

Port Royal Historical Research and Simon Benning, Pewterer

Relevant historical documents for 17th-century Port Royal, which are housed in the Jamaica Public Archives and the Island Records Office in Spanish Town, were microfilmed for use by the Port Royal Project. The documents, which detail land patents, wills, and probate inventories from 1660-1720, allowed us to determine the owners of the site's building lots, and among other things, to review the contents of households and businesses at the site as well as throughout Jamaica. The documentary research also allowed for a comparison of the Jamaican historical data with the archaeological record and with contemporaneous documents, both from other English colonies and England herself. Specifically, students and project staff have studied the 17th-century records of Bristol in England and Boston, Massachusetts. As a result of this research, common cultural elements characteristic of 17th-century English sites, regardless of location, have been identified.

While the documentary record was an integral part of our research, it had little direct relevance to our investigation until it could be tied with the building lots being excavated. In other words, until an excavated land plat could be associated with a given person at the time of the Port Royal earthquake in 1692, it was difficult to direct and focus the documentary research. And while it is relatively easy to trace, using documentary evidence alone, previous ownership of land if said land is occupied / exists as real estate today, it is impossible to trace previous land ownership if the land in question sank in a bay over three centuries ago! Moreover, with an urban environment, such as was at Port Royal, in which there was no consistent method of identifying maps / property in deeds and patents, the problem of identification is compounded. In such cases, as shown below, the recovered artifacts, especially those with identifying marks, are the missing pieces that make up the puzzle.

RETRIEVING HISTORY

During the excavations of the Building 4/5 complex at the underwater site of Port Royal, 25 pewter plates were found in one of the rooms. Twenty three of these narrow-rimmed plates have a distinguishing maker's mark and one of two ownership marks. The ownership marks (discussed below), which were also found on silver forks and spoons and a silver nutmeg grinder recovered from the same room, reveal that these objects were owned by a man and his wife, who presumably occupied the building at the time of the earthquake. While it has since been determined that the most likely candidates for the stamped initials are a Nathaniel Cook and his wife, Jane, the story presented here focuses on the mark of the maker, a pewterer named Simon Benning. In many ways, the story of Mr. Benning is a microcosm of the story of Port Royal itself.

SIMON BENNING, PEWTERER AT PORT ROYAL



Simon Benning's name was first encountered in "Port Royal, Jamaica," by Pawson and Buisseret (1975:105, 183). There was no reason to find out more about the life of this post-medieval pewterer until the excavation of Room 5 in Building 1 yielded a pewter platter with an unusual and unidentified touch mark: a pineapple surrounded by an oval rope braid, with the initial 'S' to the left of the pineapple and the initial 'B' to the right. We were reasonably confident that this was the touch mark of Simon Benning, for there were no parallels in the standard references

on English pewterers (Cotterell 1963; Peal 1976, 1977). We also knew that in the 17th century, the pineapple was commonly identified with Jamaica, and that it was incorporated into the seal of Jamaica in the 1660s. Twenty-two more Simon Benning pewter plates recovered from Room 2 in the Building 4/5 complex provided the incentive to find out everything possible about Simon Benning.



THE SEARCH BEGINS IN THE 1650s . . .

The next step was to locate Simon Benning's London will, which was found in the Perogative Court of Canterbury. In the 17th century, this court handled the probates of all individuals with estates in two or more parishes, for individuals who died overseas / at sea, or for any individual who had property both in England or Wales and in the colonies (Walne 1964:19). Simon's will was written on 19 February 1656, and in it he states that he was a pewterer about to embark on a voyage to Barbados. He left property to his brothers, William, Francis, Tobias, and John, and to an individual by the name of John Duffield. Simon Benning was apparently presumed to be dead by his family, for the will was executed 25 June 1664.

