

## Individual Narrative of John<sup>4</sup> Leverich [8]

John Leverich was born circa 1696 at Newtown, Queens County, New York. The birth date has been calculated based upon John's tombstone inscription which indicates he died in 1780 at the age of 84. John was the son of John and Hannah Leverich, and the grandson of Caleb and Martha Leverich.<sup>1,2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

On 20 February 1719/1720, John Leverich, mason, sold land at Newtown to Peter Berrien.<sup>4</sup> John married Anne Moore on 14 Dec 1720 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>5</sup> The parents of Anne (Amy) Moore are unidentified. They are not found in the *Annals of Newtown* or *Rev John Moore of Newtown*. Anne was born before 1705 and died between 1732 and 1741. John Leverich and Amy Moore had four children: John, William, Samuel, and Benjamin Leverich.<sup>6,7</sup> On 5 February 1720/1721 John Leverich, mason, sold land at Newtown to Peter Berrien.<sup>8</sup> On 8 March 1722/1723, the Newtown Purchasers and Proprietors, including Job Wright, *John Leverich*, and William Leverich, sold land at Newtown to Rev. Samuel Pumroy, pastor of the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>9,10</sup> On 30 January 1729, John and William, sons of John and Anne Leverich, were baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>11</sup> On 18 June 1732, Benjamin, son of John and Anne Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. John and Anne Leverich also had a son Samuel Leverich, but a baptism record has not been found.<sup>12</sup> On 19 April 1733, Newtown Freeholders and Purchasers, including *John Leverich* and William Leverich, granted land to build a church to "said people or society of the Church of England."<sup>13</sup>

John Leverich married second Susannah Field, widow of John Sackett, daughter of Elnathan Field, 14 Oct 1741 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>14</sup> John Sackett, son of Joseph Sackett, married first 11 January 1719 Elizabeth Field, daughter of Elnathan Field. When Elizabeth died, John Sackett married 2nd her sister Susannah Field. John Sackett died 31 December 1728. His widow Susannah later married John Leverich in 1741. John and Susannah Leverich had one child, a son Elnathan.<sup>15,16,17,18</sup> John Sackett's daughter Elizabeth Sackett married 22 May 1743 her step brother John Leverich Jr.<sup>19</sup> Susannah died at Newtown 20 January 1763.<sup>20</sup>

On 2 April 1745, at a Newtown Town Meeting, *John Leverich*, Francis Cornish, and James Way Jr were named supervisors of highways for the ensuing year.<sup>21</sup> On 16 April 1750, John Morrell, butcher of Newtown, sold land to John Leverich, mason of Newtown. Although this deed was dated 1750, it was not witnessed until 30 March 1761, and recorded on 14 April 1761.<sup>22</sup> On 4 October 1753, John Leverich and John Leverich Jr were witnesses to a deed Elizabeth Pumroy to Elders of the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>23</sup> On 1 May 1755, Jeromes Rapelye of Newtown prepared "A List of Negroes Male and Female According to the Act of Assembly of the Province of New York". The list included John Leverich, with one male slave and no female slaves.<sup>24</sup>

John Leverich married for a third time Sarah Titus, daughter of Silus Titus and Sarah Hunt, on 14 Feb 1765 at Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>25,26</sup> Sarah was born before 1721, presuming she was at least age 18 at the time of her first marriage in 1739.<sup>27,28,29</sup> Sarah Titus apparently had a son Benjamin Moore, presumably born out of wedlock. The father of Benjamin Moore is unknown, and there is no record of a marriage of Sarah Titus to a Moore. Benjamin Moore, "son of Sarah Cornish", is mentioned in his grandfather Silus Titus' will in 1748, his grandmother Sarah Titus' will in 1749, and his mother Sarah Leverich's will in 1810. Sarah's will was witnessed by a Robert Moore, and Edward Moore was named an executor. The will does not identify the relationship of these Moore's.<sup>30</sup>

