In the name of God amen

I George Washington of Mount-
Vernon a citi[illegible] of the United States,
and lately Pr[illegible]ident of the same,
do make, orda[illegible] and declare this
Instrument, [illegible] is written with
my own hand, [illegible] every page there
of subscribed [illegible] my name, to be
my last Will [illegible]tament, revo-
king all other[illegible]

Imprimis. All m[illegible]ots, of which there
are but few, and [illegible] none of magnitude
are to be punctu[illegible] and speedily paid
and the legacie[illegible] hereinafter bequeath
ed, are to be dis[illegible]rged as soon as cir
cumstances will [illegible]mit, and in the
manner directe[illegible]

Item. To my dear[illegible] loved wife Mar
tha Washington [illegible]ire and bequeath
the use, profit [illegible] benefit of my whole
Estate, real and [illegible]sonal, for the term
of her natural li[illegible] except such parts
thereof as are [illegible]ifically disposed
of hereafter:- [illegible] lot in
the Town of Al[illegible]
Pitt & Cameron [illegible]
her heirs forev[illegible]

household & Kitc[illegible] furniture of every sort & kind, [illegible] the liquors and groceries which may be on hand at the time of my decease; to be used & disposed of as she may think proper.

m Upon the decease [illegible] my wife, it is my Will & desire th[illegible] all the Slaves which I hold in [illegible] own right, shall receive their free[illegible] — To emancipate them during [illegible] life, would, tho' earnestly wish[illegible] me, be attended with such insu[illegible] difficulties on account of the [illegible] ixture by Mar[illegible] riages with the [illegible] Negroes, as to excite the most pa[illegible] ful sensations, if not disagreeab[illegible] consequences from the latter, while [illegible] descriptions are in the occupancy [illegible] the same Proprietor; it not being [illegible] my power, under the tenure by which [illegible] e Dower Negros are held, to man[illegible] them. — And whereas among [illegible] e who will receive freedom ac[illegible] ding to this devise, there may be [illegible] me, who from old [illegible] ies, and others or bodily infe[illegible] in infancy, that who on account [illegible] port themselves will be unable to [illegible] ire that all who it is [illegible] second descrip[illegible] tably cloathed & [illegible] 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 when no record can be produced, whereby their ages can be ascertained, the judgment 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, agreeably 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 hereafter named, or the Survivors of them to see that the [illegible] use respecting Slaves, and every part thereof be religiously fulfilled at the Epoch at which it is directed to take place; without evasion, neglect or delay, after the Crops which may then be on the ground are harvested, particularly as it respects

Giving [illegible] upon

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 uncertain provision to be made by individuals. — And to my Mulattoman William (calling himself William Lee) I give immediate freedom; or if he should prefer it (on account of the accidents which have befallen him and which have rendered him incapable of walking or of any active employment) to remain in the situation he now is, it shall be optional in 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 victuals & cloaths he has been accustomed to receive, if he chuses the last alternative; but in lieu 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. —

Item. To the Trustees (Governors, 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.

Pot

hold in the Bank of Alexandria, to wards the support of a Free school established at, and annexed to, the said Academy; for the purpose of Educating such orphan children, or the children of such other poor and indigent 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 donation. — 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 thereof 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 public Institution, whereby the interest may with regularity & certainty be drawn, and applied as above. - And to prevent misconception, my meaning is, and is hereby declared to be, that these twenty shares are in lieu of, and not in addition to the thousand pounds given by a misscellaneous letter some years ago; in consequence whereof as ex-

G. W.

nuity of fifty pounds has since been paid towards the support of this Institution

Item. Whereas by a law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, enacted in the year 1785, the Legislature thereof was pleased (as a an evidence of its approbation of the services I had rendered the Public during the Revolution and partly, I believe, in consideration of my having suggested the vast advantages which the Community would derive from the extension of its Inland Navigation, under legislative patronage) to present me with one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each, in the incorporated company established for the purpose of extending 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, likewise established for the similar purpose of opening the Navigation of the River Potomac from tide water to Fort Cumberland, the acceptance of which, although the offer was highly honorable, and grateful to my feelings, was refused, as inconsistent with a principle which I had adop

