

## Shenandoah River – Little's Falls Tracts: Riverside, Allemont, and Hopewell

20 February 2007

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In October 1734, land speculator Jost Hite added a small survey of 228 acres to his 40,000 acres purchased from the Van Metre brothers, "on the Western Side of Sherrando River between Sherrando and Cattail Run." (Land Office Patents Book 15, p. 306) Beginning in 1760 John Carlyle, a merchant in Alexandria, Virginia, acquired adjoining grants, one for 135 acres (1760), one for 123 acres (1761), and one for 1,200 (1761). (see attached Geertsema map) It appears that Carlyle purchased at least part of the Hite tract and sold his two smaller tracts and the Hite parcel to William Little before 1796, possibly as early as 1773 when Little signed as a witness to an adjoining deed. In 1782 Little was assessed in Berkeley County for 500 acres. He purchased an additional 75 acres on "Cattail Branch" from John Bull in 1785 (BC DB 7, p. 35), referred to in the 1789 tax assessment as Col. Bull.

In 1772 William Little served as a Justice of the Peace in Berkeley County and in 1774 was apparently living in the tithables district recorded by John Aress (The 1774 List of Tithables and Wheel Carriages in Berkeley County, Virginia, William H. Rice, ed.), which included the area from the Opeckon [sic] to the "Loudon [sic] Line thence with said line of the Road near Vestall's Ford thence with that road to the beginning." In 1787, Little was assessed on the Berkeley County Personal Property tax for himself and Leonard Thomas, nine slaves, eleven horses including a "stud horse," and 18 cattle. There were no males between the ages of 16 and 21 in his household at the time.

In 1796 Captain William Little sold 93 ½ acres of his "larger tract purchased by said Little of John Carlile [sic]" to George A. Kellenberger. Kellenberger immediately sold the parcel to Peter Landis along with 879 acres of "The Old Bloomery" tract for a whopping £10,000 (BC DB 13, p. 274; this later became the site of the John Downey mill). Landis sold back to Kellenberger 350 acres of the Bloomery property with "Dwelling house, Merchant Mills, Sawmill, and Distillery" for £5,000, keeping for himself approximately 600 acres including the 93 ½-acre tract from Capt. Little. In 1798, Landis sold to Nathaniel Craighill for £1,600 a 400-acre parcel including the 93 ½ acres that adjoined William Little's property:

"Beginning at a sycamore on the bank of the Shenandoah and by the end of a fence running through a meadow & running the meanders of the said bank...to a sycamore at a spring near Capt. William Littles & corner to said Little & this Tract thence with Littles lines...to David Cowans thence with Cowans lines..."

The boundary continued along John Cowan's land, Alexander White, Esq., and Peter Landis to the beginning (BC DB 15, p. 62).

Both Peter Landis (Landrus) and William Little were assessed for a house in the "country" of District 2 in 1798. Whether the Landis house (valued at \$735) was on the 400 acres sold to Nathaniel Craighill can not be determined. However, Craighill was not assessed for a house, but was assessed for slaves in Berkeley County in 1798. Capt. William Little's house, valued at \$525 in 1798, appears to have been near the spring adjoining the Landis/Craighill property (see above). Little's 1798 house valuation was the same as that of nearby neighbor Thomas Keyes at Keyes' Ferry. The Keyes house was described in the 1786 Jonathon Clark survey notebook, then under Humphrey Keyes, perhaps providing a comparable picture for the

William Little house: "...one framed dwelling house 36 by 17, finished with two stone chimneys and fire place in each, small shed to the house 18 foot in length and 8 foot wide with a very small stone chimney...a portico at the end of the house 17 by 11, built 12 years." (Joyner, Northern Neck Warrants and Surveys, Vol. 4, p. 173)

William Little was assessed in 1802, in the newly-created Jefferson County, for 287 acres on the north side of the Shenandoah River, but he apparently died that same year. Shortly after his death in 1802, Little's estate administrators advertised the sale of his personal property "at Fenton Hill, the late dwelling of William Little, dec'd..." (Berkeley & Jefferson Intelligencer, Oct. 21, 1803). The personal property sold included "SLAVES, Horses, Cattle, Hogs, Farming Utensils, Household and Kitchen Furniture, a set of Blacksmith's Tools – Also a complete Waggon and Team." Despite this sale of his personal property, Little's heirs (William (Jr.), Robert, Margaret, Charles, John, Thomas, and Elizabeth with her husband William P. Craighill) retained their father's Fenton Hill land intact.

