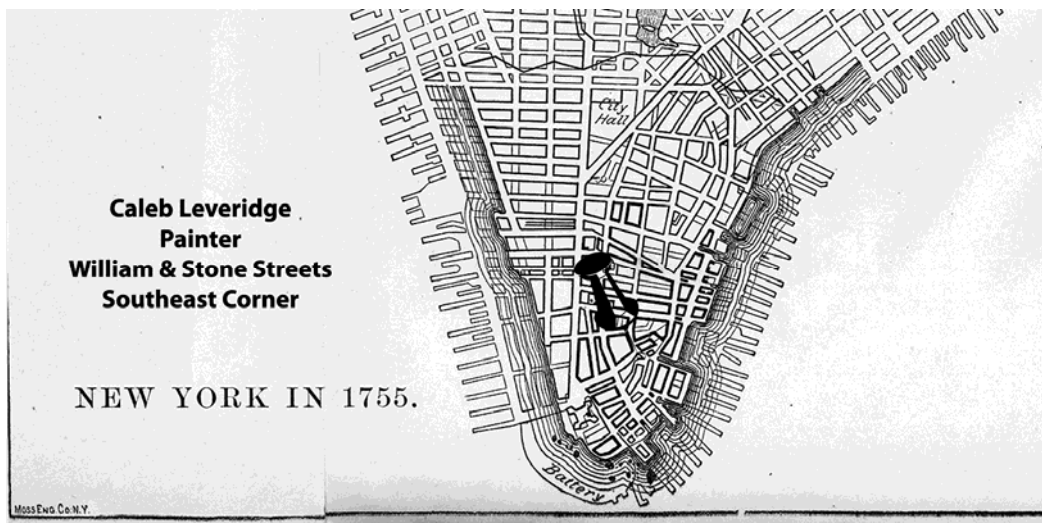


Individual Narrative of Caleb⁵ Leverich [27]

Caleb Leverich was born before 1728 at Newtown, Queens, New York, assuming he was at least 18 years old in 1746, when he witnessed the will of James Searing of Hempstead, Queens County, New York.¹

James Riker's manuscript notes recorded an interview c 1850 with lawyer John Leveridge (he used "idge" spelling) of Manhattan. "John Leveridge: his account of his family. Father of lawyer Leveridge was John, his father was Caleb & he flourished in 1740 or 1750. John Leveridge, Esq says his grandfather Caleb Leveridge was a painter and his place of business was the southeast corner of William and Stone Streets. His grandfather Caleb removed from Long Island to New York City where the family has since resided. He was killed in about 1758 in the French War. His grandfather Caleb married Susannah Burch, daughter of William Burch of Huntington, Long Island, who had been a midshipman in the British Navy. Mr. L. has Burch's Bible. Caleb had issue Benjamin and John, no daughter. Benjamin died in or near Dublin (Ireland) about 7 or 8 years hence (c 1842-1843). He was in the British Navy and had retired with considerable wealth to a country seat near Dublin in Ireland, and has children there. Benjamin wrote home to his mother Susannah in 1770. John's father John married Ann Chase (daughter of Henry, he thinks) who died during the revolution."²



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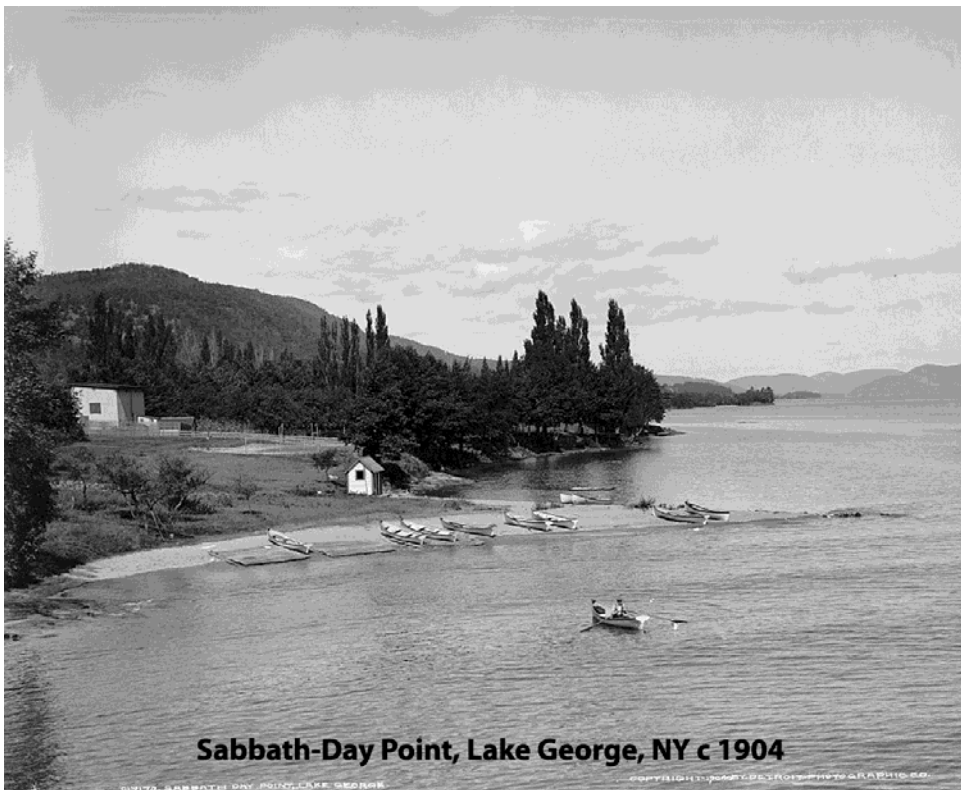
http://images.statemaster.com/images/motw/historical/new_york_1755.jpg

