

The Ten Brothers

The story of the "ten brothers" of the Shields family is, as much as that of any family, the story of the American frontier. They were the children of Robert and Nancy Stockton Shields, all born in Rockingham County, Virginia, over the years from 1762 to 1782. Robert, their father, born in 1740, was the son of John Shields (b. 1709), the grandson of William Shields (b. 1668), the great-grandson of James Shields the immigrant (b. 1633 in Ireland), and the second-great-grandson of the William Shields who was born in County Antrim, Ireland, about 1600. The ten brothers were thus the sixth generation from William of Antrim, and the fifth generation of their line in America.

Several works by the late John A. Shields of Seymour, Indiana, chronicle the movements and adventures of the family of the ten brothers. (Actually, there were twelve children of Robert and Nancy Shields--eleven sons, one of whom died in infancy, and a daughter.) Quoted below are salient portions of the above author's accounts:

"In 1784 the family settled in the western wilderness, near the present village of Pigeon Forge, Sevier County, Tennessee.

"The government of North Carolina was offering alluring inducements in the way of cheap land and tax exemptions to settlers beyond the mountains. Pressed by high taxes, poor markets, ruinous competition of slave-operated plantations (the Shields were not slaveholders), hard times, and the increasing needs of a large family, Robert disposed of his Virginia property. Daniel Boone, a family kinsman, and other hunters and explorers, had brought back glowing reports of the fertility of the land, the abundance of game, the beauty of the country, the desirability of the climate, in the new country. Robert's choice of a location doubtless was influenced by his oldest son, Thomas, who had spent three years exploring the unsettled region of East Tennessee.

"In 1784 the Shields and McMahan families (Mrs. McMahan was Nancy Stockton's sister), with their possessions in three wagons, embarked on the long trail down the Shenandoah Valley. Only the women and small children rode; the others walked. At Big Lick (Roanoke) the party divided. One wagon, in charge of Robert's son James, age 13, with Nancy, Janet and smaller Shields boys, went to the Yadkin Settlement in North Carolina, where they remained with Robert's cousins a year before proceeding to Tennessee. The other two wagons proceeded so far as the settlement on the Watauga, where the McMahans and Thomas' and Richard's wives remained till the following year. In 1785 the McMahans and the Yadkin party of the Shields family went on with pack animals, via the old Traders Trail.

Soon after the Revolutionary War many from the older settlements in Virginia moved to new frontiers, where good land could be bought for a few cents an acre. Some went into what is now West Virginia, others found homes along the Holston, Watauga, Nolichucky, and other westward flowing rivers in Northeastern Tennessee, then part of North Carolina. Few went farther than the Watauga because of lack of roads and extreme danger from hostile Indians.

The route to the Southwest was called Traders Trail. It ran up the Shenandoah Valley, crossing the divide to the headwaters of the Holston River in Southwestern Virginia. At about the present site of Kingsport, Tenn., a vehicle road ran west toward Kentucky and ran south, up the Watauga; but the main route of Traders Trail beyond this point, was impassable for vehicles; it continued as a pack-animal trail. It followed the Holston to a point near the present city of Rogersville, turned south through the mountains to the mouth of the Little Pigeon, where the Trail turned southwest through mountain troughs to Alabama.

"At the Watauga Land Office, Robert Shields bought a tract of land on Middle Creek, a tributary of the Little Pigeon River. This was far beyond the most remote of the frontier settlements. The most remote settlement in that region was at Big Island, in the French Broad River, about 20 miles northeast of Robert's land. From Watauga to Middle Creek was about 100 miles as the crow flies; it was over 200 miles by the pack-animal trail, and about 150 miles via footpaths through the forest. In 1784, Robert and his five older sons, carrying on their backs such scanty equipment as was absolutely essential, proceeded on foot by mountain paths known to Thomas. They often traveled for days without seeing a settler's cabin. Once they were stalked by two savages with flintlocks and tomahawks. Thomas, becoming aware of the lurking danger, took two long-rifles and, going some distance ahead of the others, hid until the trailing Indians passed him. He killed both of them. After about two weeks they reached the then most remote settlement at Big Island in the French Broad, not far from the mouth of the Little Pigeon. Leaving the regular trail at the Little Pigeon, they turned south up that stream to their new location. On what is now known as the Old T. D. W. McMahan place, on Middle Creek, a branch of the Little Pigeon, they built a temporary cabin at the foot of Shields Mountain, started a clearing, and began the erection of Shields Fort.