In 1798, the Virginia General Assembly passed "An Act for opening and extending the Navigation of Shenandoah River." As landowners along the river, William Little and Nathaniel Craighill were both surely aware of, and were likely promoters of the plans for skirting canals around the falls of the Shenandoah River. The plans were part of a larger scheme for river navigation in the western counties of Maryland and Virginia pursued by the Potowmack Navigation Company initially headed by George Washington. In January 1802, the Potowmack Company was authorized to begin the construction of locks etc. on the Shenandoah River (Hennings Statutes of Virginia). In May 1802, Leonard Harbaugh, who was Superintendent at Great Falls (Potomac River) in 1798, was again appointed "to manage & Superintend and direct the Works and operations carried on by said Company [Potowmack Company]." (From "Proceedings of the President and Directors of the Potowmack Company, 1785-1807," p. 239)

It appears that it was William Little (Jr.) who initiated plans for milling at Little's Falls on the Shenandoah River, perhaps in response to the canal construction. In 1807 the William Little heirs sold a 2 ½-acre mill seat to Michael Dorsey. Dorsey constructed a mill at that location as early as 1804 under an agreement with William Little (Jr.), using water from the canal to power the wheel:

DB 4, page 441

August 1807

To: Michael Dorsey

From: William Little [Sr.] heirs

\$1,100.13, William Little (Jr.), Robert Little, William P. Craighill and Elizabeth (Little) his wife, Margaret Little, Charles Little, John Little, Thomas Little

"...one water Grist Mill & Mill seat adjoining Littles Falls...containing two acres & thirty two poles" – "a Mill seat adjoining the canal upon Shanandoah River at Littles Falls...with the exclusive right to all the surplus water of the said Canal...together with two & one half acres of Land adjoining the said Mill seat and on the north east side of the road leading from Vestals Ford to said Mill of said Dorsey erected on the said canal aforesaid."

[This mill lot, located on the north side of the canal (see Wm Little survey plat attached), eventually became known as “Riley’s Woolen Factory.” It is not the same mill lot as that was sold by William Little (Jr.) to Hite & Newcomer that later became known as the Hopewell Mills.]

In 1806, just a year before this sale, William Little, initially in partnership with Leonard Harbaugh, began acquiring other nearby potential mill seats. Little had several island tracts surveyed: one for 7 ½ acres; one for 6 ¾ acres; and most importantly, one for 2 ½ acres on the “island” created by the skirting canal and opposite Dorsey’s Mill (see attached plat; Library of Virginia, Northern Neck Surveys No. 6, 1802-1809, p. 422):

“Surveyed for William Little one of the assignees Leonard Harbaugh and William Little assignees of Cyrus Lowndes assignee of George Hite assignee of James Hite and Carver Willis assignee of James Singleton [assignee of Andrew Woodrow warrant 1801] an Island in Littles falls in Shenandoah river...Beginning at an ash near the upper gate in the Potomack Canal thence down the same...to a rock, near the lower end of a stone wall thence...to a rock thence...to two sycamores and an elm thence...to a stone near the upper end canal aforesaid thence...to the Beginning...Containing two and an half acres.”

From 1807 to 1812, the lock at Little’s Falls was manned by John Grove, according to the journal of Thomas Harbaugh, official “Toll Gatherer” for the Potomac Company. An 1808 report by John Mason, Esq. to the Secretary of the Treasury, entitled Potowmack Company, included a description of the lock at Little’s Falls:

On the Shenandoah (a Branch of the Potomack) which comes in at Harpers Ferry in descending, 1<sup>st</sup>. Canal on the left Bank round Little falls (8 miles above the junction of the Shenandoah with the Potomack distance by the Canal) including a Bason [sic] and one Lock, one hundred and eighty yards...differences of level between the two extremities 10-6/12 feet...length 100 feet, width 12 feet, lift 8 feet, contents 13200 cubic feet, construction walled with granite and free Stone near the Gates, and an Bason immediately above and adjoining the Lock, 130 feet from Gate to Gate, and 150 feet across, lift 2 feet, the upper Gate Serving as a guard Gate, walled as the Lock.