Lr. Wa — ston

ted, and had never departed from, namely — not to receive pecuniary compensation for any services I could render my country, in its arduous struggle with Great Britain, for its Rights; and because I had evaded similar propositions from other States in the Union — adding to this refusal, however, an intimation that, if it should be the pleasure of the Legislature to permit me to appropriate the said shares to public uses, I would receive them on that term with due sensibility, — and this it having 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 purpose of Education, often before their minds were formed, or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happiness of their own; — contracting, too frequently, not only habits of dissipation & extravagance, but principles unfriendly to Republican Government and to the true & genuine liberties

G. Washington

of Mankind; which, thereafter are rarely overcome. — For these reasons, it has been my ardent wish to see a plan devised on a liberal scale which would have a tendency to spd. 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 admit, from our National Councils. — Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment of so desirable an object as this is (in my estimation) my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measure than the establishment 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 polite literature; — in arts and Sciences — in acquiring knowledge in the principles of Politics & good Government, — and (as a matter of infinite importance in my judgment) by associating with each other, and forming friendships in juvenile years, be enabled to free themselves in a proper degree from those local prejudices & habi=

G. Wash. — for

tual 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 consequences to this Country:— Under these impressions, so fully dilated,

Item I give and bequeath in perpetuity the fifty shares which I hold in the Potomac Company (under the aforesaid acts of the Legislature of Virginia) towards the endowment of a UNIVERSITY to be established within the limits of the District of Columbia, under the auspices of the General Government, if that government should incline to extend a fostering hand towards it, — and until such Seminary is established, and the funds arising on these shares shall be required for its support, 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; provided that Honorable body should

G. Washington

patronize the measure, and the Dividends proceeding from the purchase of such Stock is to be invested in more stock, and so on, until a sum adequate 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 Legislative authority, or from any other source

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

Item I release exonerate and discharge the Estate of my deceased brother Samuel Washington, from the payment of the money which is due to me for the Land I sold to Philip Pendleton (lying in the County of Berkeley) who assigned the same to him the said Samuel; who, by agreement was to pay me therefor. — And whereas by some contract (the purport of which was never communicated to me) between the said Samuel and his son Thorton Washington, the latter became possessed of the aforesaid Land, without

G. Washington

any conveyance having passed from me, either to the said Pendleton, the said Samuel, or the said Thornton, 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 concerning the Premises - and these are to give & bequeath the said land to whomsoever the said Thornton Washington (who is also dead) devised the same; or to his heirs forever if he died Intestate: - Exonerating the estate of the said Thornton, equally with that of the said Samuel from payment of the purchase money; which, with interest, agreeably to the original contract 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 Steptoe Washington and Lawrence Augustine Washington were, by the decease of those to whose care they were committed, brought under my protection, and in conseq.ce have occasioned advances on my part for their Education at College, and other Schools, for their board - cloathing - and other incidental expences, to the amount of near

G. Washington

five thousand dollars over and above the sums furnished by their Estate wch 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 payment thereof. — My intention 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 Exr. of his fathers Will) I release & acquit from the payment thereof. — And the Negros, then thirty three in number) formerly belonging to the said estate, who were taken in execution — sold — and purchased in on my account in the year and ever since have remained in the possession, 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 possession, without paying hire, or ma

G. Washington

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 receive 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 respecting the ages of any of these Negros, they are to be taken to the Court of the County in which they reside, and the judgment thereof, in this relation - shall be final; and a record thereof made; which may be adduced as evidence at any time thereafter, if disputes 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 Negros according to the tenor of this devise, upon the decease of their Mother. -

Item If Charles Carter who intermarried with my niece Betty Lewis is not sufficiently secured in the title to the lots he had of me in the Town of Fredericksburgh, it is my Will & desire that my Executors shall make such conveyances

G. Washington

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

Item To my nephew William Augustine Washington (and his heirs) (if he should conceive them to be objects worth prosecuting) and to his heirs, - a lot in the Town of Manchester (opposite to Richmond) No 265 — drawn on my sole account, and also the tenth of one or two, hundred acre lots, and two or three half acre lots in the city, and vicinity of Richmond, drawn in partnership with nine others, at 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, numbered 139 in the Town of Edinburgh, in the County of Prince George, State of Virginia