Simon's will is significant for a number of reasons. Together with Tobias' apprenticeship records, it establishes Simon's immediate family members and places the family in Tottenham, Middlesex. Simon was a pewterer, and despite the rigid rules of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, it appears that some individuals managed to learn the trade without this being recorded in the company. Indeed, more information has recently come to light regarding Simon: he was apprenticed in London to John Silk in February 1650 and probably served the full term of an apprenticeship (seven years) before emigrating to Barbados in February 1657 (Carl Ricketts, pers.comm. 2001). Due to the regulations of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, it is doubtful

that Simon could have ever been a freeman pewterer in England (Hornsby et al. 1989:10-14). This is, perhaps, one of the reasons he left for Barbados. (John Silk is listed in Cotterell 1963:No. 4285, where it is noted that he was elected to the Office of Renter Warden in 1652, to the Office of Upper Warden in 1655, and to the Office of Master in 1658. His touch appears on two London touchplates.)

Simon Benning was clearly young and unmarried and likely went to Jamaica via Barbados, which was a thriving colony in the 1650s (Dunn 1972:46-116). When Simon wrote his will in February 1656, it was less than a year after Admiral Penn and General Venables, who with the help of several hundred citizens and indentured servants recruited from Barbados, had captured Jamaica (Black 1958:50). In the 1660s, many more Barbadians moved to the larger island of Jamaica, situated strategically in the center of the Caribbean, since there were more opportunities to prosper (Dunn 1972:153-155). Simon Benning spent six or seven years in Barbados and so is likely recorded in the island's public archives. It is probable also that he practiced his pewterering trade and, perhaps, was married there.

