

In the name of God amen

I George Washington of Mount Vernon a city of the United States, and lately President of the same, do make, ordain and declare this Instrument, in my own hand, of subscribed, my last Will & Testament, revoking all other

imprimis. All my debts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctually and speedily paid, and thereafter bequeathed as soon as circumstances will admit, and in the manner directe

tem. To my dear wife Martha Washington the use, profit, Estate, real and personal, of her natural life. Whereof as are of hereafter: - The Town of Alton & Cameron. Her heirs forever.

loved wife Martha and bequeath the benefit of my whole personal, for the term except such parts specifically disposed in this will.

household & Kitc  
every sort & kind, w<sup>th</sup> the liquors and  
groceries which may be or have at  
the time of my decease, to be used &  
disposed of as she may think proper.

In Upon the decease  
my Will & desire th<sup>t</sup>  
which I hold ix  
receive their free  
pate them during  
earnestly wish  
with such insu  
account of their  
vages with the  
excite the most pa  
if not disagreeable  
the latter while  
in the occupancy  
etor, it not being  
the texture by which  
are held, to man  
whereas among  
cieve freedom ac  
vise, there may be  
old or bodily infi  
who or account  
will be unable to  
it is n<sup>t</sup> miss a

furniture of  
the liquors and  
groceries which may be or have at  
the time of my decease, to be used &  
disposed of as she may think proper.  
In my wife, it is  
all the Slaves  
own right, shall  
— To emasci:  
life, would tho'  
me, be attended  
by difficulties or  
nature by Mar  
bar Negroes, as to  
full sensations,  
inconveniences from  
descriptions are  
the same propri  
my power under  
e Dower Negroes.  
them. — And  
e who will re-  
ding to this de-  
me, who from  
ties, and others  
in infancy, that  
sport themselves  
are that all who  
t second descrip  
tably cloathed &  
they live; — and

that such of the latter description as  
have no parents living, or if living  
are unable, or unwilling to provide  
for them, shall be bound by the Court  
until they shall arrive at the age of  
twenty five years; - and in cases where  
no record can be produced whereby  
their ages can be ascertained, the Judge  
next of the Court upon its own view  
of the subject, shall be adequate and  
final. — The Negroes thus bound, are  
(by their Masters or Mistresses) to be —  
taught to read & write, and to be brought  
up to some useful occupation, agree-  
ably to the Laws of the Commonwealth  
of Virginia, providing for the support  
of Orphans and other poor Children.  
— and I do hereby expressly forbid  
the sale, or transportation out of the  
said Commonwealth, of any Slave I may  
die possessed of, under any pretence  
whatsoever. — And I do moreover —  
most pointedly, and most solemnly  
enjoin it upon my Executors hereaf-  
ter named, or the Survivors of them  
to see that the same respecting Slaves,  
and every part hereof be religiously  
fulfilled at the Epoch at which it  
is directed to be in place; without eva-  
sion, neglect or delay, after the Crops  
which may then be on the ground are  
harvested, particularly as it respects

G. J. — Apr. 1.

the aged and infirm; - seeing that a regular and permanent fund be established for their support so long as there are subjects requiring it; - not trusting to the certain provision to be made by individuals. — And to my Mulatto man William (calling himself William Lee) I give immediate freedom; or if he should prefer it (on account of the accidents which have befallen him which have rendered him incapable of walking or of any active employment) to remain in the situation he now is, it shall be optional with him to do so: In either case however, I allow him an annuity of Thirty dollars during his natural life, which shall be independent of the victualls & cloaths he has been accustomed to receive, if he chooses the last alternative; but in full with his freedom, if he prefers the first; — I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me, and for his faithful services during the Revolutionary War. —

Hem. To the Trustees, executors, or by what soever other name they may be designated, of the Academy in the Town of Alexandria, I give and bequeath, in Trust, four thousand dollars, or in other words twenty of the shares which I

G. W.

102

hold in the Bank of Alexandria, to  
wards the support of a Free school esta-  
blished at, and annexed to, the said Aca-  
demy; for the purpose of educating such  
orphan children, & the children of such  
other poor and incapable persons as are  
unable to accomplish it with their own  
means; and who, in the judgment of  
the Trustees of the said Seminary, are  
best entitled to the benefit of this dona-  
tion. — The aforesaid twenty shares  
I give & bequeath in perpetuity; — The  
dividends only of which are to be drawn  
for and applied by the said Trustees  
for the time being, for the uses above  
mentioned; — The Stock to remain entire  
and untouched; unless indications of  
a failure of the said Bank should be  
so apparent, or a discontinuance there  
of should render a removal of this fund  
necessary; — in either of these cases, the  
amount of the Stock here devised, is to  
be vested in some other Bank or pub-  
lic Institution, whereby the interest  
may with regularity & certainty be  
drawn, and applied as above. — And  
to prevent misconception, my mean-  
ing is, and hereby declared to be, that  
these twenty shares are in lieu of, and  
not in addition to, the thousand pounds  
given by a Miss in a letter some years a-  
go; in consequence whereof as at:

G. J. 21

anity of Fifty pounds has since been  
paid towards the support of this In-  
stitution

