

Individual Narrative of Samuel⁵ Leverich [19]

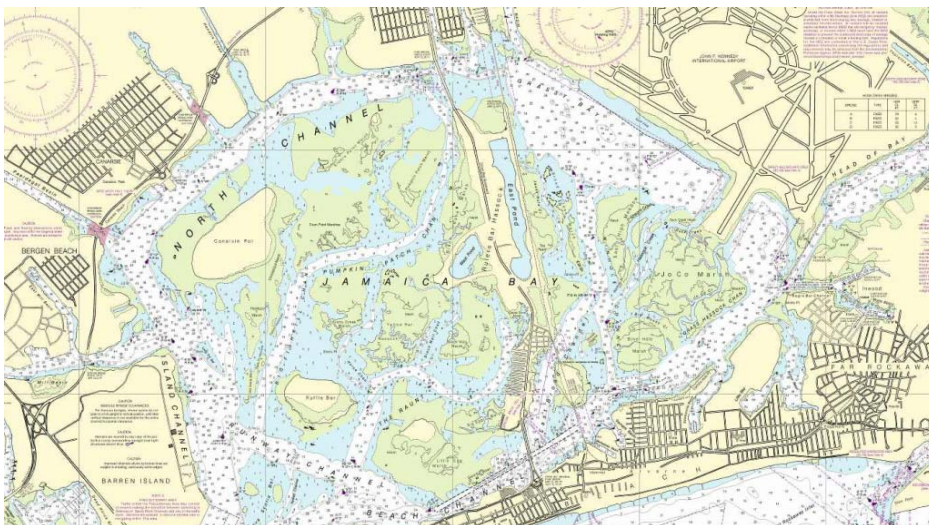
Samuel Leverich was born before 1728 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of John Leverich and Amy Moore. The birth date calculation is based upon the premise that Samuel was at least 21 years old at the time of his marriage in 1749.¹

Samuel Leverich married Deborah Wright on 29 Dec 1749 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.² Deborah Wright was the daughter of Samuel Wright, and the granddaughter of Jonathan Wright of Flushing. Her mother, the widow Sarah Morrel, married Samuel at the Newtown Presbyterian Church on 9 January 1728. Sarah may have been the Sarah West who married Jonathan Morrel on 12 December 1720 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Jonathan Morrel is thought to have died about 1726. The Newtown Presbyterian Church recorded the baptisms in August 1727 of "two children of Sarah Morrel."^{3,4} Deborah and Grace, children of Samuel Wright were baptized on 8 January 1738 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.⁵

Samuel Leverich died accidentally on 21 Jan 1754 at Jamaica Bay, Queens, New York. An article published on 27 January 1754 in the New York-Mercury described what had occurred.

"Last Monday morning, the weather being uncommonly pleasant and warm for this season, many people were induced to go into our Bay for oysters, clams, etc. But about noon such a severe gale of wind at N.W. arose, with so sudden a change from warm to cold, as scarce was ever known here; when all the smallcraft put off in order to gain the shore, in the best manner they could. A number of canoes and pettyaugres came on shore at a point of meadow on the South side of this town, and with the utmost difficulty the people belonging to them traveled up to a house near two miles from the place of their landing ..."

"The same day, two canoes with eight people, from Newtown, not returning at night, were sought for the next day, but the ice being so thick, it was impracticable to go far in quest of them, which continued until Friday, when one canoe was found drove on an island of sedge, in which were the bodies of Samuel Leveredge, Amos Roberts, William Salier, and Thomas Salier, all froze to death; the steerman sitting in an erect posture at the helm. The three former were married men, having left distressed families behind them".^{6,7,8}



Extract of a Letter from Jamaica, Jan. 27, 1754.

Last Monday Morning, the Weather being uncommonly pleasant and warm for this Season of the Year, many People were induced to go into our Bay for Oysters, Clams, &c. But about Noon such a severe Gale of Wind at N. W. arose, with so sudden a Change from warm to cold, as scarce was ever known here; when all the small Craft put off in order to gain the Shore, in the best Manner they could. A Number of Canoes and Pettyaugres came on Shore at a Point of Meadow on the South Side of this Town, and with the utmost Difficulty, the People belonging to them travel'd up to a House near two Miles from the Place of their Landing: All got safe to the House (tho' much benumbed and several speechless) except one *Daniel Smith*, a young Man of this Town, who perished on the Meadows, about half a Mile from the House, his Companions not being able to help him any farther, having dragged him near a Mile on the Meadows, after he had lost the Use of his Feet.

The same Day, two Canoes with eight People, from *Newtown*, not returning at Night, were sought for next Day; but the Ice being so thick, it was impracticable to go far in quest of them, which continued until Friday, when one Canoe was found drove on an Island of Sedge, in which were the Bodies of *Samuel Leveredge*, *Amos Roberts*, *William Salier*, and *Thomas Salier*, all froze to Death; the Steerman sitting in an erect Posture at the Helm. The three former were married Men, having left distressed Families behind them.

