

Individual Narrative of William⁵ Leverich [22]

William Leverich was born before 1727 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, assuming he was at least age 21 at the time of his marriage in 1748. He was likely the son of William Leverich and Martha Way, although such a William Leverich Jr is not included in James Riker's Leverich Family History in the *Annals of Newtown*, nor is he mentioned in Riker's manuscript notes. Glenn C. Way does mention such a William Leverich Jr in his *Descendants of James Way of Newtown*, but states he died young in 1740. Glenn Way does not cite a source for this information.^{1,2,3}

William Leverich married Else Cook on 20 Aug 1748 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. At this time, there are two other William Leverich's at Newtown. There was William Leverich the carpenter, husband of Martha Way, who are believed to be the parents of William Leverich who married Else Cook. There was also William Leverich the blacksmith. This William was the son of John Leverich and Amy Moore, and could not have been the husband of Else Cook, it being clearly documented that he was married first to Hannah Way and then to Dorothy Morse. Therefore, it is likely that William Leverich who married Else Cook was the son of William Leverich the carpenter and his wife Martha Way.^{4,5}

The records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church report the death on 19 February 1822 of "Mrs. Leverich, widow of William Leverich, Jr." This is the only documentary reference to a William Leverich Jr in this time period. In 1822, there were three William Leverich's, but none of them could be the subject of this narrative. There was a William Leverich Jr, the son of William Leverich the blacksmith, but he was born in 1760 and was married to Cornelia Duryee. There was also William Leverich, the son of Elnathan Leverich, who was born about 1768. And there was William Leverich, titled the III, born 1783, who was the son of Jesse Leverich, and grandson of William Leverich the blacksmith.^{6,7}

Edward Willett of Jamaica, Queens Co, New York was appointed School Master by the Honorable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. He began a record 1 January 1734 listing in alphabetical order the names of his scholars. His list includes the following:

Guess, Else Cook 1734, 1735

Guess, Hannah Cook 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737

Guess, William Cook 1735, 1736, 1737

Leveredge/Leverage/Leverog, John 1734, 1736, 1735, 1738, 1739.⁸

Else Cook may have been the daughter of William Gess Cook, who appears to have been the only Cook family in the area at the time. The following records are found at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.

1742 Death Child of William Gess Cook

1751 Marriage Hannah Cook and Jonathan Morrel

1753 Death Verrin, son of William Cook

1757 Marriage Mary Cook and Jacob Reeder

However, no further evidence of the origins of Else Cook have been found.⁹

The records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church record the death of a "child of William Leverich" on 9 November 1750 and 23 August 1758. These unnamed children are likely the children of William Leverich and Else Cook, but they could also be the children of William Leverich the blacksmith. On 6 February 1754 Sarah daughter of William Leverich was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Sarah would have to be the daughter of William Leverich and Else Cook. William Leverich the blacksmith had daughters Abigail and Hannah born in 1752 and 1754. This Sarah Leverich may have been the "Sarah Leverick" married to Thomas Cheney on 2 November 1767 at Trinity Church in Manhattan, New York County, New York.^{10,11}

William Leverich Sr, the carpenter, apparently did not leave a will. On 18 April 1754 at the New York County Surrogate Court, Letters of Administration on the estate of William Leverich of Newtown, Queens Co, carpenter were granted to his widow Martha. Bonds were posted by Martha Leverich, widow; Samuel Gorsline, mason; and Richard Penfold, farmer; all of Newtown. Samuel and Richard were sons-in-law of William and Martha. None of William's children are mentioned specifically by name.¹² On 20 April 1758 a deed was executed selling to Wilhellmus Wycoff of Newtown a 105 acre farm at Hells Gate Neck for 1100 pounds. The grantors were: Martha Leverich (widow of William Leverich); Samuel Gosllin and Martha his wife (son-in-law and daughter of William); Richard Penfold and Mary his wife (son-in-law and daughter of William), Ruth Leverich and Sarah Leverich (daughters of William). There is no mention of a son William Leverich Jr.^{13,14}

It is not known when William Leverich Jr died. Based upon available evidence, it is probable that he died about 1757-1758, since he is not included in the 1758 deed selling the family farm. However, it is also possible that William Leverich Jr was living at the time, but estranged from the family, and excluded from the estate. This however remains speculation, and no specific evidence has been found.¹⁵

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Endnotes

- ¹Arthur 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 1748. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."
- ²James 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*.
- ³Glenn C. Way, *Some of the Descendants of James Way of Newtown, N.Y.* (Niagara Falls, New York: Glenn C. Way, 29 January 1935), page 3. Hereinafter cited as *Descendants James Way Newtown*.
- ⁴Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages, 1748.
- ⁵Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 351-353.
- ⁶Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths, 1822.
- ⁷Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 351-353.
- ⁸Kenneth Scott, "The Alphabetical School Book of Edward Willett (Jamaica)," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Volume 109, pages 1-4 (January 1978). Hereinafter cited as "Edward Willett School Book."
- ⁹Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages, 1751 and 1757; Deaths 1742 and 1753.
- ¹⁰*Ibid.*, Baptisms, 1754.
- ¹¹Lefferts, Mrs. Hope (Cox) and Cox, John Jr, "Records of Trinity Church Parish New York City," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Volume 70, page 273 (July 1936). Hereinafter cited as "Trinity Parish Records New York City."
- ¹²Kenneth Scott, compiler, *Genealogical Data from New York Administration Bonds 1753-1799* (New York, New York: Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Volume X, 1969), page 82. Hereinafter cited as *Genealogical Data NY Administration Bonds*.
- ¹³Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289: page 117, 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.
- ¹⁴Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 351.
- ¹⁵Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289: page 117.