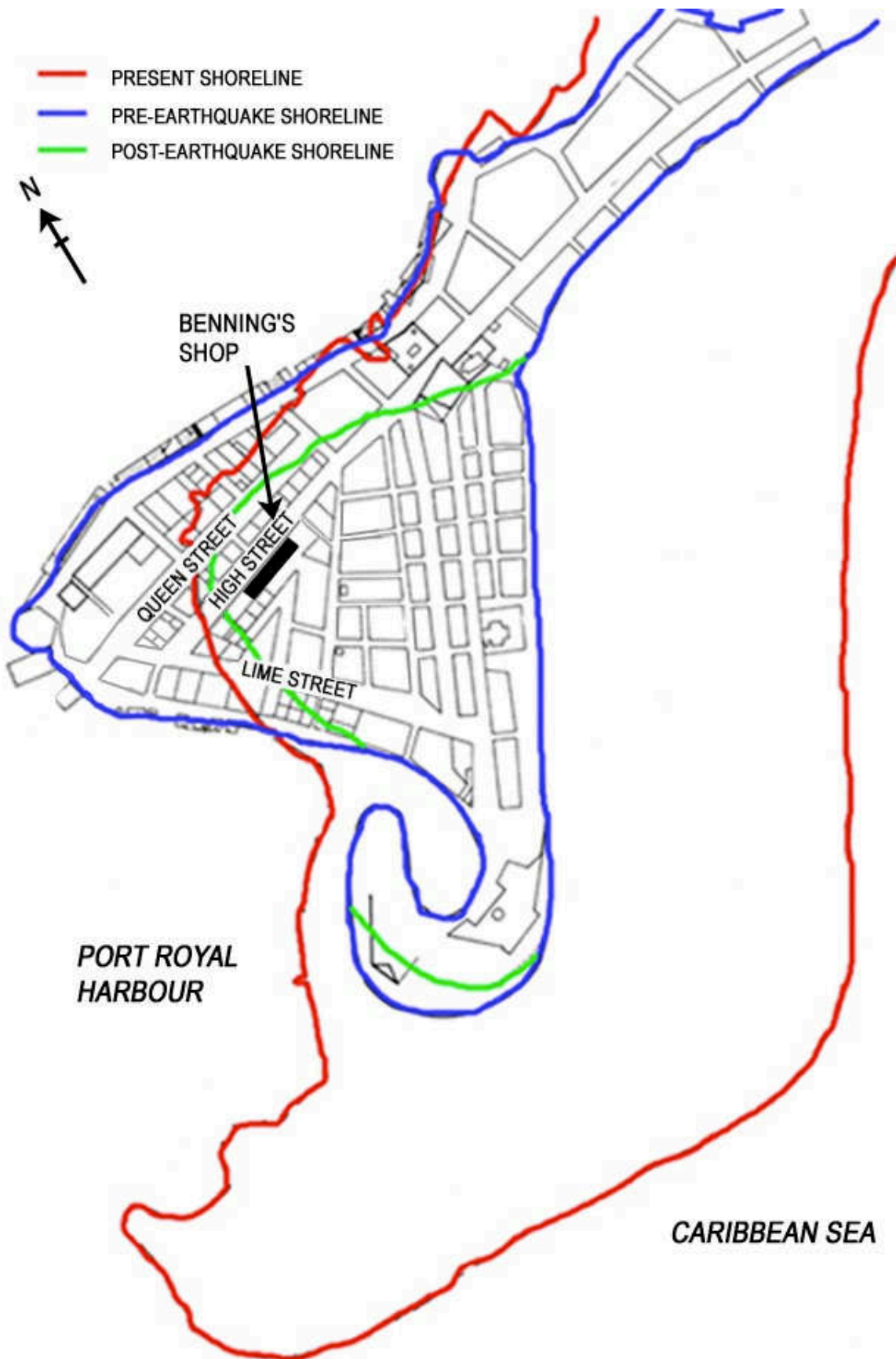
... CONTINUES INTO THE 1670s

The first reference to Simon Benning being in Jamaica was found in a land patent record in the Jamaica Public Archives. The various plat books, along with the grantors' deeds records, are the basic sources for determining who owned what land and how it changed hands through the years. Although these records are indispensable, they can be contradictory and confusing when used to reconstruct consecutive lots on a street for a given time period. From the plat records, we discovered that in 1663, Simon was patented a small piece of land on Queen Street. A plat of land facing northward on to High Street was also patented to him in 1665. This, we found out also, was where his future pewter shop would be built. Two adjacent lots were acquired in 1667 and in 1670.

... AND ENDS IN THE 1680s

We next found Simon Benning in the 1680 census taken at Port Royal. His household occupants at that time included five white males, two white females, one white male infant, and two black females. Until we found and examined Simon's Jamaican will, other than Simon and his wife, we could not identify the other individuals mentioned.

Simon Benning's Jamaican will was written on 8 March 1683 and was entered, soon after his death, into the Island Record Office in Jamaica on 17 December 1687. Only four of the 10 individuals counted in the 1680 census are tentatively identified: Simon Benning, his wife, Susanna (who was appointed the executrix of the three underage children), two sons, Symon and Thomas, and a daughter, Sarah. Simon is one of the five white males counted, and Symon the son (also spelled Simon) must be the white male born in Jamaica. If this son, or any child, had been born in Barbados, he would have been at least 23 years old and would not have been underage at the time of the writing of the will in 1683. Following this reasoning, it was further assumed that Thomas and Sarah had not yet been born. Mary Benning, the daughter of Tobias Benning, was given £30, so she may have been living in Jamaica with the family, for she is not listed as being of London but only as being the daughter of Tobias Benning of London, who we knew died in 1664. If Mary was living with her uncle, she would be the second white female



identified in the 1680 census. The other white males in the household were likely either apprentices or workers. The two black females were obviously slaves.

Simon Benning's Jamaican will also provides information on the property that he bequeathed to each of his children. Symon, the eldest son, although underage, inherited the house, shop, and tools on High Street. Thomas inherited two houses, or taverns, on High Street, and Sarah received a parcel of land on High Street, containing houses, yards, and tenements that were leased out. In addition to an annual support of £50, Simons' wife, Susanna, received 120 acres of land in St. Elizabeth parish.

