

Individual Narrative of Caleb² Leverich [4]

Caleb Leverich was born circa 1638 at Sandwich, Barnstable Co, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. He was the son of the Rev. William Leverich and Ellin Johnson. On 12 January 1669, Caleb Leverich provided testimony in the Newtown, Queens Co, New York Town Court. The court record indicates that Caleb was age 31 at the time, hence born circa 1638. Since Caleb's father, Rev. William Leverich, was in Sandwich in 1638, it is reasonable to assume that Caleb was born at Sandwich.¹

The Huntington Town, Suffolk Co, New York Court records reference the following: "January the 19: 59. Wm Levereg plaintiff against Henry Whitney, defendant, in action **** for breach of contract ..." regarding Whitney's building of a mill for Rev. William Leverich. On 18 April 1660, the Huntington Town Court records include three depositions in the Whitney litigation made by Rev. William Leverich, his wife Eleanor, and his son Caleb. This is the first specific reference to Caleb as the son of Rev. William Leverich in American records.^{2,3}

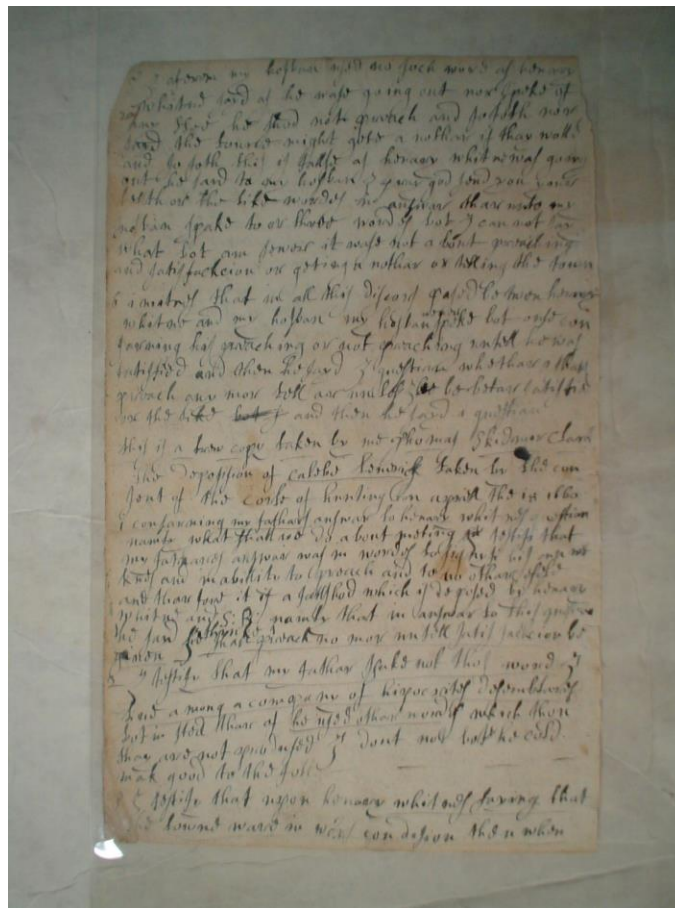


Exhibit 1. 1660 Deposition Caleb Leverich Huntington Town Court

In October 1660, Rev William Leverich, accompanied by his son Caleb, traveled to Europe, visiting the Netherlands and England. It is not known if they were also accompanied by William's wife Ellin or son Eleazer. On 6 October 1660, Peter Stuyvesant of New Amsterdam wrote to the Directors of the West India Company in Amsterdam: "Copies of representations and requests made by the English villages, which have been deprived of religious instruction for some time and now take advantage of the departure of the *Bontekoe* of a minister from New England, Mr. William Leverets, are

