

August 27th 1776 when Col^l: Smallwood's Regiment was drawn up on Long Island in expectation to engage the Enemy Gen^l: Joseph Butler, called Ensign Paul & myself out of the ranks and desired we would remember if he should be so unfortunate as to be killed, that it was his desire that his Brother or half Bro^r: should have his Estate after paying what Debts might justly appear against him, should he ever come for it he signified at the same time that he did not know where this Brother was or whether he would apply as he had not heard from him for some time and if he should not apply that Miss Sarah Hale should be possessed of the whole, after paying any lawful Claims and that Mr: John Patterson should be his Executor.

Joseph Ford

on the 17th Oct 1777 Capt: Joseph Ford made oath to the truth of the foregoing before J^{es}: Edw: Hall

In the Name of God Amen, I David Benfield of the County of Howard in the Province of Maryland, do hereby make this my last will & Testament in manner following

Imprimis I commit my Soul to God hoping for the forgiveness of all my Sins thro the merits & mediation of my dear Redeemer Jesus Christ I order that my body shall be decently Interred in the Church yard of the Parish to which I belong.

As to my worldly Effects with which God hath blessed me I give to my dear wife Hannah Benfield my whole plantation with every thing belonging thereto together with all my goods & Chattels excepting what I shall bequeath to other persons in this my last will and Testament

Item I give to my said wife Hannah the black mare & the two Cows I also give to her six head of Cattle & I also give to her eight head of sheep at her own choice

Item I order that the other three horses & the rest of the Cattle & Sheep together be sold at publick Vendue for the benefit of my Mother Mary Benfield & my Sister Mary the wife of William Benfield now living at Great Barrington near Burford in expectation to be equally divided between them or in case either of them be dead then the survivors to take the whole & if both be dead then my will is that the money be paid to David Benfield Son of the said William & Mary Benfield & my further will is that the money arising from the Sale of the said horses Cattle & Sheep be put into the hands of Robert Shays Esq: & Aquilla Thompson Gent: to be by them put out to Interest for the use & purposes above mentioned as trustees for the same till an opportunity can be found to send the same to England