

PROMISE

by Hugh Ballentine to his wife, Rebecca, that "If I get Drunk or out of the way with liquor in seven years" to "give up Sally . . . and the plantation where I now live," to Rebecca to take to herself, with Sally and her of[f]spring, if any, to be given to "my daughter Frances at her mother's death," made 30 Nov 1809, sworn to 8 Jan 1810, recorded 10 Jan 1810 [Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 30, p. 28, located in Edgefield County Courthouse]

Item: Every now and then, the gods smile on the conscientious researcher. Such was the case when Barbara Day Bruns came, most unexpectedly, on this certificate filed in 1810 by her ancestor, Hugh Ballentine. The document illustrates very effectively the points that 1) there is an endless variety of actions recorded in old deed books, and 2) there is no substitute for a careful, page-by-page examination of primary source materials of the geographic area and time period in which an ancestor lived.

Hugh Ballentine Certificate: This is to Certify that I agree that If I get Drunk or out of the way with liquor in seven Years to give up Sally & her one now growing Monney and the plantation where I now live Rebecca my wife to take to herself If she see Campd Sally is to be given up to my daughter Frances at her mother's death to her the Said Francis for her use and her heirs with the offspring of Said Sally if any should be as witness my hand and seal this 30th day of November 1809.
 Hugh Ballentine
 one witness am taken
 Just John Butler

South Carolina } Personally appeared John Butler before me one of the
 Edgefield District } Justices of peace to keep the peace for the district aforesaid
 & after being duly sworn saith on his oath that he was present and did see
 Hugh Ballentine sign seal and deliver the within stated for the use and
 purpose therein mentioned and that he subscribed his name as a witness
 thereto John R. Butler J.P.
 January 8th 1810 - Recorded this 10th Jan 1810.