

## Analysis of Reuben Benthall's Will

John Sharp  
27-Jul-2024

### Will of Reuben Benthall, dated 13-Aug-1779

From North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 for Reubin Benthall  
Carteret Wills, Vol C-D, 1760-1916, Ancestry.com  
Transcribed by John Sharp ([jhnshrp@gmail.com](mailto:jhnshrp@gmail.com))

*In the Name of God amen, I Reuben Benthall of Carteret County in the province of North Carolina – planter being weak in Body but of sound mind and Memory and calling to mind the Mortality of my Body that – it is appointed unto all men once to die do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament in Manner and form following viz. I commend my soul into the Hands of Almighty God that gave it – hoping through the merits and mediation of my Blessed Saviour to Receive free pardon of all my sins and my Body to be Buried in a Christian like Manner at the Discretion of my Executors, nothing Doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again and to such Worldly Goods or Estate as it has pleased God to Endow me with I Give and dispose of as hereafter mentioned ~~~~~*

*First – I give unto My Wife Sarah Benthall all my Land during her Lifetime or Widowhood and If She should marry again then only the plantation and two hundred acres joining it whereon I now dwell during her lifetime. Likewise all my stock and Household furniture her lifetime or Widowhood and if she marry again then only one third part of the same stock and furniture her lifetime. ~~~*

*2<sup>nd</sup> I give unto my Two sons Thomas and Reuben Benthall My Land on East side of Northwest Branch to be Equally – between them and their heirs for ever. ~~~~*

*3<sup>rd</sup> I give unto my Sons Jacob and John Benthall my Land on the West side of Northwest Branch joining Thomas & Reuben Benthall an Equal Compliment and their heirs forever ~~~~*

*4 I give unto my Son Absalom Benthall my Plantation whereon I now dwell and the Two Hundred acres of Land Joining It after his mother's demise and his heirs for ever ~~~~*

*5<sup>th</sup> After my Wife's Decease with the Gifts aforementioned, I Leave my Lands & Movables to be Equally Divided amongst all my Children and their heirs for ever. ~~~*

*6<sup>th</sup> After my Decease I Leave my Smiths Tools to be Hired out for the schooling of my children.*

*Lastly for the Better Executing this my will I Nominate and appoint my Wife Sarah Benthall Executrix & Absalom Shepard & Gideon Caneday Executors to the same Utterly Revoking &*

*Denying all Wills before made or Intended to be made by me acknowledging this and no other to be and Contain my Last Will and Testament.*

*In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 13<sup>th</sup> Day of August Anno Dom 1779.*

*Reuben Benthall (seal)*

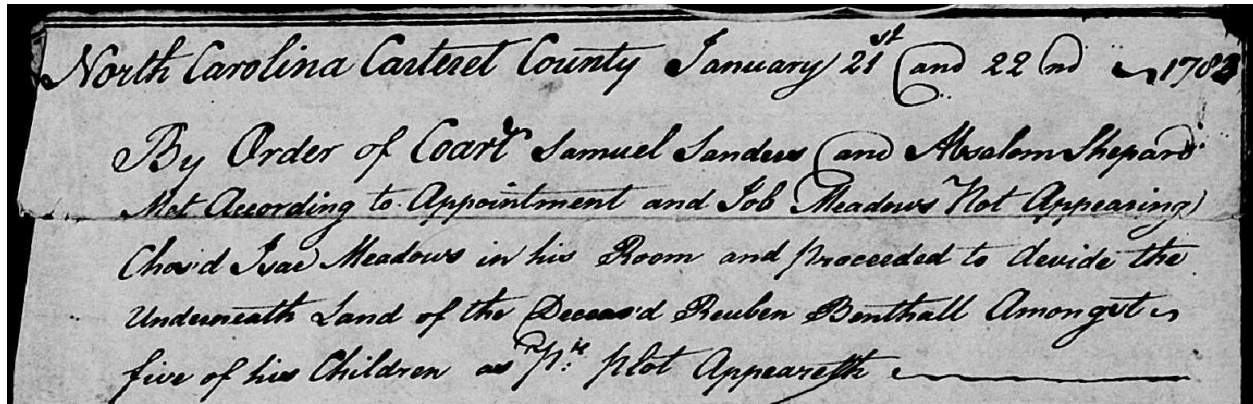
*Signed Sealed Published  
And Declared in Presence of  
Solomon Shepard  
Isaac (his mark) Meadows  
Thomas Meadows  
(his I mark)*

*This will was proved in Open Court according to Law*

*Test. Rob Read Clke*

*Probated and Recorded in the minutes of June Court – 1782.*

I found the following documents on [Family Search which concern Reuben's will and final inventory](#). Let's see what sense we can make of them. Source 722a describes where the lands of Reuben Benthall are being divided for the 5 sons of Reuben. I will have to show it in a few screenshots.



