

Landsdale – timeline
(Lafferty Grant)
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1751 – Thomas Lord Fairfax granted 380 acres to Thomas and Hester Lafferty, “son and daughter of Judith Lafferty.” (NN GB H, p. 33)

In 1760, Judeah Lafferty recorded a Fairfax grant for 72 acres adjoining Peter Bradford, David Ozburn [sic], “the said Judeah’s former survey,” and Thomas Shepherd (see attached annotated 1852 map). (NN GB K, p. 168)

1768 – Thomas Lafferty sold 194 acres of the Lafferty grant land to Henry Sulser (Selser), who in turn sold the parcel to David [II] and William Osbourne [Hillside] (BC DB 4, p. 511). Thomas Lafferty occupied the remaining 186 acres.

The 1774 List of Tithables for Berkeley County, Godwin’s Swifts List, listed Thomas Lafferty.

On the 1783 Berkeley Co. Personal Property tax Thomas Lafferty was listed with 1 white tithable, 2 slaves, 7 horses, and 10 cattle.

1798 – Thomas Lafferty [II?] was assessed for one house in the country valued at \$430.

This seems very low for a new, high-style, stone house. This is the same valuation given to Rich Willis at Hopewell (Prato Rio) which was an old stone house by then. I think this indicates that Landsdale was not yet built.

1802-1819 – Jefferson Co. land tax, Thomas Lafferty was assessed for 370 acres adjoining David Osborn.

The 1810 census listed Thomas Lafferty as over the age of 45 with a wife of the same age, one male 26-44, two males and one female under 26, and two female children. Lafferty also had three slaves.

1815 – Thomas Lafferty was assessed for one country house valued \$1,500 over \$500 (\$2,000 total). This clearly indicates that Landsdale was in place by 1815.

1820 – Thomas Lafferty was assessed for 205 acres adjoining David Osborn with \$2,500 in building valued, and 165 acres adjoining Robert Lucas with no building value (this may be part of the Buckles tract).

Census listed Lafferty as a Farmer over age 45 with his wife and two adult males and two adult females in his household. He also had seven slaves. Six household members were occupied in agriculture.

1826 – By this time Thomas Lafferty was deceased.

The estate was divided about 1829, Catherine Lafferty getting 102 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres with a building value of \$2,500 [Landsdale], and Elizabeth Lafferty got 47 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres adjoining with no buildings. The remaining acreage, under “Thomas Lafferty’s heirs” was 98 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres adjoining Catherine, with the notation that another 73 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres were transferred to William Butler (possibly the 72-acre Judeah Lafferty 1760 grant land).

It appears that Catherine and Elizabeth Lafferty lived in the Landsdale house until Catherine’s death about 1839; Elizabeth remained at least through 1850.

In 1841 the Lafferty buildings were devalued to \$1,800, and in 1850 the value fell again to \$1,500 (\$1,000 on the duplicate 1850 tax record).

1852 – S. Howell Brown map shows Landsdale under the name Catherine Lafferty’s heirs.

By 1883 James A. Osbourne was in possession of Landsdale. A stone in the south (east?) gable of the house inscribed with the initials W.E.O. and the date 1916, probably indicates work done on the house by William? E. Osbourne.