

## Individual Narrative of Elnathan<sup>5</sup> Leverich [21]

Elnathan Leverich was said to have been born on 18 Oct 1741 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of John Leverich and his second wife, Susannah Field, widow of John Sackett.<sup>1</sup> John and Susannah were married at the Newtown Presbyterian Church on 4 October 1741, which raises questions regarding the accuracy of the birth date for Elnathan. The source of the birth date is James Riker's manuscript notes, specifically his c 1841 transcription of gravestones from the Leverich Family Burial Ground. In the case of Elnathan's record, the actual birth and death dates are included in the transcription, not an age at time of death. Therefore the birth date is not a calculated date based upon an age at time of death. However, a later (c 1880) transcription of tombstones in the Leverich Family Burial Ground includes less stones, and Elnathan is one of the markers not included in the later transcription. In his published account of the Leverich Family, Riker's *Annals of Newtown* does not give a specific birth date for Elnathan, but states that Elnathan died 25 April 1784 "in his 43rd year". Therefore, it would be reasonable to state that Elnathan Leverich was born about the year 1742.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Elnathan Leverich married Mary Coe, daughter of John Coe and Phebe Field, on 2 May 1767 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>5,6</sup> Mary Coe was born before 1749, assuming she was at least 18 years old at the time of her marriage in 1767. Her father John Coe died relatively young in 1749, and his will mentions his daughter Mary. Phebe Field Coe lived to an advanced age, her will was not proven until 1802.<sup>7,8,9,10</sup>

The Newtown Presbyterian Church records note the death on 17 April 1771 of a "child of Elnathan Leverich". Mary Coe Leverich died young prior to 23 February 1777, on which date the will of her brother Benjamin Coe mentions his "late sister Mary Leverich's children". She may have died young from congenital abnormalities. All of Mary's siblings died young due to "weak constitutions", perhaps due to an unusually large number of close cousin marriages in this branch of the Coe/Field families.<sup>11,12,13</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>14,15</sup> On 3 April 1775, 100 Freeholders of Newtown voted to send Col. Jacob Blackwell as a delegate to the Provincial Congress in New York, 20 April 1775. Included among those voting were Elnathan Leverich and John Leverich Jr. It is interesting to observe that some members of the Leverich family reflected Whig sentiments during the War of the Revolution, whereas the other family members appeared to maintain a semblance of neutrality without being specifically branded as "loyalists."<sup>16</sup> From 25 July to 31 August 1776, Elnathan Leverich was a private in Captain Benjamin Coe's Company of Militia, in Col. Josiah Smith's Regiment, in Queens County, stationed on Long Island to guard the stock and inhabitants. Elnathan's nephew, Gabriel Leverich (son of Samuel), was a Sergeant in the same company.<sup>17</sup>

Elnathan Leverich was a witness to the will of Abraham Brinkerhoff Sr of Newtown, Queens Co, New York, dated 27 June 1780, proved at the New York County Surrogate on 7 October 1780.<sup>18</sup>

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 sitate 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.<sup>19,20</sup>

Elnathan Leverich died on 25 Apr 1784 at Newtown, Queens, New York, and was buried in the Family Burial Ground. No will or probate record has been found for Elnathan.<sup>21</sup>

Elnathan Leverich and Mary Coe had at least two children, both of whom were mentioned by James Riker in *The Annals of Newtown*. Circumstantial evidence suggests two additional children.

- i. William Leverich was born about 1768, married about 1800 Alletta, whose surname has not been identified. She may have been the daughter of John Nostrand of Brooklyn, or possibly the daughter of John Barkelow of Queens Co, New York. William died in August 1835.
- ii. Susannah was born about 1770, and married Thomas Burroughs 4 December 1791 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Susannah died in 1835.
- iii. Nancy Leverich was born about 1772, and married before 1802 Rufus Jagger, carpenter, of Manhattan, New York County. Nancy died after 1830.
- iv. Phebe Leverich was born about 1774, and married 12 October 1800 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church to Robert Castle of Manhattan, New York County. Phebe died between 1814 and 1817.<sup>22,23,24</sup>

