Thomas Norris of Thos. Sarah Norris & Mary Norris all personally appeared before the Subscriber one of the Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid & acknowledged the within Instrument of writing to be their act & Deed according to Law acknowledged before

Recorded 16 December 1799 — Jos. Dorsey

Richard Merriken to Sundry Negroes — Maryland Set Know all Men by these presents that I Richard Merriken of Ann Arundell County and State aforesaid believing that it is improper to hold Negroes in perpetual Slavery and that freedom is the unalienable right of every person these and other Considerations have induced me to manumit and forever Discharge and set free and I do for myself my heirs & assigns hereby manumit and forever Discharge and set free the following Negroes to wit, one Negro Woman named Hannah and a Negro Girl her Daughter the Woman aged thirty nine and the Girl aged two years the aforesaid Negroes to be set free and have their full Discharge and Liberty from the day of the date hereof In Witness whereof I the said Richard Merriken have hereunto set my hand & affixed my Seal this 31 day of December Seventeen hundred & Ninety nine

Signed Sealed & Delivered in the presence of
Brice J Worthington
Rd. Hanwood of Thos.

Richard Merriken (Seal)

On the back of the aforegoing was thus endorsed Nov. Ann Arundell County to wit, on the day & year above written