sent herewith and will inform you of their wishes. We have not doubt you will reply as favourably as possible"⁴ William and Caleb's presence in London in February 1662 was confirmed in a deposition that John Orpe, citizen and scrivener of London, age 60, made in the Mayor of London's Court on 10 May 1667. He declared that he witnessed a deed 26 February 1661/1662 whereby William Leverich of Huntington, New England, clerk, and Caleb Leverich of the same, yeoman, became bound to John Fish of London, citizen and fletcher. John Fish may have been a relative of William's wife, Ellin Johnson, whose mother was Sarah Fyshe.^{5,6,7} William had apparently returned from England by June of 1662: "At a towne meeting of the inhabitants of Huntington aboute the 7th of June 1662: it was agreed and by vote granted: that Mr. Leverich shall have all the meadow yt lyes aboute cowharbor on boeth sides the creeke, for his yerly benefit, so long as he continue the minister of Huntington."⁸

Caleb Leverich married Martha Cornish, daughter of Thomas Cornish and Mary Stone, between 18 Dec 1663 and 25 May 1669 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Martha Cornish was married first to Francis Swaine. The last reference to Francis Swaine in the Newtown Town Records was on 18 December 1663, when Francis is named a fence viewer for the Town. The first record of Martha married to her second husband Caleb Leverich was on 25 May 1669, when Martha and Caleb Leverich, wife and husband, executed an affidavit pertaining to the estate of Francis Swaine in Hampton, then part of (Old) Norfolk Co, Massachusetts Bay Colony (now Rockingham Co, New Hampshire). Since both Caleb and Martha are known to have been at Newtown during this period of time, it is reasonable to assume that they were married at Newtown.^{9,10}

On 24 February 1664, Caleb Leverich is mentioned for the first time in the Newtown Town records. A deed by William Bloomfield to his son Daniel Bloomfield mentions the homelot of Caleb in Newtown.¹¹ On 12 May 1664, the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut recorded that "for Newtown, Mr. Loveridge, Richard Betts, Samuel Toe, Caleb Loveridge, Ralph Hunt, John Burrows, John Ramsden, Nicholas Carter, Gershom Moore, James Christy, are accepted as freemen, if they accept of it."¹² On 21 August 1665 Caleb Leverich was a plaintiff in Newtown Town Court in a cause of action against Daniel Estelle. Caleb provided testimony in the case on 12 September 1665, and court found in favor of Caleb awarding a payment of seven bushels of indian corn.¹³ On 10 October 1665 Caleb was a witness to a deed executed by his father Rev William Leverich of Huntington to John Lorison of Newtown "a parcel of meadow given unto me by the town of Newtown."¹⁴ On 26 July 1666, Caleb Leverich rented a farm, equipment, and livestock to John Naper and Richard Osborn at Newtown. The rental was for a period of five years, and the annual rent was 230 pounds.¹⁵

In a town rate recorded on 4 December 1666, Caleb was assessed £0-6-9.¹⁶ In a town rate recorded on 27 January 1667, Caleb was assessed £0-3-8.¹⁷ In a town rate recorded on 26 February 1667/1668, Caleb was assessed £0-7-4.¹⁸ On 14 March 1668 Caleb sold two parcels of land at Newtown to John Reeder and Joseph Reeder for a total sum of £7-10-0. One parcel consisted of the house and upland that formerly belonged to John Cornish, the western most lot in Newtown. The second parcel consisted of 8 acres of land lying between the land of John Cornish and land with John and Thomas Stevenson bought of Thomas Hunt at the west end of town. John Cornish was likely the brother of Caleb's wife Martha.¹⁹ On 12 January 1669 at a court held in Newtown, Caleb Leverich, age 31, testified that "being at the pound with Samuel Bloomfield, Thomas Davis, and Thomas Robinson when these said men had pounded the cattle of Samuel Bloomfield and the said Samuel Bloomfield tendered to pay the damages that the calves had done and they told him if he would pay poundage and the damage he might have them and go to Richard Owen for them. Upon this did I go my way."²⁰