The 1771 Census of Newtown, Queens County, New York, copied at Albany, New York by James Riker, includes the following Leverich's: John, John Jr., William, and Elnathan.<sup>31,32</sup> John Leverich lived out his final years during the turbulent era of the American Revolutionary War. The historian James Riker observed that "the people of Newtown split into two parties. It is difficult to say which of these was loudest in protestations of loyalty to King George III who all acknowledged as their rightful sovereign. Furthermore, few, if any, were found to deny the existence of the grievances before recited. But the widest difference of opinion prevailed as to the proper means of obtaining redress." John Leverich appears to have shared the more moderate approach, whereas some younger members of the family were more closely associated

with the Whig party, that is the independence movement.<sup>33</sup> On 16 March 1775 a circular letter was sent to the different counties in New York Colony, requesting them to choose deputies to a Provincial Convention, which was to meet April 20, for purposes of electing delegates to the Continental Congress, to be held at Philadelphia on May 10. On 31 March 1775, Col Jacob Blackwell was elected Deputy from Newtown by 100 freeholders, including Benjamin Cornish (cousin of John Leverich Sr), Elnathan Leverich and John Leverich Jr., sons of John Leverich Sr. Also included in the list of voters were John and James Way, probably nephews of John Leverich Sr. Apparently not voting was John Leverich Sr and his son William Leverich.<sup>34</sup> New York City and Long Island, including Queens County, were occupied and controlled by British military authorities for the duration of the war of independence. Historian Henry Onderdonk Jr observed that "the King being now in possession of Queens county, and his soldiers scattered over it, the leading Whigs having been thrown in prison, and the property of those who fled seized by the enemy, the remainder were constrained to join the Loyalists in petitioning the King's Commissioners that Queens County might be restored to Royal Favor." The petition, issued on 21 October 1776, requested "And we humbly pray, that your Excellencies would be pleased to declare this county at the peace of His Majesty, and thereby enable us to receive the benefits flowing from his most gracious protection." This petition was signed by John Leverich, presumably senior although not so stated, and W. Leverich, presumably the son of John Leverich Sr. Noticeably missing from the list of petition signatures were John Leverich Jr and his brother Elnathan, as well as their nephews Gabriel and Samuel Leverich, sons of Samuel Leverich deceased.<sup>35</sup>

During the war for independence, British troops were billeted for the winter on the farms of Newtown. Officers of British and Hessian Troops were billeted in various Newtown residences, while soldiers camped in farm fields and meadows. During the winter of 1778/1779, soldiers of the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment (*The Black Watch*) under the command of Lt. Col. Thomas Sterling were billeted on the Leverich home farm. According to James Riker, "at the time referred to, they lay in Trains Meadow, on the land of John Leverich (where the widow of Richard now lives,) and occupied huts back of the barn.<sup>36</sup>" Susan M. Leverich, daughter of Richard Leverich mentioned above, in a memoir entitled *A House of the Olden Time*, written about 1890, recounts that "Lt Col. Sterling, his wife, and two of the officers of the Royal Highland 42nd occupied a portion of the house, and their band always played during the progress of the dinner or meal."

Most likely reflecting an oral family tradition, Susan, who was the great granddaughter of John Leverich Sr and grew up on the home family farm, also notes that "during the Regiment's abode at Trains Meadow, the cholera carried off several of their members. I well remember a pile of stones that used to lie at the corner of a field, where our land joined the wood of John Penfold. It was erected by the Highlanders over the remains of their dead comrades, as a memorial; and every one each time he passed would throw a stone according to an old Scottish custom. Such memorial Stones or Cairns, are still often seen in Scotland and Ireland. A Highlander would often say to his benefactor, 'I will throw a stone on your Cairn'." About twenty five years ago a railway was made through the place removing the stones, and when opening the cut for it, human remains were found. They were first thought to be those of Indians or negroes, but an expert pronounced them of European origin. My mother was waited upon in New York to know if she could throw any light on the matter. Her story soon put the subject at rest. A workman obtained twenty five dollars for a skull which was in perfect preservation, having every tooth in the jaw. Poor fellow he little dreamt when in the flesh that his bones would be sold in a foreign land one hundred years after."

