

Will of William Shields (1728—1797)

In the Name of God Amen. I William Shields of frederick County and State of Maryland farmer; Being in perfect health of Body of A Sound Mind and Disposing memory thanks Be given unto God Calling to mind the mortality of my Body; and Knowing that it is Appointed for All men Once to Die == Do make And ordain this my last will And testament; that is to Say; prinipaly and first of All I Recommend my Soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my Body I Recommend to the Earth to Be Bureyed in Decent Christian Burial at the Discretion of my Executors; Nothing Doubting But at the General Resurection I Shal Recive the Same Again By the Almighty power of God; and as touching Such Worldly Estate as it hath pleased God to Bless me with here in this life; I Give Demise and Desire that as Much of My personal Estate (Slaves included; as Shal Be judged Neseccary to pay off all my leagal Debts and funeral Expenses and also make out Good Rights for that portion of my land that is Not yet patented or conveyed to me) Be Sold and turned into Cash And the Money arising from Such Sale Be Aplyd By my Exetrs to the Above purposes twelve Months after My Disecas; or as Soon as it May Be in their power to Colect the Money; Imprimy, I Give And Bequeath unto Jane My Dearly Beloved Wife one third part of My personal Estate to be her own property; and Also one third part of My Real Estate or landed property for and During her Natureal life; the Mansion house wherein I Now live to Be included in her third part; and it is further my Will and Desire that the profits and advantages arising from my Real Estate or landed property Be aplyd By my Exetrs to the Support of my family and for the Education of my five youngest Children until my youngest Daughter, Margret arrive at the Age of Sixteen years; and at that period it is My Will and Desire that then all my Real and personal Estate Be sold and turned into Cash and the money arising from Such Sale to Be Distrebuted and Divided By my Executors (whom I do hereby impower and Authourize to Convey and Make Good Rights to the purchasers of all my Real and personal Estate) amongst all my Children, to wit John James Henry William Samuel Agnes David Banner Ebenezer and Margaret in mannere and form following; to wit when the whole amt. is Known Each of my Eight Sons is to have an Equal part — and Each of my three Daughters Shal have one third in propotion to what My Sons part Shal Be when the Sum is properly Known which Now is uncertain; my true intent and meaning is that if in Case the amount of the money of this sale Should Rise So high that Each of my Sons Should have two hundred pounds that then Each of my daughters Shal have one hundred pounds and So in propotion let Be any greater or leser Sum; and lastly I Do make Constitute and ordain My two Beloved Sons John Shields and James Shields, whole and Sole Executors of this my last will and testament; and do hereby uterly Disalow Revoke and Disanul all and Every other former testaments wills Bequests and Executors By me in any ways, Before Named will and Bequeathid; Rattifying and Confirming this and No other to Be my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this thirtieth Day of November in the Year of our lord one thousand Seven hundred and Eighty Nine—

Wm Shields

Signed Sealed published proclaimed and Declared By the Said William Shields to be his last will and testament in the prescence of us who in his prescence and in the prescence of Each other have hereunto inserted our names—

James Hughes John Cass Joseph Hughes

Household Effects of William Shields

The following inventory of the household effects of William Shields (1728-1797) is taken from Frederick County Inventories (Liber. G.M. 3, folios 16-20, 270-271) in the Hall of Records of Maryland, at Annapolis. These are household effects only, and not an estate inventory, since the listing does not include the extensive land holdings of William Shields at the time of his death. The following list, while complete, has been rearranged by the present compiler in order to categorize his effects in a logical manner.

