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 hereafter named, and such Worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this Life, I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner.

Item I have given to all of my Children that are married all that I intend untill after my Death. Abraham & Richard Shekell, Rebecca Magruder, Mary Ray, Susannah Ray, & Deborah Dowley

Item I give and bequeath unto my son Francis Shekell two Negro Boys, named Wappin & Cesar and one Feather Bed.

Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth Basford two Negro Girls named Rachel and Jenny, one feather bed & one side Saddle

Item It is my desire that my three tracts of Land, Hard Bargain, Bear Ridge, & Sorry bargain containing about two hundred and seventy Acres and the remainder part of my negroes, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs household furniture and all my moveable Effects after paying my just Debts, to be equally divided amongst my eight Children above mentioned if they can agree without selling, if they cant all agree the remaining to be sold at Public Vendue & likewise its my desire that Isaac Simmons, son of Ab.m shall be from my son Richards request his trustee

Lastly I constitute and appoint my two Sons Abraham & Francis Shekell and my son in Law Benjamin Basford whole and sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament, revoking all other Wills by me made or said to be made In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this Seventeenth day of October One thousand Seven hundred and eighty three

Signed Sealed & Pronounced by the Testator to be his last Will and Testament in the presence of — } John Shekell (Seal)

Samuel Ward
Benj.a Carr
Sam.l Ward Junr.

A Codicil to be added to and be part of the last Will and Testament of John Shekell —

First of all I give and bequeath unto my son Richard Shekell the sum of

thirty Pounds in Gold or Silver, more than his equal part for his good behaviour to me, — and likewise I have given in my Will to my son Francis and daughter Elizabeth two Negroes each was for the good care of me

Also contrary to my desire in my last Will, That Francis Shekell and Benjamin Basford hold possess and enjoy my aforesaid three tracts of Land, Hard Bargain, Bear Ridge, and Sorry Bargain, for the term of twelve years without molestation of either or any of my other Children and also my son Francis & likewise Benjamin Basford to possess & hold the Dwelling House that I purchased of Isaac Simmons, and after the expiration of the above mentioned term of years to Act as my last Will directs. —

And the residue of my personal Estate after paying all my just and lawful debts and the Legacies in my said last Will and Testament and in this my Codicil. I appoint and Ordain to be equally divided and distributed to my eight Children, and I do also hereby declare that my said mentioned Will in Writing and this my Codicil which shall be added to and deemed part thereof do contain my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have to this Codicil set my hand and Seal this third day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and eighty three

Signed Sealed and published by the said John Shekell as and for a Codicil to be added to and be part of this his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who subscribed our names in his presence — } John Shekell (Seal)

Samuel Ward
John Franklin
Samuel Ward Junr.

Annexed to the aforegoing will and Codicil was the following Probate thereunto written viz.

Ann Arundel County S.t the 14.th November 1787

Then Came Abraham Shekell, Francis Shekell, and Benjamin Basford and generally made Oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God that the aforegoing Instrument of Writing is the true and whole Will and Testament and Codicil of John Shekell late of Ann Arundel County deceased that hath come to their hands or possession and that they do not know of any other

Certified by me

Johnson Junr. Reg Wills
for Ann Arundel County