British troops had a reputation for stealing livestock. Susan Leverich tells the following story. "The Leverich cattle had been declared free from molestation, but one day during the absence of Col Sterling, some of his men attempted to drive them from the meadows. A member of the family informed Lady Sterling of what was being done. Calling her maid, she walked in white satin slippers into the black peat meadow, and ordered the animals driven back, threatening at the same time the offenders with punishment.<sup>37,38</sup>" On 28 April 1779, 93 of the principal residents of Newtown, presented the following address to Lt. Col. Sterling. "The inhabitants of Newtown beg leave to make their hearty and grateful acknowledgements to Col. Sterling, and the officers of the 42nd Regiment for their very equitable, polite and friendly conduct during their winter stay among them: they will entertain an affectionate esteem and regard for them, and will never forget that they have been treated with all the justice and cordiality due to fellow subjects and citizens. They, at the same time, request the favor of Col. Sterling to return their sincere thanks to the regiment in general, for their regular, orderly and honorable behavior, so conformable to the true character of gentlemen and soldiers. They part with the 42nd Regiment with regret, and wish them glory and success."

Among the 93 residents signing the address were John Leverich (presumably Senior) and his nephew Samuel Leverich. The historian James Riker observed that "the above address of the inhabitants doubtless emanated from the loyalists, who, during this seven years' reign of terror, had everything their own way. And it is pitiful to observe among the names appended to the address, not a few who are known to have been undoubted whigs, at heart, and who could not utter a serious aspiration for the glory and success of their country's enemies, but in this, as in other instances, were forced into mortifying concessions to the wishes and movements of the tories." If any of the members of the Leverich family at this time had loyalist sympathies, they were apparently not substantial enough to warrant their exile and confiscation of their property once the war was over.<sup>39,40</sup>

John Leverich died in 1780 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. John was among the earliest burials in the family burial ground at Trains Meadow. Riker records his grave marker as "I.L. AG 84, 1780". His son, John Leverich Jr, died the same year, i.e. 1780 on 18 September.<sup>41,42</sup> There is no record that a will for John Leverich Senior was formally submitted for probate. However, his will is mentioned in a deed at Newtown executed 1 March 1781. In this deed, Sackett Leverich, grandson of John Leverich Senior (son of John Leverich Jr who died in 1780) buys out the shares in the family homestead and farm held by his three uncles. The grantors are William and Elnathan Leverich, sons of John Leverich Senior, and Samuel Leverich, grandson of John Leverich Senior (son of Samuel Leverich who died in 1754). This deed includes the earliest specific reference to the family burial place.

*"This indenture made the first day of March in the year of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus One thousand seven hundred and eighty one. And in the twenty first year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the grace of God over Great Britain, France and Ireland King. Defender of the Faith. Between William Leverich Elithan Leverich and Samuel Leverich Legatees in and by the last Will and Testament of John Leverich Senr ?<Satate>? of New Town in Queens County in Nassau Island in the Colony of New York dec'd of the one part and Sackett Leverich of the same place of the other part. Whereas the said John Leverich Senr in and by his last Will and Testament did make John Leverich Junr late of the said Town decd & said William Leverich Elithan Leverich and Sam Leverich Legatees in & for the whole of his Estate both real & personal to be equally divided amongst them share and share alike Relation being thereunto had is fully set forth and expressed.*

*"Now this indenture witnesses that they the said William Leverich Elithan Leverich and Samuel Leverich for and in Consideration of the Sum of Twelve Hundred pounds lawful money of said Colony well and truly to them in hand paid by the said Sackett Leverich ... Three fourths of that undivided Messuage, tenements dwelling house outhouses barn orchards cyder mill and all other improvements & pieces or parcels of land and meadows situate lying and being in New Town above said containing by estimation Seventy One acres be the same more or less.*

