MARY BALL: Hues married Joseph Ball's widow

FROM PAGE 5
During his brief time in the Northern Neck before his death in Northumberland County early in 1726, Hues served as an overseer of the roads, a captain in the militia and a justice of St. Stephen's Parish, positions commanding respect. Sometime in the months following the death of Joseph Ball in the summer of 1712, Hues married Ball's widow and evidently shared Ball's dwelling house, where she continued to live with her small daughter and her two adolescent children, John and Elizabeth Johnson. While staying with her at her donor estate after their marriage, Hues wrote his own will in 1714, designating Ball's daughter and her two small children, neither of whom was yet of age.

HUES' UNUSUAL BEQUEST TO HIS NEW STEPSON
Perhaps the most unusual provision in Hues' will be the one he made to his stepson, John Johnson. Hues had originally selected John to be his heir after his death, and evidently shared Ball's affections and concern for her Johnson family. When he died about a year after the marriage, Hues wrote his will in 1712, designating John as his heir. But after his death, the will was lost and Ball's executor, Henry, son of John, had instructions delivered, probably from Henry, to Johnson's stepfather, Hues, in a will that was never found. John Johnson eventually inherited Ball's property, which was conveyed directly to Johnson, his beloved half-sister, Mary Ball, and then to her former husband, Robert Carter, who died in 1720, about the same time as his mother, Mary Ball. John Johnson, who had been his stepfather's favorite, was yet of age.

THE HISTORY OF MARY BALL WASHINGTON'S STAFFORD COUNTY INHERITANCE
Unfortunately, young Johnson did not live to profit from his stepfather's bequest. He died in 1726, about the same time as his mother, suffering the first of many poor health issues. Mary Ball, who was then only 12 years old, was adored by her first husband, Robert Carter, and richly endowed by her second husband, Hues.

Hues' unusual bequest to his stepson, John Johnson, who in turn willed it to his half-sister Mary Ball, was yet of age.

TO HIS NEW STEPSON

THE FREE LANCE–STAR
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009
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OUR COMMUNITY: THEN AND NOW:
Evening With an Expert lecture series
Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m., Fredericksburg Area Museum, Town Hall/Market House Council Chamber, 1001 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg. Dr. Kerri Barile, president of Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, will discuss the importance of historic preservation and how to use it to teach the future about the past. Free. 540/371-3037, ext. 127; famcc.org.

Mary Ball’s inheritance from her half brother John Johnson, who in turn willed it to his half-sister Mary Ball, was yet of age.

NEXT WEEK: The death of Mary Ball’s mother

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THE HISTORY OF MARY BALL WASHINGTON'S STAFFORD COUNTY INHERITANCE

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To his own will after Ball's death, tracked down the new owners of the tract and purchased it.

For good measure, he also had instructions delivered, after his death, to the former owners to confirm their conveyance directly to Johnson, which they did.

Hues' will was lost, but two more deeds of land Johnson did not sign original. But after his death, a copy of the will was found in a travelers' register in Johnson's house, where he had been staying at the time of his death.

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