North Carolina Carteret County January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> ~1783

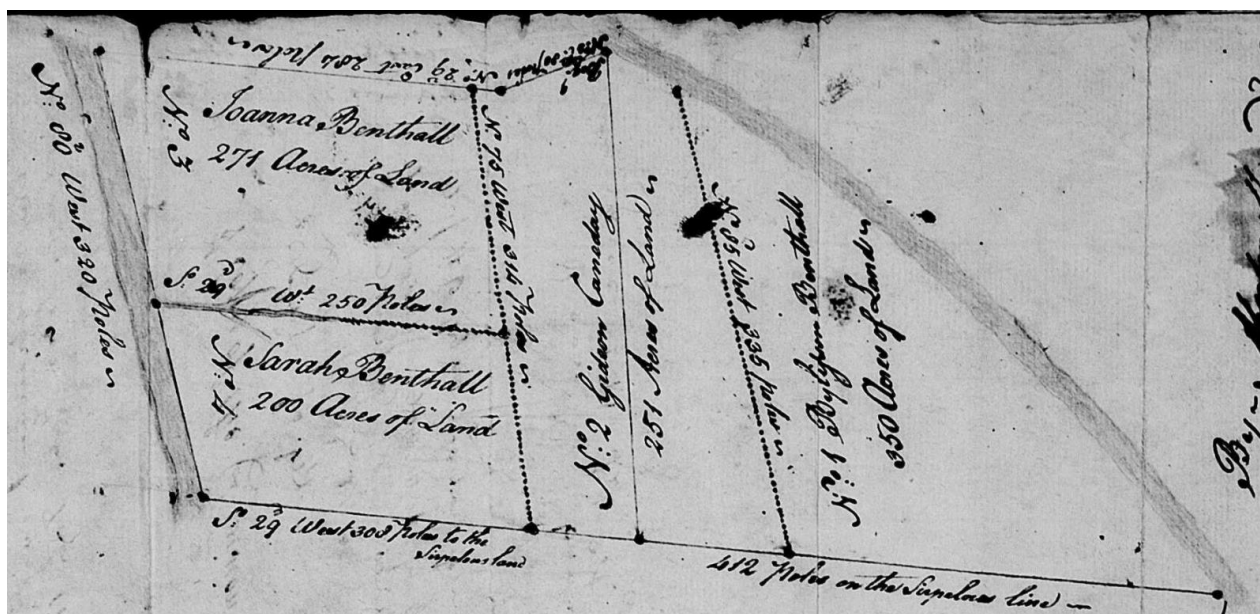
By Order of Court Samuel Sanders (and Absalom Shepard)  
Met According to Appointment and Job Meadows Not Appearing  
Chas'd Isaac Meadows in his Room and proceeded to divide the  
Underneath Land of the Deceas'd Reuben Benthall Amongst  
five of his Children as P<sup>er</sup> Plot Appeareth

This first shot of Source 722a is the following text:

"North Carolina Carteret County January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> ~1783

By order of Court Samuel Sanders and Absalom Shepard Met According to Appointment and Job Meadows Not Appearing [Chair'd?] Isaac Meadows in his Room and proceeded to divide the Underneath Land of the Deceas'd Reuben Benthall Amongsts five of his Children as P<sup>er</sup> Plot Appeareth ~~~~

Next is a drawing of the land to be divided.



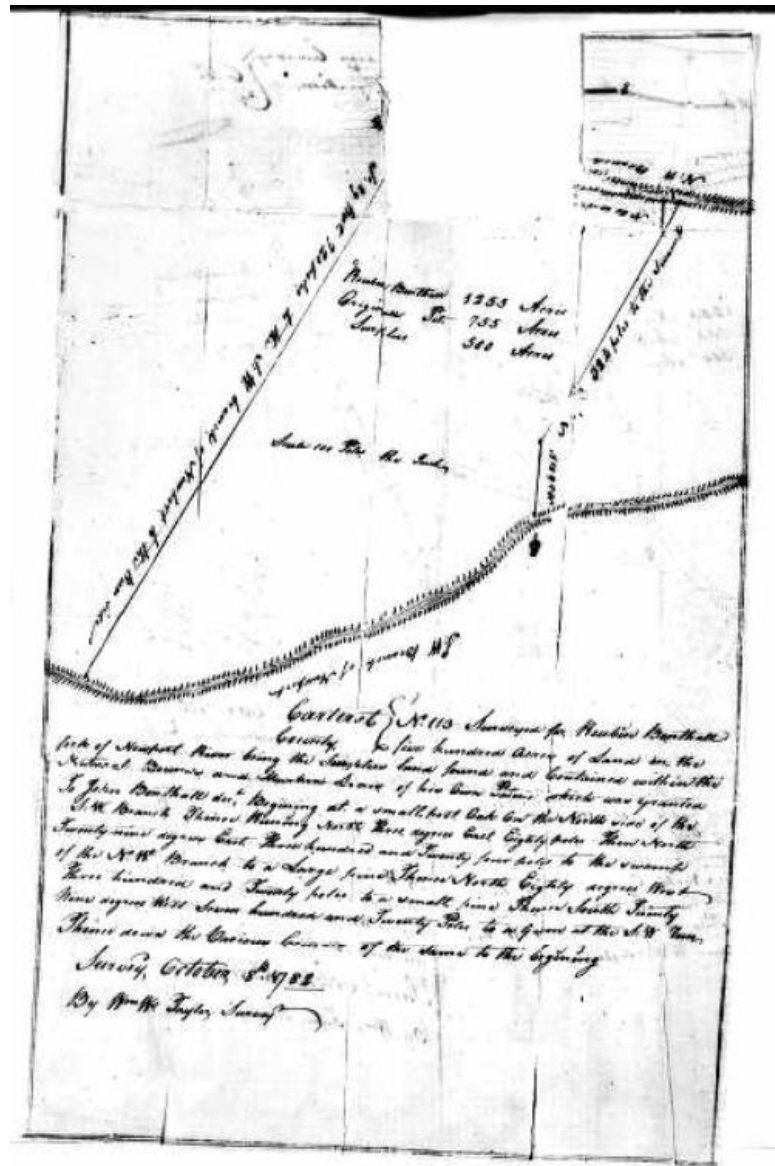
If we rotated this drawing 90 degrees to the right, it would look like the drawing from Land Patent 668, dated October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1780. So here we can see Reuben's land being divided (the upper drawing, not the drawing to the right).