"On the frontier a fort was a prime necessity for protection from hostile savages. (Following the Revolution, Spain claimed the land west of the Alleghenies and bitterly opposed settlement from the States. The Spanish incited the savages, especially the Cherokees, against the pioneers, offering large bounties for scalps of white settlers. Between 1780 and 1795 every other male settler was killed by Indians.) Shields Fort, when completed, was a building 16 x 100 feet, with low ceiling and attic. It was constructed of heavy logs with a fireplace at each end. There were four outside doors, several small window openings without glass, and numerous portholes at convenient places, upstairs and down. The original building contained living quarters for six families, with a large common kitchen at one end and a common living room at the other. The building was in the midst of an oblong yard of about a quarter-acre, surrounded by walls twelve feet high. The walls consisted of double rows of logs standing on end closely spaced, and sharpened at the top, and fastened together by wooden pins. High sentry-boxes at each end of the stockade gave a commanding view of the clearing of several acres. The spring was within the enclosure, as were the stables for the stock, and all other buildings.

"Nearly four years was required to complete the original structure. It was in this Fort that Robert Shields, his children and grandchildren, lived nearly twenty years. Seven of his sons brought brides to this Fort. As the family circle grew, the size of the stockade was increased. Eventually the McMahans and some of the Shields boys moved into their own separate quarters nearby. Both Robert Shields and his wife, Nancy Stockton, died at this Fort, about 1805--exact date unknown--and were buried in unmarked graves on a nearby hillside.

"The children of Robert Shields and Nancy Stockton were: Janet, Thomas, Richard, David, William, John, James, Robert, Joseph, Benjamin, Jesse, and an un-named infant. A Brief sketch of each follows:

"JANET SHIELDS, the only daughter, was born March 7, 1762. She married Joshua Tipton in 1785. He was a son of the elder General John Tipton who was very prominent in the early history of Tennessee. Janet had five children; the four whose names are known to history are Rhoda, John, Agnes, and Elizabeth. Joshua was ambuscaded and killed by Cherokee Indians April 18, 1795. In 1808 Janet and her family migrated to Indiana, settling at Shields Fort, the present location of Seymour. To her son, John Tipton, Indiana owes more of its early history than any other man who ever lived in the State. He was a General in the

U.S. Army, U.S. Senator, U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons of the Northwest Territory, founder of Columbus, Logansport, and other cities, surveyed and platted the City of Indianapolis, established the boundary line between Indiana and Illinois. His full name was John Shields Tipton. Janet Tipton is buried at Seymour, Indiana.

"THOMAS SHIELDS was born in 1763. In 1780 he visited his cousins at the Yadkin Settlement, intending to proceed to Daniel Boone's new town at Boonesboro, Kentucky, but instead he enlisted in the Revolutionary Army under John Sevier of the Watauga. This was a loosely organized but extremely effective band of pioneer mountaineers. On October 7, 1780, he fought at the Battle of King's Mountain, one of the most important engagements of the war, where the British were repulsed and their power in the South broken. After being mustered, he spent a year hunting and exploring in what is now the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, coming out through the valley of the Little Pigeon, later his home. For nearly two years more he wandered through the area of the highest mountains east of the Rockies, in Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina, returning to his father's home in Virginia, where he was married in 1783. His son, Joshua, was the first white child born in what is now Sevier County, Tennessee, in 1785. In 1793 Thomas and his two small sons were boiling sap in the sugartree orchard on Birch Creek when he was shot from ambush and mortally wounded. Ordering his sons to run, he rolled behind a log within reach of his rifle. A marauding party of twelve Cherokees rushed into the clearing and he shot one of them. While they parleyed, the boys escaped. They saw the savages tomahawk, mutilate and scalp their father. Thomas was the only one of the ten brothers killed by Indians, a most remarkable fact considering that half the male settlers of Tennessee between 1780 and 1795 were killed by savages.

"RICHARD SHIELDS was born July 4, 1764, and married in 1783. After settling in Sevier County, Tennessee, in 1784, he spent the rest of his life there. He had more descendants than any of the other ten brothers except William.

"DAVID SHIELDS, called Big Dave, was born in 1766 and lived in Shields Fort in Tennessee from 1784 until 1808. He brought the first bride to the Fort, but her name is lost. She died prior to 1808, when he and his family settled in Louisville, Kentucky, where he engaged in flat-boating freight to New Orleans, floating down stream and walking back. He bitterly opposed slavery and is credited with having helped scores of Negroes to escape from the South. He had effective slave-running organizations at several points along the Mississippi and Ohio, and in his later years was an associate of Levi Coffin in the Underground Railroad. His second wife was Susan Edwards, of New York. He had seven children and a host of descendants.

