

Individual Narrative of Benjamin⁴ Leverich (10)

Benjamin Leverich was born between 1692 and 1702 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Benjamin was the son of John and Hannah Leverich, and the grandson of Caleb and Martha Leverich. The birth date range was calculated based upon counting back the number of children from the death date of John Leverich, 1702-1705.¹ On 4 May 1705, Caleb Leverich granted 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 came of age. One half of this bequest was for John Leverich, Jr., with the remaining one half divided equally among his four siblings.²

Benjamin Leverich married Mary (Unknown) before 1725 probably at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Mary's surname is unknown. Her given name is documented in the baptismal records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church 1728 and 1733.³ The James Riker Papers transcribe a document created 17 June 1721 which records a subscription list for the support of the Presbyterian minister Samuel Pumroy. The list includes additions up to and including 16 March 1732/1733. On 16 March 1723/1724 Benjamin Leverich is added to the list.⁴ On 9 November 1725 Benjamin Leverich and Jacob Reeder were witnesses to a deed at Newtown from Samuel Alburdis, yeoman, to "loving son" Joseph Morrell, blacksmith.⁵

On 29 March 1728 Benjamin, son of Benjamin and Mary Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.⁶ On 9 May 1730 Benjamin Leverich sold land to Joseph Sackett, in consideration of 40 shillings, 18 acres, 1/8 part of meadow given by Caleb Leverich to the children of John Leverich at Newtown.⁷ On 15 April 1733, Benjamin, son of Mary Leverich, widow, was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.⁸ Benjamin Leverich died between 1730 and 1733 at Newtown, Queens, New York.^{9,10} Mary, the wife of Benjamin Leverich, might have been the daughter of George Wood of Newtown. Although there is no specific evidence to support this speculation, the George Wood family is well documented as following the Leverich family migration pattern very closely from Huntington to Newtown on Long Island, and ultimately to Westchester County, New York. A "widow Leverich" appears in New Castle, Westchester County, New York, on 4 April 1769: "Thomas Davenport to see the road is kept in good repair from that road to this house down to the place heretofore worked to the southward of the *widow Leveredges* and the adjacent road across by Caleb Haight's." A John Leverich appears in Westchester County as early as 1759, and a Benjamin Leverich appears in Westchester County as early as 1778. Two of Benjamin's sons married daughters of a George Wood.^{11,12,13}

Benjamin and Mary Leverich most likely had three children, all sons, Caleb, John, and Benjamin. Direct evidence exists only for Benjamin, i.e. the 1728 and 1733 baptisms at Newtown Presbyterian Church. Indirect evidence supports the theory that Caleb Leverich of Manhattan and John Leverich of Westchester County, were also sons of Benjamin and Mary Leverich. James Riker's *Annals of Newtown* cites a son Caleb, but does not mention a John or a Benjamin.

The James Riker papers provide additional evidence regarding Caleb.^{14,15,16} The James Riker Papers include an account of an interview Riker conducted c 1842-1851 with John Leveridge (1792-1886), an attorney in Manhattan, New York Co, New York. John Leveridge spoke of his grandfather, Caleb Leverich. "Leveridge, John (lawyer), his acct of his family. Father of Lawyer 'Leveridge' was John, his father was Caleb & he flourished in 1740 or 50. John L. Riker has an account of the Family says Lawyer Leveridge. Lawyer Leveridges grandfather Caleb removed from Long Island to New York City where the family have since resided. He was killed in about 1758 in the French war. Lawyer Leveridge says that his father & Wm Leverich (father of Jesse) were cousins." "Leveridge, John (lawyer), his acct of his family. John Leveridge, Esq.: says his grandfather Caleb Leveridge was a painter and his place of business cor of William and Stone str's, the S.E. corner."^{17,18}

A John Leverich in 1759 witnesses the will of Benjamin Sutton of North Castle, Westchester County, New York. John Leverich is listed as a customer of Caleb Fowler's general store in North Castle circa 1754-1760. DNA Testing provides evidence that this John Leverich was related to the Newtown Leverich's. In 2008 five men bearing the surname Leverich participated in genealogical DNA testing. One of these men was a proven descendant of John Leverich of North Castle; two of these men were proven descendants of Benjamin Leverich who appears in Westchester Co circum 1778; two of these men were proven descendants through different lines of the Leverich family in Newtown, Queens County, Long Island, New York. Based upon the DNA test results, the conclusion was: "There is a high probability that these five individuals share a common ancestor in 1-Rev. William Leverich of Newtown, New York." The testing was done by Family