The 1669 affidavits pertained to the estate of Martha's first husband Francis Swaine, and confirmed the transfer of property at Hampton to Francis' sister Elizabeth and her husband Nathaniel Weare. Caleb's statement stipulated: "Know all Christian people to whom these presents may concern or may come, greeting, that I Caleb Leverich of Newtown, otherwise called Middleborough, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, or Long Island, the husband of Martha Leverich, formerly the wife of Francis Swaine now deceased and an inhabitant of the same town, I the aforesaid Caleb do by this present writing satisfy and confirm what my loving wife has done in this other writing in every particular unto my loving brother-in-law Nathaniel Weare."^{21,22,23} On 7 September 1669, the Newtown Town Court ordered Thomas Wandell to pay Caleb 15 shillings, for the loss of time of his servant Robert James.²⁴ On 3 May 1670 in Newtown Town Court Ralph Hunt filed a complaint against Caleb. The Court ordered that the difference referred to should be arbitrated by Captain Coe and Captain Lawrence.²⁵

In 1670 the Leverich Homestead was built at Trains Meadow by Caleb Leverich. Susan Leverich in a 1902 letter to F. H. Way wrote: "The old stone house where I was born at Newtown, L.I., was built on the ground bought by the Rev. William Leverich for his son Caleb and bore (before being plastered over by the person who bought it of us) the dates of 1670 and 1732."²⁶



Exhibit 2. Leverich Homestead built 1670 by Caleb Leverich



Exhibit 3. Leverich Homestead, drawing by Susan M Leverich



Exhibit 4. Leverich Homestead, drawing by Susan M Leverich



Exhibit 5. Leverich Homestead, drawing by Susan M Leverich

On 1 August 1671 in Newtown Town Court Caleb filed an action of debt against Thomas Wandell.²⁷ On 25 April 1672 Caleb witnessed an indenture in which his father Rev. William Leverich gave to Richard Owin and his wife all right and title to the house lot lying between Lambert Woodward and John Reeder at Newtown.²⁸ 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.²⁹ On 19 March 1676 Caleb and Eleazer Leverich witnessed a deed Samuel Wood to Content Titus at Newtown.³⁰

Caleb's father Rev. William Leverich died early in the year 1677. On 19 June 1677, Caleb applied for letters of administration on William's estate. Letters of Administration were formally granted 7 November 1677 by Governor Andros.^{31,32,33}

