

JAMES SHIELDS AND FATHER WILLIAM SHIELDS
Maryland Continental Line

James Shields, born July 12, 1757 in Maryland, and his father, William, are documented Revolutionary War Soldiers. A brother, John, may have also served in the War [See the Will of James Shield]. As is known, James was the only member of his family to migrate into Greene County, TN where he lived in the Mohawk area. No Pension Application is found for him. James was a very wealthy man, and it is possible he never applied for Pension. Another explanation would be at the time the Pension Act was passed in 1832, James was a very sick man and believed he would die soon.

James wrote an extensive Will, in which he makes reference to his inheritance in Maryland by his father, William. In accordance with James' Will, he was buried 'by the side of the field' on his farm in the Mohawk area.

Extensive information on the Shields Family has been published in *Historic Greene County and Its People*, page 315.

WILL OF JAMES SHIELD
Private, Maryland Continental Line
[Abstract by Goldene Burgner]

JAMES SHIELDS 26 June 1834

I hope we meet again in happy mansions and join the happy spirits of those gone on and those who will come hereafter in passing the eternal great three in one.

To Jane - my dearly beloved wife of 51 years - to have money and property and pay my debts, to have books and surveying instruments, set her slave free. To William now living in Missouri, \$100. To son, James, 100 acres land in Hawkins County on Whetstone Creek. To son, Melton, daughters, Joana and Lea, \$150 each. Daughters, Esther decd., Joana, Lea, sons James, Daniel, Samuel and Melton to have \$1200 owed me by Christopher Cook and his son Samuel. To son, Henry, all my land on Lick Creek with mills and improvements, blacksmith tools, silver watch, to pay son and daughter, Milton and Joanna, \$150 each - Henry is to provide, norish and assist my wife in her declining years.

To be buried by the side of the field.

Set my slave woman, Soffee, free 1 May 1841 and if she should have increase before that time, set it free at 21 years, give her provissions. That negro's soul is as precious in God's sight as my own. I hope you see the evil of the practice of slavery and let the oppressed go free. My father, William Shields of Fredrick County, Maryland - I was named executor of his Will with my brother, John Shields - the distance was to grate and I sent John my relinquishment. I got 28 pounds, 13 shillings and 4 pence - John died. I gave my receipt - no settlement has been made. See that estate is settled and divide my part. Executors: Two sons, David and Henry Woods Shields.

Signed: James Shields

CODICIL 9 January 1838 - Debt on Cooks is dissolved as they gave up land. Soffee had a female mulatto child 19 July 1835 named Jain, which mulatto I give to my wife to sell or dispose of as she thinks proper until Jain is 21 years old and at that time she is to be set at livery.

[Note: James' son William (1787-1870) served in the War of 1812 in Captain Jacob Hoyle's Company. William married Eliziabeth Conway. He is buried in Columbia Cemetery in Boone County, Missouri.]

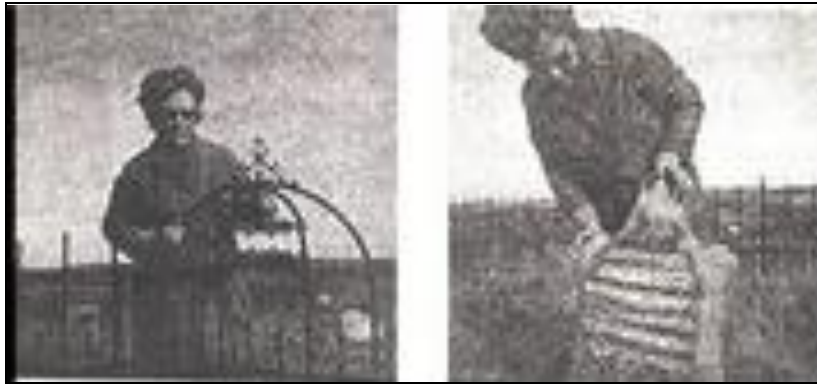


Photo Caption:

James Shields Private Cemetery Midway [Pottertown] Greene County, Tennessee. James Shields and wife Jane Gilliland Shields and other of the family graves are to be found here.

