

Will of Robert Shanks

17 July 1871

In the name of God amen, I, Robert Shanks, of the city of Petersburg and State of Virginia, being of sound mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life, do therefore make, ordain, publish, and declare this to be my last will and testament.

That is to say, after all my lawful debts are paid and discharged, the residue of my estate I give, bequeath, and dispose of as follows, to wit.

To my eldest son James, I give the house and lot on the south side of Old Street adjoining the property of Mrs. Kenney, and the eastern half of the lot on the south side of Poytrees Street in Blandford known as the old mansion property with the buildings thereon.

To my son Thomas, I give the house in which I now reside, being the eastern tenement of the large brick building on the north side of Old Street, and for many years occupied by myself and my family, with the lot on which it stands, extending back to the South Side Railroad, together with all the furniture and other personal property in or on the said premises.

To my daughter Eliza, widow of the late Edwin D. Willcox, I give the house adjoining that given to my son Thomas with the lot on which it stands, extending of uniform width throughout back to the South Side Railroad during the term of her natural life and after her death to her two children, [*illegible*] and Alice Willcox or their heirs.

To my daughter Matilda, the wife of William H. Baxter, I give the large wooden building near the Main Street in Blandford and south of the continuation of Lombard Street, and also the frame building purchased from Timothy Rive's estate with all lands and appurtenances belonging or relating to said houses during the term of her natural life and after her death to her children or any of them who may survive her.

To my grandson Willard O. Shanks I give the western half of the lot in Blandford known as the old mansion property with the wooden building thereon.

All other property owned by me in the City of Petersburg, and a tract of land in Chesterfield County being a portion of land bought of Atkinson's estate being about two hundred acres and the water privileges, and about one hundred and five acres in Dinwiddie County also bought of Atkinson's estate with the water privileges and the islands in the river, and about two hundred and sixteen acres of land in Prince George County near Ware's Creek adjoining Whelmere's land on the south, and a tract of about twenty-seven acres in Prince George County adjoining Avery's tract, I desire my

executors to sell or dispose of in such way and at such times as they may think best and the proceeds to be divided equally between my children James, Thomas, Eliza and Matilda or their heirs.

Likewise I make constitute and appoint my sons James and Thomas and my son in law William H. Baxter or either of them to be my executors with all security of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this 17th day of July in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy one.

Robert Shanks [seal]

The above written instrument was subscribed by the said Robert Shanks in our presence and acknowledged by him to each of us and he at the same time declared the above instrument so subscribed to be his last will and testament and we at the testators request and in his presence have signed our names as witnesses hereto witness,

Thomas Morris

R.H. Westmore

At a quarterly session of the Hustings Court of the City of Petersburg held at the courthouse thereof on Thursday the 21st day of Sept. 1871

The last will and testament of Robert Shanks deceased, having been partly proved at the last term of this Court by the oath of Thomas Morris, a subscribing witness thereto, was this day further and fully proved by the oath of R.H. Westmore, another subscribing witness thereto, and ordered to be recorded. And in the nature of William H. Baxter, one of the executors named in said will (the other executors in open court renouncing their right to qualify) who made oath thereto according to law and entered into and acknowledged a bond in the penalty of \$4000—conditioned as the law requires (the will dispensing with security and the Court not requiring it)—certificate is granted him for obtaining a probate of said will.

Teste

Jno. C. Armistead Clerk