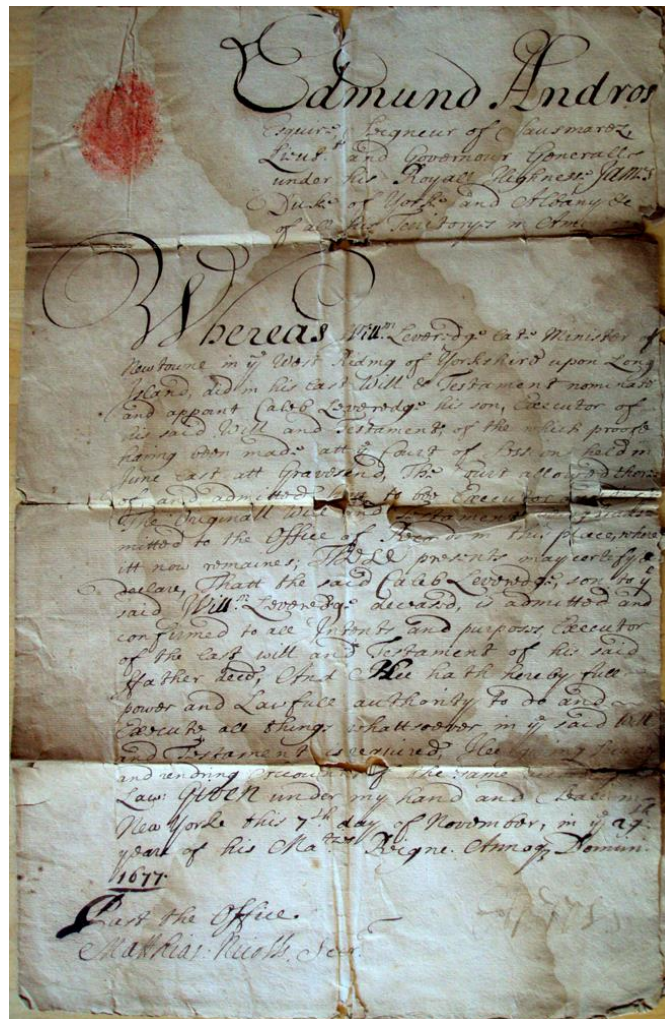


Exhibit 6. Letters of Administration Estate of Rev. William Leverich

In 1683 Caleb and Eleazer Leverich appear on a *Rate List of Newtown*. Caleb's entry notes 1 male in the household, as compared to 2 in 1675. Since Rev William Leverich died in 1677, this further suggests that William, who was about 70 years old at the time, may have been living with Caleb and his family in 1675. Eleazer's entry records only 1 male in the household.³⁴

At a Newtown Town Meeting on 15 January 1682/1683, it was voted that no man shall lay or survey any land before the purchasers agree to have a general survey. It was also agreed that both the *Indian Rate* from 1656, as well as the *List of Original Purchasers*, would be recorded in the town book. Caleb Leverich does not appear on the *Indian Rate*, but is included on the *List of First Purchasers*.³⁵ At a Town Meeting on 6 January 1685/1686, a committee was named to review a draft of the proposed governor's patent. Caleb was among a list of residents specifically identified to be added as patentees.³⁶ At a town meeting on 24 September 1686, it was voted that the patent shall be confirmed to the purchasers and freeholders, with all their names inserted in the patent. Caleb is included on the list recorded in the Town book.³⁷ Governor Thomas Dongan of New York Colony issued a new land patent to the Town of Newtown on 25 November 1686. Caleb Leverich was included in the list of patentees.³⁸

Land was laid out for Caleb Leverich at Newtown 19 April 1688, fronting upon the highway that goes by Juniper Swamp lying to the southward of Jacob Reeder, land running in length 120 rods and in breadth 67 rods, containing 50 acres or thereabouts.³⁹ On 10 October 1689 Caleb and his wife Martha sold 11 acres of land at Trains Meadow to Content Titus, 80 rods running northeast/southwest, 20 rods in breadth at the southwest and 24 rods in breadth at the northeast. Land is bordered on the south by the highway that goes to Trains Meadow, on the northwest by the land of Caleb Leverich, on the north east the land of William Morris, and on the southeast by the land of Daniel Bloomfield and Samuel Moore.⁴⁰ On 15 November 1689 Caleb and his wife Martha sold land at Newtown to Benjamin Cornish, 40 rods running north and south, 20 rods running east and west, bordered on the east by the land of Content Titus, on the north and west by the land of Caleb Leverich, and on the south "by the street". This deed was witnessed by John Leverich, the son of Caleb and Martha. This is the first appearance of John Leverich in the Newtown Town records.⁴¹

On 20 June 1692 Caleb Leverich and his wife Martha sold 23 acres at Newtown to Thomas Morrell, bordered by highways on the north and south, on the west by the land of Jacob Reeder, and on the east by the land of Caleb Leverich. This appears to be part of the tract of land laid out for Caleb at Juniper Swamp, south of Newtown village, in 1688. Of particular note, this document represents the first example in the Newtown Town records where Caleb Leverich signs "with his mark", instead of his signature. Records subsequent to this date are also signed by Caleb with his mark. This suggests that although Caleb was likely able to read and write, some type of injury or disability may have restricted his ability to write circa 1692. In all instances Caleb's wife Martha signed with her mark.⁴²

On 13 April 1693 at Newtown Caleb Leverich confirms a deed executed 25 April 1672 by his father Rev William Leverich conveying a half lot of land, formerly owned by Samuel Sallis, to Richard Owen and wife.⁴³ On 24 April 1694 it is recorded in the Newtown Town Records that "I under written Caleb Leverich have and do by these presents give unto my well beloved son John Leverich half my purchase right as it standeth on the other side of this book, which half is twenty five shillings, I say to him his heirs and assigns to have and to hold for ever as witness my hand the day & year above written." This record implies that Caleb's son John had come of age, i.e. 21 years old, which would mean that John was born in or before 1673. John Leverich had witnessed a deed executed by his father in 1689. If John had turned 21 as early as 1689, he could have been born as early as 1668.⁴⁴

