

Individual Narrative of James⁵ Way [33] Son of James Way and Hannah⁴ Leverich [11]

James Way was born on 24 Nov 1721 at Newtown, Queens, New York. James Riker's *Annals of Newtown* identifies James as the son of James Way and Hannah Leverich, and cites his birth date without attributing a source. Riker's manuscript notes provide the following general reference: "Family Registers taken from the records of Newtown".^{1,2,3}

James Way married Hester Hillyer on 10 Nov 1769, probably at Staten Island, Richmond, New York, or possibly at Newtown, Queens Co, New York.⁴ Hester Hillyer, the daughter of John Hillyer and Hester Larzelere, was baptized on 26 May 1754 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Staten Island, Richmond County, New York.^{5,6}

William S. Pelletreau's *Genealogical and Historic History of New York* records that "on December 10, 1774 at a meeting of freeholders at Newtown, a series of spirited resolutions passed a few days previous by their neighbors at Jamaica were read by one of the gentlemen and unanimously responded to, after which a committee of correspondence was appointed." The members of the committee of correspondence included a "James Way."⁷ Harry Abel Way in *The New York Way Family* ascribes this committee membership to James Way who married Hester Hillyer. So also does the Ancestor Database of the National Society DAR. However, there were two other adult James Way's living in the area at the time, one in Dutchess County (husband of Joanna Ladue) and one at Newtown (husband of Mary Alsop). It is not certain where in the New York City area James Way, husband of Hester Hillyer, was living at the time.^{8,9}

Harry Abel Way identifies James Way, husband of Hester Hillyer, as a member of the Religious Society of Friends, aka Quakers. The records of the New York Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends document the "disowning" of a James Way on 7 April 1779. The specific reason for the "disowning" is not recorded. It is not certain which of the three adult James Way's living in the New York metro area at the time is referred to.^{10,11}

James Way died on an unknown date, probably somewhere in New York City. James probably died between 1776 and 1785. His youngest child was born in 1776. His wife apparently remarried in 1785.¹²

Hester "Hillyard" married Walter "Giesbert" on 21 March 1785 at the Dutch Reformed Church in New York City. The record does not specifically identify Hester as a widow of James Way. However, Hester Hillyer of Staten Island (Richmond Co) New York, widow of John Hillyer, made her will on 16 November 1791, and names a daughter Hester, wife of Walter "Gilbeth". The 1790 Census for Manhattan, New York County records a Walter "Gilbert". Hester Gilbert died on an unknown date at an unknown place, probably somewhere in New York City.^{13,14,15}

Direct evidence identifying the children of James Way and Hester Hillyer has not been found. Glen Way, author of *Descendants of James Way of Newtown*, and Harry Abel Way, author of *The New York Way Family*, identify without citing sources the following five children.^{16,17}

- I. Amelia Way was born 7 September 1770 in New York City. Direct evidence for the birth date has not been found, but is cited by Harry Abel Way in *The New York Way Family*. Amelia Way married John Kilborne on 28 October 1770 at Trinity Church, New York City. Amelia may have married a second time to a Mr. Cole. A date and place of death has not been found for Amelia.^{18,19}
- II. Hester Way was born about 1772 in New York City. No further information has been found regarding Hester.²⁰
- III. Martha Way was born about 1773 in New York City. Martha married first William Watkins. Martha married second Frederick Henn on 14 January 1809 at the Dutch Reformed Church New York City. Martha died on an unknown date at an unknown place.^{21,22}
- IV. James T. Way was born about 1774 in New York City. James married about 1796 Elizabeth Mayo. James T. Way, paper stainer, died in New York City in 1804. His widow Elizabeth took out letters of administration on his estate 22 March 1804.^{23,24}

- V. John James Way was born on 11 July 1776 in New York City. John married Ann Lakeman on 8 May 1796 in New York City. Direct evidence for the birth and marriage dates has not been found, but are cited by Harry Abel Way in *The New York Way Family*. John may have died at Newburg, Orange Co, New York 28 January 1817. *The Albany Advertiser* reported on 8 February 1817 that "on Wednesday night last, Mr. John I. <?J?> Way of Mamakating, in a fit of insanity, owing to his embarrassed situation, put an end to his existence, by hanging himself."^{25,26n}

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Endnotes

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- ²James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), page 379. 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 2. Hereinafter cited as *Descendants James Way Newtown*.
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- ⁵NY G&B Society, "Records of St. Andrew's Church in Richmond, Staten Island," *Collections NY Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol 4, State Island Church Records* (1909): page 247. Hereinafter cited as "Records of St. Andrew's Church."
- ⁶The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [LDS], *Pedigree Resource File, database* (FamilySearch: <http://www.familysearch.org>, 2007.) MM9.2.1/STL5-GMN. Hereinafter cited as *Pedigree Resource File LDS*.
- ⁷William S. Pelletreau, *Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Family History of New York* (New York, New York: Lewis Publishing, 1907), Volume 3, page 37. Hereinafter cited as *Historic Homes and Genealogical Family History NY*.
- ⁸Harry Abel II Way, *The New York Way Family: being the descendants of Sgt. James Way of Newtown, Long Island: from the records of Glenn C. Way of Niagara Falls, NY* (Charlestown, Rhode Island: H. A. Way, 1995), page 15. Hereinafter cited as *New York Way Family*.
- ⁹Ancestor Database: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, online http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?Tab_ID=1, (Washington, D.C.), Ancestor Number A122961.
- ¹⁰Way, *New York Way Family*, page 15.
- ¹¹James E. Hazard, The Records of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, online INDEX <http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/friends/hazard/index.html>, (Swarthmore College Library), Call number N452, Volume 1.5, page 44, ID 72145.
- ¹²Way, *New York Way Family*, pages 14-15.
- ¹³Robert L. Billard, compiler, *Dutch Reformed Marriage Records of New Amsterdam and Later New York City, 1639-1801* (New York, New York: Originally transcribed and assembled by Robert L. Billard, who released them into the public domain, Undated), Marriages, 1785. Hereinafter cited as *Dutch Reformed Marriage Records New York City*.
- ¹⁴Hester Hillyer will (16 October 1791), A:47-48; Richmond County, New York Surrogate, 18 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, Richmond, New York 10301. Hereinafter cited as 1791 Will Hester Hillyer widow John Hillyer.
- ¹⁵U.S. Census, New York, New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M637, Roll 6, Out Ward, page 108.
- ¹⁶Way, *Descendants James Way Newtown*, pages 2 and 4.
- ¹⁷Way, *New York Way Family*, pages 14-15, 26-28.
- ¹⁸*Ibid.*, pages 26-27.
- ¹⁹Lefferts, 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."
- ²⁰Way, *New York Way Family*, page 27.
- ²¹*Ibid.*
- ²²Billard, *Dutch Reformed Marriage Records New York City*, page 385.
- ²³Way, *New York Way Family*, page 27.
- ²⁴James T. Way will (22 March 1804), Volume 8, page 225; New York County, New York Surrogate, 31 Chambers Street, Manhattan, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as 1804 Administration James T. Way.
- ²⁵Way, *New York Way Family*, pages 27-28.
- ²⁶Death by Hanging, *Albany Advertiser*, Albany, New York, 8 February 1817, Issue 144, page 1. Hereinafter cited as Albany Advertiser.