Based upon indirect evidence, Caleb Leverich was likely the son of Benjamin⁴ Leverich [10] (who died c 1732) and his wife Mary of Newtown. In his manuscript notes, Riker quotes attorney John Leveridge saying "his father and William Leverich, father of Jesse, were cousins." There were at the time three male Leverich's, brothers, that could have been the father of Caleb: John⁴ Leverich Jr [8], William⁴ Leverich [9] who married Martha Way, and Benjamin⁴ Leverich [10]. The children of John and William have been identified, leaving only Benjamin. And, Caleb named a son Benjamin. William⁵ Leverich [18], son of John⁴ Leverich Jr [8] and the father of Jesse, and Caleb⁵ Leverich [27], grandfather of John Leveridge, would have been first cousins, assuming Caleb was the son of Benjamin⁴ Leverich [10].³

In the *Annals of Newtown*, James Riker wrote: "Benjamin Leverich died in Newtown, in or about 1732, his wife Mary surviving. Their son, Caleb, early began business in New York, as a painter, and married Susannah, daughter of William Burch. Being induced to enlist in the service during the French War, he lost his life July 6, 1758 at Sabbath-day Point, on Lake George, while accompanying the ill-fated expedition of General Abercrombie. His widow died September 11, 1814 age 88. Their children were Benjamin and John, the first of whom became an officer in the British navy, and died near Dublin, a few years hence. His brother John Leveridge, born September 4, 1758, resided in New-York, married Ann Chase, and died July 28, 1812." Riker does not cite specific sources for this information, but his manuscript notes would suggest that attorney John Leveridge, grandson of Caleb, was the likely source, including the death date and age of his grandmother Susannah.⁴

Caleb Leverich married Susannah Burch, daughter of William Burch and (Unknown) Burch, before 1751 at New York. The marriage date is calculated based upon Susannah Leveridge being a witness to the will of John Disbrow Jr of Rye, Westchester Co, New York on 24 August 1751.⁵ Susannah Burch was born about 1726, probably in New York State. Her birth year has been calculated based upon her age at death of 88 in 1814, as reported by Riker in the *Annals of Newtown*.^{6,7}

Caleb Leverich died on 6 Jul 1758 at Sabbath-day Point at Lake George, Warren Co, New York, while serving as an enlisted militia man under the command of General Abercrombie during the French and Indian War.⁸ James Abercrombie, British Army General, was born in Glassaugh, Banffshire, Scotland to a wealthy family, and purchased a major's commission to enter the army in 1742. He was promoted to colonel in 1746, and major-general in 1756. During the Seven Years War (aka the French and Indian War in North America), Abercrombie commanded a brigade at Louisbourg in 1757, and became commander-in-chief in March 1758. That summer, he led an expedition against Fort Carillon (later known as Fort Ticonderoga). Abercrombie was a genius at organization, but vacillated in his leadership. He managed the remarkable feat of assembling 15,000 troops and moving them and their supplies through the wilderness. Then, on July 8, he directed his troops into a frontal assault on a fortified French position, without the benefit of artillery support. More than 2000 men were killed or wounded. Eventually his force panicked and fled, and he retreated to his fortified camp south of Lake George. This disaster caused his replacement and his recall to Great Britain in 1759. On his return to Britain, he sat as a member of parliament, and supported the coercive policy toward the American colonies.⁹



Sabbath-Day Point, Lake George, NY c 1904

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Carillon
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/det.4a11480/Wikipedia.org>

On 10 May 1767, Susannah Leveridge, adult, was baptized at the First Presbyterian Church of the City of New York, then located on Wall Street near Broadway.¹⁰ Susannah does not appear as a head of household in the 1790, 1800, and 1810 Censuses. She may have been living with her son John Leveridge, who is listed as a head of household in Manhattan, New York Co, New York in 1790 (Out Ward), 1800 (Ward 5), and 1810 (Ward 7). However, the census tallies for John in 1800 and 1810 do not support this theory.^{11,12,13}

Susannah Burch Leveridge died 11 September 1814, age 88, as per James Riker's Annals of Newtown. A burial location for Susannah has not been identified.¹⁴

A William Burch witnessed twelve wills recorded at the Surrogate Court in Manhattan, New York County between the years 1724 and 1743. Eight of these wills were by residents of Hempstead, Queens County, New York. Six of these wills involved members of the Sutton or Mott families. A Will for William Burch himself has not been found.¹⁵

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¹William 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), page 73 <Liber 15, page 543>. Hereinafter cited as *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*.

²*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, Notebook 2, page 94; Notebook 10, page 27; Memoria Volume 13, page 76. Hereinafter cited as *James Riker Papers*.

³*Ibid.*, Notebook 2, page 94.

⁴James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), pages 351-352. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.

⁵Pelletreau, *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*, Volume IV, 1744-1743, page 361 (Liber 18, page 12).

⁶*James Riker Papers*, Memoria Volume 13, page 76.

⁷Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 352.

⁸*Ibid.*

⁹Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, online <<http://en.wikipedia.org>>, James Abercrombie (British Army General). Hereinafter cited as Wikipedia.

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¹¹1790 U.S. Census, NY New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M637, Roll 6, page 112.

¹²1800 U.S. Census, NY New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARO, M32, Roll 23, page 777.

¹³1810 U.S. Census, NY New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M252, Roll 32, page 597.

¹⁴Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 352.

¹⁵Pelletreau, *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*, various wills 1724-1743.