SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE

FIRST FRIDAY MAY 3, 2019

TONIGHT’S DOCUMENTS ON DISPLAY

Presidential Signatures

G E O R G E   W A S H I N G T O N

JAMES MONROE  •  JAMES MADISON  •  JOHN TYLER

Probated Will of Five Star General GEORGE C. MARSHALL

Letter from FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER

Civil Rights Activist CHARLES HOUSTON

Quaker Abolitionist ROBERT PLEASANTS

LOUDOUN CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
HISTORIC RECORDS & RESEARCH DIVISION

Gary M. Clemens
Loudoun County Clerk of Circuit Court
George Washington, 1st President of the United States 1789-1797

Deed signed by George Washington, 1774

In November 1774 this Deed between George Mercer, Mary Wroughton and James Mercer was signed by George Washington as Attorney-in-Fact for Mercer and Wroughton. The Land located near Aldie was part of the estate of John Mercer.
James Monroe, 5th President of the United States 1817-1825

Land Grant Signed by President James Monroe, 1818

Cephas White was awarded 160 acres in the Illinois Territory for his military service in the War of 1812.

Born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, in 1758, Monroe attended the College of William and Mary. He served in the Continental Congress and Army during the Revolutionary War. Before becoming president, Monroe served as a Senator, Governor of Virginia, Secretary of State, Secretary of War, and Minister to France. He is considered the last of the Founding Fathers to become President of the United States.
Certify William Thornton as Justice of the Peace, 1808

Secretary of State and future President James Madison certified William Thornton as a Justice of the Peace for the District of Columbia. Left of Madison’s signature is the Great Seal of the United States.

Born in 1751 in Orange County, Virginia, James Madison attended Princeton (then called the College of New Jersey) and studied history, government and law. He served in the Continental Congress and militia during the Revolutionary War. Known as the “Father of the Bill of Rights,” Madison drafted the first ten Amendments to the Constitution. After 1789, he served in the House of Representatives and as Secretary of State. Madison’s presidency is remembered for the War of 1812 (1812-1815). Before the occupation of Washington D.C. by the British in August 1814, the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and other government documents were temporarily moved to Loudoun County for safe keeping.
John Tyler, 10th President of the United States 1841-1845

Bond signed by Governor and future president John Tyler, 1827
This bond for Loudoun County sheriff Charles Lewis was signed by Governor John Tyler. Notice the state seal in the left hand corner.

Born in Charles City County, Virginia in 1790, Tyler studied law at the College of William and Mary. Before becoming President in 1841, he served in the House of Representatives, as Governor of Virginia, and a Senator. In 1840, he was nominated by the Whig party as William Henry Harrison’s Vice Presidential candidate. Dubbed “His Accidency,” by his enemies, John Tyler was the first Vice President to be elevated to the Presidency on the death of a President.

Only former President to serve in the Confederacy
When the first southern states seceded in 1861, Tyler led a compromise movement; failing, he worked to create the Southern Confederacy. He died in February 1862, before he could take his seat in the Confederate House of Representatives.
Clement Smith’s will includes an affidavit signed by Security of State Daniel Webster confirming that E.N. Roach was the Register of Wills for the District of Columbia. Daniel Webster was one of the most powerful political personalities in Washington D.C. in the 19th century. His many positions in the Federal Government impacted congressional legislation and foreign policy decisions that shaped the future of the United States. Born in 1782 in New Hampshire, Daniel Webster went on to serve as a member of the House of Representatives, Senator from New Hampshire and later Massachusetts, and ran for President in 1836. He served as Secretary of State for William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, and Millard Fillmore, and was a member of the Federalist, National Republican, and Whig Parties. Webster died in 1852 during his last stint as Secretary of State.
I, GEORGE CATLETT MARSHALL, now in the military service of the United States as a General of the Army, do make, publish, and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament hereby revoking all Wills and Codicils by me at any time heretofore written.

ARTICLE I.
I direct that my just debts and funeral expenses be paid as soon after my death as is practicable.

ARTICLE II.
A. I give and bequeath all of my tangible personal property to my wife, Katherine Tupper Marshall, if she survives me, but if she predeceases me, then I give and bequeath all of said tangible personal property to my stepdaughter, Molly B. Winn.