On 2 May 1694 Caleb voided a transaction of 13 April 1669 in which his father Rev. William Leverich purchased land at Newtown. "Know all men by these presents that I Jonathan Hazard of newtown on Long Iland in the west riding of yorkshiere have sold unto William Leverich of Huntingtun in the east riding my house and barne and orchyard uypland sixtene ackers more or lesse sittuate on the north sid of the towne bounded with John Lorison on the east and Jams Lorison on the west with a persell of fresh medo on the south sid of the highway before the house: and half the salt marsh which belongs to the said farm lying by the yonckers iland bsid all the up land which belongs to the said farme which is yet to be laid out ... in wisse where of I have set to my hand and sealle this 13th of Aprill anno 1669." The following notation is inscribed on the left margin of the above record. Diagonal lines are drawn across the entire page. "Caleb Leverich acknowledges this bill of sale to be madde void by my father Leverich deceased and I doe alsoe for me my hayers executors & administrators disowne any rite or intrust to ye same and order it to be cancelled as witness by hand. Caleb (his X mark) Leverich, this 2nd day of May 1694."⁴⁵

On 6 February 1695, Caleb Leverich witnessed a deed in which his son John Leverich grants land to Benjamin Cornish. "... I John Leverich of Newtown Queens ... in consideration of the love and good will and affection which I have and do bear towards my well respected uncle Benjamin Cornish ..." This record clearly suggests that Martha Leverich, John's mother, was the sister of Benjamin Cornish.⁴⁶ On 17 April 1696, Benjamin Cornish petitioned the Newtown purchasers:

"... the humble request of Benjamin Cornish to the purchasers of Newtown that they would be pleased to give me a small piece of land about two acres bounded on the east by Joseph Sacket's land and on the south and west by the highway, on the north by the said Benjamin Cornish's own land..." Caleb and John Leverich are included in the list of purchasers.⁴⁷

At a public town meeting in Newtown on 15 May 1697, Caleb Leverich was appointed a member of a committee to work on the settlement of the minister, John Morse.⁴⁸ A census of Newtown was compiled on August 31, 1698 by the Constable and the Clerk of the Town. Caleb Leverich is listed with four family members, 0 negroes. His son John Leverich is also listed, 6 family members, 0 negroes. This data would suggest that Caleb's household consisted of himself and wife Martha, and daughters Eleanor and Mary, presumably not yet married. The data would suggest that John's household consisted of himself and wife Hannah, and four of their eventual five children. One of the children was presumably born after 31 August 1698.⁴⁹ On 29 October 1698 Caleb Leverich and his son John Leverich sold meadow land in Newtown to Benjamin Cornish. This deed was witnessed by Caleb's brother Eleazer Leverich, signing with his mark.⁵⁰

On 1 August 1699 at a Newtown Town Meeting, Caleb Leverich was appointed to a committee to receive rates for the minister John Morse.⁵¹ 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 is a hole in the near ear and a slit in the top of the of ear. Eleazer Leverich's mark is a hole in the near ear and a slit slanting underneath the of ear.⁵²