On the side of drawing of Reuben's land to be divided (Source 722a), to the west of Reuben's land, is a written phrase:

"No. 5 William Sanders"

I wonder if this means this is the land of William Sanders (another ancestor of mine) in 1783? It's not inconceivable since William Sanders married Reuben Benthall's daughter, Patience, in Carteret County in 1782. So this makes sense that William may have lived next to Reuben.

At the bottom of 722a, it is signed by Absalom Shepard and Gideon Canaday, Executors.



At the top of the next source (722b), there is a bit of writing (see image at top of next page). This writing says:

"North Carolina

Carteret County

This is to certify that the foregoing is the [result?] of the Division of the Lands of Reuben Benthall filed in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Carteret Co., NC. Let the instrument with this certificate be registered this Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 1906.

L. A. [Garret?] A. S. P."

North Carolina  
 Carteret County  
 This is to certify that the foregoing is the report  
 of the Division of the lands of Reuben  
 Benethall filed in the office of the clerk of  
 the Superior Court of Carteret Co. N.C.  
 Let the instrument with this certificate be  
 registered, this Feb. 9th 1906  
 L. H. Garnet, c.s.p.

The 1906 year threw me for a little bit, but it seems to be real as this year is repeated in several places in this document. The next section of Source 722b is:

Division of the  
 Lands of Reuben  
 Benethall dec'd.  
 A Copy of the Division of Land  
 of  
 Reuben Benethall  
 Dec'd  
 Filed for registration Feb 9th 1906  
 Registered Feb 10th 1906 in Book No 4, page 221 records of  
 Carteret County  
 Recorded in Orders & Decees c.s.p.  
 Office page 291 Feb 8th 1906  
 L. H. Garnet

Some of the writing just refers to the document being for the division of Reuben's land. The middle part of the image has the writing:

"Filed for registration Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 106 [assume they meant 1906?]

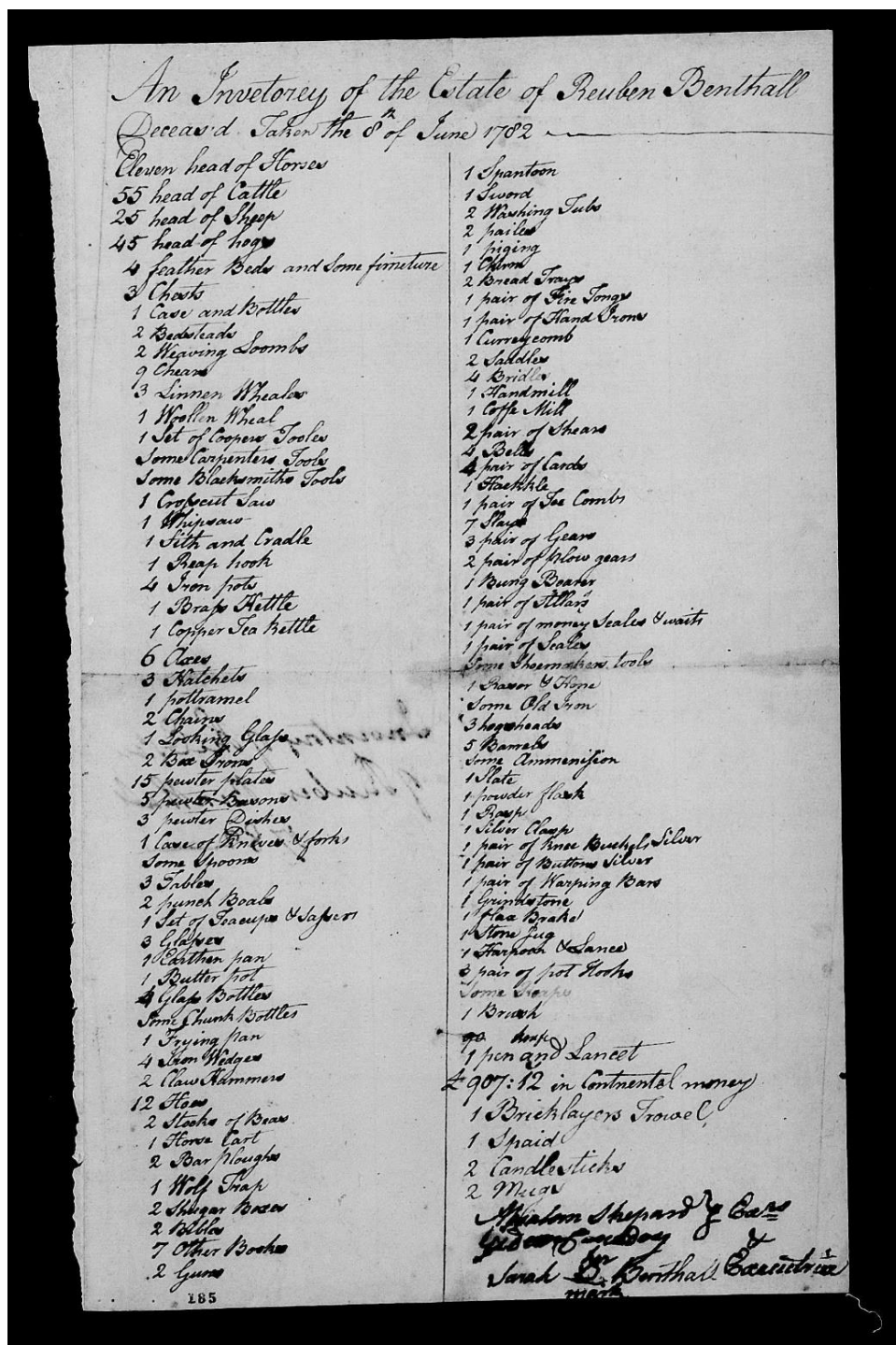
Registered Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 106 [assume they meant 1906?] in Book No 4, page 221 records of  
 Carteret County.