All of the properties listed in the Port Royal Plat Book, except for the property on Queen Street, are accounted for in Simon's Jamaican will. The property holdings that were distributed indicate that Simon Benning was a prosperous man. Furthermore, and of equal significance, it shows that he, like many of the merchants and businessmen of Port Royal at this time, had begun to invest his money in land holdings that were to become the large sugar plantations of the 18th century.

We also found Simon Benning's probate inventory, which provides detailed information on the only definitely identified pewterer working in Jamaica in the late 17th century. To fully appreciate Simon's inventory, we wanted to examine it in terms of what was going on in the pewtering trade at this time in England. A copy of it was thus sent for comments to Dr. Ronald F. Homer, a well-known authority on English pewter, who noted first of all that it was written in the standard form of inventories of the time and that it resembles those inventories of many contemporary English provincial pewterers. Dr. Homer found it interesting, however, that Simon's inventory details his pewter molds individually. In English inventories, these are usually lumped together, typically in the range of 800 to 1200 lbs (Ronald F. Homer, pers. comm. 1989). Dr Homer also noted that Simon was a prosperous man compared to his fellow pewterers in England; his inventoried estate of £360 pounds is at the top end of the worth of English provincial pewterers of the period, which generally ranged from about £100-400. The presence of mirrors and bedstead curtains in his home indicates a comfortable lifestyle. Dr. Homer was particularly interested to see that the values given to the metal and molds were almost the same as those found in England.

Benning's molds were made for the casting of plates and dishes. The entry of 26ct: 45li of pewter at 1s per pound is significant, for it must relate to his stock of new wares ready for sale, which would equate with the then current English price. At that price, it would be equivalent to 2957 plates, a very large amount of stock. This is in addition to the 250 rough, unfinished plates noted. The large stock of pewter on hand indicates a surprisingly large scale of business, greater than that of English pewterers of comparable total worth. When it is noted that only one lathe (wheel and spindle) is mentioned in the inventory, it also represents an enormous investment of time (Ronald F. Homer 1989, pers. comm.). The pewterer's tools, such as molds, anvils, iron working tools, lathe, grind stone, and scales, are all common tools of the trade. That copper and brass are also noted in Benning's inventory indicates that he, like many pewterers, also worked in these metals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND A NEW FOCUS

It was at this stage of the research that we were back analyzing the 34 pewter plates bearing the Simon Benning touch mark. When we found that first pewter plate in Building 1, we were confident in attributing the new mark to Simon Benning. As a result of the excavations, we were able to connect a previously unknown touch mark to a pewterer known to have lived in Port Royal.



Over the next eight years of excavation, we found 27 more Simon Benning pewter pieces. Forms represented and shown here include 26 narrow-rimmed plates, one larger narrow-rimmed dish, and one even bigger broad-rimmed charger. (Note the distinctive hammering marks in a concentric pattern on the surface of the pieces.)

DISTINGUISHING MARKS ON ARTIFACTS

Twenty of the 25 pewter plates recovered from Building 5's Room 2 were made from the same mold, had the Simon Benning mark, and had one of two sets of ownership marks on them. One set of plates has both the pineapple touch and the ownership mark 'N^CI' on the reverse. Numerous knife cut marks are present on these plates, which appear very used and worn. The other 11 plates have considerably fewer cut marks and appear to be little used. This set has both the pineapple touch and the owner's mark 'IC'.

The mark 'N^CI' indicates that a man with the initials 'NC' and his wife, 'IC,' were the owners of the plates. It seems then that IC-marked plates are the initials of the wife. As they appear alone, it is possible that the wife had a new set of plates made for her use after her husband had died. Our research into the historic documents of the time indicated that the ownership marks belong to Nathaniel Cook and his wife Jane.

Simon Benning died in 1687. The probability that five years later there would still be 11 plates showing few signs of use seemed low. Simon Benning's son, Symon, who inherited the house and shop, must have taken over his father's pewterer's trade. The problem was to find a written record to confirm this hypothesis.

