

Individual Narrative of Jacob⁴ Reeder [14] Son of Joseph Reeder and Eleanor³ Leverich [7]

Jacob Reeder was born circa 1713 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Documentation that Jacob, Joseph, and Benjamin Reeder were brothers is found in the will of Jacob Reeder, proved 1777, Amwell, Hunterdon Co, New Jersey. No direct evidence has been found to confirm that these three brothers were the children of Joseph Reeder and Eleanor Leverich, who were married between 1706 and 1709. Circumstantial evidence, i.e. repetition of given names Jacob and Joseph, location in Hunterdon Co, New Jersey, suggests that they were. Consuelo Furman's *The Reeder Family in America* adopts this position, but does not provide sources. Various other Reeder family researchers attribute other children to this couple, but there is no supporting evidence.^{1,2,3}

On 12 February 1732 Jacob Reeder and William Job witnessed the will of Duncan Oliphant of Amwell Township, Hunterdon Co, New Jersey.⁴ Jacob Reeder is listed in a 1741 Census, living in Maidenhead, Hunterdon Co, New Jersey (contemporary Lawrence Township, Mercer Co). Also listed in Maidenhead is a Joseph Reeder, likely a brother of Jacob.⁵ Jacob Reeder married Elizabeth Burt before 1749 at Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The will of Joseph Burt in 1749 and the will of his widow Mary Burt in 1758 provide evidence that the wife of Jacob Reeder was Elizabeth Burt, a sister of Joseph Burt.^{6,7} On 11 February 1748/1749 Jacob Reeder, "friend and brother" is named an executor of the will of Joseph Burt of Hopewell Township, Hunterdon Co, New Jersey. On 16 December 1763 Jacob Reeder, surviving executor of Joseph Burt, provides an accounting of the estate providing cash payments to several individuals, including Jacob's wife Elizabeth, a legatee of the estate. It would appear that Jacob Reeder was the brother-in-law of Joseph Burt, and that Jacob's wife Elizabeth was the sister of Joseph Burt.⁸

On 28 March 1751, a notice was published in the newspaper the *Pennsylvania Journal*. "Run-away ... from Jacob Reeder of Amwell in Hunterdon County, West New Jersey; an English Servant Man named Benjamin Hingham, about 23 years of age ... whoever takes him up and secures him in any goal so that his Master may have him again, shall receive thirty shilling reward, and reasonable charges paid by me Jacob Reeder. N.B. All masters of vessels and others are forbid to carry him off at their Peril."⁹ On 15 October 1755, Jacob Reeder witnessed the will of James Richards of Hunterdon County, New Jersey.¹⁰ Jacob Reeder was a member of the Presbyterian Church. In October 1756, Jacob, a member of Hopewell and Maidenhead congregations asked the Presbytery to dismiss him to Amwell on account of convenience, which request Presbytery granted.¹¹

Mary Burt, widow, of Hopewell, Hunterdon Co, New York prepared her will 30 March 1758, and named Jacob Reeder as an executor of her will. It would appear that Mary Burt was the widow of Joseph Burt, and sister-in-law by marriage to Jacob and his wife Elizabeth Burt, sister of Joseph Burt.¹²

Jacob Reeder was likely an elder of the First English Presbyterian Church at Amwell. A history of the Church notes that "the names of the following elders are gleaned from the records of Presbytery, as representing the Church at Presbytery while Mr. Kirkpatrick was the pastor, viz ... May 20 1768, Jacob Ruder."¹³ On 3 June 1768 an auction was held at the County Courthouse Sussex Co, New Jersey. Among multiple lots available for auction was "one other lot, containing sixty acres, in the possession of Jacob Reeder."¹⁴ Jacob Reeder died between 11 Aug 1777 and 9 Sep 1777 at Amwell, Hunterdon Co, New Jersey. His will was dated 11 August 1777, and proved on 9 September 1777.¹⁵ In his will Jacob Reeder of Amwell, Hunterdon Co, New Jersey mentions his wife Elizabeth, daughters Elizabeth and Phebe, granddaughters Elizabeth and Anna Reeder, brother Benjamin Reeder, and nephew William Reeder, son of brother Joseph Reeder. The will also mentioned the New Presbyterian Church at Amwell. The will named son-in-law Daniel Drake and David Baldwin as Executors. The will was witnessed by Joseph Ashton and Allen Oliver. The inventory of Jacob's estate was valued at 500 pounds, 18 shillings, and 6 pence (approximately \$78,000 in 2012), and included two slaves, a negro boy and a negro girl.^{16,17} Consuelo Furman, in *Reeder Family in America*, cites this will as proof that Jacob, Joseph, and Benjamin Reeder were sons of Joseph Reeder and Eleanor Leverich. However, this will provides circumstantial evidence, not direct evidence.¹⁸