W. L. Arrington  
 Reg. of Deeds"



The bottom of the image above says "Recorded in Orders & Decrees c.s.p. Page 291, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 1906. L. E. Garret A. S. P."

Source 722c is an inventory of Reuben Benthall's household goods and estate at the time of his death. This is dated June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1782 pointing to the date of his death in early 1782.



The inventory consists of:

Eleven head of horses	1 Spantoon [Spittoon?]
55 head of Cattle	1 Sword
25 head of Sheep	2 Washing Tubs
45 head of hogs	2 pailles [pails]
4 feather Beds and Some furniture [furniture]	1 piging
3 Chests	1 Churn
1 Case and Bottles	2 Bread Trays
2 Bedsteads	1 pair of Fire Tongs
2 Weaving Loombs [Looms]	1 pair of Hand Irons
9 Chears [Chairs]	1 Curreycomb
3 Linnen Wheales	2 Saddles
1 Woolen Wheal	4 Bridles
1 Set of Coopers Tools	1 Handmill
Some Carpenters Tools	1 Coffe [Coffee?] Mill
Some Blacksmiths Tools	2 pair of Shears
1 Crosscut Saw	4 Bells
1 Whipsaw	4 pair of [Carobs? Cards?]
1 [Sith? Lith?] and Cradle	1 Haekkle [hackle?]
1 Reap Hook	1 pair of Tea Combs
4 Iron Pots	7 Slay [Sleigh?]
1 Brass Kettle	3 pair of Gears
1 Copper Tea Kettle	2 pair of plow gears
6 Axes	1 Bung Boarer
3 Hatchetts	1 pair of [Ltllass? Stllass?]
1 pottramel	1 pair of money Scales & waits [weights?]
2 Chains	1 pair of Scales
1 Looking Glass	Some Shoemakers Tools
2 Box Irons	1 Raser [razor] & hone
15 Pewter Plates	Some old iron
5 Pewter Basons [Basins]	3 hogsheads
3 Pewter Dishes	5 Barrels
1 Case of Knives & Forks	Some ammunition
Some Spoons	1 Slate
3 Tables	1 powder Flask
2 Punch Bowls	1 Rasp
1 Set of Teacups & Saucers	1 Silver Clasp
3 Glasses	1 pair of Knee Buckets Silver
1 Earthen Pan	1 pair of Buttons Silver
1 Butter Pot	1 pair of Warping Bars
[Unknown number of] Glass bottles	1 Grindstone
Some [Chunk?] Bottles	1 flax Brakel

1 Frying Pan	1 Stone Jug
4 Iron Wedges	1 Harpoon & Lance
2 Claw Hammers	3 pair of pot Hooks
12 Hoes	Some [Roapes? Stoapes? Ropes I think]
2 [Stocks of Beas? Bees? Stooks of ?]	1 Brush
1 Horse Cart	1 pen knife & Lancet
2 Bar Ploughs	\$ 907:12 in Continental Money
1 Wolf Trap	1 Bricklayers Trowel
2 Shugar [Sugar?] Boxes	1 Spaid [Spade]
2 Bibles	2 Candlesticks
7 Other Books	2 Mugs
2 Guns	

Absalom Shepard

Gideon Canaday

Sarah (her mark) Benthall

Executors

Executrix

There are some pretty interesting things in this inventory. Reuben had eleven horses, but only two saddles and four bridles. So it seems that most of the horses weren't for riding, or for more than two people to ride at the same time. He did have a horse cart, so maybe some of the horses were more for pulling the cart (and potentially the Slays, if that meant Sleighs). He had some bar ploughs, so maybe some of the horses were for that, also.