A search of the grantors' deeds records in the Island Records Office, which contain mortgages, bonds, and indentures, yielded two records of interest, one of which validated the hypothesis: "Benning to Bradford," entered on July 15, 1696, begins with "Symon Benning, of Port Royall on the island of Jamaica, pewterer of the one part" The speculation that had first formulated from the archaeological data had led to the seeking out of additional documents long past the year that Simon Benning, Sr. had died. There were two Simon Bennings, pewterers - father and son. The Simon Benning pineapple touch in Jamaica has a date range of 1663-1696.

After selling all of his property in 1696, what happened to Symon Benning, Jr. remains unanswered. It is known, however, that his sister, Sarah, married and moved to South Carolina, along with other former Port Royal residents (Claypole 1972:244). As noted by Dunn (1972:150-151):

By the end of the century when the buccaneers had left, most of the small planters were gone also. Jamaica, the one English island which seemingly offered good prospects to ex-servants and small freeholders, had been taken over entirely by the large planters consolidated the arable land into huge plantations manned by armies of slaves.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Directed historical research resulting from the attempt to answer specific archaeological questions was presented above. Such research shows how public documents, such as wills, probate inventories, deed transactions, and guild records, contribute to our understanding of archaeological data. One record is seldom conclusive, and quite often, one record is meaningful only in the light of another document. Each document adds to the story, one piece at a time.

We have seen how documents are not always where they should be, and that craftsmen in the colonies practiced their trade without going through the prerequisite training required by the crafts guilds in England. The only lead to finding out about Simon Benning appeared on an index card in the Worshipful Company of Pewterers of London. As brief as this notation was, it directed the search to finding his London will and the apprenticeship and free status records of his brother Tobias Benning in the Worshipful Company. Each of these provided significant details concerning the Benning family. Once in Jamaica, the patent records and inventories in the Jamaica Public Archives and the wills and grantors' deeds in the Island Record Office completed the story of the family's life in Jamaica.

Simon Benning London Will

In the name of God Amen the nineteenth day of ffebruary in the year of our Lord God according to the computation of the Church of England One Thousand six Hundred ffiftie Six I Simon Benning of London pewterer being in health of body and of good and perfect memories Praised bee God and being intended forthwith to take a voyage to the Barbados beyond the Seas by the permission and providence of Allmightie God therefore doe make and Ordaine this my present will and Testament Containing therein my last will in manner and forme following, that is to say, ffirst I command myselfe and all my whole estate to the mercie and protection of Allmightie God

