

Individual Narrative of Ruth⁵ Leverich [25] Wife (3rd) of Robert Hallett

Ruth Leverich was born circa 1728 in Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Ruth was the daughter of William Leverich and Martha Way, who were married in 1722. Ruth's birth year is a calculated estimate based on her parents' marriage year, and assumed birth order. Circumstantial evidence suggests that Ruth was likely the third born of four daughters. Ruth is named third in a deed selling the family farm in 1758.^{1,2}

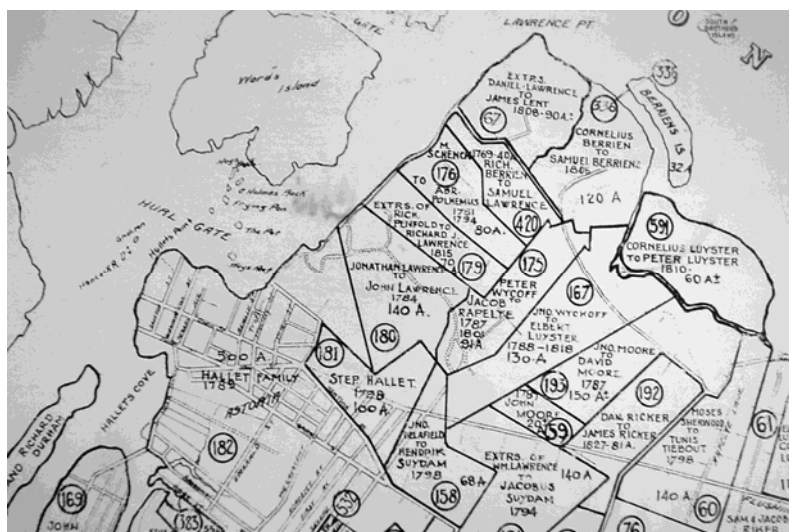
Ruth Leverich married Robert Hallett on 29 Jul 1762 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Ruth was Robert's third wife. Robert's first marriage was to Phoebe Hallett, daughter of Samuel Hallett Jr, on 25 February 1738. Phoebe died at Newtown 10 November 1756. Robert's second marriage was to Lydia Pigeon on 24 November 1757. Lydia died at Newtown 7 April 1758. Both of these marriages and the burials were recorded at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.^{3,4} Robert Hallett was the son of Joseph (aka Josiah) Hallett and Lydia, daughter of Robert Blackwell. Joseph Hallett died at Newtown 23 November 1750. Letters of Administration on his estate were granted to his sons Thomas, Robert, and Samuel on 14 November 1750 at the Surrogate Court in New York County (Manhattan).^{5,6}

The following notice was published in the *New York Gazette* (aka *Weekly Post-Boy*) on 8 July 1751. "This is to give notice to all people that have any lawful demands on the Estate of Joseph Hallett, late of Newtown in Queens County, deceased, are desired to apply to Robert Hallett, at the North-River, on Mr. Mesyer's Dock, and receive satisfaction. Likewise all persons indebted to the said estate are desired to make speedy payment, or expect trouble".⁷

On 26 May 1755, Jacob Blackwell of Newtown prepared a list of negroes in Queens County, pursuant to an Act of the Assembly of the Province of New York. This list records 1 negro belonging to Robert Hallett.⁸

The following notice was published in the *New-York Mercury* on 6 March 1758. "To be sold at publick vendue, on the 3rd day of April next, or at a private sale any time before; a farm in Newtown, on Long Island, about one quarter of a mile from the landing, at Hallet's Cove, containing 96 acres, whereof 16 is good meadow. There is on said farm a good house, barn, and young orchard; the house has four rooms on the lower floor with a kitchen adjoining. For conditions of sale, enquire of Robert Hallett, living on the premises."⁹

A deed was executed on 20 April 1758 selling the 105 acre William Leverich farm at Hellsgate to Halimous Wycoff, yeoman of Newtown. The grantors were Martha Leverich, widow of William Leverich, Samuel Gorsline and Martha his wife, Richard Penfold and Mary his wife, Ruth and Sarah Leverich, all of Newtown. The deed was recorded on 3 January 1759.¹⁰



Map of the Borough of Queens City of New York Showing Ownership as of the Year 1800
Queens Topographical Bureau 19 August 1935

A Robert Hallett was among those signing a petition presented 2 September 1761 to the Governor in council requesting incorporation as a separate Episcopal (Church of England) parish in Newtown. At that time, one clergyman served three congregations at Jamaica, Newtown, and Flushing. This may not be Robert Hallett who married three times at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, and whose death is also recorded there. This Robert Hallett may have been the son of Samuel Hallett the loyalist, or Jacob Hallett, both brothers of Robert Hallett who married Ruth Leverich.¹¹

The records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church report the death of a child of Robert Hallett on 1 September 1765. This may have been a child of Robert Hallett and Ruth Leverich.¹²

The following notice appeared in the *New-York Mercury* on 15 September 1766: "Tom, Negro boy, part Indian, age c. 16 - runaway 3 September from Robert Hallett in New York City."¹³

The following notice was published in the *New-York Mercury* on 6 October 1766. "To be sold at publick vendue, on the 15th day of October next, the following lots of land, viz. One of 8 or 9 acres, one of 10 acres, and another of 20 acres, situate at Hell-Gate Neck, within half a mile of the Landing, and six of New-York, by water. The above premises lies very convenient for a Merchant or Tradesman. Any person who may incline to purchase all or either of those lots before the day of sale, may apply to Robert Hallett, living on the premises, who will give a good title for the same."¹⁴

The Newtown, Queens County, New York Census of 1771 records as a head of household "Robert Hallett".¹⁵

Ruth Leverich Hallett died on 9 Jan 1771 at Newtown, Queens, New York, according to the records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church.¹⁶ There is no record of either a probate or a burial place for Ruth Leverich Hallett. She may have been buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.