"WILLIAM SHIELDS was born July 4, 1768. In 1784 he migrated with the family to what is now known as Sevier County, Tennessee. With his father and four of his brothers, he preceded the rest of the family on foot from the Watauga Settlement, to the new location on Middle Creek, about seven miles south of the present city of Sevierville, Tennessee. There he helped his father and brothers build Shields Fort. His first wife was Margaret Wilson, daughter of Samuel Wilson; they were married in 1789. They had nine children: Robert, William, James, Elizabeth, Nancy Agnes, Samuel, Rhoda, Rebecca, Janet; all nine were born in Sevier County, the first born in 1790 and the last in 1808. William and several of his brothers, with their families, migrated to Indiana in 1808, which was then as wild and unsettled as Tennessee had been a quarter of a century before. In Tennessee William and Margaret had lived in Shields Fort for about ten years, then as the danger from Indians lessened and their family increased, they moved into their own cabin nearby. In Indiana there were only 911 votes cast in the entire Territory in 1808. That year a ferry was established across the Ohio near the present town of Mauckport, and the Shields families crossed there.

William helped his brother James build a Fort on the present location of Seymour, then went to Logan County, Ohio, for a year. Returning to Indiana, he settled at Madison, where he started an orchard. After a brief time at Madison, the family settled near Brewersville, Jennings County, where many of their descendants still live. William's first wife, Margaret, died at Madison in 1813 or 1814. In 1817 he married Amanda Logan, sister of Col. E. D. Logan of Washington County, Indiana. They settled on Walnut Ridge, near Kossuth, where he died in 1824 and she in 1826. Their children were Sarah Jane, Jesse, and Ezekial Logan Shields. (William's second wife, Amanda Logan, was the daughter of his first wife's sister--or his niece.)

"JOHN SHIELDS, born in 1769, is perhaps most deserving of a place in American history. In 1784 he went with the family to live in the Shields Fort in Tennessee. Later he ran a mill and blacksmith shop for Samuel Wilson. Of the ten brothers, he has the greatest claim to fame. He was one of the little band of 29 men on the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1803-04. He was the scout and gunsmith on that extraordinary adventure. His ingenuity at the forge in making knives, hatchets and trinkets for trading with the Mandan Indians near the present city of Mandan, North Dakota, and his diplomatic skill in treating with them, saved the Expedition from starvation and massacre. He walked, scouting for hostile Indians, all the way from the mouth of the Kansas River to the headwaters of the Missouri, thence down the Columbia to the Pacific Ocean, being one of the first, if not the first, white man to make that perilous transcontinental journey. He is given highest praise in the official reports of both Merriweather Lewis and William Clark. On returning from the Far West he spent a year trapping with Daniel Boone in Missouri and another year with Squire Boone in Indiana. The fatigue, exposure, starvation and other hardships of his long trip with the Lewis and Clark Expedition ruined his health, and that of most on the Expedition. Efforts to secure relief for them from the Government failed. John Shields spent his last years as an invalid and pauper among his relatives and died comparatively young, about 1815. He is buried in a rural cemetery in an unmarked grave, near Athens, Tennessee. His only child, Jennie, married her cousin John Tipton.

"JAMES SHIELDS was born in 1771. In 1784 he accompanied his mother, sister and four smaller brothers to the Yadkin Settlement in North Carolina, the next year bringing them on pack-animals to Shields Fort in Tennessee, via the Watauga and Traders Trail. In 1808, with his sister Janet Tipton, he settled in Indiana, building his own Shields Fort on the present site of Seymour. He prospered and acquired several thousand acres of land in the vicinity. His wife was Penelope White, a niece of James White, the founder of Knoxville, and cousin of Congressman and one-time Presidential candidate, Hugh Lawson White. James was the ancestor of a large and prominent Indiana family. His children were Meedy White, William, Elizabeth, Nancy, Polly. William was a member of the State Legislature. The best known of them was Meedy White Shields, who founded Seymour in 1852. James died February 2, 1847, and is buried in Riverview Cemetery, Seymour.

"ROBERT SHIELDS was born in 1772 and went to Shields Fort in 1785 with the women and younger boys of the family. He married Sabra White, sister of his brother James' wife, in 1792. In 1808 he moved to Floyd County, Indiana, served in the War of 1812, then returned to Sevier County, Tennessee, where he became quite wealthy. Robert had eleven children, some of whom remained in Indiana. He died at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

"JOSEPH SHIELDS was born in 1773. As a boy in Tennessee he had many thrilling experiences, and his brother-in-law Joshua Tipton was killed by marauding Cherokees. The two men were on their way to join the militia, which had been summoned to repel the hostile Indians, when two shots rang out from the thicket. Both men dropped. Tipton was dead. Joseph's gun had fallen a few feet away but he dared not move toward it lest the savages shoot again. Believing both men dead, two Indians rushed up with tomahawks and scalping knives. When one of them was almost

upon him, Joseph sprang up and killed him with his hatchet. Surprised, the other Indian started to run but Joseph reached his long-rifle and shot him before he escaped. In 1808 or 1810 Joseph settled near Corydon, Indiana. He married Martha Veatch, daughter of Nathan Veatch and Elizabeth Cragg, August 22, 1799. They had five sons and four daughters and numerous descendants, some of considerable prominence.