B. I give and devise to my wife, Katherine Tupper Marshall, any interest which I may have in any real estate, whereonver the same may be located. If my wife predeceases me, this devise to her shall lapse, and my said interest in any real estate shall pass to my stepdaughter, Molly B. Winn, but if my stepdaughter also predeceases me, this devise shall lapse.

ARTICLE III.
A. I give and bequeath all of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, wherever held and whereonver situated, and hereinafter sometimes referred to as my “Trust Estate” to my wife, Katherine Tupper Marshall, and First National Bank of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia, as Trustees to be administered by them as hereinafter set forth.

B. My Trustees shall invest and reinvest the Trust Estate and pay the net income therefrom in convenient


Will of General George C. Marshall

Chief of Staff, Five Star General, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and creator of the “Marshall Plan,” George Catlett Marshall (1880-1959) lived at Dodona Manor located on Edwards Ferry Road in Leesburg from 1941 until he died in 1959. Because Marshall was living in Loudoun County when he died, his will is on record here.
Charles Houston was a prominent African-American lawyer, Dean of Howard University Law School, and NAACP first special counsel and Litigation Director. A graduate of Amherst college and Harvard Law School, Houston played a significant role in dismantling Jim Crow laws, especially attacking segregation in schools, Armed Forces, and housing. He was known as “The Man Who Killed Jim Crow.”

“Houston struck upon the idea that unequal education was the Achilles heel of Jim Crow. By demonstrating the failure of states to even try to live up to the 1896 rule of “separate but equal,” Houston hoped to finally overturn the Plessy v. Ferguson ruling that had given birth to that phrase.” NAACP
A document from 1778 transferred Kitty’s indenture from Samuel Pleasants to Edward and Mary Stabler with specifications that Kitty, a free black child, should be given “every allowance and advantage that white people in the like situation are intitled [sic].” Robert Pleasants, brother to Samuel Pleasants, signed the document as a witness. Robert Pleasants, a Quaker abolitionist from Henrico County, Virginia pursued the freedom for enslaved people of his family members’ estates in Pleasants v. Pleasants, a case that eventually freed over 400 people, making the case the largest legal battle over the manumission of slaves in U.S. History. Robert Pleasants founded the Virginia Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery in 1790, wrote a number of letters petitioning for the end of slavery to national leaders such as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Patrick Henry, and established schools to help black children.
Case Number: 1943-014
Name: Clatterbuck, Thomas William
Charge: Murder


Outcome: Mr. Clatterbuck was found guilty of murder in the first degree for the death of Walter Russell. He was sentenced to death by electrocution. This was the last known sentencing of execution in Loudoun County to date.

Note: Above is the evidence of Mr. Clatterbuck’s forgery of a note in the amount of $2,000. In Mr. Clatterbuck’s words: “…[Mr. Love] also had in his possession the note signed by me, together with J.H. Clatterbuck, M.M. Clatterbuck, and R.B. Lunsford. All these signatures on the said note with the exception of mine had been fraudulently forged by me and my signature to the said $2,000.00 note was the only genuine signature on said note.”

The fragments of several notes you see above were found by C.W. Blue and C.F. Reid June 3, 1943. They were sent to the FBI for processing and once processed returned to the Clerk’s Office.
Case Number: 1942-017  
Name: Werking, Robert R.  
Charge: Break and Enter/Attempted Rape

Complaint: “Robert R. Werking on the thirty-first day of May, 1941, in the said County of Loudoun in the nighttime of said day, did feloniously break and enter the dwelling house of Mrs. J.D. Brown, with the felonious intent to carnally know the victim”

Outcome: Mr. Werking was sentenced to 1 year in jail and a fine of $500.00

Note: Above: see J. Edgar Hoover’s signature on report. Also, see the first known finger prints used in Loudoun County.
Case Number: 1914-004
Name: Fry, Sarah
Charge: Forgery & Uttering

Complaint: Sarah Fry on the 23rd day of May 1914 did unlawfully and feloniously forge a check purporting to be the order or draft of J.M. Leith upon The People’s National Bank for $20.00.

Outcome: Ms. Fry was found guilty of petit larceny and not guilty of forgery. She was sentenced to 6 months in the County Jail.