being fully persuaded by his holy spiritt through the death and passion of Jesus Christ to obtaine full pardon and remission of all my sins and to inheritt everlasting life ffirst. I will that all such debts as I shall happen to owe at my decease shalle truely be paid as they Growe due in such manner as is hereafter addressed and sett downe — Item I give and bequeath unto my brother William Benning the sums of Threescore and ten pounds pounds of lawfull money of England to bee pd upon demande after my decease alsoe I do give and bequeath unto my said brother William Benning all these my goods mentioned and addressed in one Bill of Ladeing Signed by David Larkwood? Master of the goods on shipp called the reall freinde? shipp now bounde for Barbados aforesaid if it shall soe please God that I depart this natural life upon or beyonde the Seas provided allways and my will minde and intent is that my said brother William Benning after receipt of the said goods and sale being made out of the money that shall bee raised for the said goods shall forthwith pay unto the severall parties hereafter nominated these several somes following that is to sae ffirst my will is that he pay unto John Bedford of London Parishe Church the sume of Thirtie pounds of lawfull money of England together with interest for the sume accordinge to the true Intent abd meaninge of one obligation with Condition theresoe written for payment of the said Sume of Thirtie pounds with interest unto the said John Bedford his heirs Executors Administrators and Assignes by the said Simon Benning William Benning and ffrancis Benning or any of them theire heires Executors Administrators or Assignes relation being had unto the said obligation it doth and may more fully appeare And alsoe it is my will that my said brother William Benning doe pay or cause to be paid unto John Duffield London England or his Assignes out of the moneys soe raised upon the goods as aforesaid the sume of six pounds six shillings of like lawfull money and further it is my will that my said brother William Benning doe also pay or cause to be paid unto my brother Tobias Benning or his assigned out of the moneys soe raised upon the goods as aforesaid the sume of six poundes eleven shillings and six pence of the said John Duffield and my brother Tobias Benning havinge purchased with me certaine goods to the respective value of said sumes of money, provided allways that if it shall happen that after my decease as aforesaid my said brother William Benning doe not receive all the said goods mentioned in the Bill of Ladeing as aforesaid but only some part thereof then my will is that my said brother William Benning doe pay unto the said John Duffield and my brother Tobias Benning soe farr as the said goods shall amounte unto either in parte or in full. And it is my will and meaning that if there bee not wherewithall upon the goods as aforesd to satisfie the said John Bedford or his Assignes the full payment of the saide Thirtie pounds with Interest when it shall growe due upon the aforesaid Obligation my minde will Intent and meaninge therein that my said brother William Benning and ffrancis Benning my Executor do joyntly pay part and part alike and equally satisfie content unto the said John Bedford the said sume of Thirtie pounds together with the Interest whereby the said obligation may bee discharged Item I give and bequeath unto my brother Tobias Benning the sume of Twentie pounds of lawfull Englishe money to bee paid upon demande after my decease Item I do give and bequeath unto my brother John Benning the sum of ffortie pounds of like lawfull money to bee paid to his present Guardian William Benning of page one and in the parishe of Tottnam ale [alsoe] Tottenham in the Countie of Middlesex or any other that shall happen to bee his Guardian hereafter upon Demande after my death for the onely use and behoofe of my said brother John Benning when he shall attain to the age of one and Twentie years and if it shall happen that my said brother John Benning this life to depart before he attaine to the said age of one and Twentie years my will and meaninge is that my brother William Benning shall have the saide ffortie pounds if he shall then bee livinge but if deceased further this my will and meaninge is that my brother Tobias Benning shall have the said

fortie pounds, X X X X X X X And lastly as concerning all other my Estate either reall or personall wheresoever what soever or howsoever I give and bequeath to my brother ffrancis Bening whome I make my sole Executor of this my last will and Testament in Wittnesse whereof I have here unto sett my hand and seale this day and year that is first above written Simon Benning Sealed Signed and delivered in the presence of ye? Tho: Barnarde, Samuell Hursman?/ffursman? Str./

[The following Latin part of the will is not transcribed with any degree of accuracy.]

Probatum apud London fact huinswode (?) estamentie soram venerabili et egregio Domino Initietino merite _____ et _____ Dertore curia Pre-opative Cantuarion Magistre Cussode _____ commissarie logitune tenssitude Litesuno _____ die _____ Domini Millesunio Segrented _____ Quarto paramente Frantisi Benning fratrie ditti dosuncti et _____ in _____ altuna aoluntato dict defunct _____ cui Somlanissa fuit deminssiatro ammium et _____ bonord _____ et Crediternum eniSem defunct devene et fideliter _____ eadeni old Sancta Dei Evangelia in debito Junio forma jurat.

[This will was proved in London on 25 June 1664, with Francis Benning as executor.]

