

H. Maryland connection

1. A degree of mystery has traditionally surrounded Colonel William's first son, Richard, who would have been born in 1639/40.

(a) Unlike Colonel William's other children, Colonel James Ball Jr. gives no date of birth in his letter in 1789, saying "it is supposed [Richard] died an infant, as he is not mentioned in his father's will".^{H1}

(b) The fact that Richard was not mentioned in Colonel William's will would normally be taken as signifying that he predeceased his father. Other possibilities are that Colonel William had made separate provision for him or else that he and his father were estranged (as was the case with his daughter, Hannah, according to Freeman).^{H2}

(c) Wright notes a family tradition that Richard was a 'loner', and that he was given an estate in Richmond county (subsequently known as 'Cobham Park'), where he died a bachelor and was buried.^{H3}

(d) Wright also refers to another story that Richard was a 'Missing Ball' who married in Maryland and died there, leaving a daughter, to whom he devised property.^{H4} Freeman also says that Richard died in Maryland, in 1677.^{H5}

2. Wright was, in fact, alluding to an article by Christopher Johnston entitled '*A Forgotten Member of the Ball Family*' which appeared in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography in 1900.^{H6} This provides strong evidence, by reference to original Maryland record sources, that Richard Ball, who was supposed to have died young or in infancy, settled in Maryland, was married and died in 1677.

3. It transpires that, in company with his father, Richard Ball went to Maryland in 1659, when he would have been aged about 19/20.^{H7} According to the records of the Maryland Land Office at Annapolis, conditional warrants for land were granted on 16 July 1659 to Thomas Powell (700 acres), Walter Dickenson (600 acres), Robert Gorsuch (300 acres), Richard Gorsuch (300 acres), Howell Powell (300 acres), William Ball (500 acres), William Chapman [Clapham] Sr. (500 acres), Richard Ball (500 acres), Thomas Humphrey [Humphreys] (600 acres) and Hugh Kinsey (400 acres).^{H8} All the claimants appear to have come from Lancaster county, Virginia.^{H9}

Johnston believed that the William Ball referred to in the 1659 Maryland warrant was probably 'Colonel' William's second son, William,^{H10} but he was unaware that the Lancaster County Court records show that William did not emigrate to Virginia until 1665.^{H11}

4. It seems that Richard Ball settled at Patapsco in Baltimore county following the 1659 warrant,^{H12} which was renewed in 1661,^{H13} when he would no longer have been a minor. He was subsequently granted patents for the following further tracts of land:

1666	Timber Neck (300 acres)
1671	The Priviledge (250 acres)

1671 Balls Addition (60 acres)

The Maryland Land Office records also record a number of property transactions by Richard Ball between 1663 and 1670. The land grants and property transactions are summarised in Appendix XV.^{H14}

5. Richard Ball enjoyed the social status of a gentleman,^{H15} and was commissioned a Justice of Baltimore county four times.^{H16} In a 1666 conveyance he is described as a planter,^{H17} although in a reference in a conveyance some seven years after his death he is described as a cordwainer.^{H18}

By March 1662 Richard Ball was married to Mrs Mary Humphreys, who almost certainly was the widow of Thomas Humphreys of Rappahannock, Lancaster county, Virginia.^{H19} Humphreys was one of the claimants (for 600 acres) under the 1659 warrants.

When she re-married, Mrs Mary Humphreys already had a daughter, also called Mary Humphreys, and her second marriage to Richard Ball produced another daughter, Hannah Ball.

Mary (Humphreys) Ball predeceased her husband at an unknown date between 1667^{H20} and Richard Ball's death, intestate, in 1677, aged about 37/38. While he did not die an infant or an adolescent, he died at a relatively young age.

6. Following Richard Ball's death, the records of the Maryland Prerogative Court contain the following entry dated 11 July 1677:^{H21}

"Let noe ad'ion [administration] be granted to any p'son or p'sons of the goods & chattells of Richard Ball, gent: Late of Petapsco in Baltimore county, dec'd, till William Ball, his father, dwelling at Rapahanock, in Virginia, be first heard or notice given him who claims as being next of blood to the said Richard save only the orphan who is under age & not capable of taking on him [sic] the ad'ion of the goods of his [sic] said father Richard Ball, deceased, & son to him the said William."

Consequently, on "27 July, 1677, came Collonell William Ball, of Korotoman [Corotoman], in Rappahannock River, in the Colony of Virginia, and shewed to the Judge here that Richard Ball, his son, late of Petapsco, in the County of Baltimore, within this Province, dyed intestate, that his said son hath a daughter living, but under age, & therefore prayed that ad'ion of the goods of the said Richard may unto him be committed to the use of the said orphan."^{H22}

7. By 1681 Richard Ball's only child, Hannah, was married to Thomas Everest of Baltimore county.^{H23} Thomas Everest was also one of the witnesses of Colonel William's will in 1680.^{H24}

8. Apart from the warrant for 500 acres in 1659, which was subsequently patented,^{H25} William Ball also obtained a grant of 420 acres called 'Ballston' (or 'Ballistone') in 1660 and a grant of 100 acres called 'Balls Enlargement' in 1674.^{H26} The latter was sold in 1676/77 and the former in 1678. See Appendix XV.

The surviving Maryland land records include the following descriptions of William Ball:

- 1660 William Ball of Maryland, planter
(grant of 420 acres called 'Ballston')
- 1663 William Ball, gentleman
(re-grant of 'Balliston')
- 1670 William Ball, late of Baltimore county, gentleman
(re-survey of 'Balliston')
- 1671 William Ball of the Collony of Virginia, planter
(re-grant of 'Balleston')
- 1676/77 William Ball of Anne Arundel county
(conveyance of 'Balls Enlargement')
- 1677 William Ball of Lancaster county, Va.
(letter of attorney to Nicholas Ruxton regarding
conveyance of 'Ballstone' in 1678)

The lack of references to William Ball in the Maryland land records after 1678 suggests that following Richard's death he ceased to own any property there.

9. William Ball also witnessed documents, it seems in Virginia, in connection with land purchases in Maryland by Richard Ball from Lancaster county residents in 1663, 1666 and 1670.^{H27}

10. The foregoing gives rise to several further comments:

(a) As Colonel William was a merchant, there is no reason why his business interests should not have extended to both Chesapeake colonies, at least initially.

(b) The 1659 Maryland warrant granted to 'William Ball' precedes by some four years the first recorded land transaction by 'Colonel' William in Virginia.^{H28}