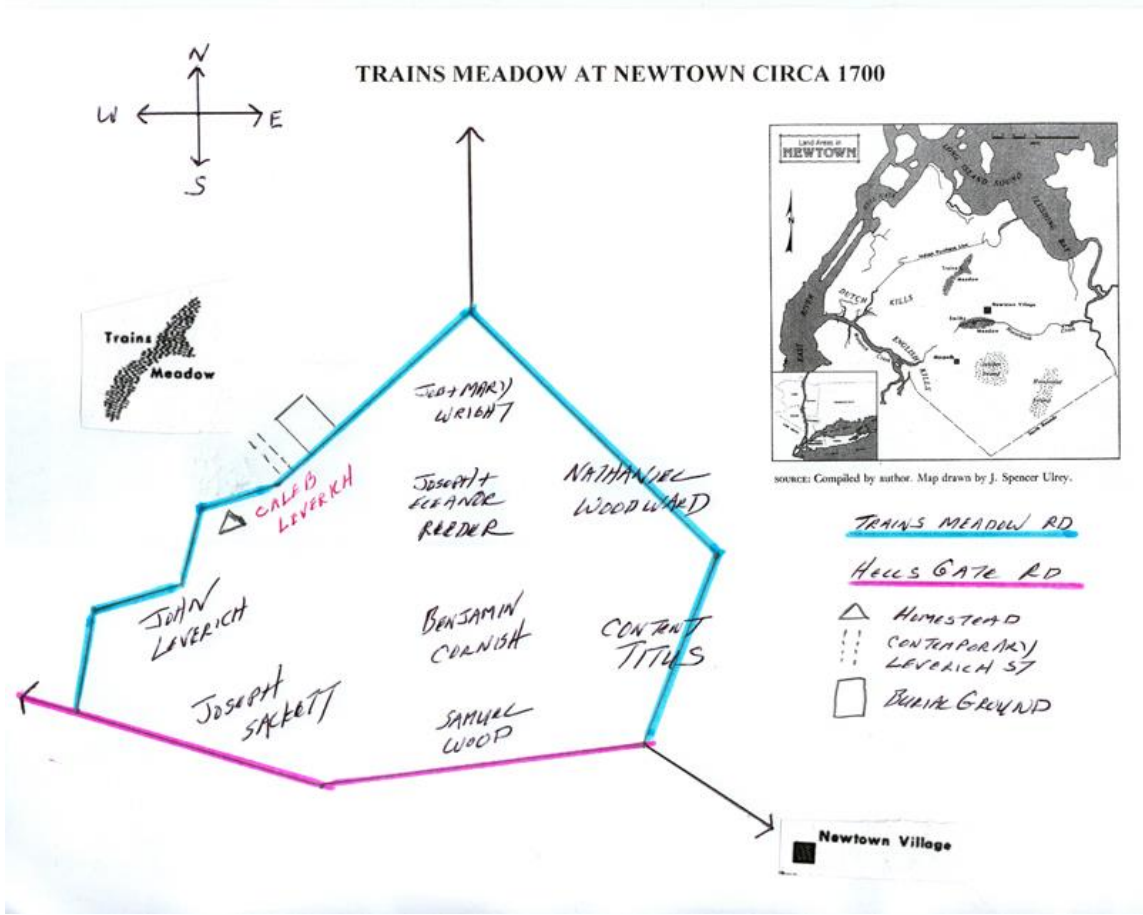


Exhibit 7

On 7 May 1702 Caleb Leverich sold land at Newtown to Thomas Morrell Jr. This deed was witnessed by George Wood.⁵³ On 22 February 1704/1705 Content Titus transfers title to Joseph Sacket of land purchased of Caleb and Martha Leverich on 10 October 1689. Caleb Leverich was a witness to the transaction.⁵⁴

On 4 May 1705, Caleb Leverich gives land and meadow to his five grandchildren, the children of his deceased son John (John, William, Benjamin, Hannah, and Martha Leverich), naming their widowed mother Hannah Leverich as guardian and administrator of the property until each child comes of age. One half of this bequest was for John Leverich, Jr., with the remaining one half divided equally among his four siblings. This record confirms that John Leverich, son of Caleb and Martha Leverich, died between 1698 and 1705, but more likely closer to 1705.⁵⁵