The 1790 Federal Census does not list Robert Hallett as a head of household at Newtown. By 1790 Robert was likely living with his son-in-law Edmund Penfold, who is listed as a head of household in the 1790 Census. James Riker, in *The Annals of Newtown*, reports that in 1738 he (Robert Hallett) "bought the farm on the Ridge, since owned by his son-in-law Edmund Penfold, where he died in 1792". Nearby neighbors in the census included John Greenoak, likely Robert's son-in-law, and Ludlow Hare, likely the father-in-law of Robert's daughter Martha.^{17,18}

Robert Hallett died in July 1792 according to the records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church. There is no record of either a probate or a burial place for Robert Hallett. He may have been buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.¹⁹

Riker's *Annals of Newtown* records that Robert Hallett married Phebe Hallett, Lydia Pidgeon, and Ruth Leverich ... having had issue James, Sarah married Edmund Penfold, Lydia married John Greenoak, and Martha who married Samuel Haire. This source does not identify the respective mothers of the children.²⁰

However, Riker's manuscript notes, as transcribed by Cora Snapp, report the following interview of Richard P. Berrien about 1848-1849: "He knew very well Robert Hallett, a trader, & my own uncle & Edmund Penfold bought the farm, on the ridge that he owned. Hallett died in 1790 or 1791, age 75 or 74. His first or second wife was a Hallett & his third wife was Ruth Leverich, whom he married 29 July 1762. He was a cordwainer by trade and Ed Penfold learned his trade of him. His children by his first wife, Sarah & James; and by his second, Lydia; and by his third, Martha. Of whom Martha married Samuel, son of Ludlum Haire, of Middletown. Lydia married John Greenoak, and Sarah married Edmund Penfold. James married Mary, daughter of Jacob Hallett in 1770, having issue only Susan who died unmarried. Mrs. Haire lives in Mott Street where she owns a house."²¹

A marriage record has not been found for Martha Hallett and Samuel Hare. Although Riker refers to Samuel as "Haire", census and property records consistently use the spelling "Hare". Ludlum Hare is listed in the 1790 and 1800 Censuses at Newtown. Letters of Administration on the estate of Ludlum Hare were granted 9 April 1802 in Queens County to Amos, Samuel, and Edward Hare. In a deed dated 1 May 1810, Samuel Hare, house carpenter, and his wife Martha, and Edward Hare and wife Charity, sold land in Manhattan to Elijah Anderson. Samuel Hare is listed in the 1810, 1820, and 1830 censuses in Manhattan, Ward 6 New York County, New York. A "Mrs. Hare" is listed in the 1840 Census in Manhattan, Ward 6. Children, if any, of Samuel and Martha Hare have not been identified.^{22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29}

Un sourced, on-line family trees, generally assume that all four of Robert Hallet's children were by his first wife. The only source for Martha Hallett as the daughter of Robert Hallett and Ruth Leverich is the Riker Papers. If Martha was Robert Hallett's daughter by either his first or second wife, then Martha would have been born between 1738 and 1758, which would make her age 83-102 in 1840. If Martha's mother was Ruth Leverich, then Martha was likely born about 1763, which would make her about age 77 in 1840, which is more likely than the former.^{30,31}

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published in *Collections NY G&B Society*, Volume 8. Original transcript is part of the NYG&B Manuscript Collections, which are now held by the New York Public Library, Archives Division. The original Church records remain at the Church, 54-05 Seabury Street Queens Blvd and 54th Avenue, Elmhurst, Queens County, New York.

Endnotes

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- ¹⁰Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289: page 117.
- ¹¹Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 249.
- ¹²Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths 1765.
- ¹³Kenneth Scott, "Genealogical Data from the New-York Mercury, 1766," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Volume 99 (January 1967): page 14. Hereinafter cited as "Genealogical Data The New-York Mercury."
- ¹⁴*New-York Mercury*, Issue 780, 6 October 1766, page 4.
- ¹⁵Harry Macy, "Newtown Queens 1771 Census," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* Volume 117, No. 1 (1986): pages 8-9. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Census."
- ¹⁶Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths 1771.
- ¹⁷1790 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M637, Roll 6, Newtown, page 21.
- ¹⁸Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 403.
- ¹⁹Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths 1792.
- ²⁰Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 403.
- ²¹Cora Snapp, *Historical Notes of Newtown, a Transcription of the James Riker Papers at the New York Public Library*, LDS Film 17805 (Jamaica, New York: Queens Borough Public Library, 1941), 4 Volume Typscript, Volume 3, page 406. Hereinafter cited as *Riker Papers, Snapp Transcription*.
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- ²³1800 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M32, Roll 25, Newtown, page 537.
- ²⁴1810 U.S. Census, NY New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M252, Roll 32, Manhattan, Ward 6, page 475.
- ²⁵1820 U.S. Census, NY New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M33, Roll 77, Manhattan, Ward 6, page 535.
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- ²⁷1840 U.S. Census, NY New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M704, Roll 301, Manhattan, Ward 6, page 71.
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³⁰*Riker Papers, Snapp Transcription*; Volume 3, page 406.

³¹Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 403.