Item. Whereas by a Law of the Com-  
monwealth of Virginia, enacted in  
the year 1785, The legislature thereof  
was pleased (as a ~~as~~ evidence of its  
approbation of the services I had ren-  
dered the Public during the Revolution  
and partly, I believe, in consideration  
of my having suggested the vast ad-  
vantages which the Community would  
derive from the extension of its inland  
navigation, under legislative protec-  
tion) to present me with one hun-  
dred shares of one hundred dollars -  
each, in the incorporated company  
established for the purpose of exten-  
ding the navigation of James River  
from tide water to the Mountains: -  
and also with fifty, shares of one  
hundred pounds Sterling each, in the  
corporation of another company, like-  
wise established for the similar pur-  
pose of opening the navigation of the  
River Potowmac from tide water to  
Fort Cumberland. The acceptance  
of which, although the offer was high-  
ly honorable, and grateful to my  
feelings, was refused, as inconsis-  
tent with a principle which I had adop-

G. W. H. — Oct

ted, and had never departed from same  
by - not to receive pecuniary compensa-  
tion for any services I could ren-  
der my countr. in its arduous strug-  
gle with great Britair, for its Rights;  
and because I had evaded similar pro-  
positions from other States in the Union;  
— adding to this refusal, however, an  
intimation that, if it should be the plea-  
sure of the Legislative to permit me to  
appropriate the said shares to pub-  
lic uses, I would receive them on those  
with due sensibility; — and this it ha-  
ving consented to, in flattering terms,  
as will appear by a subsequent law  
and sundry Resolutions, in the most  
ample and honourable manner I.  
proceed after this recital, for the  
more correct understanding of the  
case, to declare —

That as it has always been  
a source of serious regret with me  
to see the youth of these United States  
sent to foreign countries, for the pur-  
pose of Education, often before their  
minds were formed, or they had imbi-  
led any adequate ideas of the hap-  
piness of their own; — contracting, too  
frequently, not only habits of dissipati-  
on & extravagance, but principles  
unfriendly to Republican Governm<sup>t</sup>.  
and to the true & genuine Liberties

G. J. Weston

of Mankind; which, hereafter are  
rarely overcome. — For these rea-  
sons, it has been my ardent wish to  
see a plan devised on a liberal scale  
which would have a tendency to spread  
systematic ideas through all parts  
of this rising Empire, thereby to do  
away local attachments and State  
prejudices, as far as the nature of  
things would, or indeed ought to ad-  
mit, from our National Councils.

— Looking anxiously forward  
to the accomplishment of so desira-  
ble an object as this is (in my estima-  
tion) my mind has not been able to  
contemplate any plan more likely  
to effect the measure than the esta-  
blishment of a UNIVERSITY in  
a central part of the United States,  
to which the youth of fortune and  
talents from all parts thereof might  
be sent for the completion of their  
education in all the branches of po-  
lite literature; — in arts and sciences;  
— in acquiring knowledge in the prin-  
ciples of Politics & good Government;  
— and (as a matter of infinite impor-  
tance in my judgment) by associat-  
ing with each other, and forming frien-  
ships in Juvenile years, be enabled  
to free themselves to a proper degree  
from those local prejudices & habi-

Gifford. — 102

9

tal jealousies which have just been  
mentioned; and which, when carried  
to excess, are never failing sources of  
disquietude to the Public Mind, and  
pregnant of mischievous consequen-  
ces to this Country:—Under these im-  
pressions, so fully dilated,

Item I give and bequeath in per-  
petuity the fifty shares which I hold  
in the Potowmack Company (under the  
aforesaid acts of the Legislature of  
Virginia) towards the endowment  
of a UNIVERSITY to be establish-  
ed within the limits of the District  
of Columbia, under the auspices  
of the General Government, if that  
government should incline to ex-  
tend a fostering hand towards it.  
—and until such Seminary is esta-  
blished, and the funds arising on these  
shares shall be required for its sup-  
port, my further Will & desire is  
that the profit accruing therefrom  
shall, whenever the dividends are  
made, be laid out in purchasing  
Stock in the Bank of Columbia, or  
some other Bank, at the discretion  
of my Executors, or by the Treasurer  
of the United States, for the time being  
under the direction of Congress; pro-  
vided that Honorable body should

*E. J. A. Henderson*

Patronize the measure, and the Divi-  
dends proceeding from the purchase  
of such Stock is to be vested in more  
Stock, and so on, until a sum ade-  
quate to the accomplishment of the  
object is obtained, of which I have  
not the smallest doubt, before many  
years passes away; even if no aid  
or encouragement is given by legisla-  
tive authority, or from any other source

Item The hundred shares which I held in  
the James River Company, I have gi-  
ven, and now confirm in perpetuity  
to, and for the use & benefit of Li-  
berty Hall Academy, in the County of  
Rockbridge, in the Commonwealth of Virg.

Item I release exonerate and discharge  
the Estate of my deceased brother Sam-  
uel Washington, from the payment  
of the money which is due to me for  
the Land I sold to Philip Pendleton  
(lying in the Count. of Berkeley) who  
assigned the same to him the said Sam-  
uel; who, by agreement was to pay  
me herefor. - And whereas by some  
contract (the purport of which was  
never communicated to me) between  
the said Samuel and his son Thor-  
ton Washington, the latter became pos-  
sessed of the afore.aid land, without

G. Washington

any conveyance having passed from  
me, either to the said Pendleton, the  
said Samuel, or the said Thorntox, and  
without any consideration having  
been made, by which neglect neither  
the legal nor equitable title has been  
alienated; - it rests therefore with me  
to declare my intentions concern-  
ing the premises - and these are to  
give & bequeath the said land to  
whomsoever the said Thorntox Nash  
esq: (who is also dead) devised the  
same; or to his heirs forever if he di-  
ed intestate: - Exonrating the estate  
of the said Thorntox, equally with that  
of the said Samuel from payment of  
the purchase money; which, with in-  
terest, agreeably to the original con-  
tract with the said Pendleton, would  
amount to more than a thousand pounds.