Yesterday the other Canoe was seen, but by Reason of the Ice, could not be come at; in which, is supposed to be the dead Bodies of the other four Persons missing, one white Man Servant, and three valuable Negroes.

A Canoe came ashore on Friday last, on the East Side of the Bay, nearly loaded with Oysters, having no Body in her, suppos'd to belong to some Indians.

We hear several People have been miserably frozen at *Hempsted South*, who were out the same Night, but can't learn that any have died yet, tho' some are thought to be in great Danger.

MARKS to know false 40s. Bills by.
They are all dated December 10, 1737, mark'd, ix f. and are signed,
Peter Schuyler,
Peter Jay,
Stephen Wood,

1st, 1737; in the False, seems something larger than in the True. 2^d, So is, ix.

3^d, II. I. under the Arms, seems in the II. in false, something more crooked, and the Strokes of the II. smaller than in the true Bills.

4th, In the Arms of the true Bills, EBORAC is with a C. and in the false, it is a G.

5th, ix f after Number, is not so plain in the False, as in the True.

6th, In the Flourish on the Left Hand, after N. YORK. between the two A A there is a Mark in the false Bills thus, O enclosed at the Top, and in the true, O is clofed.

New-York Mercury, published as The New-York Mercury; Date: 01-28-1754; Issue: 77; Page: [2]; Location: New York, NY

Samuel Leverich made a will dated 1 May 1753: "I, Samuel Leverich, of Newtown, in Queens County, mason, being in good health. I leave to my wife Deborah all the rest of my estate after payment of debts and funeral charges. I make my brothers John and William, and my friend William Sackett, executors." The will was witnessed by Philip Edsall, James Culver, and Jacob Boerum, and proved 26 February 1754. Making a will while young and healthy was unusual for the time, but fortuitous in this instance due to Samuel's untimely death.^{9,10}

Deborah Leverich died on 4 December 1759, according to the records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church.¹¹

Samuel Leverich and Deborah Wright had three children.

- i. Benjamin Leverich was born between 1750 and 1754, and died unmarried in the West Indies, according to Riker's Annals of Newtown. Riker does not provide a specific source for this information. There is a "Leverick Bay" located on the island of Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands, but any connection is unknown.
- ii. Samuel Leverich was born 10 December 1751, married 23 January 1777 Sarah Berrien, and died 24 January 1816.
- iii. Gabriel Leverich was born 22 May 1753, married 2 April 1779 Hannah Thorpe, and died 3 September 1828.

Birth and death dates for Samuel and Gabriel are based on their tombstone inscriptions at the Leverich Family Burial Ground.^{12,13,14,15} Deborah's early death in 1759 left her three sons orphaned at the young age of about 5 to 9. It is unknown who raised the three boys, but it is likely that they were taken in by family, grandparents or perhaps uncles.¹⁶

In a deed dated 1 March 1781, 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. 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.^{17,18}

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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 352. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.

²Arthur 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, 1749. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."

³*Ibid.*, Baptisms 1727; Marriages 1720, 1728.

⁴Douglas Wright Cruger, *A Genealogical Dictionary of Wright Families in the Lower Hudson Valley to 1800* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1987), page 117. Hereinafter cited as *Genealogical Dictionary Wright Families*.

⁵Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms 1738.

⁶*The New-York Mercury*, New York, New York, 1752-1768. Early American Newspaper Series 1, 1790-1876; database: Readex, a division of NewsBank via www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org. Hereinafter cited as *New-York Mercury*, 28 January 1754, issue 77, page 2.

⁷Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths, 1754.

⁸Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 161.

⁹Samuel Leverich will (1754), Volume 18, page 469; New York County, New York Surrogate, 31 Chambers Street, Manhattan, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as 1754 Probate Samuel Leverich.

¹⁰William 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), page 478. Hereinafter cited as *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*.

¹¹Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths, 1759.

¹²Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 352-353.

¹³*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, pages 87-91. Hereinafter cited as *James Riker Papers*.

¹⁴Henry Onderdonk Jr. and Mrs. Josephine C. Frost "Presbyterian Marriages Jamaica, Queens County, 1775-1794," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Volume 129, pages 36-42 (January 1998). Hereinafter cited as "Presbyterian Marriages Jamaica 1775-1794."

¹⁵Rev. Frederic W Bailey, *Early Connecticut Marriages as found on An cient Church Records Prior to 1880, Seventh Book* (1906; reprint Baltimore, Maryland: Genalogical Publishing Co, 1997), page 34. Hereinafter cited as *Early Connecticut Marriages, Book 7*.

¹⁶Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths, 1754 and 1759.

¹⁷1781 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.

¹⁸1781 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.