

Copy of what I wrote 14 Dec<sup>r</sup>  
1749

Madam

I would have wrote Long before now  
which I delayed in hopes of giving you an Account of  
the Unappropriated Lands being Sold: But upon my  
being in The Jerseys in October Last, the third tedious  
and Expensive Journey. I have been obliged to make  
about my Brothers affairs, I found that the Decree  
Dative gives you power to dispose of only the Moveable  
& personal Estate, but not to Sell any part of the Real  
& heritable Estate, which belongs to the heirs; Unless you have  
a power so to do by your Husbonds Will; which if you  
have, An attested copy of it must be Sent to me; Otherwise  
these Lands must remain As they are, till the heirs are of Age  
to dispose of them; which upon further enquiry I found  
to be of very Small Value. The most considerable & certain  
part of Captain Riddell's Real interest in Jerseys being the  
Land already sold, W<sup>ch</sup> was appropriated i.e. actually Sur-  
veyed, taken up & possessed by his Father Mr Archibald  
Riddell & himself, or his Attorney in his Name & for his behoof  
The Unappropriated Lands being what remain Not  
appropriated, as above, of a right of propriety he had to  $\frac{1}{480}$  pt  
of East New Jersey - The method of making the Appropria-  
tion being this - When Vacant Lands are found not occupied  
& possessed, or not upon a good title, A division of them is made  
by the Council of proprietors, in proportion to every Ones share  
of propriety; upon which Warrants of Survey are issued to  
the Surveyor General for every Ones Share, distinguishing the  
qualities of what they call good Land & pine Land [i.e.  
Barren Land, upon which no Timber but pines grow] such  
being of very Little value, as they are capable of no improvement  
Either for grain or pasture - For these unappropriated Lands  
I find among your papers Only two Warrants of Survey,  
One in the year 1737 for 179 Acres of good Land; The other  
in 1741. for 100 Acres of pine Land, but no Survey yet made,  
and when Another Dividend will be, No Body can tell, The  
present disputes about Lands & possessions being likely to throw  
that province into great & long confusions, without the inter-  
position of the King & parliament which is now in Soli-  
-citation; So that could You Sell it were best to have No more  
to do with it -

At to



As to the Title deeds, an Inventory of them would be too tedious for a Letter, and of no use to you; They ought to remain with your Attorney here, till the Unappropriated Lands are Sold, and then be delivered to the last purchaser

As to my Brother's affairs, I expect every day to hear that our Landlord has released us; by which I shall have a nearer prospect of paying the debt due to you; But as that Unlucky Lease and Partnership he was Engaged in, has thrown almost all his estate into outstanding debts, it will take time to get them in; and a considerable Loss also be sustained upon them; For I would now give any Man 250<sup>l</sup> Sterling of them, to insure the rest. However I am morally certain there will be more of his Estate recovered than will pay his debts; and you & I both must have a little longer patience in a case that admits of no other remedy. I can only assure you that I shall act honourably & honestly in all that concerns you, and as diligently as my distance, and being obliged to employ others in it will permit. But as to my distance, I must now inform you, that I have changed my Situation, and am settled in MARY LAND, by which I am some what nearer to FERRY - and therefore your direction for me must now be To - Rector of St. Ann's at Annapolis, in Mary-Land. But you must find some other person at London to forward your Letters to me - Or you may more easily get them sent from New port - Glasgow from whence many Vessels come yearly in the Spring & fall to this place, or some other part of the province. I have presumed to trouble you with the Envelope, and beg it may be immediately delivered - I AM

Annapolis  
12<sup>th</sup> Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 50

Madam Your faithful friend and  
Humble servant

Alex<sup>r</sup> Malcolm



Copy  
W. Alex<sup>r</sup> McColm<sup>r</sup>  
Annapolis 14<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>  
1749

