

Cedar Lawn

Resource History

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1752 – 613-acre Patent to Lawrence Washington added to land previously purchased of Robert Worthington and others. (NN Grant Bk H/148)

In a 2001 interview, John Augustine Washington said: "...Lawrence died in 1752, and his four younger half-brothers George, Samuel, Charles, and John Augustine inherited his accumulated land." (Surkamp, *Jeff. Co. Hist. Soc. Mag*, Vol. 69, Dec. 2003) Samuel moved from Stafford County, Virginia in 1770 after his marriage and after he had constructed *Harewood*. Samuel continued to add to the *Harewood* estate, ending up with about 3,800 acres.

1781 – Col. Samuel Washington died and the estate was divided between his sons George Steptoe, who got *Harewood*; Lawrence Augustine, who got *Richwood*; and Thornton, who got *Cedar Lawn*. (Surkamp-JAW interview 2001)

Thornton Washington married Margaret Berry in 1779 and they settled on their property, at the time named *Berry Hill*, reportedly a "log and plank house." (*Between the Shenandoah and Potomac*, p. 6)

Thornton died in 1787, having "married twice and yet died at the age of 29" (JAW 2001 interview), leaving his property to his son John Thornton Augustine Washington. John T.A. Washington, also known as Thornton (II), was born in 1783 so was only four years old at the time of his father's death.

At the time of the 1798 House and Slave tax there was no house assessment for Thornton Washington's heirs or J.T.A. Washington (age 15 so still not taxable). The Thornton Washington Heirs were taxed however for slaves: 9 under Superintendent George [S.?] Washington and 6 under Superintendent John Ariss. It appears that the old *Berry Hill* house was assessed in the entry for George Washington (Estate) with a house value of 157.50; since 1798 pre-dates the death of both General George Washington and George Steptoe Washington, this may be referring to Thornton Washington's estate under the guardianship of George S. Washington (I'm speculating here but it makes some sense).

1810 – Thornton (II) Washington married Elizabeth Bedinger.

Thornton (II) or John T.A. Washington could not be found in the 1810 census for Jefferson County. His cousin Samuel Washington, who had recently inherited his father's (George S. Washington) *Harewood* estate, was listed with one male 10-15 and one male 16-25, also one female 16-25 and one 0-9 years. If Samuel, son of George S., was born in 1798 (according to one genealogy, 1799 in another), then at age 11 or 12 in 1810 he may have been living in his *Harewood* home with his Uncle Thornton and family.

1820 – Jefferson County Land Tax. A good indication that J.T.A. Washington was not living on his inherited estate then known as *Berry Hill* is found in the 1820 land tax record, the first year of building valuations. Listed under the name John T.A. Washington, he had 170 acres adjoining Smith Slaughter with \$200 worth of buildings.

By the 1820 census, probably still living at *Harewood*, Thornton Washington's household included one male and one female 26-44 years, 3 males ages 0-9, and 2 females 0-9 years. There were 37 slaves listed and 13 people in the household occupied in agriculture. Their immediate neighbor on the list was Smith Slaughter at *Richwood Hall* with 20 slaves.

Harewood was listed on the 1820 land tax under the name "George S. Washington heirs" and the house was valued at \$4,000. In 1821, that value rose to \$4,500 with no explanation.

1825 – Land Tax records indicate that John T.A. Washington's property was enlarged from 170 acres to 244 acres "at the instance of the owner partition of part of this land recorded in Berkeley County." This must have been a correction of his 1787 inheritance. The building value, however, remained at \$200.

In the meantime his Washington relatives had embarked on a remarkable building spree. In 1821 Bushrod Washington's (Claymont Court) building value was \$1,000, in 1822 it rose to \$11,144, and in 1823 rose again to \$12,620. John Augustine Washington (Prospect Hill – he also inherited Mount Vernon) had a building valued of \$2,000 in 1821, which rose to \$5,498 in 1822.

1829 – Not to be outdone by his relatives, John Thornton A. Washington built *Cedar Lawn* during this year, recorded on the 1830 Land Tax, a building value of \$3,200 with "\$3,000 added for new Brick Building" on his 244 acres adjoining Joseph Showalter, then owner of *Richwood Hall*.

1841 – John T.A. Washington died at *Cedar Lawn* but none of his numerous children appear to have settled there. His wife Elizabeth (Bedinger) died in 1837.

1855 – The children sold the estate to John R. Flagg who had recently (1846) purchased the neighboring *Richwood Hall*. The deed from Benjamin F. & Georgiana Washington of San Francisco, California; John W. & Georgiana Smith of [blank]; Solomon S. & Mildred Bedinger of Lewis County, Kentucky; Sally E. Washington, Mary E. Washington, Susanna E. Washington, and George Washington, of Jefferson County, was for "all that tract of land...known as 'Cedar Lawn.'" The price paid was \$63.52 per acre, \$8,000 up front and the rest in three equal payments (no amount given). Presumably the acreage was the 244 acres listed in the land tax. (JC DB 35/79)

On the 1852 S. Howell Brown map "Cedar Lawn" appears under the name "John T.A. Washington's heirs"

The 1864 Hotchkiss "Sketch of Engagement at Charlestown, Va." shows it simply under the name "Cedar Lawn"

On the 1883 S. Howell Brown map, "Cedarlawn" is given under the name "Robert Earl"