"BENJAMIN SHIELDS was born in 1780. He married Mary (Polly) Veatch, sister of Martha, August 22, 1799. With his brother and also the Veatch family, he moved to Indiana from Shields Fort (Pigeon Forge) 1808-11. Benjamin and Mary had nine children. He died May 10, 1819, and is buried in the 'Little Flock Burying Ground' south of Elizabeth, Indiana.

"JESSE SHIELDS, youngest of the ten brothers, was born in Virginia on March 10, 1782. When three years old he was taken to Shields Fort in Tennessee. In 1808 he migrated to Ripperdan's Valley, Harrison County, Indiana. His wife was Catherine Fox, who died in 1877, aged 92. He was a man of prominence in the County. He had twelve children. He died September 16, 1848, and is buried at Old Cross Roads Graveyard, near Mauckport, Indiana."

THE LINE OF THE TEN BROTHERS:

First generation

WILLIAM SHIELDS
born ca. 1600
County Antrim, Ireland

Second generation

William
b. 1630
(deported)

JAMES SHIELDS
b. 1633, County Armagh
(deported)

Daniel John
b. ca. 1635-40 b. ca. 1645

Third generation

WILLIAM SHIELDS
b. 1668, Kent Cty., Md.
m. Jeanette Parker

possibly
other brothers
and sisters

Fourth generation

James
(1694-1749)

Jane
(1696-1750)

Thomas
(1699-1765)

Eliza
(1704-1742)
m. Hathaway

JOHN SHIELDS
(1709-1772)
b. Chester Cty.,
Pa., married
Margaret Perry

Fifth generation

John — Thomas

ROBERT SHIELDS
b. ca. 1740 near
Harrisonburg, Va.
m. Nancy Stockton

William — Mary

Sixth generation

Janet, and the Ten
Brothers, b. Rockingham
Cty., Va., 1762-1782:
Thomas, Richard, David,
William, John, James,
Robert, Joseph, Benjamin,
Jesse, and unnamed infant

A Shields Family History, written by William Hathaway, son
of George Hathaway and Eliza Shields Hathaway, in 1790

(Note: This document appears to be as widely circulated among the descendants of James Shields of County Armagh, Ireland (b. 1635) as the family history taken from the Bible of William Shields of Armagh (b. 1728) has become among the latter's descent. Errors in copying over the years have given rise to various versions of the brief history; that reproduced below is the most complete of those examined by the present scribe. It is suggested that it be studied in conjunction with the accompanying genealogical table. -- John Edgar Shields)

"My great grandfather on the Shields side was James Shields. He was born in County Armagh in the year 1635. His father was born in County Antrim. In about the twentieth year of his age he and his brother and many others were arrested by the English and deported to the Barbadoes Islands. He came to Baltimore before 1660. He settled first in Kent County [Md.] and then in Newcastle [Del.]. His brother John and family came to America about the year 1738 or 1740. I was a mere child when they arrived. Cousin William lived with us about two years, his father having died on the ocean. The family settled in Frederick County [Md.]. I have not seen any of them for nearly fifty years. Cousin William has a large family. Great grandfather James Shields died when my mother was a little girl.

"My grandfather was William Shields. He was born in Kent County in the year 1668. My grandmother on my mother's side was Jeanette Parker. Aunt Jane (Shields) was born January 15, 1696. She died in Lancaster County [Pa.] in the year 1750. I had four uncles. One died young. Uncle Tom was born in the year 1699. Uncle James was born in the year 1694. Uncle John was born in the year 1709. They lived first in Chester County [Pa.] and then moved to Augusta County, Virginia. Mother was born June 3, 1704. She died in Chester County in the year 1742, being stricken with pneumonia. Grandfather William Shields was killed by a falling log while helping one of my uncles build a house in Virginia in 1741. Grandmother lived with my Aunt Jane until her death. Uncle James died about the year 1750. His son John was about my age. He visited us soon after. I have never seen him since then. He was living in North Carolina a few years ago. Uncle Tom died about the year 1765 leaving several children. Uncle John died just before the war. Several of my cousins were in the Continental Army. Uncle Tom's children moved away and I do not know where they are. Some of them went south, I think. Uncle John's children scattered. One lived in Pennsylvania. One went to North Carolina. One went to Boone's settlement in Frankland [Tennessee] a few years ago. Some of them lived in Virginia. My relatives on my mother's side [Shields] were all large, strong, long-lived and industrious people."

The Shields Family

from Notable Southern Families, by Zella Armstrong
(The Lookout Publishing Company, Chattanooga, Tenn. 1916)

(The following is the text of Armstrong's chapter on the Shields family from the above work, except for that portion relating to William Shields of Armagh. The latter has been used as a partial basis for "Appendix C" of A History of the Shields Family by John Edgar Shields and is, consequently, not reproduced here. It should be noted that Armstrong is a somewhat controversial source; accuracy of her information and conclusions she has drawn from it is occasionally suspect. For what interest it may hold, however, it is offered in this form with appropriate parenthetical interjections. --J.E.S.)