— And whereas two other Sons of  
my said deceased brother Samuel  
— namely, George Steple & Washington  
and Lawrence Augustus Washington  
were, by the decease of those to whose  
care they were committed, brought un-  
der my protection, and in conse<sup>d</sup>.  
have occasioned advances on my  
part for their Education at College,  
and other Schools, for their board  
cloathing — and other incidental  
expences, to th. amount of near

Gifford Esq: —

five thousand dollars or even above  
the sums furnished by their Estate w<sup>ch</sup>  
sum may be inconvenient for them,  
or their fathers Estate to refund. —  
I do for these reasons, acquit them,  
and the said estate, from the pay-  
ment thereof. — My intestation being  
that all accounts between them and  
me, and their fathers estate and me  
shall stand balanced. —

Item      The balance due to me from the  
Estate of Bartholomew Dandridge deceased (my wife's brother) and which  
amounted on the first day of October  
1795 to four hundred and twenty five  
pounds (as will appear by an account  
rendered by his deceased son John  
Dandridge, who was the acting Ex<sup>r</sup>.  
of his fathers Will) I release & acquit  
from the payment thereof. — And  
the Negroes, then thirty three in num-  
ber) formerly belonging to the said  
estate, who were taken in execute  
or sold and purchased in on my  
account in the year and ever  
since have remained in the pos-  
session, and to the use of Mary, Widow  
of the said Bartholomew Dandridge  
with their increase, it is my Will  
desire shall continue, be in her pos-  
session, without paying hire, or ma-

G. W. Foster

king compensation for the same for  
the time past or to come, during  
her natural life; at the expiration  
of which, I direct that all of them who  
are forty years old upwards, shall re-  
ceive their freedom; all under that age  
and above sixteen, shall serve seven  
years and no longer; - and all under  
sixteen years, shall serve until they  
are twenty five years of age, and then  
be free. - And to avoid disputes re-  
pecting the ages of any of these negroes,  
they are to be taken to the Court of the  
County in which they reside, and the  
judgment thereon, in this relation -  
shall be final, and a record thereof  
made, which may be adduced as evi-  
dence at any time thereafter, if dis-  
putes should arise concerning the same.

. - And I further direct, that the heirs  
of the said Bartholomew Dandridge shall  
equally, share the benefits arising from  
the services of the said negroes accord-  
ing to the tenor of this devise, upon the  
decease of their Mother. -

Item If Charles Carter who intermar-  
ried with my niece Betty Lewis is not  
sufficiently secured in the title to the lots  
he had of me in the Town of Fredericks-  
burgh, it is my Will & desire that my Ex-  
ecutors shall make such conveyances

G. J. W. a. p. 102

of them as the law requires, to render it perfect. —

Item To my nephew William Augustine Washington (<sup>and his heirs</sup> if he should conceive them to be objects worth prosecuting) and to his heirs, - a lot in the Town of Max-  
chester (opposite to Richmond) N° 265 in  
drawn on my sole account, and also  
the tenth of one or two, hundred acre lots,  
and two or three half lots in the City, and  
vicinity of Richmond, drawn in part  
nership with nine others, all in the  
lottery of the deceased William Byrd  
are given - as is also a lot which I  
purchased of John Hood, conveyed by  
William Willie and Samuel Gordon  
Trustees of the said John Hood, number  
ed 139 in the Town of Edesburgh, in the  
County of Prince George, State of Virginia

Item To my nephew Bushrod Washing-  
ton, I give and bequeath all the Papers  
in my possession, which relate to my Ci-  
vial and Military Administration of the  
affairs of this County; - I leave to him  
also, such of my private Papers as are  
worth preserving, - and at the decease  
of wife, and before - if she is not inci-  
pient to retain them, I give and bequeat  
my library of Books, and Pamphlets  
of every kind. -

G. W. Washington

Hem

Having sold lands which I possessed in the State of Pennsylvania, and part of a tract held in equal -  
right with George Clinton, late Governor of New York, in the State of New York; - My share of land & interest, in the Great Dismal Swamp, and a  
tract of land which I owned in the County of Gloucester, - withholding the legal titles thereto, until the con-  
sideration money should be paid. -

— And having moreover leased, & conditionally sold (as will appear by the tenor of the said leases) all my  
lands upon the Great Kanawha, and a tract upon Difficult Run, in the County of Loudoun, it is my Will  
and direction, that wheresoever the Contracts are for my, & respectively  
complied with, according to the spi-  
rit, true intent & meaning hereof,  
on the part of the purchasers, their  
heirs or assigns, that they, and in  
that case, Conveyances are to be  
made, agreeably to the terms of the  
said ~~above~~ Contracts; and the mo-  
ney arising therefrom, when paid,  
to be vested in Bank stock; the divi-  
dends whereof, so that also which  
is already vested therein, is to insure  
to my said wife during her life  
but the Stock itself is to remain, &

G. W. Hem Fox

be subject to the general distribution hereafter directed.

