In the name of God Amen. I John Cleaver Symmes of
North Bend in the County of Hamilton and State of Ohio,
being previously afflicted with a cancer in my under Chi-
chin and throat which will undoubtedly shortly put an
end to my life, while as yet I remain of sound mind
and memory, do think it my duty to make and publish
this my last will and testament, not so much for the
disposition of the small personal property which I shall
possess at my death, as the constitution and laws of the
State of Ohio anticipates the necessity of my making any
will in that respect, my will being the same with the
law quo ad goods, chattels, right, and credits, that the
wills of others do the same, it is necessary that I should
make and publish this my last will and testament to
authorize my executors herein after named and the
survivor of them to sell and dispose of, and make title
to the purchasers for those few fragments of land which
I have never sold, but which or yet has not been sold
from me under colours of law, as by the laws of the State
administrators cannot dispose of the real estate of their
intestate without a rule of court authorizing them so
to do. Therefore, I, the said John Cleaver Symmes, do
hereby declare and appoint my worthy son in law
William Henry Harrison Symmes, and my beloved grand
son John Cleaver Short, Symmes, and the survivor of
them, my true and lawful executors to this, my last will
and testament, hereby giving in to them, and to the
survivor of them, full power and lawful authority,
to sell all or any part of my land, and real estate,
whenever any part or parcel thereof may be found
or discovered within the said State of Ohio, and the
proceed, or monie, arising from such sales, equally
to divide between them for their reward, in compensa-
tion for their trouble and services in the premises,
first however, paying thereout for all deficiencies,
in the contents, or number of acres that may be found
wanting in the several tracts of land which I have
herebefore sold and been paid for, but which on a
resurvey may have been deduced by me for a greater
number of acres than there really is in the tract.
On the other hand, many sections, quarter sections,
sections, quarter sections, tract and parcel of land
by me herebefore bought for in number of acres, or
strict measure, on a resurvey will appear to be
larger, and contain a sufficient rage of land over and
above the quantity of land sold or ever paid for,
above the quantity of land sold by me is above.
It is therefore my will and desire, that my executors
and the survivor of them, seek after and examine
out these surplus lands by the assistance of the
County Surveyor, and that my executors, exercise
of such surplus lands at the same price with
which they remunerate those whose deeds from
the sale for more land than is contained within
the limit or boundaries of my deeds to them.
And my further will and request to, who I do hereby enjoin it on my said executors, and the survivor of them, hereby casing in them, and the survivor of them all lawful authorities, and full power for the purpose, to carry all my special contracts with individual persons, into full effect and final close, according to the tenor of each respective contract, provided however, that the other party named in each several contract faithfully fulfill the conditions on their part, stipulated to be performed, which conditions will appear or having recourse to their respective contract.

And my will is, that my said executors lay, spend, and I hereby give unto them, and to the survivor of them, all further, necessary and usual powers to sue for and collect all or any part of my due, and debt, whether owing to me or by me, due, or book debt, and also to pay all such debt, as I hereby owe, but there are some unjust claims against me founded in the deepest conspiracy, frauds and perfidy.

I hope I need make no apology to my children and grand children for not having so much property to leave to them as might have been expected from the earnings of a long, industrious, frugal and adventurous life, when they recollected the undue methods taken, as well by the government of the United States, as by many individual private characters, to make a sacrifice of my hard earned property at the shrine of their avarice.

It has been my peculiarity to be treated with the blackest ingratitude, by some who now laugh at my calamity, but who would at this day have been living in poverty, had not my unselfishness to this country, my benevolence, or the prosperity which they have planed from me, have made them rich. How dark and mysterious are the ways of reason.

I shall add nothing further, save that it is my particular desire to be buried in the grave-yard at North bent, where the last twenty-five years of my life has been chiefly spent.

In testimony whereof, to this my last will and testament, I have on the thirtieth day of December in the year eighteen hundred and thirteen set my hand and seal.

John Lewis Symm

Subscribed, sealed, declared and published by the above named
John Lewis Symm, in the lawful and testament in the presence of us the undersigned, subscribing witnesses, who being in the same room with him, at his particular request, wrote our names, respectively, as witnesses hereof, in the presence, and in each others presence, the thirtieth day of December in the year eighteen hundred and thirteen.