Tree DNA <ftdna.com>. An evaluation of the data and this conclusion was requested of, and received from, Bennett Greenspan, the President of FTDNA.com: "I've looked over your attachment and it appears to be correct. Without ANY doubt this is a single family and all 5 test takers are related to each other." At that time, John most likely would have been the son of Benjamin and Mary Leverich of Newtown, since the children of Benjamin's brothers John and William have been documented. It is likely then that the "widow Leveredge" 1769 in North Castle was Mary, widow of Benjamin Leverich, and mother of John Leverich.^{19,20,21,22,23}

A Benjamin Leverich appears in Westchester Co, New York in 1778 as a member of the Westchester Co Militia commanded by Col. Drake. This could be one of the Benjamin's baptized at Newtown in 1728 or 1733, the son of Benjamin and Mary Leverich. However, it is more likely that the Benjamin's baptized in 1728 and 1733 died young, and that this Benjamin was the son of John Leverich of North Castle, and the grandson of Benjamin and Mary Leverich of Newtown. If Benjamin had been born about 1732, he would have been already 41 years old when his first child was born in 1773, and 92 years old when he died in 1824. It would also seem likely that we would find references to Benjamin earlier than 1778, if he had been born circum 1732. Although DNA test results clearly establish that Benjamin and John were related, they do not provide clarity regarding the specific nature of that relationship. However, both John and Benjamin are identified as coopers, which would support the theory that they were father and son.²⁴

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Endnotes

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- ¹James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), page 351. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.
- ²Newtown Town Records 1701-1712 Book 287, Original Town Records: page 163, New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St, Room 103, Manhattan, New York, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as Newtown Town Records 1701-1712 Book 287.
- ³Arthur White, "Newtown Presbyterian Church Records," 1922, Transcription, New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Irma and Paul Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, Manhattan, New York, New York 10018, Baptisms 1728 and 1733. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."
- ⁴*James Riker Papers 1660-1989*, Historical Research Notes, Donated to NY Public Library 1918 by Title Guarantee and Trust Company, File W94-a231. New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Manuscripts and Archives Division, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, Manhattan, New York, New York, Volume 23 (Memoria Volume 1), pages 351-353. Hereinafter cited as *James Riker Papers*.
- ⁵Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288, Original Town Records: page 267, New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St, Room 103, Manhattan, New York, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288.
- ⁶Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms 1728.
- ⁷Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288: pages 316-317.
- ⁸Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms 1733.
- ⁹Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288: pages 316-317.
- ¹⁰Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptism 1733.
- ¹¹Frances Cook Lee and Richard N. Lander, compilers, *North Castle/New Castle Town Records 1736-1791* (Armonk and Chappaqua, New York: Towns of North Castle and New Castle, 1975), page B48. Hereinafter cited as *North Castle/New Castle Town Records 1736-1791*.
- ¹²William S. Pelletreau, compiler, *Early Wills of Westchester County, New York, from 1664 to 1784. With Genealogical and Historical Notes* (New York, New York: Harper, 1898), page 162. Hereinafter cited as *Early Wills Westchester Co NY*.
- ¹³Berthold Fernow, *New York in the Revolution* (1887; reprint Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1999), page 415. Hereinafter cited as *New York in the Revolution*.
- ¹⁴Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms 1728 and 1733.
- ¹⁵Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 351-352.
- ¹⁶*James Riker Papers*, Notebook 2, page 94; Notebook 10, page 27.
- ¹⁷Ibid.
- ¹⁸Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 351-352.
- ¹⁹Pelletreau, *Early Wills Westchester Co NY*, page 162.
- ²⁰John Cox Jr, transcriber, *Caleb Fowler's Customers, 1754-1760*. Transcribed General Store Ledger. New York, New York: Holland Society of New York, 1914. LDS Film No. 17568. Hereinafter cited as *Caleb Fowler's Customers*.
- ²¹DNA Project Leverich Family, online <<http://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=Leverich>> Leverich DNA Chart.doc 9/3/2008. Family Tree DNA, 1445 North Loop West, Suite 820, Houston, Texas 77008. Hereinafter cited as DNA Project Leverich Family.
- ²²Bennett Greenspan, "Email Bennett Greenspan FTDNA," e-mail message from <bcg@familytreedna.com> (Houston, Texas) to Tom Leverich, 4 September 2008. Hereinafter cited as "Email Bennett Greenspan FTDNA."
- ²³Lee and Lander, *North Castle/New Castle Town Records 1736-1791*, page B48.
- ²⁴Fernow, *New York in the Revolution*, page 415.