Item To my nephew Bushrod Washington, I give and bequeath all the Papers in my possession, which relate to my Civil and Military Administration of the affairs of this Country; - 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 inclined to retain them, I give and bequeath my library of Books, and Pamphlets of every kind. -

G. Washington

Item — 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 consideration 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 Kanhawa, — and a tract upon Difficult Run, in the County of Loudoun, it is my Will and direction, that whensoever the Contracts are fully, & respectively complied with, according to the spirit, true intent & meaning thereof, on the part of the purchasers, their heirs or assigns; that then, and in that case, Conveyances are to be made, agreeably to the terms of the said ~~[illegible]~~ Contracts; and the money arising therefrom, when paid, to be vested in Bank stock; the dividends whereof, as of that also wch is already vested therein, is to inure to my said Wife during her life — but the Stock itself is to remain, &

G. Washington

be subject to the general distribution hereafter directed. –

Item To the Earl of Buchan I recommit "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 conceiving that no disposition of this valuable curiosity can be more eligable than the recommitment of it to his own Cabinet, agreeably to the original design of the Goldsmiths Company of Edenburgh, who presented it to him, and at his request, consented that it should be transfered 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. Washington

with which he accompanied it. —

Item To my brother Charles Washington I give & bequeath the gold headed Cane left me by Doct.r 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 Chotank, I give my other two gold headed Canes, having 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 compatriot in arms, and old & intimate friend Doct.r Craik, I give my Bureau (or as the Cabinet makers call it, Tambour Secretary) and the circular chair — an appendage of my Study. — " — To Doctor David Stuart I give my large shaving & dressing Table, and my Telescope. — " — 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, Bishop of Sodor & Man. — " — To General de la Fayette I give a pair of finely wrought steel Pistols, taken from the enemy in the Revolutionary War. — " To my sister in law

Mrs Stor

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 Lear, I give the use of the Farm which he now holds, in virtue of a Lease from me to him and his deceased wife (for and during their natural lives) free from Rent, during his life; — at the expiration of which, it is to be disposed as is hereinafter directed. — " — To Sally B. Haynie (a distant relation of mine) I give and bequeath three hundred dollars — " — To Sarah Greer daughter of the deceased Thomas Bishop, & to Ann Walker daughter of Rd. Alton, also deceased, I give, each — one hundred dollars, in consideration of the attachment of their fathers to me, each of whom having lived nearly forty years in my family. — . — To each of my Nephews, William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington, Bushrod Washington and Samuel Washington, I give one of the Swords or Cutteaux of wh. it may dispose

G. W.

sessed; and they are to chuse in the order they are named. — These words are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath 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 devises, 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 intimation 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 therein, 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-

G. Washington

ded within the following limits — viz — Beginning at the ford of Dogue run near my Mill, and extending along the road, and bounded thereby as it now goes, & ever has gone since my recollection 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 field of Muddy hole Farm; at which, on the north side of the said road are three red, or spanish oaks marked as a corner, and a stone placed. — thence by a line of trees to be marked, rectangular to the back line, or outer boundary of the tract between Thomson Mason & myself. — thence with that line Easterly (new doubt ditching with a Post & Rail fence thereon) to the run 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 Potomac River. — thence with the River to the mouth of Dogue Creek. — and thence with the said Dogue Creek to the place of beginning at the aforesaid ford containing upwards of four thousand acres, be the same more or less together with the Mansion house

G. Washington

and all other buildings and improvem 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 then living, who from his youth had attached himself to my person, and fostered 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 me essential services, and always performing them in a manner the most filial and respectful – for these reasons I say, I give and bequeath to George Fayette Washington, and Lawrence Augustine Washington and their heirs, my Estate East of little hunting Creek, lying on the River Potomac, 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 acres – 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

G. Washington

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 therein 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 inducement 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. W.