Obituary of James' widow, Jane:

OBITUARY.

Died on the 21st of December, 1849, Mrs. Jane Shields, relict of James Shields, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. H. G. Lea, in the vicinity of Blain's Roads, Tenn.

Her remains have been returned to Green county, and interred by the side of her husband.

The deceased was born in Chester county, Pa. and at an early age became a resident of the city of Philadelphia, where she remained with her numerous relatives until the close of the war of independence, when with her husband, she came to the then unbroken wilds of what now constitutes East Tennessee.

Rearing by Presbyterian parents, she while young adopted their faith, and for more than sixty years has worn the insignia of gospel membership, bright and without tarnish. What a test of human sincerity!—What an illustration of self-denial and firm adherence to religion in the name of Jesus!

But the time at length came for the fragment of a fading generation to pass from the abode of mortals.—She that had seen the infant slumber on the bosom that bore it, spring into manhood, totter with old age and sink into the grave, must finally yield to the weighty impress of nearly an hundred years. The friends of her childhood, those who rejoiced with her in the sunny morning of life, have long since vanished before the reckless roll of years, and another generation weep over the relic of ancestry buried deep in the bosom of the past. When the last hour had come, she entreated her friends not to mourn but to rejoice. An expression of calm resignation and a bright hope gleamed over her venerable features as she bade to all of earth a long last adieu. Never was the consolation and sublimity of dying in Christ more impressively exemplified. Her sorrows were driven from this last scene of life, and it was as if she were like a glorious circumstance of heaven, death was shorn of its dreadful visage, and angel's seemed to be there as the spirit dropped the manacles of mortality. to bear it away to a home in the skies. J. H. S.

MAJOR WILLIAM SHIELDS
2nd Major 35th Batt. Maryland Militia
Born July 14, 1728 County Armagh, Northern Ireland
Died September 12, 1797, Emmitsburg, Frederick County, Maryland



Shields Family Burying Ground
Emmitsburg, Frederick County, Maryland

[History of Frederick County, MD
Page C/S: IC K: 277
History of Emmitsburg]
1906]

*"There were 4 military companies raised in Frederick County, Maryland in 1775. Second at Emmitsburg, MD: **Captain W. Shields**, 1st Lt. John Faire, 2nd Lieutenant Miichael Hockensmith; **Ensign John Shields**, Sergeants Charles Robinson, **James Shields**, Patrick Haney, Robert Brown, Corporals Moses Kennedy, John Hanks, John Long, Thomas Baird; 52 Privates."*

[continued]

Biography from Find-A-Grave:

MAJ William Shields, II

BIRTH	14 Jul 1728 County Armagh, Northern Ireland
DEATH	12 Sep 1797 (aged 69) Emmitsburg, Frederick County, Maryland, USA
BURIAL	Shields Family Burying Ground Emmitsburg, Frederick County, Maryland, USA
MEMORIAL ID	119827811 ·

s/o William Shields

William sailed with his family for America 26 July 1737 on a sloop commanded by Captain Alexander Smith. His father William and brother Robert died en route and were buried at sea.

William is known to have lived in Cecil Co., MD for several years before arriving in 1748 in the Appalachian foothills of what is now Frederick Co., MD, near the present town of Emmitsburg. William purchased from Samuel Emmit 29 Sept 1787 106 acres of land, west and adjoining the west end of Emmitsburg, he continued the town and named it Shields' Addition. He established himself as a surveyor, married, raised 11 children and ultimately became one of the town's more prominent landowners. *With his brother-in-law Samuel Emmit, he is credited with the founding of the town of Emmitsburg.*

William actively supported the Colonies' cause. In 1775, he formed the Second Frederick County Militia Company at Emmitsburg. In 1776, Capt. William Shields' company was assimilated into the Third Battalion of the Maryland Militia under the command of Col. Jacob Good. William was promoted to second major. William's son John was an ensign in his father's company.

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"Became Riffle Road leading from St. Mary's College to PA. The acreage was enlarged by means of a resurvey in 1751, and in 1767 William Elder transferred a part of it to William Shields, a

Presbyterian. Shields in 1775 surveyed the land into 404 acres and called it "Shields Adventure."