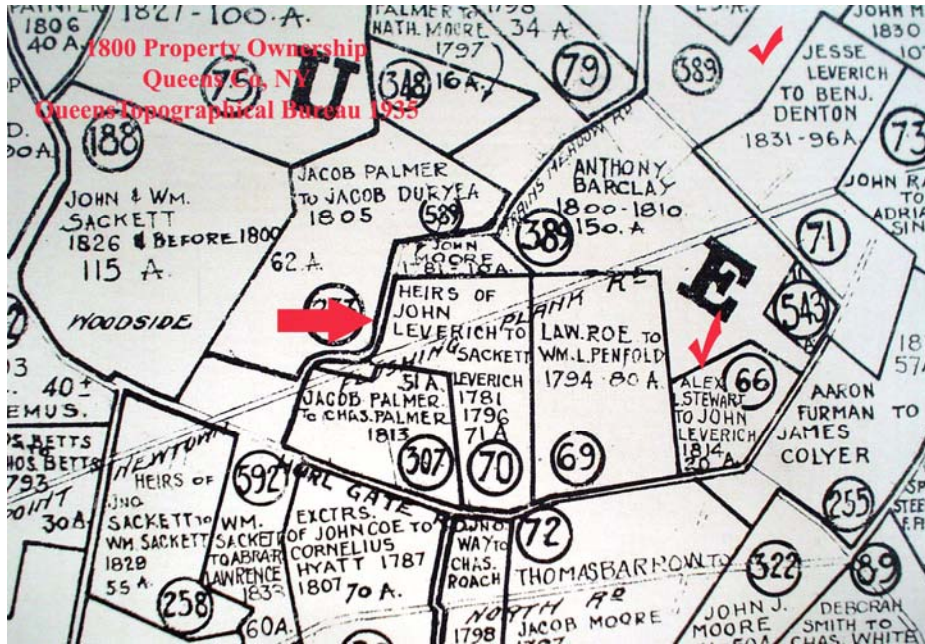
*"And is bounded as follows (viz) **first the homestead above the road that leads round Trains Meadow;** Northerly by the said road & the land of John Moore Senr; Eastwardly by the land of John Alburtus late dec; Southerly by the road that leads from said town to Halletts Cove; Westerly and Southerly again by the land of Jacob Palmer & westerly again by the aforesaid road round Trains Meadow. Secondly a piece or parcel of meadow below the aforesaid road; Southerly by the said road southwesterly by the swamp & meadow of Richard Moore; Northwesterly by the main ditch or meadow of Nathaniel Moore Sr & Northeasterly by the meadow of John Moore Senr; & Thirdly a piece of salt meadow northerly by the meadow of Charles Booram & William Betts late dec; Easterly by the meadow of John Moore Sr; Southerly by the meadow of Nicholas Wickoff & Johannus Debevois; & Westerly by the meadow of Abraham Brinkerhoff late dec (one quarter of an acre within the said boundaries **excepted for a family burial place forever** bounded southeasterly by the road round Trains Meadow; Southwesterly and Northwesterly by the land by these presents granted to said Sackett Leverich; & northeasterly by the land or meadow granted aforesaid called Cooks Meadow."*

This deed was witnessed by Robert Moore and Samuel Moore 3rd. Although executed in 1781, the deed was not recorded at the county courthouse until 15 years later on 10 June 1796.<sup>43,44,45</sup>









**LEVERICH FAMILY FARM c 1800**  
Trains Meadow Section of Newtown  
Contemporary Woodside/Jackson Heights  
Borough of Queens, New York City



- \* Contemporary Leverich Street
- Trains Meadow Road, abandoned November 1915
- Approximate boundaries of the Leverich Farm c 1800
- A Leverich Homestead c 1670 - 1909
- B Leverich Burial Ground
- C Burial place of British Solders who died during the Revolutionary War
- D Sackett Farm: home of 7-William Leverich [64] 1783-1854
- E Newtown Village (contemporary Elmhurst)

