

Individual Narrative of John⁵ Way [38] Son of John Way and Martha⁴ Leverich [12]

John Way was born circa 1727 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of John Way and Martha Leverich [12]. The birth year is a calculated estimate based upon birth order as assumed from a 1736 baptism record.¹ He was baptized on 26 Aug 1736 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Also baptized at the same time is Mrs. Martha Way and her children John, Leverich, Walter, and Hannah.² This John Way is easily confused with his probable double first cousin John Way, the son of James Way and Hannah Leverich. The second John Way was married in 1746 to Mary Losey at the Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill in Dutchess County, New York.³

John Way married Elizabeth Pigeon on 6 Dec 1753 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.⁴ John Way and Elizabeth Pigeon may have lived at Newtown, or they may have lived in Dutchess County, New York, where cousin John Way and his wife Mary Losey is documented to have lived.^{5,6} At least six John Way's are recorded as serving from New York State on the American side during the Revolutionary War. This includes two John Way's serving in militia regiments from Dutchess County.^{7,8}

A "farm leased to John Leverich" is mentioned in a Dutchess Co, New York deed dated 23 March 1779 <Liber 7, page 368>. A John Way was a witness to the will of William Van Wyck of Fishkill, Dutchess Co, dated 20 January 1789 <Liber A, page 448>. Since cousin John Way who married Mary Losey is believed to have removed to Albany County, New York about the time of the American Revolution, these records might pertain to John Way who married Elizabeth Pigeon.⁹ Neither a specific date of death or place of burial has been identified for John Way who married Elizabeth Pigeon. Two other John Way's are found living at Newtown in this time period: John Way and his wife Sarah Burling, and John Way and his wife Mary Betts. By the time of the 1790 Census, one John Way is found at Newtown, none in Dutchess Co, and two John Way's in Albany County, New York.^{10,11,12,13}

He may have died before 1790, possibly at Dutchess County, New York. The 1790 Census of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York records an Elizabeth Way as the head of a household containing one male younger than 16, and three females. This could have been Elizabeth Pigeon Way, widow of John Way. Since Francis Way is still living and recorded in the 1790 Census of Dutchess Co, this cannot be his wife Elizabeth Gorsline Way, who died in 1797. An Elizabeth Way does not appear in the 1800 Census.^{14,15} There is no direct evidence identifying children of John Way and Elizabeth Pigeon. Glenn Way, in *The Descendants of James Way*, states that they had an only daughter, but does not name her nor cite any sources.¹⁶ Harry Abel Way, in *The New York Way Family*, identifies without citing sources the following children of John Way and Elizabeth Pigeon: David, Daniel, George, and Samuel. However, David and Daniel Way were likely the sons of double first cousin John Way who married Mary Losey. George Way was the son of double first cousin Francis Way and his wife Elizabeth Gorsline. A Samuel Way is identified by Harry Way as the son of Benjamin Way, a brother of John Way who married Elizabeth Pigeon.¹⁷

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Prepared by:

Tom Leverich

28 Saratoga Drive

West Windsor, New Jersey 08550

tomaug12@aol.com

609-275-1239

www.leverichgenealogy.org

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Endnotes

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- 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, Baptisms 1736. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."
- ²Ibid.
- ³Ruth P. Heidgerd and Kenneth Edward Hasbrouck, *Records of the Dutch Reformed Church of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York, 1731-1850* (New Paltz, New York: Kenneth Edward Hasbrouck, 1959), page 6. Hereinafter cited as *Fishkill Dutch Reformed Church*.
- ⁴Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages 1753.
- ⁵Glenn 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*.
- ⁶Harry 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), pages 14-16. Hereinafter cited as *New York Way Family*.
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- ⁸1790 U.S. Census New York, Albany Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M637, Roll 6, no page citation.
- ⁹William Willis Reese, compiler and Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, editor. *Eighteenth Century Records of the Portion of Dutchess County New York that was included in Rombout Precinct and the original Town of Fishkill* (Poughkeepsie, New York: Dutchess County Historical Society Collections Vol. 6, 1938), pages 71, 239. Hereinafter cited as *18th Century Records Dutchess Co NY*.
- ¹⁰James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), pages 378-380. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.
- ¹¹1790 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M637, Roll 6, no page citation.
- ¹²1790 U.S. Census New York, Dutchess Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M637, Roll 6, no page citation.
- ¹³1790 U.S. Census New York, Albany Co, Ancestry.com, no page citation.
- ¹⁴1790 U.S. Census New York, Dutchess Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Fishkill, page 70.
- ¹⁵1800 U.S. Census, New York, Dutchess C;o. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M32, Roll 21, Town of Fishkill.
- ¹⁶Way, *Descendants James Way Newtown*, page 3.
- ¹⁷Way, *New York Way Family*, page 17.