Reuben and his family weren't great readers, with only 2 bibles and 7 other books. Sarah couldn't read, as evidenced by her using a mark to sign the inventory.

Reuben had 907 pounds, 12 shillings in Continental money at the time of his death. The Revolutionary War had not officially ended (treaty signed in September 1783), but the last major land battle (Yorktown) had been fought (September-October 1781). However, this money was almost worthless. There's a fascinating [Wikipedia article](#) on money during the Revolutionary War. To quote from the article:

*"By the end of 1778, Continentals retained from  $\frac{1}{5}$  to  $\frac{1}{7}$  of their face value. By 1780, the bills were worth  $\frac{1}{40}$  of their face value. Congress attempted to reform the currency by removing the old bills from circulation and issuing new ones, without success. By May 1781, Continentals had become so worthless that they ceased to circulate as money. "*

So this may explain why Reuben had so much of this money at the time of his death – it literally was worthless!

I have no idea what a "pottramel" is. I can't find any reference to this using Google searches. Same with "haekkle", but as I mentioned in the transcribed inventory, maybe this is "hackle"



which normally refers to the erectile hairs (as in "that raised his hackles") on a horse's back but maybe it can refer to a comb for these hairs?

The next page (Source 722d) is just the mostly blank back of the inventory page. It does have the writing "Inventory of the Estate of Reuben Benthall, 1782" on it. The next 3 pages (Sources 722e – 722g) are an account of the sale of items from Reuben's estate from October 23, 1784. This is not the only sale! There will be another later.

An Acc <sup>t</sup> of the Goods and Chattls. of the Estate of Reuben Benthall Dec <sup>r</sup> October 23. 1784		
Henry Tain	To 2 Cars	1-3-0
	2 Hops	1-5-0
	2 Hops	1-4-0
	1 Oxen and hater	1-0-0
		4-12-0
William Landon	To 6 four Hoop	2-3-4
	1 Ox	4-2-0
	1 Oxen and hater	0-9-6
	1 Set of hinges	0-3-6
	3 Hops	0-17-6
	1 Oxen and hater	1-12-0
	1 Ox	2-0-6
	1 Oxen and hater	1-0-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-5-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-5-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-0-6
		10-3-2
John Adams	To 1 Cow	4-0-0
	1 Cow	3-11-0
	1 Cow	3-11-0
	1 Cow	3-11-0
	1 Bull	1-12-6
	1 Horse	4-5-0
	1 Oxen and hater	0-3-0
	1 Oxen and hater	15-8-0
	1 Oxen and hater	5-1-0
	1 Oxen and hater	4-10-0
	1 Oxen and hater	0-5-6
	1 Oxen and hater	1-1-8
	1 Oxen and hater	7-1-0
	1 Oxen and hater	0-12-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-9-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-16-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-5-0
	1 Oxen and hater	0-11-6
	1 Oxen and hater	1-5-0
	1 Oxen and hater	0-0-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-10-0
	1 Oxen and hater	5-11-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-15-6
	1 Oxen and hater	1-0-0
	1 Oxen and hater	1-2-0
	1 Oxen and hater	0-15-0
	1 Oxen and hater	1-10-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-11-6
	1 Oxen and hater	1-0-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-6-6
	1 Oxen and hater	1-13-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-10-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-10-0
	1 Oxen and hater	1-6-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-5-6
	1 Oxen and hater	0-1-6
	1 Oxen and hater	1-4-0

D. 1 Hand Mill	1-5-0
D. 1 Red & White Lead	7-10-0
D. 1 Red & White Lead & Ironstone	6-15-0
D. 1 Spade and gear	2-1-0
D. 1 Comb and gear	1-0-0
D. 1 Saddle	1-12-6
D. 1 Saddle	1-5-0
D. 1 Beehive	0-17-0
D. 1 Luff of Lumber	1-0-0
D. 1 Chain	0-8-6
D. 1 Pair of Hand Irons for Hammer & Forge	1-1-0
D. 1 Chain	0-10-0
D. 2 Saddle	0-5-0
D. 6 Spade Plates	1-10-4
D. 1 Dish	0-12-6
D. 2 Dish	1-1-4
D. 2 Dish	1-6-0
D. 2 Dish	0-10-6
D. 1 Luff of Lumber	0-12-0
D. 1 Punch & Drill	0-3-0
D. 1 Sledge	0-7-4
D. 1 Lumber Sledge	1-1-0
D. 2 Sledge	0-5-0
D. 1 Sledge	0-2-4
D. 2 Sledge	0-2-4
D. 2 Sledge	0-7-0
D. 1 Sledge	0-7-0
	<u>£ 125-0-10</u>

Scanna Donthall D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	3-6-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-10-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-13-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-4-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	7-13-6
	<u>£ 10-15-0</u>

William Dennis D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	3-11-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	1-12-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	0-15-0
	<u>5-10-0</u>