lowing description. — viz — all the land North of the Road leading from the ford of Dogue run to the Gum spring as described in the devise of the other part of the tract, to Bushrod Washington, until it comes to the stone & three red or Spanish oaks on the knoll. — thence with the rectangular line to the back line (between Mr. Mason & me) — thence with that line westerly, along the new double ditch to Dogue run, by the tumbling Dam of my Mill; — thence with the said run to the ford aforementioned; — to which I add all the Land I possess West of the said Dogue run & Dogue Creek — 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

with actuated by the principal already 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 Alexandria, containing one thousand two hundred acres, more or less — & my entire square, number twenty one, in the City of Washington. —

Fifth All the rest and residue of my Estate, real & personal - not disposed of in manner aforesaid - In whatsoever consisting - wheresoever lying - and wheresoever found - a schedule of which, as far as is recollected, with a reasonable estimate of its value, is hereunto annexed - I desire may be sold by my Executors at such times - in such manner - and on such credits (if an equal, valid, 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 follows - viz -

To William Augustine Washington, Elizabeth Spotswood, Jane Thornton, and the heirs of Lawrence 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 - one to each of them

To George Steptoe Washington, Lawrence Augustine Washington, Harriot

Parks, and the heirs of Thornton Wash
ington, sons & daughter of my decea
sed 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 & daugh
ter of my deceased Brother John Augus
tine Washington, I give & bequeath two
parts, one part to each of them. —

To Samuel Washington, Francis
Bali & Mildred Hammond, son & daugh
ter of my Brother Charles Washington,
I give & bequeath three parts, one part
to each of them. — And to George Fayette
Washington Charles Augustin Washing
ton & 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 Parke Lewis,
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 to each of them. — And
if it should so happen that any of the
persons whose names are here enu=
merated (unknown to me) should not

G. Wash[illegible]ton.

be deceased or should die before me, that in either of these cases, the heirs of such deceased person shall, notwithstanding, 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 evinced, that the price of land (especially above the Falls of the Rivers, or 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 Potomac 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 Tolls arising from this navigation when in full operation (and this from the nature of things it must be ere long) and more especially if that of the Shenandoah is added thereto:—

G. Washington

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 —
chuse to be entombed there, may be
deposited. — And it is my express —
desire that my Corpse may be Inter-
red in a private manner, without —
— parade, or fun[illegible] oration. —

Lastly I constitute and appoint my
dearly beloved wife Martha Wash-
ington, My Nephews William Augus-
tine Washington, Bushrod Washing-
ton, George Steptoe Washington, Samu-
el Washington, & Lawrence Lewis, &
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. Wa[illegible]ngton

many of my leisure hours to digest; & throughout it into its present form, it may, notwithstanding, appear crude and incorrect. — But having endeavoured to be plain, and explicit in all the Devises — even at the expence of prolixity, perhaps of tautology, I hope, and trust that no disputes will arise concerning them; but if, contrary to expectation, the case should be otherwise from the want of legal expression, or the usual technical terms — or because too much or too little has been said on any of the Devises to be consonant with law, My Will and direction expressly is, that all disputes (if any should arise) shall be decided by three impartial and intelligent men, known for their probity and good understanding; — 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 unfettered by law, or legal constructions, declare their sense of the Testators intention; — and such decision is, to all intents and purposes to be as binding on the Parties as if it had been given in the Supreme Court of the United States. —

G Washington

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 hundred and ninety and of the Independence of the United States the twenty fourth.

G. Washington

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

In Virginia

	acres	price	dollars	
Loudoun County				
Difficult Run	300		6,666	(a)
Loudoun & Fauquier				
Ashbys Bent	2481	$10	24,810	(b)
Chattins Run	885	8	7,080	(b)
Berkeley				
1st fork of Bullskin	1600			
Head of Evans's M.	453			
On Wormeley's line	183			
	2236	20	44.720	(c)
Frederick				
Bought from Mercer	571	20	11 420	(d)
Hampshire				
On Potk River about	240	15	3.600	(e)
Gloucester				
On North River	400	ab.	3.600	(f)
Nansemond.				
Near Suffolk, of 119 acres	373	8	2984	(g)
Great Dismal Swamp				
My dividend thereof		ab.	20.000	(h)
Ohio River				
Round bottom	587			
Little Kanhawa	2314			
	901		124,880	

