and premises, whereof she died so seized descended to and upon her several children namely the said Joseph Griffith, one George Griffith, the said Sophia Griffith, the said Sarah Seward and the said Nancy Vincent as her heirs at law and legal representatives, of an undivided fourth part of which said lands & premises the said Joseph Griffith died seized in his demesne as of fee leaving the same subject to his debts. The said defendants further answer and say that Joseph Griffith the father of the said Joseph Griffith in the said bill of Complaint named was in his lifetime seized in his demesne as of fee of and in sundry lands and tenements lying and being in Dorchester County aforesaid with the appurtenances and died so seized; that the said Joseph Griffith the father before his death, to wit, on or about the sixth day of February in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and ninety two, at Dorchester County aforesaid made and executed his last Will and Testament in due form of law, sealed by him and attested by three credible Witnesses in his presence, whereby he devised & disposed of the said lands & premises whereof he died seized as aforesaid to and among his sundry children namely, the said Joseph Griffith in the said bill named, the said George Griffith the said Sophia Griffith the said Sarah Seward and the said Nancy Vincent in such manner and form and to such effect as in and by the said Will and testament may appear by reference to the same, and that the said Joseph Griffith the father departed this life without having in any manner altered or revoked his said Will & testament, and leaving the same in full force, to wit, at Dorchester County aforesaid. And these defendants further say, that after the death of the said Joseph Griffith, the father to wit, on or about the twenty first day of November, in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and ninety four, at the County aforesaid the said Will and testament was in due form exhibited, proved and enrolled among the records of the Orphans Court of Dorchester County aforesaid, an authenticated copy whereof is herewith filed as part of this answer and marked exhibit No. 1. to which your honours are referred. These defendants further state that the said Joseph Griffith the son died without issue never having had any issue, and believe and admit, that a portion of the lands & premises aforesaid, which belonged to the said Joseph Griffith the son as one of the heirs of his mother, upon his death descended to the said Sophia Griffith Sarah Seward and Nancy Vincent as heirs to him, but as they trust no other lands. These defendants further state, that the aforesaid George Griffith departed this life, on or about the 8th day of May in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fourteen, without issue never having had any. These defendants trust that they hold the aforesaid lands and premises whereof the said Joseph Griffith the father died seized as aforesaid, and mentioned in his said Will, under & by virtue of that Will, and not by descent from the said Joseph Griffith the son, and that therefore those lands are not liable for his debts - Wherefore they submit the construction and operation of the said Will to the consideration and decision of this honourable Court, under the existing laws of the Land and the proofs that have happened, without that, that there is any other matter or thing material & necessary for these defendants to make answer unto, and not herein and hereby well and sufficiently answered unto, confessed or avoided, traversed & denied is true. All which matters and things these defendants are ready to aver and prove, as this honourable Court shall direct and award and humbly pray to be hence dismissed with their reasonable Costs and charges in this behalf sustained - Thomas S. Buckey Solicitor for the Defts.

Dorchester County, to wit. Be it remembered that on the third day of April in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty two, at the County aforesaid, personally appear before me the subscriber one of the State of Maryland Justices of the peace in and for said County duly commissioned & sworn, John Griffith and Sophia his wife, John Seward and Sarah his wife and John Vincent and Nancy his wife, parties to the foregoing answer, and severally each for himself and herself make oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, that the several facts matters and things set forth in the said answer are true as therein stated to the best of their knowledge recollection and belief - Witness my hand. James B. Travers

Exhibit No. 1. whereof mention is made in the aforegoing answer, ensues as follows to wit:

In the name of God Amen I Joseph Griffith of Dorchester County and State of Maryland, being in perfect health and of sound and disposing mind and memory praised be God for the same do make and ordain this my last Will and testament in manner & form following to wit. Imprimis. I give and devise unto my son Joseph Griffith my present dwelling plantation whereon I now live to him my said son Joseph his heirs and assigns forever. Item. I give and devise unto my son George Griffith the plantation whereon Levi Green now lives lying on Transquaken river or a branch thereof, to him my said son George his heirs and assigns forever, and my Will is that all the land which I am now possessed of either by Deed bond or patent, be equally divided between my said two sons Joseph and George according to quantity and quality share and share alike to them their heirs and assigns forever, and in case either of my said sons should decease having no lawful issue or heirs of his body that then the surviving son to have his deceased brothers part or moiety of the land aforesaid to him his heirs and assigns forever as aforesaid and in case both my said sons Joseph & George should decease leaving no lawful heirs of their bodies that then in such case I give and devise all my aforesaid lands devised as aforesaid unto my three daughters Sophia, Sarah & Nancy Griffith to be equally divided between my aforesaid three daughters, and my Will & desire is that if my aforesaid two sons should lay claim to any part of a parcel of land which did come or belong to their deceased mother that my said sons shall pay my aforesaid three daughters the full value of any part claimed or seized as may be adjudged by three indifferent creditable men, and my further Will is that my aforesaid two sons shall provide and find my aforesaid three daughters sufficient & decent diet and lodging until they my said daughters arrive at lawful age, and all the residue of my estate of every kind and denomination whatever that I am possessed of and shall and may be possessed of at my decease I leave give and bequeath unto my aforesaid two sons and three daughters to be equally divided unto them my aforesaid children their heirs and assigns forever share and share alike. And I do appoint my two esteemed friends Nathaniel Manning jun. and Thomas Smith of Thomas my whole and sole executors to this my last Will and testament, and my Will is that my two executors aforesaid have and I do will to them the two best horses that I may be possessed of at my decease hereby revoking and disannulling all former Wills heretofore made by me affirming this my last Will and testament in Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixth day of February Seventeen hundred & ninety two. Joseph Griffith (Seal)

Signed and acknowledged in presence of - Anthony Manning. Thomas Manning William Ryan. - Note the interlining was done at the time before execution of this Will