Clothing and other personal effects:

- 1 Silver Watch
- 4 Pair Breeches
- 1 Great Coat
- 1 Pair White Cotton Breeches
- 1 Striped Lam Skoon Coat
- 2 Black Velvet Jackets
- 1 Coat & Jacket Homemade
- 1 Blue Broad Cloath Coat
- 1 White Cotton Jacket
- 3 Fine Shirts
- 2 Pair Old Striped Trowserts
- 3 Home made Shirts
- 1 Pair Boots
- 3 Pair Blue Woolen Stockings
- 1 Pair White cotton - Ditto
- 1 Hatt
- 1 Pair of Spectacles & Case
- 1 Old Lot of Razors

Firearms:

- 1 Musquet
- 1 Old Gun Barrol

Beds and bedding:

- 1 Feather Bed and Pillow wieghing 57 lbs
- 1 Bedstead and Bow
- 2 Blankets a coverlet 2 sheets
- 1 Feather Bed Pillow and Blankets with Bolster
- 2 Blankets 1 Quilt & 2 sheets
- 1 Set of Bed Curtains and fraim
- 1 Chaff Bed
- 1 Feather Bed of 49 lbs
- 1 Pair of Blankets a coverlet and 2 sheets
- 1 Chaff Bed and 1 Bedstead
- 2 Pillows of Feather
- 1 Feather Bed of 52 lbs
- 1 Old Coverlet—Blanket and Sheet

- 1 Feather Bed Bolster and Pillow 40 lbs
- 1 Pair Blankets 1 Pair Sheets and 1 Coverlet
- 1 Set of Curtains and Fraim for Bedstead Pillow Cases
- 1 Pair of sheets & Pillow Cases
- 4 Linnen Sheets

Furnishings:

- 1 Table Cloath
- 2 Bird Eye Table Cloath
- 1 Table Oyl Cloth
- 24 Queens Ware Plates
- 3 Dishes
- 3 Earthen Dishes
- 1 Old Dish & 2 Old Plates
- 1 Sugar Dish
- 1 Earthen Sugar Dish and Pitcher
- 1 Pitcher and a Butter Boat
- 4 Stock Glasses and a Tumbler
- 8 Tin Cups
- 6 Tin Cups
- Tea Ware
- 1 Quart Tankard
- 12 Table Spoons
- 11 Knives & 10 Forks
- 5 Bread Baskets
- 1 Coffee Pott & Funnel
- 1 Copper Tea Kettle
- 1 Frying Pan
- 1 Large Pot
- 1 Kettle & Iron Bale
- 1 Dinner Pot
- 1 Lesser Pot
- 1 Small Pot
- 1 Old Pan
- 16 Sound Earthen Pots & 6 Bucketts
- 1 Small Pot
- 1 Dutch Oven
- 1 Dough Trough

1 Tin Cullender
 1 Old Coffee Mill
 1 Stone Pickling Pot
 1 Butter Cask
 1 Case of Bottles
 1 Churn
 1 Old Oven
 2 Pair Pot Hooks
 1 Pot Rack
 1 Pair of Tongs
 1 Set of Dog Irons
 1 Pair of Dog Irons
 1 Washing Tubb
 2 Buckets
 1 Tin Buckett and Strainer
 1 Brazon Candlestick
 1 Pair of Brazon Candlesticks
 1 Candle Stick
 1 Bag Salt
 1 Pair of Stool Cuards
 1 Ink Stand
 1 Looking Glass
 1 Clock
 1 Pair of Gold Scales and Weights

Furniture:

1 Large Family Table
 1 Small Table
 1 Room Table
 1 Low Table
 1 Dining Table
 1 Large Server
 1 Old Server
 1 Bofett
 1 Old Cupboard
 1 Wallnutt Chest With Drawers
 1 Case of Drawers
 1 Desk 4 Book Case
 1 Desk
 6 Windsor Chairs
 12 Old Chairs
 1 Big Spinning Wheel
 1 Loom & Tackling

Books and Papers:

[see annotations by David Shields]
 1 Map of the City of Washington
 1 Map of the State of Maryland Fedrallity
 Bacons Abridgement of the Laws of
 Maryland