In the third or fourth century there were five kings of as many divisions of Ireland, the King of Munster being O'Brien. Later, and down to about 1200, the O'Briens were head kings of the whole country.

The younger son of this third century O'Brien traveled throughout Europe for twenty years, and then returned to claim his patrimony.

On account of his debonair manners, picked up at the Courts of the Continent, he was dubbed "Siadhal," which means "The Gracious," and because there were so many OBriens, he adopted the more modernized Irish form of the old word and called himself and his children "Shiel." In Latin the name is Sedulius. We find a great many people of this name prominent both in ecclesiastical and literary history. One of them wrote the first of a series of treatises on Ethics that all the Christian Princes were required to study.

One was attached to the Court of Charlemagne. One was prominent in the Papal family of early times. One introduced Rhyme into Latin poetry and is called the Christian Virgil to this day. He wrote "Carmen Paschale." He had a good biography from the pen of Hellman, published in German in Munich in 1905. Six of them are mentioned by the Four Masters between the years 785 and 855.

A history of the Shields family is found in Rooney's Aristocracy at the time of the Reformation 400 years ago. A copy of this was known to be in America in Bishop Phalen's library, but after his death his books were scattered.

One branch of the family moved to the North of Ireland, Ulster. This family became Protestant and changed its name slightly. It became Shields. It may be that it Anglicised the name "Shiel" because the English were the promoters of the Reformation, and the oppressors of the Catholic Irish.

There was an inter-marriage with the Norman family of Scyld which means "Shield" in English. This Scyld family was in early days the reigning family in Denmark. Whatever the reason, the new name was taken up. The Shiel, O'Shiel, Shiell, etc., are probably all related to the old family that stayed in Munster. Cashel, in Tipperary, is the seat of the old O'Brien Castle and Capitol.

The Irish family records and historical data are the best in existence in any country. This arises from the peculiar land tenure law. The Irish are the direct descendants of the Phoenicians who invented the alphabet and the science of mathematics; but were driven out by the Greeks. They had a custom of appointing a sort of Parliament of Scholars who once each year checked up the facts of current history, and particularly the genealogical records. Thus we have a mine of information, much of it published. This is largely in the annals of the Four Masters.

The Shields of Ulster were all closely connected, without doubt, and seem to have kept the bond of blood even after emigration to America. The four emigrants who are best known and who are ancestors of the Southern families may be designated for convenience:

James Shields, of Rockingham County, Virginia, (probably an emigrant).

[Note: This is the great-uncle of William Shields of Armagh (1728-1797), and the younger of the two oldest sons of William Shields--b. 1600, County Antrim, Ireland--who were deported to Barbados in the 1650's by Cromwell. James ultimately settled in New Castle County, Delaware; some of his children settled in Rockingham County, Virginia, and it was there that James was killed by a falling log while helping his sons build a house.]

John Shields, of the Mayflower. Not the original Mayflower, but an 18th century vessel similarly named.

_____ Shields, who married a Nesbit.

William Shields, of Armagh, Ireland.

JAMES SHIELDS, OF ROCKINGHAM

James Shields, probably an emigrant, died in Rockingham County, Virginia, in 1749. His son, Robert, was a Revolutionary officer. He had twelve children, eleven sons and one daughter. They moved to Sevier County, Tennessee, about 1785. [Armstrong is inaccurate here, as will be noted from tables elsewhere in this addendum. The Robert Shields mentioned, father of the famous "Ten Brothers" of the Shields family, was James Shields of Rockingham's great-grandson.]

The daughter married a Tipton, enemy of John Sevier, who was partner of Daniel Boone. Their son was General and United States Senator John Tipton, of Indiana, founder of Indianapolis, Logansport and Columbus. He married his cousin, daughter of one of his mother's brothers, John Shields, the official scout and gunsmith of the Lewis-Clarke Expedition to Oregon, 1803,6. There is a biography of him in any good account of that Expedition. His wife was a White, sister of Hugh Lawson White who ran for President against Jackson and Adams in 1828.

[Here again Armstrong seemingly has accurate facts but makes incorrect connections and deductions therefrom.]

JOHN SHIELDS OF THE MAYFLOWER

John Shields, the emigrant, married Margaret Finley, in 1768. They moved from Ireland, or Wales; came in the ship "The Mayflower." When they reached land, a babe was born. They named it "Thankful," as they were glad it was born on land instead of water. That is how the name originated in this branch of the Shields family.

