

Individual Narrative of Jane⁵ Way [48] Daughter of John Way and Martha⁴ Leverich [12] Wife of William Lowndes

Jane Way was born at an unknown date at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. She was a daughter of John Way and Martha Leverich, according to Glenn Way's *Descendants of James Way of Newtown, N.Y.* No source has been found to confirm this.¹ Jane Way married William Lowndes on 9 Mar 1760 according to *New York Marriages Prior to 1784*. This marriage is not recorded by Glenn Way. It is possible, but not proven, that the "Jane Way" in this record was the daughter of John Way and Martha Leverich.²

Several records exist of a William Lowndes in Manhattan, New York County, New York in this time period. However, there is no direct evidence connecting him with the William Lowndes who married Jane Way. However, the will of William Lowndes prepared in 1810 provides indirect evidence to the extent that the will, although not naming a spouse, does name a daughter Jane.³

Shipping news in the *New-York Gazette* (aka *Weekly Post-Boy*) recorded multiple trips to and from St Croix in West Indies from 1768-1770 by Captain William Lowndes.⁴

A William Lowndes was among the signers on 16 October 1776 of a memorial to Admiral Lord Richard Howe and General Sir William Howe, expressing loyalty to King George the Third. This may or may not have meant William was a loyalist. It is suggested that many whigs signed out of fear of the consequences of not signing, since New York was then occupied by British forces.⁵

William Lowndes is not found in the 1790 U.S. Census. A Charles Lowndes, likely a son of William, is found in this census in the Out Ward of New York County, New York. Also found in Montgomery Ward is a Jane Williamson, who could have been a widowed daughter of William.⁶

On 17 March 1794, the Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York record that the Committee on the Petition of the Corporation Tenants in William Street requested reimbursement for funds expended for paving the street. William Lowndes is included in the list of tenants.⁷

The will of Angle Murfin, late mariner of the brig *Porcupine*, Captain Butler, dated 12 November 1798 and filed at the New York County Surrogate, names Capt William Lowndes of New York City the sole heir and executor of his estate.⁸

The 1800 Census records a "William Lownes" residing in Ward 5, New York County, New York. The household includes one white male and one white female, both over the age of 45, and four slaves all less than 25 years of age. The second name listed below William is Philip Parrisen, a son-in-law, and the second husband of daughter Jane.⁹

A list of "slave births" in New York County in the early 1800's was compiled from a collection of loose certificates at the New York Historical Society. Included in the list is the birth on 1 July 1804 of Diana, daughter of "London Bounty", the slave holder being identified as William Lowndes of Hells Gate, New York County, mariner.¹⁰

On 5 November 1806 the following advertisement appeared in the newspaper the *New York Commercial Advertiser*: "For Sale. That valuable estate, the property of Captain William Lowndes, being the one half part of the Island situated at Hell gate, and in the ninth ward of this city, formerly called Great Barn Island ...for further particulars, enquire of the present possessor Philip Parisen, 58 Chatham Street."¹¹

The New York Weekly Museum newspaper edition of 21 April 1810 includes the following death notice: "on Sunday evening last <15 April 1810>, Captain William Lowndes, aged 70 years, an old and respectable inhabitant of this city."¹² The will of William Lowndes, dated 12 April 1810, was proven in the Surrogate Court of New York County on 18 April 1810. The will does not identify a wife, but does identify children. William's residence is noted as 201 William Street, Manhattan, and his heirs included: daughter Jane, wife of Philip Parisen; sons Charles and William Lowndes;

grandchildren William Charles Lowndes and Polly Lowndes, children of deceased son Jacob; and granddaughter Maria Lowndes and her "mother" (not named). The witnesses were David Randell, Thomas Milne, and Moses Townsend. The executors named were son-in-law Philip Parisen and friend Stephen Latham.¹³

Neither a specific date of death or burial has been found for Jane Way Lowndes. Jane may have died between 1800 and 1810, between the time of the 1800 Census and the proving of William Lowndes' will in 1810.^{14,15}

On 10 January 1901, the newspaper *The National Tribune* of Washington, D.C. contained an article entitled *Relief Corps' Oldest Member: Sketch of Grandma Maria Allen of Elyria, Ohio*. "Grandma Maria Allen of Elyria, Ohio enjoys the distinction of being the oldest member of the Woman's Relief Corp ... Mrs. Maria Allen, daughter of Capt John Lowndes and Anne Tice Lowndes, was born in Pompton Township, Bergen County, New Jersey in 1801. Her father ... was murdered in Lisbon, Portugal in 1809. Her mother died in New York City and was buried in St. Paul's Churchyard. Maria Lowndes stayed with her grandfather, Capt William Lowndes, who lived on William Street, near Pearl, until the death of her mother, after which she went to live with her grandmother Tice in Pompton, N.J. On 20 October 1823, Maria Lowndes married Thomas J. Allen, a blacksmith ... in the spring of 1833 they moved to Elyria, which has been their home ever since."¹⁶

Jane Way and Captain William Lowndes had the following children.¹⁷

- i. Jane Lowndes, married first 16 December 1779 to Peter Williamson in New York. Jane married a second time on 13 March 1796 to Philip Parisen in South Carolina. Jane Lowndes Parisen died in New York 21 May 1816.^{18,19,20}
- ii. Charles Lowndes
- iii. William Lowndes
- iv. Jacob Lowndes; died before 1810.²¹
- v. John Lowndes.^{22,23}

One other William Lowndes is found in this time period. William Jones Lowndes (1782-1822) was an American lawyer, planter, and statesman who represented South Carolina in the U.S. Congress from 1811 to 1822. He may have been a distant cousin of Captain William Lowndes of New York City. Jane, daughter of William of New York, was married for a second time in South Carolina, although the couple subsequently lived in New York City.^{24,25}

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