

Individual Narrative of Martha⁴ Leverich [12] Wife of John Way

Martha Leverich was born between 1692 and 1702 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Martha was the daughter of John and Hannah Leverich, and the granddaughter 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 Martha Leverich married John Way, son of Francis Way and Elizabeth (?Arbell?), before 1727 at Newtown, Queens, New York. Martha and four of her children (John, Leverich, Walter, Hannah) were baptized 26 August 1736 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Therefore Martha likely was married prior to 1727.³

At the time, there were two adult age John Way's living at Newtown. There was John³ Way the son of Francis² Way, and the grandson of James¹, who married Martha Leverich and died in 1750. There was also John³ Way the son of John² Way, and the grandson of James¹, who married Sarah Burling, and died about 1774.⁴ A John Way was involved in land transactions at Newtown 8 February 1718/1719 and 25 April 1719. Samuel Way was a witness to the former, and the grantor in the latter. Samuel was a brother to the John Way who married Sarah Burling.⁵ At a Newtown Town meeting on 4 April 1727, it was voted that John Way shall be a surveyor of highways this ensuing year. This could have been either of the two John Way's then living at Newtown.⁶

On 3 November 1729 John Way sold land at Newtown to his brother James Way. This would have to be the John Way who married Martha Leverich, since the other John Way did not have a brother James.^{7,8} On 9 November 1730, John Way and Martha his wife sold land at Newtown to John Moors.⁹ John Way died on 13 October 1750, as recorded at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.¹⁰ Martha died on 28 Nov 1753 at Newtown, Queens, New York. This event was recorded at the Newtown Presbyterian Church as the death of "Mrs. John Way."¹¹ John Way and Martha Leverich had at least four children (John, Leverich, Walter, and Hannah), all baptized 26 August 1736 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. These four are also noted by James Riker in the *Annals of Newtown*. Glenn C. Way in *The Descendants of James Way of Newtown, NY* identifies eight additional children, i.e. William, Martha, Benjamin, Eloner, Mary, Catherine, Jane, and James. Glenn Way however does not cite any specific sources supporting the identification of these children.^{12,13,14}

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Endnotes

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 1736. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."

⁴Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 379.

⁵Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288, Original Town Records: pages 100 and 186, 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.

⁶Ibid., page 569.

⁷Ibid., page 363.

⁸Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 378-379.

⁹Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288: page 314.

¹⁰Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths 1750.

¹¹Ibid., Deaths 1753.

¹²Ibid., Baptisms 1736.

¹³Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 379.

¹⁴Glenn C. Way, *Some of the Descendants of James Way of Newtown, N. Y.* (Niagara Falls, New York: Glenn C. Way, 29 January 1935), page 2. Hereinafter cited as *Descendants James Way Newtown*.