The children of John Shields and Margaret Finley Shields were, Thankful, John James, David, George, William Alexander, Robert Francis and Rebecca. John James Shields married Elizabeth Higginbotham. Their children were, John James, Samuel, Egbert, William, Robert, Sallie and Nancy (twins), Peggy, Mary, Thankful and Polly Ann. John James Shields son of the emigrant was twice married, first to Francis Ann Plunkett, and second to Nancy Plunkett. They were sisters. Samuel was twice married, first to Susan Wakin Wheeler, and second to Maria Sterritt. Egbert was married first to Ellen Brent, second to Ann Bibb. Sallie married James Higginbotham, as his second wife. Nancy married William Smith. Peggy married Willis Plunkett. Mary married James Marr, Thankful married first Lafayette Johnson, second Robert Brooks, and died at "Valley Rest," near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Robert and Polly Ann never married.

John James Shields and his wife moved with their family to Kentucky near Bowling Green in 1836 or 1837 from Nelson County, Virginia. He bought 1,666 and two thirds acres of land. At his death his land and slaves were equally divided among his children.

THE SHIELDS WHO MARRIED A NESBIT

Another emigrant Shields, a native of Ireland, was twice married. The name of his first wife is unknown. His second wife as a Nesbit. Their children were, John, James, George, David Robert, Isabella and Elizabeth. No record has been kept of any except James: He was born in Ireland in 1762 and came to America when young with his parents. He lived in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, where he enlisted in the Revolutionary war and is said to have been in the Battles of King's Mountain, Hanging Rock, etc. He afterward moved to Elbert County, Georgia. Later he went to Tennessee, stopping for a while on Harpeth river, south of Nashville, moving afterward to Giles County, where he and a large number of relatives settled at Elk Ridge church, which they erected of logs and which is still standing about two and a half miles east of Lynnville. In Georgia he married a daughter of Captain Samuel Montgomery, of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, an officer of the Revolution. Her name was Jane Montgomery. Her sister _____ Montgomery married a Samuel Shields, said to have been a son of William Shields of Armagh whose family record follows; but this Samuel Shields is given as being married to Margaret Ware. Possibly he married _____ Montgomery as his second wife.

Leander Shields, son of the foregoing James Shields, went from Georgia into Tennessee with his relatives. He married his cousin, Ann King, also given as Elizabeth King.

With them went Samuel Shields, descendant of William Shields, the emigrant, from County Armagh, or Ireland, this Samuel Shields being, doubtless, the one who was married to _____ Montgomery and accompanying the family in consequence of that marriage.

Leander Montgomery Shields, who married his cousin, Ann King, also given as Elizabeth King, (she possibly bore both names) had among other children James Montgomery Shields, who married Eliza Frances Moore. They had a son, Will Mitt Shields, of Columbia, Tennessee. The Kings, Montgomeries, Shields, McDonolds, McKenziers and Alexanders of Middle Tennessee are all closely connected and all identified with the early history of the State.

WILLIAM SHIELDS OF ARMAGH

[Omitted; consult "A History of the Shields Family," Appendix C (John Edgar Shields; Triangle Press, Harrisburg. 1968).]

The family of General James Shields, a leading Catholic, was of the Northern Ireland family, re-converted to Catholicism. Most of the emigrant Shields families are Protestant. General James Shields was United States Senator from three states and is one of the two men selected by the state of Illinois for the Hall of Fame. He was prominent in the Mexican War; his picture is the central figure in one of the great battle-pictures of the world, Chapultepec, hanging in the Capitol at Washington. He is buried and has a fine monument at Carrolton, Missouri.

[Note: Above General James Shields is a descendant of Daniel Shields, third of four sons of William Shields (b. 1600, County Antrim, Ireland), and great-uncle of William Shields of Armagh.]

An Early View of the Emmitsburg District

(This sketch on the early settlement of the Emmitsburg District of northern Frederick County, Maryland--that area in which the youthful William Shields of Armagh settled in the late 1740's--is taken from a 125th anniversary commemorative book published in 1968 by St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Emmitsburg. Of passing interest to the Shields descendant is the fact that the two Hughes brothers, credited with establishing the Emmitsburg Catholic Parish and otherwise prominent in the affairs of the area, are cited prominently in the St. Joseph's history; both were witnesses to William Shields' will.---J.E.S.)

"At the foot of the Catoctin Spur, whose blue hills run south from the Blue Ridge Mountains past the town of Thurmond until they are lost in the plains of the southland beyond the Potomac, lies a pleasant and fruitful valley stretching toward the Monocacy River to the east and continuing in the direction of the town of Westminster. In this very attractive and peaceful plain, bounded by the contributory creeks of the Monocacy, Flat Run, Tom's Creek and Friend's Creek, is the town of Emmitsburg, laid out by Samuel Emmett on August 14, 1785.