1 Book of Constitutions
 Present State of Great Britain
 Buchans Family Phisition
 Browns Family (Bible)
 1 House Bible
 School Bible
 1 Old House Bible
 1 Catachism
 Sermons
 N Knights sermons
 Hymns
 1 Vol. Blacknutts Sacre Barna
 Milton Paradise regained
 Watsons Poems
 1 Geography
 1 French Gramner
 Arithmetic
 Pamphlets and Old Books

Slaves:

1 Mulatto fellow called Tone
 1 Negro Boy named Bob
 1 Negro Boy named Charles
 1 Mulatto Boy called Tod
 1 Mulatto named Bill
 1 Negro Woman named Sarah
 1 Mulatto Girl called Dina

Livestock:

13 Spring Calves
 10 Yearlings
 1 Red Cow
 1 White Faced Cow
 1 Brody Cow
 18 Cattles
 6 2 year old cattle
 1 Cow
 1 Pair 2 year old Oxon
 1 Pair of Oxon
 1 Black Mare & Colt
 1 Black Mare
 3 Wool Lambs
 24 sheep
 2 Aces [asses]
 17 Hogs
 11 Geese

Vehicles & Transportation Gear:

1 Old Waggon
1 Pair waggon wheels
1 harness
1 Saddle
1 Small Saddle
1 Pair Saddle Bags
1 Pair of Old Slay Runners

Containers & Receptacles:

1 old Wheel Barrow
6 Barrols
9 Barrols & Tubbs
2 Open headed Barrels
2 Iron Bound Hogsheads
6 Hogsheads in Orchard
7 Hogshead covers
1 Butter Tub
1 Cheese Vat
1 Apple Mill Hutts
1 Tarr Bucket
1 half Bushel
4 Bags
4 Old—ditto
1 Old Copper Still

Supplies & Materials:

2 1/2 lbs Steel
134 lbs. Old Iron
Old Iron
2440 Shingles
363 Staves

Tools & Equipment:

1 Old Wind Mill for gleanng Grain
1 Pair long ladders
1 Screw Augur
1 half Inch Augur
1 Old 3/4 Augur

1 Pair Nipper & A chissel
1 old Cutting Box
2 Old Axes
1 Broad Ax
1 Small Hand Ax
1 ax
1 Foot Addz
1 Hammer
2 Mauling Wedges & 2 Maul Rings
2 Maul Rings
1 Log Chain
2 Scythes & hangings
1 Scythe & Cradle
1 Grind Stone
1 Whetstone
2 Old Mill Saws
1 Crassent Saw
1 Hand Saw
1 Old Mill Saw
1 Smoothing Palm
1 Coopers Inshaw
3 Hoes
3 Spades
1 Dung Fork
2 Iron Pitchforks
1 Small Plow
1 Barr Shear Plow
1 Harrow
1 Barr Shear Plow
1 Sett of Plow Irons
1 Pair of Horse shears
1 Pair of Strechers
1 Flat vane Box Iron
1 Iron Shirt
1 Flax Brake
1 Chain
1 Locke
1 Old Bell Without Clapper

AUTHOR'S NOTE: More than a decade ago I asked my eldest son, Dr. David Shields, to provide a commentary on the books owned by William Shields which might shed light on his persuasions and interests. At the time, David was a professor of English at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York (since 1983 he has been a member of the faculty at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina). He brought to his task the insights of a respected author and lecturer on the colonial era, today regarded as one of the Nation's leading Early American scholars. His views, written in 1980, are presented below.

J.E.S.

Observations on the Library of William Shields by David Sanford Shields - 1980

In 1797 an inventory was taken of the estate of William Shields (1728-1797), the Frederick County, Maryland, immigrant from County Armagh, Ireland. Among the chattels listed in the inventory are several books. These were as follows:

1 Map of the City of Washington	1 House Bible
1 Book of Constitutions	School Bible
Present State of Great Britain	1 Old House Bible
Buchans Family Phisition	Browns Family (Bible)
1 Vol. Blacknutts Sacre Barna	Milton Paradise regained
N. Knights sermons	Hymns
1 Catachism	Sermons
1 Franch Gramner	Arithmetic
Watsons Poems	1 Geography
1 Map of the State of Maryland Fedrallity	Pamphlets and Old Books
Bacons Abridgement of the Laws of Maryland	

By reflecting upon the subjects of these volumes we may reconstruct an approximation of William's intellectual disposition.