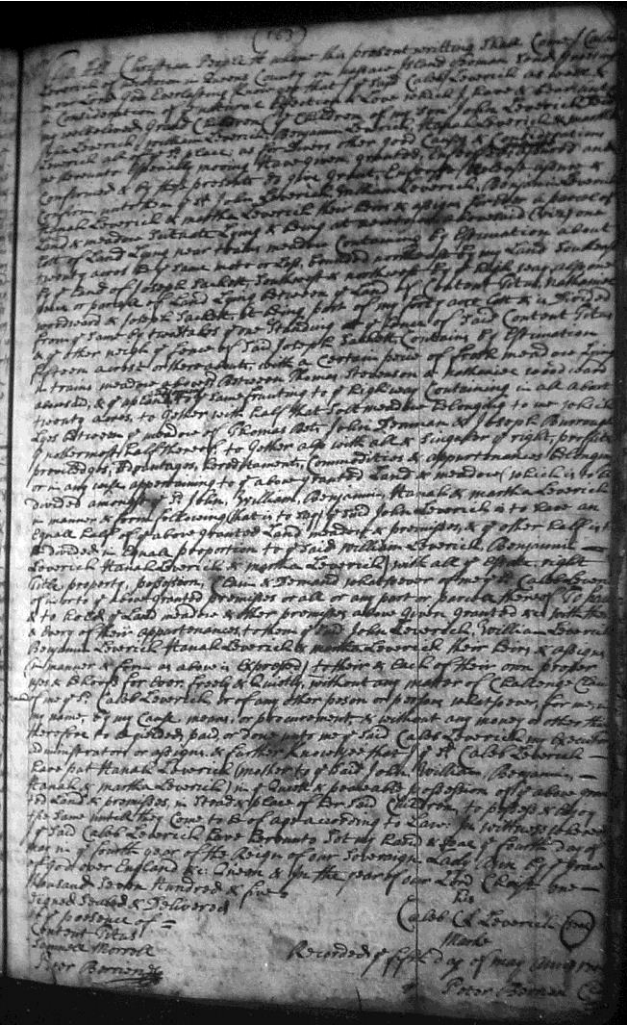


Exhibit 8. 1705 Deed Caleb Leverich to his grandchildren, children of deceased son John Leverich

On 3 July 1706, Caleb Leverich and his wife Martha sold several small tracts of land and meadow at Newtown to Job Wright and Eleanor Leverich, bordering lands of Content Titus and Joseph Sackett.^{56,57} The records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church include a list of those who had been received into membership of the church from 1708. The first 8 individuals listed, which include Caleb Leverich, were in full communion at the coming of Rev. Samuel Pumroy, and are the earliest names on record as church members.⁵⁸ Caleb is included on the rate subscription list for Rev. Samuel Pumroy on 16 September 1709, for the amount of 6 shillings. This list includes son-in-law Job Wright, but not son-in-law Joseph Reeder Jr.⁵⁹

In January 1710/1711, Eleanor Leverich, daughter of Caleb and Martha Leverich, and wife of Joseph Reeder sold land and meadow at Newtown to Job Wright, son-in-law of Caleb and Martha and husband of Mary Leverich. Joseph and Eleanor Leverich removed to Hopewell, then Burlington Co, subsequently Hunterdon Co, now Mercer Co, New Jersey. The land sold was part of the land sold to Job Wright and Eleanor Leverich by Caleb and Martha on 3 July 1706.⁵⁶

Caleb Leverich died circa 1717 at Newtown, Queens, New York. The last mention of Caleb Leverich in the Newtown Town records occurs in 1709. In a deed dated 17 December 1717, Nathaniel Woodward grantor to Content Titus grantee, the land of Caleb Leverich "deceased" is mentioned. At a public town meeting at Newtown on 1 April 1718 "it was also voted that ... Widow Leverich shall be free from paying any rates in the town from this time forever." This record conflicts with James Riker's statement in the Annals of Newtown that Caleb survived his wife Martha. It is possible, although not as likely, that the "widow Leverich" reference did not pertain to Martha, but to Hannah Leverich the widow of Martha and Caleb's son John Leverich, who died in 1705.^{60,61,62} Caleb was buried circa 1717 at Newtown, Queens, New York. Caleb's burial place is unknown. However, it is probable that he was buried either in the Old Newtown Burial Ground, or the Leverich Family Burial Ground.⁶² No will or other records of an estate for Caleb Leverich have been found. Newtown Town records would suggest that Caleb distributed most if not all of his real estate to his children and grandchildren, while he was still living.^{63,64,65,66,67}