Item To the Earl of Buchan I recommend "The Box made of the Oak that sheltered the Great Sir William Wallace after the battle of Falkirk" presented to me by his Lordship, in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a request "To pass it, on the event of my decease, to the man in my country, who should appear to me fit it best, upon the same conditions that have induced him to send it to me". Whether easy, or not, to select the man who might comport with his Lordships opinion in this respect, is not for me to say; but concerning that no disposition of this valuable curiosity can be more eligible than the commitment of it to his own Cabinet, agreeably to the original design of the Goldsmiths Company of Edinburgh, who presented it to him, and at his request, consented that it should be transferred to me; I do give & bequeath the same to his Lordship, and in case of his decease, to his heir with my grateful thanks for the distinguished honour of presenting it to me; and more especially for the favourable sentiments

G. Wal. n. 160

with which he accompanied it. —

Item To my brother Charles Washington I give & bequeath the gold headed Case left me by Doct<sup>r</sup> Franklin in his Will. — I add nothing to it, because of the ample provision I have made for his Issue. — " To the acquaintances and Friends of my Juvenile years, Lawrence Washington & Robert Washington of Cho Tanch, I give my other two gold headed Cases, bearing my Arms engraved on them and to each (as they will be useful when they live) I leave one of the Spy-glasses which constituted part of my equipage during the late War. — " To my com<sup>t</sup> patriot in arms, and old & intimate friend Doct<sup>r</sup> Craik, I give my Bureau (was the Cabinet Makers cabinet, Tam<sup>b</sup>our Secretary) and the circular chair as appendage of my Study. — " To Doctor David Stuart I give my large u Shaving & dressing Table, and my Te<sup>c</sup>lescope. — " To the Reverend, now Bryan, Lord Fairfax, I give a Bible in three large folio volumes, with notes, presented to me by the Right Reverend Thomas Wilson, Bi<sup>p</sup>ishop of Loder & Max. — " To General de la Fayette I give a pair of finely wrought steel Pistols, taken from the enemy in the Revoluti<sup>n</sup>ary War. — " To my sister, in law

*reptoh*

Hannah Washington & Mildred Washington;  
— to my Friends Eleanor Stuart  
Hannah Washington of Fairfield, and  
Elizabeth Washington of Hayfield, I  
give, each, a Mourning Ring of the  
value of one hundred dollars. — These  
bequests are not made for the intrinsic  
value of them, but as mementos  
of my esteem & regard. — " — To Tobias  
Dear, I give the use of the Farm which  
he now holds, in virtue of a lease given  
me to him and his deceased wife for  
and during their natural lives from  
from Rest, during his life, at the  
expiration of which, it is to be disposed  
of as is hereinafter directed. — " — To  
Sally B. Haynie (a distant relation  
of mine) I give and bequeath three-  
hundred dollars. — " — To Sarah Green  
daughter of the deceased Thomas Bush  
op, & to Ann Walker daughter of Mr.  
Hector, also deceased, I give, each-  
one hundred dollars, in considera-  
tion of the attachment of their father  
to me, each of whom having lived  
nearly forty years in my family. —  
— To each of my Nephews, Willi-  
am Augustine Washington, George  
Lewis, George Henry Washington,  
Bushrod Washington and Samuel in  
Washington, I give one of the Swords  
or Cutanea of No. 1. I may die pos-

Giffa

recess; and they are to choose in the order they are named. — These words are accompanied with an injunction or not to unsheathe them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self defence, or in defence of their Country and its rights; and in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands, to the relinquishment thereof.

And now

Having gone through these specific devices, with explanations for the more correct understanding of the meaning and design of them, I proceed to the distribution of the more important parts of my Estate, in manner following —

First

To my Nephew Bushrod Washington and his heirs (partly in consideration of an inclination to his deceased father while we were Bachelors, & he had kindly undertaken to superintend my Estate during my Military services in the former War between Great Britain & France, that if I should fall hereiz, Mount Vernon (then less extensive in domain than at present) should become his property) I give and bequeath all that part thereof which is comprehen-

F. Jr. Wm. W.

ded within the following limits - viz  
 - Beginning at the ford of Dogue Creek  
 near my Mill, and extending along the  
 road, and bounded thereby as it now  
 goes, & ever has gone since my recol-  
 lection of it, to the ford of Little Hunting  
 Creek at the Gum spring until it comes  
 to a knowl, opposite to an old road  
 which formerly passed through the  
 lower fields of Muddy hole Farm; at  
 which, on the north side of the said road  
 are three red, or Spanish Oaks mar-  
 ked as a corner, and a stone placed  
 - Thence by a line of trees to be mar-  
 ked, rectangular to the back line, or  
 outer boundary of the tract between  
 Thomson Mason & myself. - Thence  
 with that line Easterly (or doubtless  
 ditching with a Post & Rail fence  
 thereon) to the end of Little Hunting  
 Creek. - Thence with that run which  
 is the boundary between the lands of  
 the late Humphrey Peake and me,  
 to the tide water of the said Creek;  
 thence by that water to Potowmac  
 River. - Thence with the River to the  
 mouth of Dogue Creek. - and thence  
 with the said Dogue Creek to the place  
 of beginning at / before said ford;  
 containing upwards of four thou-  
 sand acres, less the same more or less  
 together with the Ingrick house