Religious books appear with greatest frequency. Four Bibles are listed, as well as a "catachism," "sermons," and hymns. Given William's known membership in the local Presbyterian congregation (Tom's Creek Presbyterian Church and predecessor bodies), and the tenor of those religious works inventoried that are named specifically, we can be certain that he was Calvinist in his persuasions. Essentially, this meant that he believed in five basic doctrines: (1) limited atonement; (2) irresistible grace; (3) the perseverance of the saints; (4) total depravity; and (5) the predestination of the elect.

Nothing on the inventory indicates whether he was an "old light" or "new light" Calvinist—whether he believed the process of conversion to be gradual, or instantaneous. We can be assured that his Calvinism was not of the pessimistic sort. The possession of Milton's *Paradise Regained*, rather than the vastly more popular *Paradise Lost*, would testify to his optimistic inclinations.

The most curious of the religious works that William Shields owned was "N Knight's sermons." This almost certainly refers to the works of the Englishman Nicholas Knight, a Reformed Christian homilist whose surviving writings date from the 1670s. Two titles are associated particularly with Knight's name: *Something concerning the Mystery of Holiness and Something Concerning the Mystery of Iniquity* [London, 1677] and *A Comparison Between the True and False ministers in their calling*. The former is a typical example of Reformed discourse on piety; it sought

to distinguish the marks which betokened God's election from the signs of depravity. The Calvinistic concern over signs of one's spiritual standing reflect the interaction of two doctrinal themes: the incomprehensibility of God and God's action by men—a doctrine which makes knowledge of God a prime consideration for man—and the importance of the faculty of understanding in the process of conversion; until a would-be believer understood that no action of his will could earn grace, he would not be justified in the eyes of God.

At the time Knight was writing, the tradition of spiritual semiotics was one hundred years old; when William Shields was reading, two hundred years. *A comparison between the true and false ministers in their calling* is a polemic against paid clergy. The Hanover Presbytery during the mid-18th century was greatly concerned about the question of the support of ministry. It is likely that Knight's writings on this subject may have been pertinent to the controversy.

Several of the religious works noted on the inventory are clearly intended for the instruction of children—the school Bible, the Brown's family Bible, and the catechism, in particular. Having sired eleven children, the task of Christian instruction was incumbent on William Shields, the father, as his book of constitutions would dictate. Usually the catechizing of children occupied an hour of each day, until the responses were learned by heart. It was not uncommon for this activity to take place in the evening after supper. This was also a favored time for hymn-singing. Though the inventory does not indicate the name of the collection of hymns which William owned, it is likely that they were Isaac Watt's *Sacred Songs*. The most popular hymns of the 1700s, Watt's songs are distinguished for their domesticity of imagery and simplicity of phrasing:

*How does the busy bee
improve each shining hour...etc.*

Three other instructional works appear on the inventory: a geography, an arithmetic, and a French grammar. Only the last of these is unusual. If a child were to be instructed in a second language during the 18th century, that language would most likely be Latin. In Philadelphia, however, a movement headed by Benjamin Franklin challenged the hegemony of Latin in language instruction. Although Franklin's efforts to have Philadelphia College emphasize the instruction of modern languages failed, a public sentiment was created against the ancient languages in some quarters. In a trading city like Philadelphia, the learning of French is understandable for commercial reasons. These reasons do not apply, however, to Frederick County, Maryland.