The Basin ensured that boats could load or unload directly at the adjoining mill properties, a significant boost for business. (see attached drawing from The Shenandoah River Atlas) With his developing interests at the canal lock, William Little (Jr.) probably constructed the house (now called Hopewell) overlooking the site. Later tax assessments indicate that William’s sister Elizabeth (Eliza) and her husband William P. Craighill probably occupied the Fenton Hill house (now Allemont). Little’s household in 1810 included two small children and nine slaves; William P. and Eliza Craighill had several small children and 18 slaves. Nathaniel Craighill also appeared in the area on the 1810 census, with several other adults and ten slaves in his household.

The sale of the 2-acre mill property to Michael Dorsey in 1807 was reflected in the 1808 Little heirs’ tax assessment, reducing their total acreage to 285 acres. In 1809, when William

Jr.'s island grants were confirmed, he was separately assessed for "3 islands in Shenandoah River" totaling 16 ¾ acres. In 1814, the Little heirs' assessed acreage rose to 360 acres, possibly due to a resurvey. That same year, two of the William Little (Sr.) heirs, Thomas and John, sold their shares of the 360-acre tract (45 acres each) to their sister Elizabeth (Eliza) and William P. Craighill, for \$1,000 each (DB 8, p. 379 and p. 394). In 1819, sister Margaret C. Little sold her share to the Craighills, giving them by 1820 one half (4 of 8 shares) ownership of the land or 180 acres. This was indicated on the 1820 tax record, in which William Little and William Craighill were each assessed for 180 acres with \$2,400 worth of improvements on "Mill Property." In fact, it was \$2,000 of each assessment that reflected the value of the mill on the 2 ½-acre island adjoining the canal (see 1828 below). The remaining \$400 each was apparently the valuation of the Fenton Hill house (Craighill) and William Little Jr.'s house near the mill. The 1820 census record listed William Little, William P. Craighill, and Nathaniel Craighill all in an area called "Avon Mills."

In 1827, William Little (Jr.) conveyed two parcels from his 180-acre tract totaling 20 ½ acres to James Hite and Jacob Newcomer for \$10,000 (DB 14, p. 473). The two tracts included the 2 ½ -acre mill parcel, with buildings valued at \$6,000 on the 1828 assessment, and an 18-acre parcel described on the 1828 assessment as "including the Millers House" valued at \$300 "taken from Wm Little tract of 180 acres." William P. Craighill died in 1827, possibly precipitating the mill property sale, and it appears that William Little moved into Fenton Hill, perhaps with his sister Eliza, now a widow. An 1832 map of a proposed railroad route (see attached) showed "Little" in the area of the Fenton Hill house. The map also showed the name "Ranson" on the west adjoining property, purchased by Nathaniel Craighill in 1798 and recently sold to James Ranson and Samuel Lackland.

Nathaniel Craighill, William P.'s father, sold his 513 acres (408 from Landis and 105 from David Cowan) fronting on the Shenandoah River to James L. Ranson and Samuel W. Lackland for \$10,750 in 1827 (DB 14, p. 513). The property was described as adjoining William Little on the east, John Downey on the west, and was crossed on the north end by Cattail Run and an old road. Nathaniel Craighill was apparently living on that property as late as the 1820 census (see above). The 1820 tax assessment valued the house at only \$100 but in 1823 the assessment value rose to \$816 indicating a substantial improvement on the property. In 1832, Ranson and Lackland partitioned the 513 acres, Lackland getting the lower "half," 296 acres along the river with the former Craighill house, and Ranson the northwest "half" of 224 acres that crossed Cattail Run; each paid \$1,480.39 (DB 18, p. 82).

