

We Abraham Cook and Seth Cook was called upon by our brother William Cook a short time before his death at his place of Residence in Shelby County and in his last Illness to take notice that it was his wish (or Words of that import) that his wife Catherine should remain in Possession of his Estate Real and Personal (except Peter a Negro man Slave) during her life and that we should act as agents to counsel and assist her in raising her children and if any of them had need of any article that could be spared without disturbing their mother or the rest of the family that we by the Consent of their Mother should let them have and keep an account thereof so that they might be made equal at their Mother's Death. And that Peter should be free on the payment of Fifty Dollars a balance of two hundred and fifty dollars which Seth Cook and Abraham Bohannon as agents for Peter had undertaken to pay which is all paid but the aforesaid fifty dollars and we heard him speak of this as being his Will more than once and he requested Seth Cook to draw it up in writing which he did but it was not signed though after it was read to him he said it was in Substance his wish and that said William Cook departed this life on the Sixteenth day of this present month and this Statement we have committed to writing this twentieth day of March in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen Witness our hands and seals

in presence of
Thomas Mitchell
John ad Smack

Abm Cook (Seal)
Seth Cook (Seal)

Shelby County vt May County Seal 1816

This written writing purporting to be the now impetive Will of William Cook did was produced in Court and proved by the Oath of Abraham Cook and Seth Cook to have been made out agreeable to the Request and direction of the said Decedent and that he wished it to be considered as his last Will and Testament whereupon the same was ordered to