William Shields taught his children French for symbolic, political reasons. We know from voting records—and could have so deduced, even absent such records—that William aligned himself during the 1790s politically with the anti-Federalist Democratic Republicans. Part of the anti-Federalist sentiment included sympathy for the French Revolution. It was common in the West for the Democratic Republican clubs to hold French celebrations, wearing liberty caps and erecting liberty poles. When Citizen Genet appeared on the American scene in 1794, the pro-French agitation reached a crescendo. Genet endeared himself to Westerners by his support for attempts to secure the Mississippi River as an outlet for frontier trade. Genet also opposed the excise system that provoked western Pennsylvanians into the Whiskey Rebellion. We can interpret the presence of a French grammar among William Shields' possessions as a political statement of sorts.

The survival of Democratic Republican sentiments in this branch of the Shields family is frequently demonstrated in the names assigned the offspring of subsequent generations. In the writer's immediate line, for instance—the descent of William's youngest son, Ebenezer—we find children of Ebenezer named Jefferson (perhaps Thomas Jefferson), Andrew Jackson, and William Vanburen Shields.

Inclusion of a geography among the instructional books is expressive of William Shields' general interest in the situation of the country which he inhabited. He owned two maps besides

the geography—a plan of the yet unbuilt city of Washington, very likely one of the several editions of L'Enfant's plan that was published in various large formats over the decade of the 1790s, and a map of the federality of Maryland. Identifying exactly which map this is is not possible from the laconic designation of the inventory. Since William was a landowner and developer of the Frederick County area, however, one could assume that the Maryland map which displayed the western portions of the State in greatest detail would be the map he owned. The American map-making trade centered in Philadelphia in the 1780s and 1790s. It is likely, given the network of booksales during the latter decades of the 18th century, that William bought his maps through Philadelphia dealers.

Among the other books mentioned on the inventory, two deserve special attention for what they indicate about the tastes of the family. Buchan's *Family Phisitian* is the work of William Buchan (1729-1805), more completely known as *Domestic Medecine: or, A Treatise on the Prevention and Cure of Diseases by Regimen and Simple Medecines*. Popular on an international scale after its Latin-version publication in Edinborough in 1761, Buchan's manual instructed the private practitioner on the manufacture of medicines from herbs and argued the curative properties of baths in hot mineral springs. The interesting thing about William's possession of this book is that, as a descendant of a hereditary Irish medical family, he chose a family medical book that conformed to the galenic practice of medicine—a practice which emphasized the use of herb simples in treatment—rather than the synthetic treatments proposed by certain Enlightenment medical writers.

The Irish *Book of the Shields'*, a medical text in the possession of the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin, is a work that outlines herbal treatments in accordance with the classical medical practice dictated by the Greek, Galen. The writer's grandfather tells tales of reliance on various herbs in the cure of the common afflictions of his early years—Ditney tea, for example—in a context which suggests that the reliance on such curatives may have been something more than the use of a locally common folk cure. It is possible, indeed, if not likely, that a strong family tradition linked to that of the medical clan from which it descended in Ireland manifested itself in the use of such herbs as curatives—a tradition independent of the regional beliefs and traditions of the area in which this member of the family found himself at the turn of the twentieth century.

William Shields' estate inventory also lists "Watsons poems." We cannot be absolutely certain of what is meant by this volume. Several Watsons wrote poetry in the period before 1790. Thomas Watson (1557-1592), for instance, won renown for his love poetry. *The Passionate Century of Love* would seem, however, to be too secular and erotic a book for a good Presbyterian to own. Much more likely would be Watson's *A Choice Collection of Comic and Serious Scots Poems* published in 1712. E. Watson was a publisher and anthologist, not an author, and his collection might have interested William for its inclusion of Scots Presbyterian religious verse cheek by jowl with dialect ballads and humorous songs.

Bacon's *Abridgement of the Laws of Maryland*, listed in the inventory, stands as evidence of William's concern for public affairs. Compiled by Thomas Bacon over a decade in the mid-18th century, the *Abridgement* is considered the most beautifully printed book to have been produced in the American colonies. Its cost and its rarity at the time of publication were such that only men of affairs owned copies. To this day a source of legal precedent, Bacon's volume was an essential epitome of legislation and legal rulings in its time. Bacon, who spent his final years as Episcopal pastor in Frederick City, may have known William Shields.