Lackland and Ranson were partners, along with Thomas Griggs, Jr. and Thomas Brown, in the development of Shannondale Springs beginning around 1821. "During the early 1830s, Samuel W. Lackland gained control of most of the Shannondale Springs property. On September 1, 1837, he and his wife sold their eight-ninths interest in the 66.5-acre Shannondale Springs tract and the entire 121-acre tract adjoining it to a new group of investors." (Wm D. Theriault, "Shannondale Springs," [www.shannondale.org/FOSS/shannondale\\_springs.pdf](http://www.shannondale.org/FOSS/shannondale_springs.pdf)) However, Lackland must have retained some interest in the Springs as he was described as President of the Shannondale Springs Corporation in 1848, and Theriault notes that Lackland's 28 slaves in 1850 likely worked there. When Samuel Lackland wrote his will in 1856, he left his "House Sted" – another farm located on 99 acres adjoining James Roper with a \$2,000 new house in 1836 – to his wife then to his son Edward Morton Lackland; to son Francis \$10,000; to daughter Charlotte H. (Sublette) \$10,000; to son Thomas Lackland \$4,000 "with the \$5,000 I gave him when he purchased Shenstone Farm." S.W. Lackland died in 1857 (WB 15, p. 201).

Thus, by 1832 the three subject houses were owned by Samuel Lackland (Riverside), William Little (Fenton Hill or Allemont), and Hite & Newcomer (Hopewell Mills). But by 1836, William Little (Jr.) had died and the Fenton Hill property, after passing through several trustee's ownerships (James Lang and John Clawson) was conveyed entirely to Mrs. Eliza C. Craighill, widow of William P. Craighill and sister of William Little (Jr.). In 1841, Eliza Craighill was assessed for 264 acres on Shenandoah River with a building value of \$500.<sup>1</sup> The 1852 S. Howell Brown map (see attached) confirms Eliza Craighill's ownership of the Fenton Hill parcels (Allemont and Hopewell on the east side of the road) and S.W. Lackland on the Riverside farm. Hopewell Mills were shown under the name "T.H. Willis."<sup>2</sup>

Thomas H. and William B. Willis purchased the mill property in 1843 at a public sale resulting from the James Hite and Jacob Newcomer default on their 1827 mortgage. The Willis' paid \$5,450 for the two parcels, including the mills on 2 ½ acres and the miller's house on 18 acres (DB 26, p. 429). The sale excluded however, the 1-acre parcel sold by Hite to Hiram Riley in 1842, the "lot situate on said river and canal and on the north side of the latter, having on it two small tenements..." beginning at the corner of the Cooper shop (DB 26, p. 231; see attached plat). Riley purchased at the same time the old Michael Dorsey mill, "known as the little mill," which Hite had purchased from George Slosser and the Taylor heirs in 1830 (DB 16, pp. 262 and 383; see also Dorsey to Taylors, 1807, DB 4, p. 267). Brown's 1852 map showed this mill as "Reily's Woolen Factory."

Shortly after the 1852 S. Howell Brown map was published, Mrs. Eliza Craighill died, leaving her property to her son William N. Craighill. The two tracts included Eliza's 90 acres she held following her husband's death excluding Riley's "factory lot" (presumably this is the parcel on the east side of the road, see 1852 map), and 174 acres of Fenton Hill she apparently inherited from her brother William Little (Jr.). In 1859 William N. Craighill, heir of Eliza Craighill, sold the two tracts totaling 270 acres to Francis Lackland, son of neighbor Samuel W. Lackland, for \$11,275.76 (DB 38, p. 366). Francis had inherited \$10,000 from his father in 1857, providing him the cash for the purchase (see above). His brother Thomas purchased the 296-acre Lackland "River farm" (Riverside) in January 1856, nearly a year before Samuel W. Lackland wrote his will (see above). The purchase price of \$18,000 indicates that the farm was relatively valuable (DB 35, p. 318). However the assessed value of the buildings remained at \$800 until 1857, the year after the transfer. In 1857, Thomas Lackland was assessed for buildings valued at \$1,500 – the same year Eliza Craighill's (heirs) building value rose to \$1,200.

