

At a SESSION of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
of *MARYLAND*, begun and held at the City of  
ANNAPOLIS, on Monday the fifth of November, in the  
year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-  
one, the following LAWS were enacted.

C H A P. I.

An ACT for the relief of Mary Polton.

**W**HEREAS Joseph Watson, late of Anne-Arundel county, Preamble.  
did, on or about the twenty-ninth day of March, in the  
year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-  
nine, make and execute, under his hand and seal, a certain instrument  
of writing, purporting to be his last will and testament, in the presence  
of Philemon Warfield and Gilbert Yealdhall, who, at his request,  
signed their names as witnesses thereto; by which said instrument of  
writing the said Joseph Watson declared, that he thereby devised unto  
a certain Mary Polton, daughter to his late dear wife Mary Watson,  
all that tract or parcel of land called Jones's Fancy, where he then  
lived, agreeable to its metes and bounds, as expressed by patent, with  
all and singular the premises and appurtenances thereunto belonging;  
also all that part of a tract of land called Winkopin Neck, lying on the  
north side of the north branch of Patuxent river, which was then in  
his possession, agreeable to its metes and bounds, as expressed in a deed  
to him from Elizabeth Ridgely and John Ducker, with all and singu-  
lar the premises and appurtenances thereunto belonging; also one other  
part of the above mentioned tract of land called Winkopin Neck, lying  
in the fork of the aforesaid north branch of Patuxent river, and then in  
his possession, agreeable to its metes and bounds, as expressed also in a  
deed to him from the said Elizabeth Ridgely and John Ducker; all  
which said several tracts or parcels of land above mentioned the said  
Joseph Watson did, by the said instrument of writing, declare, that he  
willed and bequeathed, with their several premises and appurtenances  
thereunto belonging, unto the said Mary Polton, in fee simple, to her  
and her heirs for ever, and all other his real and personal proper-  
ty to her, the said Mary Polton, and her heirs for ever: And whereas  
the said Joseph Watson died without heirs, and a certain Gideon Ga-  
rey, son to the said Mary Polton, having applied for the right of pre-  
emption of the real estate of the said Joseph Watson, under the pretext  
that the same is become escheat to the state, the said instrument of  
writing not being executed according to the statute of frauds and per-  
juries; and it appearing to this general assembly, that the aforesaid Jo-  
seph Watson had, at sundry times before executing the same, expressed  
his intention to dispose of all his estate in favour of the said Mary Pol-  
ton and her heirs, and had also, at sundry times subsequent to the ex-  
ecution thereof, expressed his satisfaction at having made such disposi-  
tion; and it likewise appearing, that the reason why the said instru-  
ment of writing was executed in the presence of two witnesses only,  
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