Sarah Titus Cornish survived John Leverich for many years, according to Riker's *Annals of Newtown*. A "Widow Sarah Leverich" is included on a 1786 Tax List of Newtown, listed between John Baylie and Benjamin Baylie. In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. Sarah Leverich, widow, is recorded on the tax assessment roles at Newtown, Queens Co, New York for the period 1799-1800. The property was valued at \$370.00 during this period of time. A "Sarah Leverage" is recorded as a head of household with Elias Bailey in the 1800 Census of Newtown. Elias Bailey was likely a son-in-law, the husband of a daughter by Sarah's first marriage to Francis Cornish.<sup>46,47,48,49</sup> Sarah prepared a will dated 28 October 1810, proved 19 February 1813. In her will, Sarah mentions her son Benjamin Moore, daughter Rebecca Harper, daughter Sarah Bailey, deceased daughter Elizabeth Arrington, and grandsons Peter Bailey, James and Isaac Arrington. The executors of the will were Edward Moore, Samuel Harper, and Peter Bailey. The will was witnessed by Robert Moore, Joseph Furman, and William Stephens.<sup>50</sup>

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## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup>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, Box 9, Notebook 2 (dated on inside back cover 25 November 1842), pages 87-91. Hereinafter cited as *James Riker Papers*.

<sup>2</sup>James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), page 353. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.

<sup>3</sup>Newtown 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.

<sup>4</sup>Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288, Original Town Records: page 46, 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.

<sup>5</sup>Arthur 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, Marriages 1720. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."

<sup>6</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 352.

<sup>7</sup>James W. Moore, *Rev. John Moore of Newtown, Long Island and some of his descendants* (Easton, Pennsylvania: printed for the publisher by the Chemical Publishing Co, 1903), pages 56 and 503. Hereinafter cited as *Rev John Moore*.

<sup>8</sup>Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288: page 78.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, page 294.

<sup>10</sup>*James Riker Papers*, Volume 23 (Memoria Volume 1), page 150.

<sup>11</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, 1729 Baptisms.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*, 1732 Baptisms.

<sup>13</sup>Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288: pages 332-334.

<sup>14</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages 1741.

<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*, Marriages 1741, Deaths 1763.

<sup>16</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 148, 345, 352.

<sup>17</sup>Charles H. Weygant, *The Sacketts of America, their ancestors and descendants, 1630-1907* (Newburgh, New York: Privately printed, 1907), pages 37-38. Hereinafter cited as *Sacketts of America*.

<sup>18</sup>George E. McCracken, "The Fields of Flushing, Long Island," *New England Historic Genealogical Register* Volume 113 (July 1959): pages 197, 215-216. Hereinafter cited as "Fields of Flushing."

<sup>19</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, 1743 Marriages.

<sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*, 1763 Deaths.

<sup>21</sup>Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288: page 578.

<sup>22</sup>Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289: pages 183-184, New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St, Room 103, Manhattan, New York, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289.

<sup>23</sup>*Ibid.*, pages 33-34.

<sup>24</sup>E. B. O'Callaghan, editor, *The Documentary History of New York, Volumes 1-4* (Albany, New York: Weed, Parsons, & Co, 1849-1851), Volume 3, page 863. Hereinafter cited as *Documentary History of New York*.

<sup>25</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages 1765.

<sup>26</sup>Kelby, Robert H. and Scott, Kenneth; *New York Marriages Previous to 1784, a reprint of the original edition of 1860, with Additions and Corrections* (1860; reprint Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1968), page 231. Hereinafter cited as *NY Marriages Previous to 1784*.

<sup>27</sup>Joseph E. Cornish, *The History and Genealogy of the Cornish Families in America* (Boston, Massachusetts: Geo. H. Ellis, Printers, 1907), page 260. Hereinafter cited as *Cornish Family in America*.