Gideon Canaday D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-19-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	1-11-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-3-6
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-16-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-10-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	1-0-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-12-4
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	4-10-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	1-11-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-1-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	0-4-6
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	1-5-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	0-5-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	1-11-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	2-10-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	0-5-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	1-6-0
D. 1 Co. 1 Co.	0-1-2
	<u>31-1-0</u>

Willot, D. M. D. To 1 Bull	3. 2. 0
Thomas Wickes D. To 1 Bull	1. 12. 0
Thomas Wentworth D. To 1 Mare	5. 2. 0
D. To 1 Gun	2. 5. 0
Willory Harbert D. To 5 Harems	5. 7. 0
D. To 1 Wincumb	4. 15. 0
	0. 5. 0
	5. 0. 0
Lucy Allen D. To 1 Chipping Nuthatch	0. 9. 0
Elijah Canaday D. To 1 Saw	0. 19. 0
Joseph Dettler D. To 1 Set of Cooper's Tools	2. 12. 0
D. To 1 Set of Chisels	0. 12. 0
	3. 4. 0
Edward Giffey D. To 1 Set of Iron	1. 0. 0
Levin Taylor D. To 1 Set of Chisels	1. 1. 0
John Roberts D. To 1 Set of Landrogs	0. 11. 0
Edward Lill D. To 3 Axes	0. 12. 0
D. To 1 Set of Hammer Tools	0. 16. 0
	1. 8. 0
Reuben Dettler D. To 1 Hat	0. 11. 0
D. To 1 Whisk	0. 16. 0
D. To 1 Chest	0. 17. 0
D. To 1 Bed and Coverlid	6. 0. 0
D. To 1 Set of Crochery	0. 5. 0
	0. 12. 0

The Whole Amount of Cts. is £234. 15. 4  
 Exactly lost up ~~right~~ 235. 1. 4

Returns of Asahom Shepard Cox to Benthall  
 Gideon Canaday

An interesting thing about these sales accounts is that the sale amount is given in the standard “Pounds – Shillings – Pence” format. There are 12 pence to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. Maybe these are English currencies, as we discussed above that the Continental money was essentially worthless.

Another interesting thing is that it looks like these accounts were just written down, as the sales occurred right there at the time! It’s not an account written after the fact. I am basing this on the sale of hogs to William Sanders. From the inventory above, we can see that Reuben had 45 hogs at the time of his death. In the account sales, we see that William bought 11 hogs for 4 – 10 – 6, then he bought another hog for 0 – 17 – 6, then another hog for 1 – 1- 8, then the remainder of the hogs for 7 – 1 – 0. So the scribe was just writing sales down as they occurred.

As we look at the sales, we see:

- Abner {Quin?} bought 2 cows, 4 sheep, and sundry for about 4 pounds, 12 shillings.
- William Sanders (husband of Patience Benthall, Reuben’s daughter, and neighbor of Reuben) bought a LOT of stuff for a total of 123 pounds and 10 pence! My [currency converter](#) says that this is about \$28,000 in today’s money.

William’s purchases also give us a clue into some of my earlier questions. It wasn’t “pottrammel”, it was “pot trammel”. A “pot trammel” is the metal hanger that you use over an open fire to hang all of the pots while you are cooking. It’s sometimes called a “trammel hook”. Here are some examples, as they range from pretty simple to really elaborate. We don’t know what type William bought from Reuben.





We also learned that Reuben kept bees (in the inventory, I didn't know if it was 2 stocks of Beas or Stooks of Beas (a "stook" is a bundle of several sheaves of grain that were stood up in a field after harvest to allow them to dry. I have run across this before.) In William's purchases, we see that he bought a hive of bees for 19 shillings.

- Joanna Benthall bought some cows, horses, heifers for 18 – 14 – 6. According to some information I found on [Geni.com](http://Geni.com), Reuben and Sarah had a daughter Johanna born in 1769. So in 1784, she would be approximately 15 years old – pretty young to be able to afford these items for this amount of money. Maybe Reuben had a sister named Joanna? As an aside, Reuben's daughter Johanna died in 1786 at approximately 17 years old, so she didn't have long to live after this auction. I know that Geni.com isn't a great source (I can't find any sources to back up this information on this page for Johanna, but it's all I have for now).
- William [Dennis?] bought a cow and some stuff for 5 – 18 – 4.
- Gideon Canaday bought livestock and a fair amount of stuff for 31 – 1 – 6.
- [Billet?] Bell bought a bull for 3 – 2 – 0.
- Thomas Weeks bought a bull for 1 – 12 – 6.
- Thomas Benthall bought a [mare?] and a gun for 5 – 7 – 0.
- Hillery Harbest bought 5 harrows and a currycomb for 5 – 0 – 0.
- Isac [Osteen? Ancestor of the current evangelist?] bought a hatchet for 9 shillings.
- Elijah Canaday bought a [Lan?] for 19 shillings.
- Joseph Bell [Sr.?] bought the coopers tools and other for 3 – 4 – 6.
- Edmund [Cutler?] bought some iron for 1 – 0 – 6.