G. W. Carter

and all other buildings and improvements  
thereon. —

Second In consideration of the consanguinity between them and my wife, being as nearly related to her as to myself, as on account of the affection I had for, and the obligation I was under to, their father the living, who from his youth had attached himself to my person, and preserved my fortunes through the vicissitudes of the late Revolution — afterwards devoting his time to the superintendence of my private concerns for many years, whilst my public employments rendered it impracticable for me to do it myself, thereby affording one essential service, and always performing them in a manner the most felicitous and respectful. For these reasons I say, I give and bequeath to George Lafayette Washington, and Lawrence Augustine Washington and their heirs, my Estate East of Little Hunting Creek, lying on the River Potowac, — including the farm of 360 acres leased to Tobias Lear as noticed before, and containing in the whole, by Deed, Two thousand and twenty seven acre — be it more or less. — which said Estate it is my Will desire should be equitably, & advantageously divided between them, according to quantity, quality, & other circumstances when

Gifford Weston.

The youngest shall have arrived at the age of twenty one years, by three judicious and disinterested men, - one to be chosen by each of the brothers, and the third by these two. - In the meantime, if the termination of my wife's interest thereon should have ceased, the profits arising therefrom are to be applied for their joint uses and benefit. -

Third. And whereas it has always been my intention, since my expectation of having issue has ceased, to consider the Grand children of my wife in the same light as I do my own relations, and to act a friendly part by them; more especially by the two whom we have reared from their earliest infancy - namely, Eleanor Parke Custis, & George Washington Parke Custis. - And whereas the former of these hath lately intermarried with Lawrence Lewis, a son of my deceased sister Betty Lewis, by which union the endowment to provide for them both has been increased. - Wherefore, I give & bequeath to the said Lawrence Lewis & Eleanor Parke Lewis his wife, and their heirs, the residue of my Mount Vernon Estate, not already devised to my Nephew Bushrod Washington, comprehended within the fol-

G. Washington

loring description. - viz - all the land  
North of the Road leading from the Ford  
of Dogue run to the Gum spring as de-  
scribed in the devise of the other part  
of the tract, to Bushrod Washington, un-  
til it comes to the stone & three red or  
Spanish Oaks on the Knoll. - whence  
with the rectangular line to the back  
line (between Th<sup>r</sup>. Hanson & me) - Then  
with that line westerly along the new  
double ditch to Dogue run by the turn-  
ing Dam of my Mill. - whence with the  
said run to the ford aforesaid,  
to which I add all the land I possess  
West of the said Dogue run & Dogue Cr.  
bounded Easterly & Southerly thereby;  
- together with the Mill, Distillery and  
all other houses & improvements on  
the premises, making together about  
two thousand acres be it more or less.

Earth - activated - The principal al-  
ready mentioned, I give and bequeath  
to George Washington Parke Custis, the  
Grandson of my wife and my Ward,  
and to his heirs, the tract I hold on  
four mile run in the vicinity of A-  
lexandria, containing one thou-  
sand two hundred ac<sup>s</sup>, more or less. &  
my entire square number Twenty  
one, in the City of Washington. -

24

Fifth All the rest and residue of my Estate, real & personal - not disposed of in manner aforesaid - In whatsoe ver consisting - Wheresoever lying and wheresover found - a schedule of which, as far as is recollectec, with a reason able estimate of its value, is hereunto annexed - I desire may be sold by my Executors at such times, in such man ner - and on such credits (if an equal value, and satisfactory distribution of the specific property cannot be made without) as, in their judgment shall be most conducive to the interest of the parties concerned; and the monies arising therefrom to be divided into twenty three equal parts, and applied as follow - viz -

To William Augustine Washington, Elizabeth Spotswood, Jane Thornton, and the heirs of John Ashton, son and daughters of my deceased brother - Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath four parts - That is one part to each of them -

To Fielding Lewis, George Lewis, Robert Lewis, Howell Lewis & Betty Carter, sons & daughter of my deceased sister Betty Lewis, I give & bequeath five other parts - net to each of them

To George Steptoe Washington, law  
rence Augustine Washington, Harriet

G. W. Washington

Parks, and the heirs of Thornton Washington, sons & daughter of my deceased brother Samuel Washington, I give and bequeath other four parts, one part to each of them. —

To Corbin Washington, and the heirs of Jane Washington, son & daughter of my deceased Brother John Augustine Washington, I give & bequeath two parts, one part to each of them. —

To Samuel Washington Francis Bacon Mildred Hammond, son & daughter of my Brother Charles Washington, I give & bequeath three parts, one part to each of them. — And to George Fayette Washington Charles Augustine Washington & Maria Washington, sons and daughter of my deceased Nephew Geo: Augustine Washington, I give one other part, that is to each a third of that part.

