

## THE LINDSAY FAMILY OF LAUREL HILL IN LORTON

Laurel Hill House was built over 200 years ago on a lush green hilltop with panoramic views. It was the 1000 acre plantation home of Major William Lindsay, his wife Ann and their sixteen children.

The son of a prominent planter, William Lindsay was a major in one of Virginia's militia regiments during the Revolutionary War and said to be an aide to General George Washington. He was severely wounded at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781 but survived.

Major Lindsay's character was said to be 'of the highest'. Unfortunately, he had a greater aptitude for making, but not for retaining money. During his lifetime he made two or three fortunes and lost just as many. Generous to a fault, his door was always open for friend and stranger alike. An excellent host, he was full of repartee, spirit and good humor. His primary occupation was that of a commission merchant selling crops for local planters and in his day he was known as 'a wealthy man'.

Ann was the great granddaughter of Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore and proprietor of the land that is now Maryland. Both the Lindsays and the Calverts were of British royal descent. Ann was fifteen when she married and already famous for her loveliness, gentle character and charm. She retained her beauty to a remarkable age. She was fond of gardening and famous for her varieties of rose trees.

Major Lindsay died in 1792 and was the first adult buried in the family cemetery. Ann Lindsay and their eight surviving children lived on at Laurel Hill for many years. She died at the age of seventy or more and was buried with her husband behind "Grandmere's garden" at Laurel Hill. The graveyard is now a registered site under care of the D.A.R.

The Lindsay family provides a view of life in the days before and after the Revolutionary War. In 1889, Margaret Lindsay published The Lindsays' of America about her ancestors and was most poignant and prescient in foretelling how Lorton's Laurel Hill Plantation has evolved over the centuries.

**“Today at Laurel Hill the busy rattle and shrill voice of the Steam Horse is heard and seen piercing its rapid way through the near foreground and numerous little villages peep forth now here or there, showing that man will ultimately come where the scene is promising and beautiful.”**

Compiled from the account of Stuart Jefferson based on the research of Mary Oakley et al.