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Will of Jane Williams Bentley Shields

In The Name of God Anen. I Jane Shields of Frederick County being weak in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory and calling to mind the mortality of the Body that it is appointed for all to die. I do in the first place recommend my soul to God who gave it and my Body to be buried in a decent and christianlike manner at the discretion of my Executor whom I shall hereafter appoint and Ordain in this my last will and Testament. And I do make and ordain this (and no Other former will or Wills) to be the only and true will and any Other former will I do revoke and make void—

And with regard to what worldly Property that I am possessed of I do devise and of the same in manner following (to wit) I do devise unto my daughter Mary Blair all and Singular my Wearing Apparel and Secondly I give and bequeath unto my Granddaughter Betsey Blair my best feather bed and all the furniture thereto belonging And thirdly I will and bequeath unto my Granddaughter Jane Blair my feather bed the ticking of which is Striped and all the furniture thereto belonging—

Fourthly I give and bequeath to my Grandson John Blair one ten Plate stove and pipes thereto belonging— Fifthly I give and bequeath to my Granddaughter Margaret Blair my case of drawers and Tea Table— Sixthly it is my will that the two feather beds—the ten Plate stove and pipes the case of drawers and tea table before mentioned be by my Executor delivered to my daughter Mary Blair and that the said Mary Blair's receipt to my Executor for the delivery of the aforesaid Property shall be sufficient to defend my Executor against any claims the aforesaid heirs may bring against him for said Property when they arrive to Age to act for themselves.

I also bequeath to my son William Shields my large bible—And to his daughter Jane Six Pounds to be paid her when she arrives to the age of Sixteen years, And I do empower and by these presents Invest my Executor with full power to sell and convey my lot being in Shields Addition to Emmitsburgh and also I will and Empower my Executor to sell all and singular my Goods and chattels that remain afterwards—and the money arising from said Sale of the Lot and moveables (not before willed) to be disposed of in the following manner (to wit) I allow all my last Debts and my funeral expenses to be first paid and secondly, I bequeath to my daughter Mary Blair ten pounds of the money arising from the said Sale—and the remainder to be Equally Divided between my two Grandsons Samuel Blair and William Blair—And from the best Information I at present possess there is something more than one hundred Pounds due to me from John Shields Executor of the Estate of my late husband William Shields Deceased—which I do dispose of in manner following (to wit), forty Pounds to be paid by my Executor to my Daughter Mary Blair at such time and in such means at the discretion of my Executor as he may think her necessity requires—and further I do bequeath to my son William Shields thirty Pounds of the aforementioned sum due to me from the Estate of my late husband—And the remainder to be Equally Divided among the children of Samuel and Mary Blair And I do by these presents constitute appoint and ordain my son William Shields to be my Executor of this my last will and Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this eighth day of August Eighteen hundred and Six 1806—

Jane B. Shields

Signed Stated Published and Declared by the above named Jane Shields to be her last Will and Testament in the Presence of us who have hereunto Subscribed our names as witnesses in the Presence of the Testative—

Martin Witmore

Peter P. Oyler (mark)

Henry Williams

Will of Ebenezer Shields

In the name of God Amen. I Ebenezer Shields of Frederick County in the State of Maryland being sick & weak in body but of sound & disposing mind & understanding, considering the certainty of death & the uncertainty of the time thereof, & being desirous to settle my worldly affairs, & thereby be the better prepared to leave this world when it shall please God to call me hence do therefore make & publish this my last will & testament in manner and form following, that is to say ... First and principally I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty God, & my body to the earth to be decently buried & after my debts & funeral expenses are paid, I devise & bequeath as follows—

