehension of Sound and disposing mind memory and understanding and that they severally subscribed their names as witnesses to this in the presence and at the request of the Testator and in the presence of William R GILLES the other Subscribing Witness who sign [sic] his name as a witness at the same[sic] in the presence and at the request of the Testator and in the presence of each other.

Exd. by S.R. Certified by Saml. RICHARDSON RWHCy

1. Probate: in order to “prove” a will, and thereby establish legally its validity, the executors named in it would appear in court and exhibit the will. They would then enter into a bond concerning the administration of the goods contained within the will. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)