

MARY: Joseph Ball marries 'the Widow Johnson,' his 'beloved wife'

FROM PAGE 6

DEATH OF JOSEPH BALL

When Joseph Ball died in late June or early July 1711, his will read like a love letter to his "beloved wife."

He left her his bed, "the chest of drawers in the hall chamber and the looking glass standing in the said chamber with a narrow frame; her

In 1711, on his father's death, Joseph Ball Jr. shared half of an 800-acre tract on Little Falls Run with his 3-year-old half sister, Mary. Although Joseph spent most of his adult life in England, he and Mary exchanged letters and family news on occasion.

own chest & the choice of Chests I have standing in the Seller Chamber, also two tables standing in my own chamber, one a round table and the other an oval table . . . and all the chairs in the house that are single nailed."

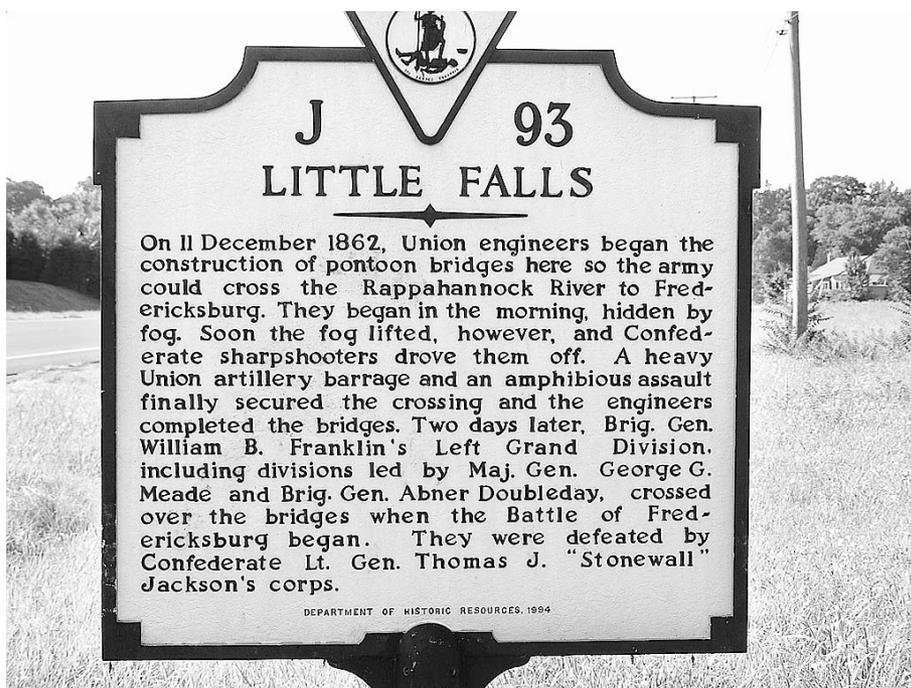
Also, "sixteen head of cattle . . . eleven head of sheep . . . also a white horse called Dragon with her bridle and side saddle . . . also one half of all the hogs that shall be found at my dwelling plantation to be divided as well in quality as quantity."

"A negro man named Tony and a negro woman named Dinah forever; an Irish woman on my dwelling plantation for the time she has to serve . . . known by the name of Ellen Grafton.

"A full third part of the pewter, iron and brass in the kitchen and a third of all the light casks; half of the wheat on the ground now growing; one third part of the earthenware in the house and also one third of all the wooden ware . . . One half of the provisions & corn now in the house."

To his daughter Mary, Joseph Ball left "my negro boy Tome and the negroes Jo and Jack . . . and all the feathers that are in the kitchen loft to be put into a bed for her."

By the time of Ball's death, "the widow Johnson" had been in his home or neighborhood for at least



The only marker on the site of Little Falls now highlights the Civil War.

CONNECTIONS

Some residents of early Lancaster County whose lives affected Mary Ball:

"Edward Floyd, a carpenter and wheelwright . . . in Lancaster County . . . built several houses, including 'the great house' of Captain William Ball, ceiled over chambers, added new rooms to existing dwellings, put up chimneys, fixed the windows of Mr. Joseph Ball's 'great dwelling house' with white lead, repaired George Heale's tobacco house which 'the thunder broke downe,' built a fifteen-foot henhouse and a fifty-foot tobacco house, and made cartwheels, a cart, canoe, and a 'Weeding Harrow.' In all, he was owed at his death in 1690 nearly twenty thousand pounds of tobacco."

—James Horn, "Adapting to a New World," pages 288–289

eight years. And she appeared in Lancaster court for several years after that in connection with the

dower rights left for her lifetime use by her husband. She would enjoy these benefits until her own death in 1720.

JOSEPH BALL'S BEQUEST TO HIS DAUGHTER

Joseph Ball also bequeathed to his small daughter Mary half of an 800-acre tract on Little Falls Run farther up the Rappahannock River in today's Stafford County, bequeathing the other half to his son, Joseph Jr.

Mary later farmed her inheritance on Little Falls Run while she lived on the Rappahannock farm.

In 1778, she made a gift of the 400 acres to her son John Augustine Washington. He in turn willed it to his son Bushrod, who sold it in 1790 to his cousin Joseph Ball.

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NEXT WEEK: *The Widow Johnson*

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Deeds and wills:

■ Joseph Ball to Rawleigh Chinn, 190 acres, written Feb. 12, 1703–04, Recorded April 12, 1704, Lancaster County Deed Book 9, p. 113

■ Joseph Ball to his children, slaves and personal effects, written Feb. 11, 1707–08, recorded Feb. 11, 1707–08, Lancaster County Deed Book 9, p. 246

■ Joseph Ball to his son Joseph Ball Jr., 720 acres (except young orchard), written Feb. 7, 1707–08, recorded Feb. 11, 1707–08, Lancaster County Deed Book 9, p. 248

■ Joseph Ball to his son Joseph Ball Jr. 720 acres, 300 acres, 50 acres . . . written Feb. 7, 1707–08, recorded Feb. 11, 1707–08, Lancaster County Deed Book 9, pp. 271–273

■ Joseph Ball, Will written June 25, 1711, Recorded July 11, 1711, Lancaster County Will Book 10, pages 88–93