Item—I bequeath to Margaret Morrison my housekeeper, for her care of my household & kind attention shown to me particularly in this my sickness & affliction three hundred & fifty dollars current money to be paid to her by my executor out of the first money collected from the bonds notes & book accounts owing to me. I also devise and bequeath to her the said Margaret Morrison the house & lot of land wherein she doth reside at this time, with lme free & clearly for her proper use & benefit forever, & to & for no other use intent or purpose whatsoever also all & singular my moveable property to wit horses cows clothing household & kitchen furniture of whatsoever kind to me in any wise belonging to her the said Margaret Morrison forever—

Item—the real Estate late the property of my dear father William Shields dec'd situated lying & being near Emmitsburg, County & State aforesaid, & composed of part of the tract called Carrolsburg, Shields Adventure &c When said plantation or tract of land so as aforesaid is sold, and a dividend made amongst the heirs of said deceased, it is my Will and desire & I do hereby order & decree that any part & proportion thereof & all other money whatsoever owing to me by bond, note or books account not herein otherwise devise & bequeathed shall be paid at interest with approved security by my executor the interest to be collected annually & added to the principal until the following named children arrive to the age of twenty one years, that is to say Jefferson Shields son of Rachel Robison, John H. Shields, Andrew Jackson Shields, & William Vanburen Shields, sons of Margaret Morrison, Children by adoption; It is my will & desire & I do hereby devise & bequeath unto them the aforesaid named Jefferson son of Rachel Robison, John H. Andrew J. & William V. sons of Margaret Morrison the whole & entire sum & sums of money aforesaid named described & mentioned in equal proportions share & share alike when they and each of them respectively arrive to the age of twenty one years except Jefferson the son of Rachel Robison who shall receive his part in manner following, that is to say for & during the first five years after his arriving to the age of twenty one years he shall only receive three per cent of the interest arising from his part of the money aforesaid, the remaining three per cent to be added yearly to the capital on interest and the next ensuing five years to receive the full & entire interest year & yearly, & at the expiration of said term and on his arriving to the age of thirty one years to fully receive into his hands the full amount of his share part & proportion principal & interest due & owing at that time, but if he the said Jefferson should die without heir of his body before he does arrive to the age of thirty one years then & in that case his part & proportion so as aforesaid shall be equally divided betwixt them, the said John H. Shields, Andrew Jackson Shields & William Vanburen Shields the survivor or survivors thereof their & such of their respective heirs share & share alike in like manner in case of deaths of either of them the said John H. Shields, Andrew Jackson Shields or William Vanburen Shields before arriving to the age of twenty one years or lawful heirs of their body his or their part to devolve to the survivor or survivors thereof & their heirs, it is my wish & desire that the said Margaret

Morrison, & her children so as aforesaid named, also Jefferson the son of Rachel Robison continue to live together as a family, until the said children are schooled & able to do better for themselves having provided for the said Margaret Morrison particularly for that purpose.

And lastly it is my Will & desire that my agency of in & to the plantation late the property of my dear Father William Shields late of said County dec'd be continued in the hand of my executor, for him to take the proper care for the preservation of said property from waste until such time as said plantation be sold for the benefit of the heirs of said deceased, and that no timber of any kind be cut destroyed or made use of whilst under agency except for firewood & the necessary rails for the repair of fencing & hereby Authorising my executor, to rent lease or cause to be rented leased & worked said plantation & cause the same to be kept in tenantable repair from the nett proceeds thereof until a proper sale & disposition is made of the said plantation so as aforesaid——

And lastly I do hereby constitute & appoint William Mooney to be my sole Executor of this my last Will & testament hereby revoking and annulling all former Wills by me heretofore made ratifying & confirming this & none other to be my last Will & testament. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & affixed my seal this Nineteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven——

E. Shields

Signed, sealed, published & declared by Ebenezer Shields the above named testator as & for his last Will & testament in the presence of us who at this request in his presence & in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto...

**James Stern
Jeremiah Black
Jasper X Peddicord (his mark)**

Test. William Mooney