

Individual Narrative of Eleazer² Leverich [3]

Eleazer Leverich was born circa 1637 or earlier, since he sold land at Oyster Bay, Queens Co, NY in 1658, at which time he would have been at least 21 years of age. He was the son of the Rev. William Leverich and Ellin Johnson. Eleazer was likely born either at Duxbury, Massachusetts, or Sandwich, Cape Cod Massachusetts, based upon the migration pattern of his parents.¹ On 29 November 1658 Eleazer Leverich of Huntington, Suffolk Co, New York sold to Nicholas Simpkins of Oyster Bay, Queens Co, New York a house, land and meadow at Oyster Bay. Eleazer's father, Rev. William Leverich, was a witness to this deed.¹ Eleazer married Rebecca Wright circa 1662 probably at Oyster Bay.^{2,3,4} On 17 August 1663 Eleazer Leverich was a witness to a deed at Huntington confirming the purchase of land at Eatons Neck from Amerindians in 1646.⁵ In the year 1665, Eleazer Leverich sold land at Huntington to John Tedd of Huntington.⁶ In a court held at Newtown, Queens Co, New York on 12 September 1665, Caleb Leverich testified that "there was an agreement between William Bloomfield and Daniel Estelle and Eleazer Leverich and myself to drive our hogs to the south sea ..." This record would suggest that Eleazer had removed to Newtown by 1665.⁷ Eleazer and Rebecca Wright were divorced on 22 Oct 1670 at Manhattan, New York Co, New York. Nicholas Wright, on behalf of his daughter Rebecca Leverich, petitioned Governor Francis Lovelace of New York Colony to dissolve the marriage between Eleazer and Rebecca, who were then living at Huntington, Suffolk Co, New York, and had been married for seven and one half years. The petition for divorce, filed in the spring of 1670, stated that "he the said husband hath not performed conjugal rights unto his wife, but on the contrary has caused her to lead a very uncomfortable life with him." After a lengthy review process, Governor Lovelace granted the divorce on 22 October 1670 and ordered Eleazer to pay Rebecca £25 living cattle in lieu of what she brought to him at their marriage." Eleazer and Rebecca had no children. Eleazer never remarried.^{2,3,4} In September 1675 Caleb and Eleazer Leverich appear on a *List of the Estates of Newtown*. Caleb's entry notes 2 males in the household, which suggests that Rev William Leverich, who was about 70 years old at the time, may have been living with Caleb and his family. Eleazer's entry records only 1 male in the household.⁸ On 19 March 1676 Caleb and Eleazer Leverich witnessed a deed Samuel Wood to Content Titus at Newtown.⁹ On 29 October 1698 Eleazer Leverich witnessed a deed in which Caleb and John Leverich sold land to Benjamin Cornish.¹⁰ On May 11, 1700 the Newtown Town Records contain a list of the *marks* used by residents to identify their livestock. Caleb Leverich's mark was a hole in the near ear and a slit in the top of the of ear. Eleazer Leverich's mark was a hole in the near ear and a slit slanting underneath the of ear. This record is the final reference to Eleazer in the Newtown town records.¹¹ Eleazer Leverich died circa 1700 or later at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Eleazer is mentioned in the Newtown town records as late as 1700. However, specific documentation of the date and place of his death has not been found.¹¹

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Endnotes

1. John Cox Jr, editor *Oyster Bay Town Records 1653-1878*, Volumes 1-8 (New York: Tobias A. Wright, Printer and Publisher, 1916-1940), Volume 1, page 40. Hereinafter cited as *Oyster Bay Town Records*.
2. Peter R. and Florence A. Christoph, editor, *Books of General Entries of the Colony of New York 1664-1673* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1982), pages 323, 325-326, 335-336, 380. Hereinafter cited as *Books of General Entries NY*.
3. Victor Hugo Paltsits, editor, *Minutes of the Executive Council of the Province of New York: Administration of Francis Lovelace 1668-1673 Volume I Minutes; Collateral and Illustrative Documents I-XIX* (Albany, NY: State of New York, 1910), pages 331-336. Hereinafter cited as *Minutes Executive Council NY*.
4. Howland Delano Perrine, *The Wright Family of Oyster Bay, Long Island* (New York: Privately Printed, 1923), pages 135-139. Hereinafter cited as *Wright Family Oyster Bay*.
5. Charles R. Street, editor, *Huntington Town Records Including Babylon, Long Island, N.Y. Volume 1, 1658-1688* (Huntington, New York: Towns of Huntington and Babylon, 1887), page 50. Hereinafter cited as *Huntington Town Records*.
6. Street, *Huntington Town Records*, page 151.
7. Newtown Court Records 1659-1688, Book 285, Original Court Records.: page 50, New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St, Room 103, Manhattan, New York, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as *Newtown Court Records 1659-1688*.
8. Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan, editor, *Lists of Inhabitants of Colonial New York: Excerpted from the Documentary History of the State of New York* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1979), page 84. Hereinafter cited as *Lists Inhabitants Colonial NY*.
9. New York City Historical Records Survey, compiler, *Newtown Town Records 1653-1734 WPA* (New York, New York: Work Projects Administration, February 1941), pages 397-398. Hereinafter cited as *Newtown Town Records 1653-1734 WPA*.
10. New York City Historical Records Survey, *Newtown Town Records 1653-1734 WPA*, pages 142-143.
11. New York City Historical Records Survey, *Newtown Town Records 1653-1734 WPA*, page 248.