- [Levon?] Taylor bought a lot of [Chizels? I wonder if this means Chisels?] for 1 – 1 – 0.
- John Roberts bought a lot of [no idea what this is] for 0 – 4 – 0.
- Edmond Dill bought some hoes and shoemaker tools for 1 – 8 – 0.
- [Brighton? Bashington?] Benthall bought some stuff for 8 – 12 – 6.

There are 2 summations at the bottom of the Sales Account:

*"The Whole Amount of Acct. Sales £ 234 – 15 – 4"*

And below that:

*"Exactly Cost up 235 – 1 – 4"*

Below the summations:

*"Returns of Absalom Shepard Execs. To Benthall*

*Gideon Canaday"*

Well, not everything sold at the October 23, 1784 auction. Because they had another one on September 8, 1786 (Source 722i).

*An Account sales of the goods and Chattles of the Estate of Reuben Benthall Dec<sup>r</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1786*

<i>Gideon Canaday</i>	<i>2<sup>d</sup></i>
<i>To One Ham</i>	<i>8<sup>d</sup> 10<sup>d</sup> 0</i>
<i>To One Butter pot and Carthen pan</i>	<i>0<sup>d</sup> 6<sup>d</sup> 0</i>
<i>William Cateen</i>	<i>2<sup>d</sup></i>
<i>To One Cu</i>	<i>0<sup>d</sup> 14<sup>d</sup> 6</i>
<i>Absalom Shepard</i>	<i>3<sup>d</sup></i>
<i>To 1 Stear</i>	<i>9<sup>d</sup> 0<sup>d</sup> 4</i>
<i>Reuben Benthall</i>	<i>3<sup>d</sup></i>
<i>To 1 Knife</i>	<i>2<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 0</i>
<i>To 1 Cow and calf</i>	<i>4<sup>d</sup> 14<sup>d</sup> 6</i>
<i>To Jacob Benthall One Cow and calf</i>	<i>8<sup>d</sup> 4<sup>d</sup> 0</i>
<i>To Thomas Benthall 1 Cow yearling</i>	<i>5<sup>d</sup> 0<sup>d</sup> 0</i>
<i>To John Benthall 1 Cow yearling</i>	<i>4<sup>d</sup> 1<sup>d</sup> 0</i>
<i>To Jare Cateen One Cow and Passer</i>	<i>0<sup>d</sup> 16<sup>d</sup> 10</i>
<i>To William Sanders 1 Bible</i>	<i>0<sup>d</sup> 16<sup>d</sup> 0</i>
<i>To 1 Pan</i>	<i>0<sup>d</sup> 14<sup>d</sup> 6</i>
	<i>1<sup>d</sup> 10<sup>d</sup> 6</i>
<i>To Tilbury Harbest One pen knife Towel</i>	<i>0<sup>d</sup> 5<sup>d</sup> 6</i>
	<i>24<sup>d</sup> 7<sup>d</sup> 8</i>

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The return on this auction was much less than the first one. The title on the page is:

*"An Account sales of the goods and Chattles of the Estate of Reuben Benthall Dec<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>TM</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1786"*

The sales at this auction were:

- Gideon Canaday bought a ram for 0 – 16 – 0 and some pots for 0 – 6 – 0.
- William Osteen bought a ewe for 0 – 14 – 6.
- Absalom Shepard bought a steer for 0 – 14 – 6.
- Reuben Benthall [son?] bought a cow, her calf, and a heifer for 6 – 13 – 8.
- Jacob Benthall bought a cow and her calf for 3 – 4 – 0.
- Thomas Benthall bought a cow and her yearling for 5 – 0 – 0.
- John Benthall bought a cow and her yearling for 4 – 1 – 0.
- Isac Osteen bought a cow bell and a razor for 0 – 16 – 10.
- William Sanders bought a Bible for 0 – 16 – 0 and a ram for 0 – 14 – 6.
- Hillery Harbest bought a pen knife and trowel for 0 – 5 – 6.

The total for this sale was 24 – 7 – 8.

Source 722j is just the back of the page for the second auction. It just says "Second record of Sales of Reubenthalls Estate."

Source 722k is mostly blank with the writing "Rec'd Currant Settlement of the Estate of Mr. Reuben Benthall Dec'd."

Source 722l is an account of all of the expenses owed by the Estate of Reuben Benthall. This is a difficult page to read as you can see below. I can read a lot of it, but not all. The top of the page says:

*"December 9<sup>th</sup> 1788. Pursuant to an Order of Court appointing We the Subscribers to Settle and Audit the Accounts between the Estate of Reuben Benthall Deceased [?] and the Executors to the said Estate. We met and Settled the the [sorry, "the" is listed twice] Same as p<sup>r</sup> [per] account. Signed*

Below this is a list of all of the debts owed by Reuben Benthall's estate to various entities.