"For generations, long before the coming of the white man to this part of Maryland, the warlike Susquehanna Indians roamed the woods, fished the streams, hunted the wolves, the bears and the foxes, and lit their campfires on the many hills. Into this wild land, with its promise of great fertility, sometime during the first quarter of the eighteenth century, came the first white settlers. Certainly before the century had passed its third decade the newcomers had marked out their first claims. Some of these, perhaps the majority, were of German ancestry and had come from the Pastorius settlement about ten miles north of Philadelphia, a section appropriately known as Germantown. This was a starting point for a great number of German families who followed the trail leading to Lancaster from Philadelphia, crossing the Susquehanna at Wright's Ferry (now Wrightstown), continuing to York and then along the Monocacy Trail on the banks of the Monocacy, through what is now Frederick County, Maryland, to the Potomac and down into the fertile valley of Virginia. Many of this number, attracted by the beauty and promise of Frederick County lands, established their homes on the hills and in the valleys which, for richness of soil, are surpassed by few counties in the entire United States. Certainly, with the exception of Lancaster County in nearby Pennsylvania, Frederick County is without peer among the counties of the East.

"In 1729 Charles Carroll, the elder, obtained a tract of 10,000 acres of land extending through territory located in Maryland and Pennsylvania. In 1732, Lord Baltimore offered two hundred acres of this land to any person having a family who would within three years actually settle on the land between the Monocacy and the Susquehanna Rivers.

"Samuel Emmet, of the historic Presbyterian family of Ireland, had obtained a patent for 2,250 acres of this section on May 17, 1757. The land was then owned by the famous John Carroll of Carrolltown. This land was broken up into building lots by Emmet and disposed of during the years following 1785. Up to this time the locality was known as Poplar Fields because of the great number of poplar trees in the area, but at a public meeting called at Hockensmidt's Tavern, the name was changed to honor Samuel Emmet.

"Maryland claimed the land from the Monocacy to the Susquehanna. There was a great deal of trouble between Maryland and Pennsylvania over the land between these two rivers. This was settled in 1767 when the Mason-Dixon line was established. One of the original stones still exists near the Morris Topper house.

"Frederick County was established in 1748. The courthouse begun then was not finished until 1756. This stood for twenty-nine years and in 1785 the new one modeled after the Dublin, Ireland, courthouse was built. This stood until 1861.

"Germans on their way from Pennsylvania to Virginia, who stopped in Maryland, often stayed to settle there and were charged rent of one cent an acre per year. The church at Monocacy was their meeting place. Both Reformed and Lutherans worshipped there until they moved to Frederick in 1745.

"The Frederick County Court declared the invalidity of the Stamp Act in November, 1765, and of the four Frederick County Military companies in Revolutionary times, two were from Emmitsburg.

"During the first sixty years of the eighteenth century, there were three distinct groups of settlers arriving in the neighborhood of Emmitsburg. They came in 1730, 1746 and 1757. The Emmett family came in 1757."

The Household Effects of William Shields of Armagh

In my 1968 book on the Shields family I included an inventory of the estate of William Shields of Armagh made by public officials shortly after his death in 1797. Partly to preserve the flavor of that document, and partly because of an impending printer's deadline, I reproduced it as it appeared in the basic source, Frederick County Inventories (Liber. G.M. 3, folios 16-20, 270-271) in the Hall of Records of Maryland, at Annapolis.

This original enumeration, however, as would be logical, was apparently made on a room-to-room and field-to-field basis, and the end result, while highly interesting, does not afford the present-day reader the view of William's household that a more organized inventory would. Accordingly, I have grouped his chattels below under categorical headings which I believe permits of a greater appreciation of the material possessions which surrounded William and Jane and their children remaining at home (by 1797, probably Ebenezer and Margaret, and possibly Mary, David, and Banner).

It should be noted that this inventory does not include William's extensive holdings of land, his liquid assets and accounts receivable (which appear to have been substantial), or the personal possessions of his wife (clothing, jewelry, etc.) or his children remaining at home (who doubtless possessed firearms, livestock, and other items which had been conveyed to or independently acquired by them). All those items, however, of common benefit to the family were not considered community property but were regarded as William's to hold or dispose of.

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 Trowsers
- 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 Pillos
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 Roun 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:

1 Map of the City of Washington
 1 Map of the State of Maryland Fedrallity
 1 Book of Constitutions
 Bacons Abridgement of the Laws of Maryland
 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 Franch 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:

15 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
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 Buckett
1 half Bushel
4 Bags
4 Old--Ditto
1 Old Copper Still

Supplies & Materials:

2½ lbs Steel
134 lbs. Old Iron
Old Iron
2440 Shingles
363 Staves

Tools & Equipment:

1 Old Wind Mill for gleaning 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 Stretchers
1 Flat vane Box Iron
1 Iron Shirt
1 Flax Brake
1 Chain
1 Locke
1 Old Bell Without Clapper

SHIELDS FAMILY WILLS

(In my 1968 book on the Shields family I included the text of both William's and Ebenezer's wills. On this and following pages are additional data of this nature: probate notations appended to William's will; the text of his wife's will; and the wills of his second son, James, and third son, Henry. All shed additional light on the situation of the family at the time of the above members' deaths, but all raise as well additional questions to intrigue the student of Shields family history.---J.E.S.)