Jamaican Will of Simon Benning

Iam xx Ss
Symon Bennings
Will
Ent. December the 17th
1687

In the name of God Amen I Symon Benning of Port Royall Pewterer being sick in sound and perfect health of mind and judgmt blefsed be God therefore but considering with my selfe ye uncertainty of ye time of my death doe therefore hereby make publish, ordain & declare this to be my last Will and Testamt in manner & forme following (viz) Impr. I give and bequeath my soul into ye hands of Almighty God who gave it & hope through ye merits of my Redeemer Jesus Christ to be saved & I committ my body to ye dust to be decently buried by my Executer hereafter menconed & as to my earthly Estate wch God hath blefsed me wth I bequeath & dispose of ye same as followeth (viz) I give & bequeath unto my Son Symon Benning all yt my house situate lying and being on Port Royall in High Street which I now live in together wth all ye land there of out houses Cook rooms & back places yards & all ye appurtenances thereunto belonging & all my tools & working instrumts Shop goods & all other goods belonging to ye said house & shop to him & his heires for ever Provided always yt he thereout pay all ye legacies herafter menconed & also discharge all my debts & also provided yt my Wife Susanna

Benning have hereby power to keep ye sd house goods & appurtenances before bequeathed in her owne pofsefsion during the minority of sd son or so long as she shall think meet to keep it whilst he is under age of one & Twenty Years & in case of his death wthout ifsue to shear it untill ye next hayres shall be at age Provided also yt in case my said son shall die without ifsue lawfully begotten ye yt ye sd house land & all other ye premifses before bequeathed shall descend and come unto my son Thomas Benning & my [[page 2]] Daughter Sarah Benning & to be parted between them as my Wife shall think meet and in case of her death to be equally parted shear & sheare alike and also my Will & pleasure is that my said Wife Susanna shall upon her delivering up ye aforesaid premifses to either of them yt shall pofsefs it when he or they shall come to age of One and Twenty Years or before as she shall think fitt then that he or they shall allow her thereout the sum of Fifty pounds sterl. per annum during her life time and oneroom with necefsary furniture there to the sd Fifty pounds to be paid yearly without any manner of reservacon Item I give & bequeath unto my Son Thomas Benning Two houses or Taverns adjoining on the house and land of Capt. John Waight situate lying & being on Port Royall in ye high Street, with all ye appurtenances thereto belonging being all contained in One patent by itself to him & His heires for Ever together with the said patent thereof and all ye land there in menconed and contained provided that in case he die without ifsue lawfully begotten that then it shall descend & come to the next heire at law, Item I give and bequeath unto my sd son Thomas One hundred pounds sterl. to be pd him out of ye land afore bequeathed to his brother at ye time of his being at age of One and Twenty Yeares, Item I doe give & bequeathed unto my daughter Sarah Benning One parcell of land and all houses Yards and tenamts thereto belonging now let out to Mofes Cohen & adjoining to ye land, which formerly was Mr. George Humes & which is by estimacon the third of Sixty foot square be ye same more or lefs & which is paied in and to her and her heires for ever & in case she die without ifsue then that it descend & fall to the next heire at law of my name & also I doe give & bequeath unto my sd daughter ye sum of Two hundred pounds sterl. to be paid her at her day of marriage or age of Sixteen Yeares, Item I doe give & bequeath unto my Cozen Mary Benning the daughter of Tobias Benning of London deceased ye sum of Thirty pounds sterl. to be pd her in twelve months after my decease, Item I doe give & bequeath unto my loveing Wife Susanna Benning One hundred and twenty acres of land lying & being at a place called the Middle Quarters near ye black River in the parish of St. Elizabeth to her and her heires for ever to be disposed of as she shall at her death think fitt or Otherwise, I doe give and bequeath unto my said loveing Wife Susanna Benning all my other Estate both Reall and personall ye aforesaid legacies alwayes reserved out to her dureing her life and after her decease to be equally parted amongst ye surviving heires at law, Item I doe hereby ordain publish declare constitute, and appoint my said loveing Wife Susanna Benning sole Executrix of this my last Will & Testamt and also sole guardian of my children dureing their minority and untill they arrive at their severall ages aforesaid desireing her carefull management of the premifses and performance of this Will and Lastly I doe hereby make void and of none effect all other former Wills and constitute and publish this to be my onely sole and last Will and Testamt in manner as aforesaid In Witnefs whereof I the said Symon Benning have hereunto sett my hand and seale this Eight day of March Anno One thousand six hundred Eighty and three, foor.