December 9th 1788. Pursuant to an Order  
 of Court appointing We the Subscribers  
 Uthland Auditors the accounts between the  
 Estate of Reuben Benthall Deceased and  
 the Executors to the said Estate We met and  
 settled the same as follows Account Signed  
 To the Sheriff for his Commission fees ----- 5.. 17.. 6  
 To Abrahm Shepard and Gideon Caneday for  
 Services done ----- 10.. 0.. 0  
 To sum paid for by Gideon Caneday & Order of Court ----- 0.. 17.. 0  
 To sum paid by Abrahm Shepard to Edward Still  
 20 p. Acc<sup>t</sup> ----- 0.. 7.. 6  
 To sum paid Thomas Hardisty ----- 1.. 10.. 0  
 To Note of hand from the Estate of Col. Ward Dec<sup>d</sup> ----- 11.. 14.. 0  
 To Money due to the Widow Shepard ----- 5.. 0.. 0  
 To Money due W<sup>m</sup> Dennis Sen. & H<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup> ----- 1.. 10.. 0  
 To Money due to Robert Read ----- 2.. 0.. 0  
 To Money for Sutter of Testimony ----- 0.. 6.. 0  
 To my Expenses Attending of a Law Sute Against  
 John Adams in behalf of the heirs of Reuben Benthall  
 Due three different times ----- 2.. 0.. 0  
 To Charges brought Against the heirs of  
 Reuben Benthall Due by John Adams for  
 keeping the Children ----- 35.. 0.. 0  
 To Cash for Copy of the second Vest<sup>t</sup> ----- 2.. 8  
 The Bull ----- 77.. 5.. 4  
 ----- 82.. 0.. 0  
 ----- 59.. 4.. 4

<i>To the Sheriff for his Commision fees .....</i>	<i>5 – 17 – 6</i>
<i>To Absalom Shepard and Gideon Canaday for Services done .....</i>	<i>10 – 0 – 0</i>
<i>Rum paid for by Gideon Canaday and Order of Court .....</i>	<i>0 – 17 – 0</i>
<i>Specie p<sup>d</sup> by Absalom Shepard to Edward Dill as p<sup>r</sup> Acct .....</i>	<i>0 – 7 – 6</i>
<i>[30?] paid Thomas Hardesty .....</i>	<i>1 – 10 – 0</i>
<i>Note of hand from the Estate of Col. Ward, Dec<sup>d</sup> .....</i>	<i>11 – 14 – 0</i>
<i>Money due to the widow Shepard .....</i>	<i>5 – 0 – 0</i>
<i>Money due to William Dennis Sen<sup>r</sup> as p<sup>r</sup> Acct. ....</i>	<i>1 – 10 – 0</i>
<i>Money due W<sup>m</sup> Dennis as p<sup>r</sup> Acct. ....</i>	<i>2 – 0 – 0</i>
<i>Money due to Robert Read .....</i>	<i>0 – 6 – 0</i>
<i>Money for letter of [Testimony?].....</i>	<i>0 – 17 – 0</i>
<i>To my [???] attending of a law Suite Against John [Adams?] on behalf of the heirs of Reuben Benthall Dec<sup>d</sup> [thru?] different [????] Accts .....</i>	<i>2 – 0 – 0</i>
<i>To Charges brought against the heirs of Reuben Benthall Dec<sup>d</sup> by John Adams for keeping the Children .....</i>	<i>35 – 0 – 0</i>
<i>To [Court?] for copy of the second Acct. of [Sales?].....</i>	<i>0 – 2 – 8</i>
	<i>77 – 1 – 4</i>
<i>The Ball'd [balance?] .....</i>	<i>182 – 0 – 0</i>
	<i>259 – 1 – 4</i>

Source 722m is the final settlement of the accounts of the state (see the image below). This document says:

Contra	Credit
By the Amount of the Acct. of Sales	235 – 1 – 4
By Second Acct of Sales	24 – 0 – 0
	259 – 1 – 4
By the Balance Due	77 – 1 – 4
	£182 – 0 – 0

Contra

Credit

By the Amount of the first Sale	£ 235 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
By second sale	24 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>0</sub>
By the Balance Due	259 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
The Estate	077 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
	<u>182<sup>0</sup>/<sub>0</sub></u>

We the Subscribers have Duly Examined  
the Accounts and find the above Balance  
Due to the Estate

Robt Read

John Thompson

Matthias Bell

May term 1793

This Account Current was returned into Court by the  
Referees

Wm. B. Bury & Co

The middle of the page has the writing:

*"We the Subscribers hath Duly Examined the Accounts and find the above Balance Due to the Estate.*

*Rob Read  
John [Summers?]  
Malachi Bell"*

Below this writing is more writing which says:

*"May term 1793*

*This Account Current was returned [unto?] [Court?] by the [Referees?]*

*[Treiz?] Benj. [? Ford CC]*

*[ I think this is Hertford CC – see [here](#)]*

I am happy to see that Reuben and Sarah did not own any slaves (in contrast to a lot of my other ancestors!). I think the Estate inventory gives us a good view into how Reuben and his family lived. They raised horses, cows, sheep, hogs, and bees. They sheared the sheep, spun the wool on wheels, and then wove it into woolen cloth on the looms. They plowed their land, made their own barrels (with the Cooper's Tools and bung borer), they were their own blacksmith and kept iron on hand to make stuff that they needed. They cut their own trees, and sawed them into lumber to build their homes, barns, corrals, etc. They made their own bricks and laid them into the structures they needed. If someone paid them for something in specie (coins, etc.), they had scales to weigh it to make sure they were getting fair value. They were the original Preppers!