<sup>28</sup>Dorothy M. Titus, Compiler; Percy Hobart Titus, Editor; *Titus Family in America* (Weston, Massachusetts: Published by the Editor, July 1943), pages 7-8. Hereinafter cited as *Titus Family in America*.

<sup>29</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 327-328, 352, 378.

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- <sup>30</sup>William S. Pelletreau, compiler, *Abstracts of Wills in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York, Volumes 1-17, 1665-1801* (New York, New York: Collections of the New York Historical Society, 1893-1909), Volume 4, 1744-1753, pages 197-198 and 365-366. Hereinafter cited as *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*.
- <sup>31</sup>*James Riker Papers*, Memoria Volume 27, pages 150-152.
- <sup>32</sup>Harry Macy, "Newtown Queens 1771 Census," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* Volume 117, No. 1 (1986): pages 7-9. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Census."
- <sup>33</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 174-176.
- <sup>34</sup>Secretary of State, editor, *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, Relating to the War of the Revolution, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, New York* (Albany, New York: Weed, Parsons and Company, 1868), pages 39-40. Hereinafter cited as *Calendar Historical Manuscripts Revolution NY*.
- <sup>35</sup>Henry Onderdonk Jr, compiler, *Documents and Letters Intended to Illustrate the Revolutionary Incidents of Queens County; with connecting narratives, explanatory notes, and additions* (New York, New York: Leavitt, Trow and Company, 1846), pages 117-121. Hereinafter cited as *Revolutionary Incidents of Queens County*.
- <sup>36</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 204-206.
- <sup>37</sup>Susan M. Leverich, "A House of the Olden Time" - Leverich Family Homestead, Handwritten, illustrated hardcover notebook, Circa 1890. Susan M. Leverich Papers. Stephen P. Shaw, Chester, Connecticut, pages 32-39. Hereinafter cited as "A House of the Olden Time."
- <sup>38</sup>Catherine Gregory, *Woodside, Queens County, New York: A Historical Perspective 1652-1994* (Woodside, New York: Woodside on the Move, Inc., 1994), page 54. Hereinafter cited as *Woodside - A Historical Perspective*.
- <sup>39</sup>Onderdonk Jr, *Revolutionary Incidents of Queens County*, pages 134-136.
- <sup>40</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 204-206.
- <sup>41</sup>*James Riker Papers*, Box 9, Notebook 2, pages 87-91.
- <sup>42</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 352.
- <sup>43</sup>1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Original. 1 March 1781; William, Elnathan, Samuel Leverich to Sackett Leverich. Newtown; Susan M. Leverich Papers; Stephen P. Shaw, Chester, Connecticut; Image Files SML 014-016. Hereinafter cited as 1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Original.
- <sup>44</sup>1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Recorded. 1 March 1781; Elnathan, Samuel Leverich to Sackett Leverich William; Newtown; Queens County, New York City Register; 144-06 94th Avenue, Jamaica, New York 11435; Liber G, pages 52-55. Hereinafter cited as 1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Recorded.
- <sup>45</sup>Leverich, Susan M., "A House of the Olden Time", pages 42-45.
- <sup>46</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 352.
- <sup>47</sup>Henry Onderdonk Jr, transcriber; *Newtown Tax List 1786*, 1940, Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St, Brooklyn, New York 11201, hereinafter referred to Newtown Tax List 1786.
- <sup>48</sup>New York Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804. New York State Archives, Albany, New York; Series B0950, Reel No. 17, Box 39, Folders 5 and 11. Ancestry.com, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, Utah 84604, Reel No. 17, Box 39, Folders 5 and 11. Hereinafter cited as New York Tax Assessment Rolls 1799-1804.
- <sup>49</sup>1800 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M32, Roll 25, Newtown, Sarah Leverage and Elias Bailey household.
- <sup>50</sup>Sarah Leverich will (1813), Volume C, page 266; Queens County, New York Surrogate, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435. Hereinafter cited as 1813 Probate Sarah Leverich.