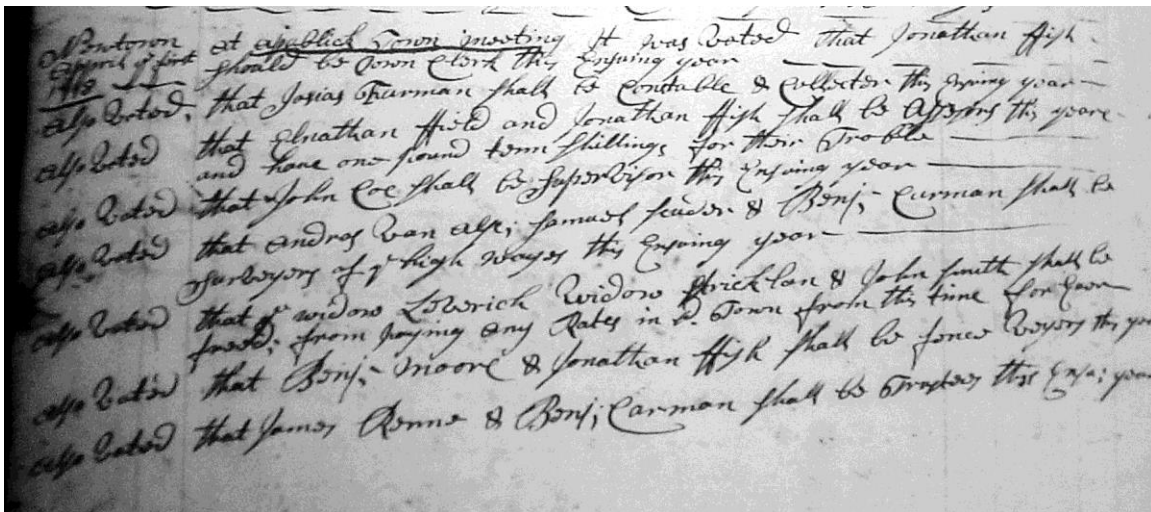


Exhibit 9: Town Meeting Newtown 1718 Widow Leverich

Caleb Leverich and Martha Cornish had three children born at Newtown between 1665 and 1682: John Leverich who married Hannah, Mary Leverich who married Job Wright, and Eleanor Leverich who married Joseph Reeder.⁶²

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Endnotes

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15. New York City Historical Records Survey, *Newtown Town Records 1656-1688 WPA*, pages 75-77.
16. New York City Historical Records Survey, *Newtown Town Records 1656-1688 WPA*, page 79.
17. New York City Historical Records Survey, *Newtown Town Records 1656-1688 WPA*, page 96.

18. New York City Historical Records Survey, *Newtown Town Records 1656-1688 WPA*, page 99.
19. New York City Historical Records Survey, *Newtown Town Records 1656-1688 WPA*, page 157.
20. New York City Historical Records Survey Project, *Newtown Court Records 1656-1690 WPA*, page 204.
21. Pulsifer, *Records Old Norfolk Co Colony Mass - Pulsifer*, Book 2, part 1, pages 229-232.
22. Michael E. Leveridge in collaboration with Thomas V. Leverich, *A Godly Minister*, pages 188-189; note 60, page 255; note 22 Documents, page 257.
23. Sidney Perley, "Old Norfolk County Records," *The Essex Antiquarian* Volumes 1-13 (1897-1909): Volume 7 (1903) page 90. Hereinafter cited as "Old Norfolk County Records."
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26. Susan M Leverich, Letter (525 Clinton Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut), to F. H. Way, 12 November 1902; Susan M. Leverich Papers (Stephen P. Shaw, Chester, Connecticut). Typescript copy of original letter; provided 1975 by Mrs. Edna Charles, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, the widow of Charles H. Leveridge. Hereinafter cited as Leverich, Susan M. Letter to F.H. Way 1902.
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