Schedule ... Continued

			Dollars	
Amount bro^t over	2901.		124.880	
16 miles low^r down	2448			
Opposite Big Bent	4395	9744	Dol: 10..	97.440 (i)

Great Kanawa

Near the Mouth est	10990		
East side above	7276		
Mouth of Cole River	2000		
Opposite there	2950		
Burzing Spr	125		
	23341		200.000 (k)

Maryland

Charles County	600	6	3.600 (l)
Montgomery do	519	12	6.228 (m)

Pennsylvania

Great Meadows	234	6	1.404 (n)

New York

Mohawk River abt	1000	6	6.000 (o)

North West^n Territy...

On little Miami	839		
Ditto	977		
Ditto	1235		
	3051	5	15.251 (p)

Kentucky

Rough Creek	3000		
Ditto adjoin^g	2000		
	5000	2	10.000 (q)

Lots — viz —

City of Washington

Two near the Capital, 1 634 cost $963 — and 1 Build^g		15000 (r)
read over		479.803

Schedule ... Continued

	Dollars	
amount brot. over	479.803	
Lots - City of Washington		
No. 5. 12. 13. & 14 - The 3 last, Water lots on the Eastern Branch, in Sq. 667. containing together 34.438 sq. feet a 12th	4.132	(s)
Alexandria		
Corner of Pitt & Prince Sts - half an acre - laid out into building lots. 3 or 4 of which are let on gr. Rent at $3 p. foot	4.000	(t)
Winchester		
a Lot in the Town of half an acre & another in the Commons of about 6 acs - supposed -	400	(u)
Bath - or Warm Springs		
Two Well situated, & had buildings to the amt. of £150 -	800	(v)
Stock		
United States ... 6 p Cts ... 3746		
Do. deferred 1873	2500	
3 p Cts ... 2946		6.246 (x)
Potomack Company		
24. Shares - cost ea £100 sterg ...	20.666	(y)
James River Company		
5 Shares - each cost $100 ...	500	(z)
Bank of Columbia		
170 Shares - $40. each ...	6.800	
Bank of Alexandria - besides 20 to the Trees pool 5 -	1.000	(&)
	51432	

Schedule - Continued

Dollars

Amount brot over 514.347

Stock - living - viz. -

1 Covering horse, 56 Horses - 4 living do - six brood Mares - 20 working horses & mares. - 26 covering Jacks - & 3 young ones - 10 the age as, & 12 working Mules - 15 younger ones 329 head of horned Cattle 640 head of Sheep - and a large stock of Hogs the precise number unknown My Manager has estimated this live stock at £7,000 but I shall set it down in order to make a round sum at 15.653

Aggregate amt $530.000

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 gr.d that might, very easily, be improved into meadow. — It lyes on the great road from the City of Washington, Alexandria and George Town, to Leesburgh & Winchester; at Difficult brige, — sixteen miles from Alexandria, — leys from the City & George-Town, and not more than three from Matildaville 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's 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 superior in soil, situation or properties of any sort, sell currently at from twenty to thirty dollars an acre. — The lowest price is affixed to [illegible] —

(d) The observations made in the last note applies equally to this tract tract:

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

(e) This tract, though small, is extremely valuable. — It lyes on Potomac River about 12 miles above the Town of Bath (or Warm springs) and is in the shape of a horse shoe; — 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 Potomac) 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 lyes 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. — N.B. it has lately been sold, and there is due thereon, a balance equal to what is annexed the schedule.

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

they would become valuable. — The land lyes on the Road from Suffolk to Norfolk — touches (if I am not mistaken) some part of the Navigable water of Nansemond Riv — borders on, and comprehends part of the rich Dismal Swamp; — is capable of great improvement; — and from its situation must become extremely valuable.