To Elizabeth Parke Law, Martha Parke Peter, and Eleanor Parkedewis, I give and bequeath three other parts, that is a part to each of them. —

And to my Nephews Bushrod Washington & Lawrence Lewis, and to my ward, the grandson of my wife, I give and bequeath one other part, that is, a third part of to each of them. — And if it should so happen that any of the persons whose names are here enumerated, unknown to me) should now

Gives to

be deceased - or should die before me, that is either of these cases, the heirs of such deceased person shall, notwithstanding standing, derive all the benefits of the bequest, in the same manner as if he, or she, was actually living at the time

and by way of advice, I recommend it to my Executors not to be precipitate in disposing of the landed property (herein directed to be sold) if from temporary causes the sale thereof should be dull; experience having fully convinced, that the price of land (especially above the falls of the Rivers, & on the Western waters) have been progressively rising, and can not be long checked in its increasing value. — And I particularly recommend it to such of the Legatees (under this clause of my Will) as can make it convenient, to take each a share of my stock in the Potowmac Company in preference to the amount of what it might sell for, being thoroughly convinced myself, that no uses to which the money can be applied will be so productive as the sums arising from this navigation when it is fully operated (and this from the nature of things it must be a long time) and more especially if that of the Harbor doth not add thereto: —

Giff. Engle

The family Vault at Mount Ver-  
non requiring Repairs, and being  
improperly situated besides, I desire  
that a new one of Brick, and upon  
a larger Scale, may be built at the  
foot of what is commonly called the  
Vineyard Inclosure, on the ground  
which is marked out. — In which my  
remains, with those of my deceased  
relatives (now in the old Vault) and  
such others of my family as may  
choose to be interred there, may be  
deposited. — And it is my express-  
desire that my Corpse may be Inter-  
red in a private manner, without  
parade, or funeral oration.

Lastly I constitute and appoint my  
dearly beloved wife Martha Wash-  
ington, My Nephews William Augus-  
tine Washington, Bushrod Wash-  
ington, George Repton Washington, Samu-  
el Washington, Lawrence Washington, &  
My Ward George Washington Parke  
Custis (when he shall have arrived at  
the age of Twenty years) Executrix &  
Executors of this Will & Testament.  
— In the construction of which it will  
readily be perceived that no profes-  
sional character has been consulted  
or has had any agency in the draught  
— and that, although it has occupied

G.W. / 1775

Many of my leisure hours to digest,  
 I throwed it into its present form, it  
 may, notwithstanding, appear crude  
 and incorrect. But having endeavoured  
 to be plain, and explicit in  
 all the Devices - even at the expence  
 of prolixity, perhaps of tautology,  
 I hope, and trust, that no disputes  
 will arise concerning <sup>them</sup>; but if, contrary  
 to expectation, the case should be  
 otherwise from the want of legal ex-  
 pression, or the usual technical terms,  
 - or because too much or too little  
 has been said on any of the Devices  
 to be consonant to the Law, My Will  
 and direction expressly is, that all  
 disputes (if in reality any should a-  
 rise) shall be decided by three im-  
 partial and intelligent men, known  
 for their probity and good under-  
 standing; - two to be chosen by the  
 disputants, each having the choice  
 of one - and the third by those two. -  
 Which three men thus chosen, shall  
 unfeathered by Law, or legal con-  
 structions, declare their sense of  
 the Testator's intentions; - and such  
 decision is, to all intents and pur-  
 poses to be as binding on the par-  
 ties as if it had been given in  
 the Supreme Court of the United  
 States. -

G W Fay, <sup>Esq.</sup>  
 [Signature]

29

In witness of all, and of  
each of the things herein-  
contained, I have set my  
hand and seal, this ninth  
day of July, in the year  
One thousand seven hun-  
dred and ninety and of  
the Independence of the  
United States the twenty  
fourth.

G Washington



visible address.  
revenue bills will follow you and  
will be forwarded to you by express,  
there will be no delay in sending them. Don't send  
me any money now as I will be  
able to do so at the end  
of the month. I will  
call upon you when I get home  
and will ride back.



Schedule of property comprehended in  
the foregoing Will, which is directed to  
be sold, and some of it, conditionally is  
sold; with descriptive, and explanatory  
notes relative thereto. -

In Virginia

	acres	price	dollars.
Loudoun County			
Difficult Run	300		6666. (a)
Loudoun & Languor			
Ashbys Best	2481.310	24,810,	
Chattins Run	885.8	7,080.	(b)

Berkeley

1 <sup>o</sup> Fork of Bull Run	1600
Head of Evans's M.	453
Dr Wormeley's line	183

2236.20 44,720 (c)

Frederick

Bought from Mercer 571.20 11420 (d)

Hampshire

On Pot<sup>k</sup> River above 13240.15 3,600 (e)

Gloucester

On North River 100-ab<sup>2</sup> 3,600 (f)

Nansemond.

Near Suffolk 1.5 f. } 373.8 2984 (g)  
119 acres -----

Great Dismal Swamp

My dividend thereof ab<sup>2</sup> 20,000 (h)

Ohio River

Round bottom 587  
Little Kanawha 2314

cos. p. 1

901 124,889

Schedule . . . Continued

	Amount bro <sup>n</sup> on 2901.	Dokars
Amourat bro <sup>n</sup> on 2901.		124.880
16 miles low down - 2848		do.
Opposite Big Bend 1395 974 A 10..	97440 (i)	

Great Thashawa

Near the Mouth	10990
East side above	7276
Mouth of Cole River	2000
Opposite theret	2950
Burzins Spri	125

Maryland                                    23341... 200.000 (k)

Charles County	600.6	3.600 (e)
Montgomery	519.12	6.228 (m)

Pennsy Evansia

Great Meadows	234.6	1404 (n)
---------------	-------	----------

New York

Mohawk River ab	1000.6	6.000 (o)
-----------------	--------	-----------

North West Territory...

or little Miami	839
Ditto	977
Ditto	<u>1235</u>
	3057.5.. 15.257 (p)

Kentucky

Rough Creek	3000
Ditto adjoin	<u>2000</u>
	5000.2.. 10.000 (q)

Lots - vir-

City of Washington

Two near the Capital, 19632	{	15000 (r)
cost \$963 - and in Build 81	}	
paid over		479.803

Schedule. . . . Continued.

