

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 1714, Hues served as an overseer of the roads, a captain in the militia and a vestryman of St. Stephen's Parish, positions commanding respect.

Sometime in the months following the death of Joseph Ball in the summer of 1711, 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 dower estate after their marriage, Hues wrote his own will in 1712, designating his property to go to his new wife and after her death to her older daughter, Elizabeth Johnson.

His practical will showed a regard for his new wife and a concern for her Johnson

children, neither of whom was yet of age.

HUES' UNUSUAL BEQUEST TO HIS NEW STEPSON

Perhaps the most unusual provision in Hues' will bequeathed 600 acres in Stafford County to young John Johnson, who had been his new stepson for less than a year.

This was surely evidence of direct communication about Ball's wishes to his successor, for it was the specific tract that Ball had originally selected. But after his death it had been sold.

Hues put the bequest in his own will after Ball's death, tracked down the new owners of the tract and repurchased 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.

THE HISTORY OF MARY BALL WASHINGTON'S STAFFORD COUNTY INHERITANCE

The 600 acres in Stafford County went directly from Robert Carter (Agent for the Proprietor) to James Harvey, then to John Hawkins. Richard Hues (Hews) retrieved it and included it in his will as a bequest to his stepson John Johnson, who in turn willed it to his half sister Mary Ball.

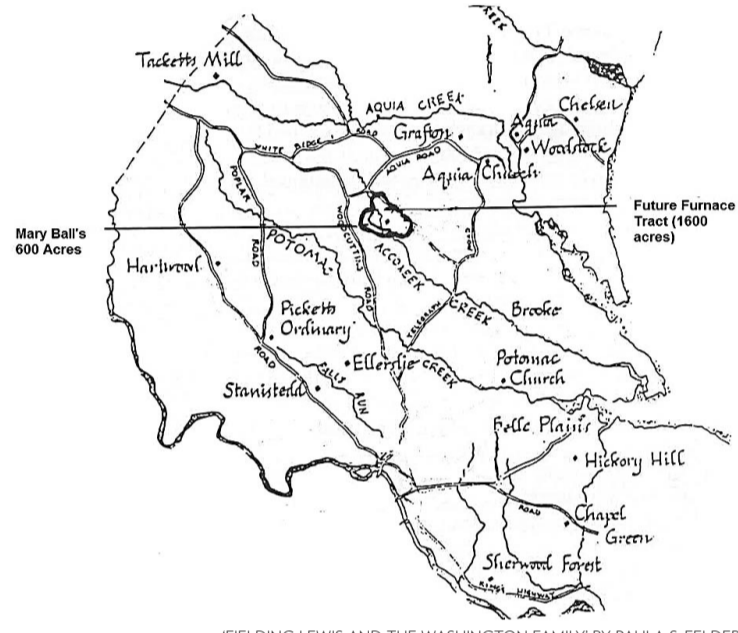
Transcription:

Patent of Land from the proprietors of the Northern Neck to James Harvey dated 1st Sept 1709 for 600 acres.
A Deed from James Harvey to John Hawkins for 600 acres Land in Stafford County dated 10th October 1711.
A Deed from John Hawkins to Richard Hews for 600 acres Land in Stafford County dated 10th Sept 1712.
Rich. Hews by Will devised 600 acres of Land to John Johnson dated 12th August Anno 1712
Deed of conveyance from James Harvey & John Hawkins to John Johnson dated 13th July 1714.
John Johnson by Will devised the land to Mary Ball dated 1st October 1720.
Mary Washington by Will devised (who was Mary Ball) the land to Genl. George Washington dated 20th May 1788.
Genl. George Washington by his letter dated 18th May 1794 acknowledged the gift of the land to Robert Lewis.

*In the above said the following title papers were presented to the Jury upon which it appears they rendered judgment - Viz: Patent of Land from the proprietors of the Northern Neck to James Harvey dated 1st Sept 1709 for 600 acres.
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Genl. George Washington by his letter dated 18th May 1794 acknowledged the gift of the land to Robert Lewis*

Attesty, Teste Wm. Fleming Esq: D.C.

FROM THE LAWSUIT DEJARNETTE VS SUDDOTH & C. RECORDED 1810. COLLECTION CR-SC-H, RECORD ID 90-18. CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG. COURTESY BARRY L. MCGHEE, ARCHIVIST, FREDERICKSBURG CIRCUIT COURT



'FIELDING LEWIS AND THE WASHINGTON FAMILY' BY PAULA S. FELDER

Mary Ball's inheritance from her half brother John Johnson adjoined the tract that became the site of the Principio Co.'s iron furnace in 1726.

Unfortunately, young Johnson did not live to profit from his stepfather's bequest. He died in 1720, about the same time as his mother, willing the 600-acre property to his half sister, Mary Ball, who was then only 12 years old.

Paula S. Felder of Fredericksburg is a historian and author specializing in the area's 18th-century past. Marian McCabe, editorial and research associate, contributed to this article. E-mail Felder in care of gwoolf@freelancestar.com.

NEXT WEEK: The death of Mary Ball's mother

SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- "Fielding Lewis and the Washington Family" by Paula S. Felder. The American History Co., 1998.
- "The Principio Company: Iron Making in Colonial Maryland, 1720-1721" by Michael W. Robbins. Garland Publishing Inc., 1986.
- Will of Richard Hues, written Aug. 12, 1712, recorded Feb. 17, 1713/14, Northumberland County Order Book 1713-1719, p. 17. The Northumberland County volume containing Hues' will is missing, but a verbatim transcription appears in DeJarnette v. Suddoth (1815), Superior Court of Chancery, Fredericksburg District, Land Causes, Vol. 1, p. 245 (courtesy of Barry L. McGhee, archivist and webmaster, Fredericksburg Circuit Court).