NOTATIONS ON WILLIAM SHIELDS WILL:

Frederick County August 9, 1797

Then came John Shields and made oath that the aforegoing instrument of writing is the true and whole will and testament of William Shields late of Frederick County, dec., that hath come to his hand and possession and that he does not know of any other

Geo. Murdock, Reg.

Frederick County August 9, 1797

Then came James Hughes and John Caff two of the subscribing witnesses to the aforegoing last will and testament of William Shields late of Frederick County, dec., and made an oath on the holy evangels of almighty God that they did see the testator herein named sign and seal this will, that they heard him publicly pronounce and declare the same to be his last will and testament, that at the time of his so doing he was to the best of their apprehensions of a sound and disposing mind memory and understanding, and that they respectively subscribed their names as witnesses to this will in the presence of and at the request of the testator and all in the presence of each other

ss Geo. Murdock, Reg.

On the 2nd day of September 1797 came Jane Shields the widow of William Shields late of Frederick County, dec., and quitted her claims to the several bequests and devises made to her in the will of her said husband deceased and elected in lieu thereof her dower of third part of the deceased's estate both real and personal

Before

Geo. Murdock, Reg.

State of Tennessee July 10th 1800 Greene County

To all persons whome this may concern Know ye that I hereby relinquish my executorship as named in the last will and testament of William Shields of Frederick County State of Maryland decess'd, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my name the day and date above written

In presents of
William Magill

James Shields

Will of Jane Bentley Williams Shields

In The Name of God Amen. 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 Inst 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 JAMES SHIELDS

(This will of William Shields' second son was written in 1834, amended in 1838, and probated in 1840, the year of his death.)

In the name of God Amen. I James Shields of Greene County, State of Tennessee being at this time in the seventy seventh year of my age and in commonhealth, but well assured that the time of my disolution is not far distant knowing God hath appointed for all men once to die and also calling in mind the uncertainty of all earthly things do make publish and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner and form following principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it and my body I recommend to the earth from whence it comes to be buried in a decent christian manner at the discession of my Executors hereinafter named nothing doubting but at the general resurrection my soul will again be united to this earthly body by the almighty power of God when he will call the numberless inhabitants of this globe from their sleeping dust to judgement. Where I and you who are now reading this last will must appear to render an account of our stewardship while passing through this mortal life.

May god of his infinite goodness prepare each of us for that pollous and enteristing ocean so that we may be found standing on the right hand of our impartial judge not having our own rightousness but clothed there with the righteousness of Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour who we find to have made a complete attonment in his own body on the cross for all our sins and this his satisfaction to laws and justice may be imputed to us in a law since for our eternal life hereafter in the sight of God where we shall live and reign with King Jesus forever and ever praising and singing redeeming love and soverin free grace while eternity rolls on. My dear wife and you my children who may see these lives you will believe me I trust and hope we will in a short time all meet together in the happy mantions of blessing. We shall part no more but join those happy spirits who are gone before and also that will come after in praising and addoring the eternal grate three one in choosing us his ellecting and soverin free grace. And as touching such worldly estate wherever it has pleased God to bless me with in this life I give devise and dispose of these in the following. Firstly, I give and bequeath unto Jane my dearly beloved wife who has been sharing with me through all my dificulties for more than fifty one years the following money and property subject nevertheless to sundrie deductments hereinafter mentioned viz. all the money I may have on hand at the time of my discease together with all my outstanding debts wheather by bond note or book accompanying any abolute property after paying my funeral expenses and lawful debts if any, also my personal property and furniture of my discription unless hereinafter named farther to have the use and benefits of the dwelling house in which we now live and also to have the one third part of the profits arising from the plantation and mills during her natural life to do and dispose of as she my said wife may think proper to dispose of by wills or otherwise I give and bequeath unto my said wife my negro girl named Soffy as her property until the first day of May one thousand eight hundred and forty one at which time I grant her freedom in form hereafter set fourth I give and bequeath to my beloved wife all my books and surveying instruments as her absolute property together with all my live stock unless herein particularly named. I give and bequeath to my beloved son William Shields now living in Missouri one hundred dollars to be sent to him as soon as possible after my discease to be taken out of the above leging bequeath in my wifes hands which some will be given to my executors to be sent on in the course of six months at farthest after my discease for a remembrance of me.

I give and bequeath unto my son James Shields all the land I hold in Hawkins County on Whitstone Creek being four small tracts in all about one hundred acres together with an addition hereinafter made. I give and bequeath unto my beloved son Milton Shields and my beloved daughter Joana Lea one hundred and fifty dollars each to be paid them as hereafter stated. I give and bequeath unto my three