	Dollars
amount bro. over -	479.803
Lots - City of Washington N° 5. 12. 13. & 14 - the 3 last Water Lots on the Eastern Branch, } ex Sq. 667. containing toge } ther 34. 138 Sq. feet a 12th }	4.132 (5)
Alexandria Corner of Pitt & Prince St - half an acre - laid out into buildg. 3 or 4 of w. are let on gr. Rent at \$3 p. foot }	4.000 (t)
Winchester a lot in the Town of Haysburg & another in the Commons of about 6 ac. - supposed - - -	400 (u)
Bath - or Warm Springs Two well situated, & has build ings to the am. of £150 - - -	800 (v)
Stock	
United States ... h <sup>2</sup> 6 <sup>4</sup> ... 3746	
D. deposited 1873, 2500	
3. p <sup>2</sup> 6 <sup>4</sup> - 29465	6.246 (x)
Potomac Company 25. Shares - cost ea £100 thrs - - 10.666 (y)	
James River Company 5 Shares. ea £cost £100 - - 500 (z)	
Bank of Columbia 170 Shares - \$10. each - - - - 6.800,	
Bank of Alexandria - besides } 20 to the T. See Chap 5. } - 1.000 (s)	

Schedule - Continued

Amount bro. over 514317 dollars

**Stock - living - viz. -**

1 Covering horse, 56 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .	} 15.853
Horses - 4 riding & 6	
brood Mares - 20 work	
ing horses & mares. - 26	
covering Jacks. - 3 young	
ones - 10 the a. st. 12 wor	
king Mules - 15 younger ones	} 9530.000
329 head of horned cattle	
650 head of sheep - and	
a large stock of Hogs the	
precise number unknown	

Off

My manager has estimated this live stock at \$7,000 but I shall set it down in order to make a sumal

Aggregate am. 8530.000

Notes

- (a) This tract for the size of it is valuable - more for its situation than the quality of its soil, though that is good for Farming; with a considerable portion of ground that might very easily be improved into Meadow. - It lies on the great road from the City of Washington, Alexandria and George Town to Leesburgh & Winchester; at Difficult bridge, - nineteen miles from Alexandria, - less from the City & George Town, and not more than three from Maldenville at the Great Falls of Potomac. - There is a valuable seat on the premises - and the whole is conditionally sold - for the sum annexed in the Schedule.
- (b) What the seller - prices of lands in the vicinity of these two tracts are, I know not; but compared with those above the ridge, and others below them, the value annexed will appear moderate - a less one would not obtain them from me. -
- (c) The surrounding land, not improved or in Soil, situation or properties of any sort, sell currently at from Twenty to Thirty dollars an acre. - The lowest price is affixed to. - -
- (d) The observations made in the last note applies equal to this tract.

Notes

being in the vicinity of them, and of similar quality, altho' it lies in another County.

(e) This tract, though small, is extremely valuable. - It lies on Potowmac River about 12 miles above the Town of Bath (or Warm Springs) and is in the shape of a horseshoe; - the river running almost around it. - Two hundred acres of it is rich low grounds, with a great abundance of the largest & finest Walnut trees; which, with the produce of the soil, might (by means of the improved navigation of the Potowmac) be brought to a shipping port with more ease, and at a smaller expence, than that which is transported 30 miles only by land. -

(f) This tract is of second rate Gloucester low grounds. - It has no improvements thereon, but lies on navigable water, abounding in Fish and Oysters. - It was received in payment of a debt (carrying interest) and valued in the year 1789 by an impartial Gentleman to £800. - H3. it has lately been sold, and there is due thereon, a balance equal to what is annexed to the Schedule.

(g) These 373 a. are the third part of undivided purchases made by the deceased Fielding Lewis Thomas Walker and myself; on his conviction that

Notes

They would become valuable. - The land lies on the Road from Suffolk to Norfolk - touches (if I am not mistaken) some part of the Navigable water of Kasseemond River - borders on, and comprehends part of the sick Dismal Swamp; - is capable of great improvement; - and from its situation must become extremely valuable.

(2) This is an undivided Interest <sup>w<sup>ch</sup></sup> I held in the Great Dismal Swamp Company - containing about 4000 acres, with my part of the Plantation & Stock Hargen belonging to the Company in the Swamp

(2) These several tracts of land are of the first quality on the Ohio River, in the parts where they are situated; - being almost if not altogether River bottom.

The smallest of these tracts is actually sold at ten dollars an acre but the consideration ther for, not received - The rest are equal valuable & worth as high - especially that which lies just below the little Kankawa and is opposite to a thick settlement on the West side of the River.