Symon Benning

Signed sealed published, and declared in ye presence of the wards (wife) being first interlined.

John Waight [the marke “R” of] Richard Green. Richard Halloway. Thomas Jones Ser. 168 3/4. Memorandum this 17th day of December 1687 personally appeared before one Capt. John Waight Richard Green and Richard Halloway & made Oath that they were psonally present and did see Symon Benning the Testator within menconed signe seale publish and declare ye within Written to be his last Will & Testament, and that he was then of sound mind and memory. [Ext.]

[Extur SHC & T.Bat.] Hder. Molesworth.

Probate Inventory of Simon Benning

Port Royall February 19th 1687/8

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattles of the Dediseseased Mr. Simon Benning as there was apprais by Mrs Richard Greene and John Roswell and are as followeth (viz_)

..... li// s// d ¹

To 1//7^{li}//mould weighed 150//at 1^sp li ^{2,3}07//10//–

To 1/4^{li}//mould 115//at 1^s p li 05//15//–

To 1//4^{li}//Duep 117 at 1^s p li 05//17//–

To 1//midle plater mould at //1^l//112 p li 05//12//–

To 1//bason and 1 Plate mould at 1^l//117 p li05//17//–

To 1//Plate mould at 1^l:35 p li01//15//–

To 74 pound of Iron working tooles01//04//–

To 14 pound of old mettel at00//08//09

To 50 pound Scruf pewter 01//11//03

To 2 anvils & 12 hammers at02//10//–

To 1 wheele and Spindle⁴ 03//00//–

To Blocks & old things in the workhouse 01//10//–

To 250 of cast Rufe plates at 8^d p li 07//16//–

To 60 pound of old brass at01//17//6

To 3 //hundred of old pewter Lay at 6^d p li05//13//6

To 190^{ct}//28^{li} at Seven pence half penny p li60//05//03
To 113// of alloy at 4^d half penny p li 02//02//8
To 20//pound of old pewter at 7^d½ p li//12//6
To 3_//pound of new pewter at 12^d p li 1?//12//–
To 1 case of glass bottls at –//05//–
To 1//cistern⁵ of pewter at –//07//–
To 2 pai__ of old Scales & weight at –//15//–
To 26^{ct}:45^{li}//pound of pewter at 1^s p li ⁶ 132// 5//–
To 2 old beds & bedstead 02//10//–
To 1 bead & bedstead at 03//–//–
To 1 Table Looking glass 2 chairs & a box01//–//–
To 1 bead & bedstead curtins & vallians07//–//–
To 2 Chest of Drawers Tables 6 Chers and
1 Looking Glass 10//–//00
To 2 chests and Linnen 1 close Stoole and
Hammerkar⁷ 05//–//–
To 1 Jack 1 Kittle & sume
old things in the Coockroom 02//15//–
To cash 3^{li}10^s to 28 ounces of Plate10//10//–
To 1 grinstone water cask & tools..... 01//–//–
To 3 Tables Desk the Furniture of the Low room07//–//–
To 1 Large Looking glass at 01// 5//–
To 1 Bead & beadstead curtins & valliance 05//–//–

To 6 chaares and a Table 02//--/--

To old Copper & brass 121^{li}: at 7^p½ p li03//15//01

To course brass 21^{li} at 4^p½ p li 00// 7//11

To book debts Standing out 28// 8//0

To bad debts Standing out 29//18//0

the marke of-----
Richard R. Greene £376//11//10
John Rosswell-----

Notes:

1. 20 shilling (s) = 1 pound (li), 12 pence (d) = 1 shilling
 2. li = libri (pound)
 3. 'p' — per
 4. Lath to spin pewter
 5. Probably cistern, which in this context means a chest or box
 6. Here, ct = 10-pound units. This works out to be 1900 li (plus 28 li) for a total of 128 li.
 7. Hammock
-

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