Letters of Administration were granted in Queens Co, NY on the estate of Phebe Coe on 13 July 1802 to granddaughters Susannah Burroughs and Nancy Jagger and their husbands Thomas Burroughs and Rufus Jagger. Gardner Bartlett's genealogy of *Robert Coe, Puritan* assumes that Nancy Jagger was a sister of Susannah Burroughs. However, there is no direct evidence that Nancy was a daughter of Elnathan Leverich and Mary Coe. It is possible that Susannah and Nancy could have been first cousins.<sup>25</sup>

In March 1800, Phebe Leverich witnessed several land transactions involving her presumed first cousins Amy, Sackett, and Richard Leverich, the children of John Leverich Jr and Elizabeth Sackett. Phebe's marriage to Robert Castle is recorded at the Newtown Presbyterian Church in October of 1800.<sup>26,27</sup>

The parentage of Nancy and Phebe Leverich remains unproven. They could have been daughters of John Leverich Jr, William Leverich, or Elnathan Leverich, brothers. A cousin William Leverich, husband of Else Cook, and an uncle Samuel Leverich, both died in the 1750's before Nancy or Phebe were born. Since the children of brothers John Leverich Jr. and William Leverich are documented, it is more likely that Nancy and Phebe were the children of the brother Elnathan.<sup>28</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, pages 87-91. Hereinafter cited as *James Riker Papers*.
- <sup>2</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>3</sup>WPA (Work Projects Administration), *Historical Collections of the Borough of Queens, New York City; Copied from the Original Reports in the Topographical Bureau of the Borough*, Typescript-Historical Anecdotes, 1938, WPA Project 465-97-3-20, Queens Library, Archives at Queens Library, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens, New York 11432, "Leverich Cemetery, Woodside", Arthur White, c 1907. Hereinafter cited as *Historical Collections Queens County*.
- <sup>4</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 352. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.
- <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, 1767. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."
- <sup>6</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>7</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages 1767.
- <sup>8</sup>J. Gardner Bartlett, *Robert Coe, Puritan, his ancestors and descendants, 1340-1910, with Notices of Other Coe Families* (Boston, Massachusetts: Privately Published, 1911), page 91-92. Hereinafter cited as *Robert Coe, Puritan*.
- <sup>9</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 IV (1744-1753), pages 190-191. Hereinafter cited as *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*.
- <sup>10</sup>Phebe Coe, Letters of Administration, (1802), Volume A, page 135; Queens County, New York Surrogate, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435. Hereinafter cited as 1802 Administration Phebe Coe.
- <sup>11</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths, 1771.
- <sup>12</sup>Bartlett, *Robert Coe, Puritan*, pages 91-92.
- <sup>13</sup>Pelletreau, *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*, Volume XIII (3 September 1784-12 June 1786), pages 59-60.
- <sup>14</sup>*James Riker Papers*, Memoria Volume 27, pages 150-152.
- <sup>15</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>16</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*.
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- <sup>18</sup>Pelletreau, *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*, Volume 10, page 19 (Liber 34, page 53).
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- <sup>20</sup>1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Recorded: 1 March 1781; Elnathan, Samuel Leverich to Sackett Leverich William; City Register, Queens County; 144-06 94th Avenue, First Floor, Jamaica, Queens, New York 11435; Liber G, pages 52-55. Hereinafter cited as 1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Recorded.
- <sup>21</sup>*James Riker Papers*, Box 9, Notebook 2, pages 87-91.
- <sup>22</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 352.
- <sup>23</sup>Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages 1791, 1800; Deaths, 1835.
- <sup>24</sup>1802 Administration Phebe Coe, Queens County, New York Surrogate, Volume A, page 135.
- <sup>25</sup>Ibid.

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<sup>26</sup>1800 Deed Queens County, New York - Original. 19 March 1800; Sackett Leverich to Richard Leverich - witnessed by Phebe Leverich; Newtown; Personal Library Tom Leverich; 28 Saratoga Drive, West Windsor, New Jersey 08550. Hereinafter cited as 1800 Deed Queens County, New York - Original.

<sup>27</sup>1800 Deed Queens Co, New York - Original. 18 March 1800; Amey Leverich to Sackett Leverich and Richard Leverich - witnessed by Phebe Leverich; Newtown; Susan M. Leverich Papers; Stephen P. Shaw, Chester, Connecticut. Hereinafter cited as 1800 Deed Queens Co, New York - Original.

<sup>28</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 350-354.