(h) This is an undivided Interest w^ch — I held in the Great Dismal Swamp Company — containing about 4000 acres, with my part of the Plantation & Stock thereon belonging to the Company in the Swamp

(i) 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 bottoms. — The smallest of these tracts is actually sold at ten dollars an acre but the consideration therefor, not received — the rest are equally valuable & which as high — especially that which lyes just below the little Kanawa and is opposite to a thick settlement on the West side the Riv^r. — The four tracts have an aggregate breadth upon the River of sixteen miles and is bounded by that distance. —

(j) These tracts are situated on the Great Kanawa River, and the first

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 on 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 inflamable a nature as to burn as freely as spirits, and is as nearly difficult to extinguish

(l) 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 Isaiper Adams at the value annexed thereto and must be worth more. — It is very level, lyes near the River Potomac

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

quainted with it I am informed that it would sell at twelve or $15 p^r acre —

(n) This land is valuable on account of its local situation, and other properties. — It affords an exceeding good stand on Braddocks road from Fort Cumberland to Pittsburgh — and besides a fertile soil, possesses a large quantity of natural meadow, fit for the scythe. — 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^s. which remains unsold of 6071. acres on the Mohawk River (Montgomery Cty) in a Patent granted to Daniel Coxe in the Township of Cambarrough & Caroloma — as will appear by Deed from Marinus Willet & wife to George Clinton (late Governor of New York) and myself. — The latter sales have been at six dollars an ac^e. and what remains unsold will fetch that or more

(p) The quality of these lands & their situation, may be known by the Surveyors Certificates — which are filed along with the Patents. — They are in the vicinity of Cincinnati; — one tract near the mouth of the Little Miami — the other seven & the third

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

(q) For the description of these tracts in detail, see General Spotswoods 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. —

Lots — viz. —

City of Washington

(r) The two lots near the Capital, in square 634, cost me 63 $ only; but in this price I was favoured, on condition that I should build two Brick houses three story high each: — without this reduction the selling prices of those Lots would have cost me about $1350. — These lots, with the buildings thereon, when compleated will stand me in $15000 at least.

(s) Lots No. 5. 13 & 14 on the East branch, are advantageously situated on the water. Though many lots

much less convenient have sold a great deal higher I would rate these at 12 Cts the square foot [illegible]y. –

Alexandria

(t) For this lot, though unimproved, I have refused $350 – It has since been laid off into proper sized lots for building on – three or 4 of which are let on ground Rent – former – at three dollars a foot on the Street. – and this price is asked for both fronts on Pitt & Princes Street. –

Winchester

(u) As neither the lot in the Town or Common have any improvements on them, it is not easy to fix a price, but as both are well situated, it is presumed the prices annexed to them in the Schedule [illegible] reasonable valu[illegible]

Bu[illegible]

(w) The Lots in [illegible] (two adjoining) cost me, to the best of my [illegible]ollection, betw[illegible] fifty & sixty pounds 20 years ago; – and the buildings thereon £15[illegible]. – Whether property there has [illegible]r decreased in its value, [illegible] condition the houses [illegible]at. – but [illegible] high

St

(x) These are th[illegible]ems which are actually funded.-- [illegible] though no more in the aggregate th[illegible] $7.566- stand me in at least ten th[illegible]sand pounds Virginia money.- bes[illegible] the amount of bonded and other debts due to me, & discharged dur[illegible] the War when money had depr[illegible]ciated in that rate o- and was so [illegible]ed by public auth[illegible]

(y) The value [illegible]nexed to these sh[illegible] is what they ha[illegible] actually cost me and is the pri[illegible]xed by Law:- and although the pre[illegible]t selling pri[illegible] is under par, my a[illegible]ice to the legatees (for whose bene[illegible] they are intended especially those [illegible] can afford to lye out of the money [illegible]s that each should take and hold o[illegible]:- there being a moral certain[illegible] a great and increasing pro[illegible]ing from them in the course [illegible] yea[illegible]

(z) It is supp[illegible] that the Shares in the James Ri[illegible] Company must also be product[illegible]- But of this I can give no de[illegible]ed opinion for want of mo[illegible]ate information.

(v) Th[illegible]minal prices [illegible] St[illegible] [illegible]ch Alex

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