The Thomas and Francis Lackland continued ownership of the two farms (Riverside and Fenton Hill [Allemont] respectively) through the 1880s. Following Francis' death around 1865, the 270-acre Fenton Hill farm was sold by his heirs, sister Elizabeth and brothers Thomas and E. Morton, to sister Charlotte and her husband Thomas E. Sublette (DB 1, p. 518). In 1877,

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<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Craighill also died in the late 1830s, and an 1840 division of his property located on the south side of the Shenandoah River "opposite the Lands of Mrs. Eliza C. Craighill and Samuel W. Lackland," provides information on the interrelationship of the Craighill and Little families. The "heirs of Nathaniel Craighill" who signed the document were the children of William P. Craighill and William Little (Jr.) who must have married a Craighill (DB 24, p. 369).

<sup>2</sup> A genealogy of the Willis family indicates that Thomas Hite Willis was the son of Carter and Frances Madison (Hite) Willis. Frances M. (Hite) Willis was the daughter of Col. Thomas and Frances Madison (Beale) Hite, of "New Hopewell," Jefferson Co., W. Va., and the grand daughter of Jacob and Catherine (O'Bannon) Hite, of "Hopewell" [Ireland?]. Thus the Hopewell Mills name probably came from the Thomas Hite Willis ownership. Note: In 1803 Rich Willis (brother of Thomas H. Willis?) recorded a Mutual Assurance Society policy on his buildings on "Hopewell" plantation in Jefferson County.

following the death of brother Thomas Lackland the Chancery Court ordered the sale of 216 acres of "the River Farm" (Riverside). It was purchased by Thomas E. Sublette (and Charlotte his wife) and E.M. Lackland. Excepted from the sale was the 80-acre dower parcel with the "mansion" retained by the widow Martha (Willis) Lackland (DB F, p. 74; see attached plat). Following Martha's death in 1882, her children, Samuel, Elenor, T. Willis, Nannie, and Fannie (Lackland) Washington sold a half interest in the recombined River Farm (now Riverside) to B.E. Beavers in 1887 (DB L, p. 239 and DB Q, p. 94). Beavers was the tenant on the property at the time, but in 1912, when he sold the farm to William M. Burns for \$22,515, the sale was "subject to the rights of the tenant now in possession of said premises, R.L. Engle, whose term expires on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 1913, the said B.E. Beaver reserving ½ of the land-lord's share of the wheat crop now growing..." (DB 107, p. 415)

Charlotte and Thomas Sublette remained at Fenton Hill, passing the property to their daughter Charlotte (Sublette) Jordan. In 1917, Charlotte and F.L. Jordan sold the 174 acre tract to Algernon S. Allen for \$10,881, who likely renamed the farm "Allemont" (DB 115, p. 132). Adjoining the farm on the east boundary at Hopewell Mills was D.J. Howell.

David J. Howell was at the end of a succession of owners of Hopewell Mills after the purchase in 1843 by Thomas Hite Willis. Willis, owner of George Washington's Rock Hall plantation and the Millville Mills, probably never lived at the Little's Falls mill property, leaving the business to a hired miller. James Watson was listed as a "Woolen Manufacturer" on the 1860 census record, possibly operating out of both the old Riley "factory," and the Willis Hopewell Mills. By 1862, the value of the Hopewell Mills property had apparently fallen dramatically and Willis sold the 2 ½ -acre mill lot and 18-acre house lot to James Watson for \$5,000 (DB 1 (1865-1867), p. 92). No tax assessment records for Jefferson County were recorded between 1862 and 1871 due to the Civil War and a dispute between Shepherdstown and Charlestown over the location of the Jefferson County seat, finally settled in 1872. In that year (1872), James Watson was assessed for 21 ½ acres called "Hopewell Mills" with buildings valued at \$3,000 – in 1861 the buildings were valued at \$8,000. Thomas H. Willis was assessed in 1872 for the Millville Mills on 95 acres with buildings valued at \$8,000, half the \$16,000 value in 1861.

The 1883 S. Howell Brown map showed Watson with the Hopewell Mills property and "T. Hite [Willis]" on the Millville property east of "Watson's Woolen Factory." In fact, in 1880 Watson was bankrupt and the Hopewell tracts were sold by a court assignee to James A. Gary of Howard County, Maryland for \$3,000 (DB I, p. 201). Gary and Watson may have prearranged the sale, allowing Watson to continue his association with the mills. His will, probated in 1888 noted, "...any interest that I may have or claim to the property known as the Watson Factory of Hopewell Mills property on the Shenandoah River, I desire to go as I have already endeavored to do, to my friend James A. Gary of Baltimore to pay as far as possible my indebtedness to him..." (WB A, p. 390). The 1890 Shenandoah Navigation survey (Lt. Col. Peter C. Hains for the Corps of Engineers; see attached) showed James A. Garey [sic] with Hopewell Mills and the house property (shown as No. 2, 19 ½ acres) and Hiram Riley's Heirs with the 1-acre corner lot and "Riley's old Factory."