The four tracts have an aggregate breadth upon the River of sixteen miles, and is bounded by that distance. -

These tracts are situated on the Great Kankawa River, and the first

Notes

Four are bounded thereby for more than forty miles. - It is acknowledged by all who have seen them (and of the tract containing 10990 acres which I have been or myself, I can assert) that there is no richer or more valuable land in all that Region; - They are conditionally sold for the sum mentioned in the Schedule - that is \$ 200.000 and if the terms of that sale are not complied with they will command considerably more. - The tract of which the 125 acres is a moiety, was taken up by General Andrew Lewis and myself for, and on account of a bituminous spring which it contains; of so inflammable a nature as to burn as freely as spirits, and is as nearly difficult to extinguish

(c) I am but little acquainted with this land, although I have once been on it. - It was received (many years since) in discharge of a debt due to me from Daniel Issifer Adams at the value annexed thereto and must be worth more. - It is very level, lies near the River Potomac

(m) This tract is about 30 miles above the City of Washington, not far from Hattocks - is good farming land, and by those who are well ac-

Notes

guaranteed with it I am informed that it would sell at twelve or \$15 per acre --

(n) This land is valuable on account of its local situation, and other properties. — It affords an exceeding good stand on Braddock's road from Fort Cumberland to Pittsburgh — and besides a fertile soil, possesses a large quantity of natural meadow, fit for the wife. — It is distinguished by the appellation of the Great Meadows where the first action with the French in the year 1754 was fought. —

(o) This is the moiety of about 2000 ac<sup>r</sup>. which remains unsold of 6071 acres on the Mohawk River (Montgomery Cty) in a Patent granted to Daniel Cox in the Township of Caneborough & Harolosa — as will appear by Deeds from Marinus Willet & wife to George Clinton (late Governor of New York) and myself. — The latter sales have been at six dollars an acre and what remains unsold with fetch fair or more

(p) The quality of these lands & their situation, may be known by the Surveyor's certificates which are filed along with the Patents. — They are in the vicinity of Cincinnati; — one to the south near the mouth of the Little Miami — the second & third

ten miles up the same. — I have been informed that they will readily command more than they are estimated at. —

- (9) For the description of these tracts in detail, see General Spotswood's letters, filed with the other papers relating to them. — Besides the general good quality of the land there is a valuable Bank of Iron Ore near. — Which, when the settlement becomes more populous (and settlers are moving that way very fast) will be found very valuable; as the rough creek, a branch of Green River affords ample water for furnaces & forges. —

### Sixty - viz. —

#### City of Washington

- (4) The two lots near the Capital, in square 63A, cost me \$638 only; but it was understood, on condition that I should build two brick houses three story high each: — without this reduction the living prices of those lots would have cost me about \$1350. — These lots, with the buildings there on, when completed, will stand me in \$15000 at least.

- (5) Lots N<sup>o</sup>. 5. 1  
branch, are advo-  
on the water.
- 13 & 14 on the East.  
dangerously situated  
rough many lots

25

much less convenient  
deal higher I will  
the square foot

I have sold a great  
rate these at 12 Cts.  
per ft.

### Alexandria

(8) For this lot, rough unimproved,  
I have refused \$350. - It has since been  
laid off into properly sized lots for building on - three or four which are let on  
ground Rent - former - at three dollars  
a foot on the street. - and this price  
is asked for both parts on Pitt & Pitts  
Street. -

### Winchester

(u) As neither of the lots in the Town  
or Common have any improvements  
on them, it is not easy to fix a price,  
but as both are situated, it is  
presumed the price is annexed to them  
in the Schedule reasonable value -

### Bid

(w) The lots in (two adjoining) cost  
me, to the best of my recollection, between fifty  
& sixty pounds 20 years ago; - and the build-  
ings thereon £15. - Whether pro-  
perty there has  
in its value,  
the houses  
but

increased  
or decreased  
t. condition  
at. -  
high

St

(2) These are N items which are actually funded. - though no more in the aggregate than \$7,566. stand me in at least ten thousand pounds Virginia money. - but the amount of bonded and other debts due to me, & discharged during the War when money had depreciated in that ratio - and was so issued by public authority.

(3) The value annexed to these shares is what they have actually cost me and is the price fixed by Law: - and although the present selling price is under par, my advice to the degatees (for whose benefit especially these shares out of the money taken and held) is that each should take and hold so many shares as he can afford to buy - that each should have a great and increasing profit from them in the course of time.

(2) This supports the opinion that the shares in the James River Company must also be productive. - But of this I can give no decided opinion for want of more accurate information.

(4) 4th

minal prices  
in ch. Aleas

andria & Co.  
vary according  
But as the Stock  
eight to ten  
must be now  
so long as it  
to be secure  
as may, so

The va  
pends more upon  
quantity of the  
and this age  
and judgment.

Mount Vernon  
9<sup>th</sup> July 1799

Stock de  
vity than  
species of it  
the demand  
of purchasers

Washington

At a Court held for the County  
This Last Will and Testament  
President of the United States  
by George Washington  
three of the Executors

the same day,

Surpass the 20<sup>th</sup> January 1800.

George Washington deceased at  
his residence, was presented in  
Washington Lawrence Law  
L., who made out  
Death of Charles

the laws

prohibit them

To the several meetings  
of stated and unsta-  
ted assemblies and the  
conventions which  
gathered them for making

Decr 1776  
John Adams  
OCT 24

John Adams  
Oct 24

Oct 24

John Adams