Elizabeth Burt, sister of Joseph Burt, and widow of Jacob Reeder, died between 12 December 1781 when her will was written, and 17 February 1784 when her will was proven. Elizabeth's will mentions her daughter Phebe Drake, granddaughter Elizabeth Reeder, and grandson Jacob Drake. Thomas Wilson and David Baldwin were named Executors of the will, and the will was witnessed by John Smith and Ezekiel Rose.¹⁹ Jacob Reeder and his wife Elizabeth Burt had three known children: a son whose name is not known and who probably died young, leaving daughters Elizabeth and Anna Reeder; a daughter Phebe, who married Daniel Drake, and had a son Jacob Drake; and a daughter Elizabeth.^{20,21}

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Endnotes

¹Archives of the State of New Jersey *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey: Calendar of New Jersey Wills*, Seven Volumes 1670-1790 (Trenton, New Jersey: Archives of the State of New Jersey, 1880-1928), Volume 34 (*Calendar of Wills*, Volume 5, 1771-1780), pages 27-28; New Jersey State Archives File 1037J. Hereinafter cited as *Calendar of NJ Wills*.

²Consuelo Furman, *The Reeder Family In America* (New York, New York: Self published typescript, 1948-1953), pages 29-33. Family History Library Film No. 873453. Other copies at DAR Library, Washington DC; and the Newberry Library in Chicago. Hereinafter cited as *Reeder Family in America*.

³The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [LDS], *Pedigree Resource File, database* (FamilySearch: <http://www.familysearch.org>, 2007.) <http://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.2.1/S14Z-YB7> : entry for Eleanor Leverich; submitted by jreeder1114932, 27 March 2006, submission ID MMW2-19L. Hereinafter cited as *Pedigree Resource File LDS*.

⁴Archives of the State of New Jersey *Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 30 (*Calendar of Wills*, Volume 2, 1730-1750), page 360.

⁵Ronald Vern Jackson, *Early American Series: Early New Jersey 1600-1819* (Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1980), Ancestry.com database on-line, *NJ Census 1643-1890*, page 54. Hereinafter cited as *Early New Jersey 1600-1819*.

⁶Archives of the State of New Jersey *Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 30 (*Calendar of Wills*, Volume 2, 1730-1750), page 79, will of Joseph Burt.

⁷*Ibid.*, Volume 32 (*Calendar of Wills*, Volume 3, 1751-1760), page 48, will of Mary Burt.

⁸*Ibid.*, Volume 30 (*Calendar of Wills*, Volume 2, 1730-1750), page 79.

⁹Nelson, William, editor; *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey*, Volumes 1-42 (Paterson, New Jersey: The Press Printing and Publishing Co, 1897), Volume 19 (*Extracts American Newspapers Re NJ*, volume 3, 1751-1755), page 64. Hereinafter cited as *Extracts Early American Newspapers Relating to NJ*.

¹⁰Archives of the State of New Jersey *Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 33 (*Calendar of Wills*, Volume 4, 1761-1770), page 352.

¹¹Rev. John Backer Kugler, *History of the First English Presbyterian Church Amwell* (Somerville, New Jersey: The Unionist-Gazette Association, 1912), pages 83-84. Hereinafter cited as *History First English Presbyterian Church Amwell*.

¹²Archives of the State of New Jersey *Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 32 (*Calendar of Wills*, Volume 3, 1751-1760), page 48.

¹³Kugler, *History First English Presbyterian Church Amwell*, pages 88-89.

¹⁴Nelson, editor; *Extracts Early American Newspapers Relating to NJ*, Volume 26 (*Extracts American Newspapers Re NJ*, volume 7, 1768-1769), page 147.

¹⁵Archives of the State of New Jersey *Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 34 (*Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 5, 1771-1780), pages 417-418; New Jersey State Archives, Will Liber 20, page 214, file number 1037J.

¹⁶*Ibid.*

¹⁷Measuring Worth, online <www.measuringworth.com>. Hereinafter cited as Measuring Worth.

¹⁸Furman, *Reeder Family in America*, pages 30-40.

¹⁹Archives of the State of New Jersey *Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 35 (*Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 6, 1781-1785), page 322; New Jersey State Archives, Will Liber 26, page 179, file number 1265J.

²⁰*Ibid.*, Volume 34 (*Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 5, 1771-1780), pages 417-418; New Jersey State Archives, Will Liber 20, page 214, file number 1037J.

²¹*Ibid.*, Volume 35 (*Calendar of NJ Wills*, Volume 6, 1781-1785), page 322; New Jersey State Archives, Will Liber 26, page 179, file number 1265J.