James Gary sold the mill tracts in 1901, "known as the 'Watson Mill Property'" (DB 90, p. 530 and DB 91, p. 11). In 1909, then owner Charles Town Light & Power Company sold the lots to David J. Howell (DB 103, p. 138). In 1952, D.J. Howell's daughter-in-law, by then a widow, sold the Hopewell Mills tracts along with four other tracts the Howell family had acquired through the years to Harold G. Moulton ((DB 192, p. 417):

- 1) 18 ½ acres excepting the 1-acre Cooper Shop lot
- 2) 2 ½ acre Hopewell Mill lot
- 3) 66 ¼ acre Sublette Mt. tract – residue of the 96-acre tract minus 30 acres sold to the Washington City Railroad Co. in 1905 (Sublette to May Getzendanner 1912, DB 107, p. 527; May G. Briscoe to Howell 1914, DB 110, p. 299)
- 4) 2 ½ acres “near the ‘Old Watson Factory’”
- 5) .743 acre Cottage Lot – described in 1909 as “up the hill” from the [Hopewell] house and barn then occupied by George W. Ott
- 6) Riverside School Lot – sold to Jefferson Co. BoE in 1895 by Thomas E. Sublette

With the purchase of these six lots, added to Moulton’s 1941 purchase of Allemont (DB 154, p. 343 for 181 acres) and 1946 purchase of Riverside farm (DB 166, p. 395 for 295 acres), Harold Moulton had essentially recombined the William Little (Sr.) property on the Shenandoah River. (see attached 1925 map showing the three farm tracts with their “modern” names)

In Harold G. Moulton’s will, written in 1964 and probated in 1966, he devised “...to my daughter, Barbara Moulton Browne, one farm...located on the Shenandoah River, at the Big Eddy, and consisting of approximately 98 acres...residual portion of a tract of approximately 181 acres...a second tract of land, known as ‘Hopewell,’ said farm being adjacent to the foregoing and consisting of approximately 85 acres [probably the 21-acre mill property plus the 66-acre Sublette Mt. tract]; my share of the assets of the partnership known as Moulton Farms, which is owned jointly by myself and my daughter.” (Will Book M, p. 90) Barbara also got all the farm machinery, household furnishings, books, and personal effects of her father (mother Frances died in 1960). Moulton gave the Riverside farm, then 85 acres having sold 210 acres to Bethlehem Limestone Co. in 1953 (DB 192, p. 295), to his son John Moulton (DB 265, p. 306).

Sources:

- Berkeley Co. Land and Estate Records, Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV.
- Berkeley Co. and Jefferson Co. Land and Property Tax Records, Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV.
- Harbaugh, Thomas. A Journal of Accounts, &c. Thomas Harbaugh, with, The Potomac Company and Others, from 1803 to 1833: 30 Years. Manuscript, Western Maryland Room, Washington Co. Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.
- Jefferson Co. Land and Estate Records, Jefferson Co. Courthouse, Charles Town, WV.
- Martinsburg Public Library, historic newspaper microfilm collection, Martinsburg, WV.
- Northern Neck Grants, microfilm collection, Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV.
- Northern Neck Grants and Surveys, Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA; available online at <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/>.
- O’Dell, Cecil. Pioneers of Old Frederick County Virginia. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1995.
- Trout, III, W.E. Shenandoah River Atlas. 1997. [is this the right reference?]

**Landsdale – timeline  
(Lafferty Grant)  
Paula S. Reed & Assoc.  
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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 ¾ acres with a building value of \$2,500 [Landsdale], and Elizabeth Lafferty got 47 ¼ acres adjoining with no buildings. The remaining acreage, under “Thomas Lafferty’s heirs” was 98 ¾ acres adjoining Catherine, with the notation that another 73 ¼ 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.