

Individual Narrative of Benjamin⁶ Leverich [100] Son of John⁵ Leverich [28] and Mary Seaman Husband of Mary Briggs

A Benjamin Leverich appears in Westchester County, New York as early as 1778, when he is listed as a revolutionary war soldier in the 3rd Westchester Co Militia Regiment commanded by Capt. Samuel Haight. A Benjamin Leverich is recorded in the Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, in the 1790 Census. There is no direct evidence identifying the parents of Benjamin. This Benjamin Leverich could have been the son of Benjamin⁴ Leverich [10] and his wife Mary of Newtown, and therefore a brother to John⁵ Leverich [28], husband of Mary Seaman. In which case he would have been born before 1733, since Benjamin⁴ Leverich [10] died circa 1732. More likely however, Benjamin was the son of John⁵ Leverich [28]. Benjamin died in Ohio in 1824. If he was between 70 and 80 years old in 1824, he would have been born between 1744 and 1754. Benjamin's first child James Leverich was born about 1773. If Benjamin were between 21 and 31 years of age in 1773, he would have been born between 1752 and 1762. Therefore Benjamin Leverich was likely born c 1752-1754, and was likely the son of, not the brother of, John⁵ Leverich [28].^{1,2,3,4}

In 2008 five men bearing the surname Leverich participated in genealogical Y-DNA testing. One of these men was a proven descendant of John⁶ Leverich [102] (married Mary Brundage) of Westchester Co, NY; two of these men were proven descendants of Benjamin⁶ Leverich [100] of Westchester Co, NY; two of these men were proven descendants through different lines of the Leverich family in Newtown, Queens County, Long Island, New York. Based upon the Y-DNA test results, the conclusion was: "There is a high probability that these five individuals share a common ancestor in 1-Rev. William Leverich of Newtown, New York." The testing was done by Family Tree DNA <ftdna.com>. An evaluation of the data and this conclusion was requested of, and received from, Bennett Greenspan, the President of FTDNA.com: "I've looked over your attachment and it appears to be correct. Without ANY doubt this is a single family and all 5 test takers are related to each other. I have never seen an R1b Signature with a 12 at DYS 393 and a 21 at DYS 390. Frankly speaking you guys are unique as all I've seen. I think there is no doubt" <email 4 September 2008>.^{5,6}

Benjamin Leverich married Mary Briggs, daughter of Cornight Briggs, circa 1771 at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. No marriage record has been located, but the approximate marriage date is based upon the birth of their first child James Leverich circa 1773. On 12 December 1797, Benjamin Leverich and Mary his wife executed a mortgage in the amount of 690 pounds to William Hallock on land in the Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. Payment terms were established by several bonds, one of which required the payment of 250 pounds at the decease of said Leverich's father-in-law Cornight Briggs.^{7,8}

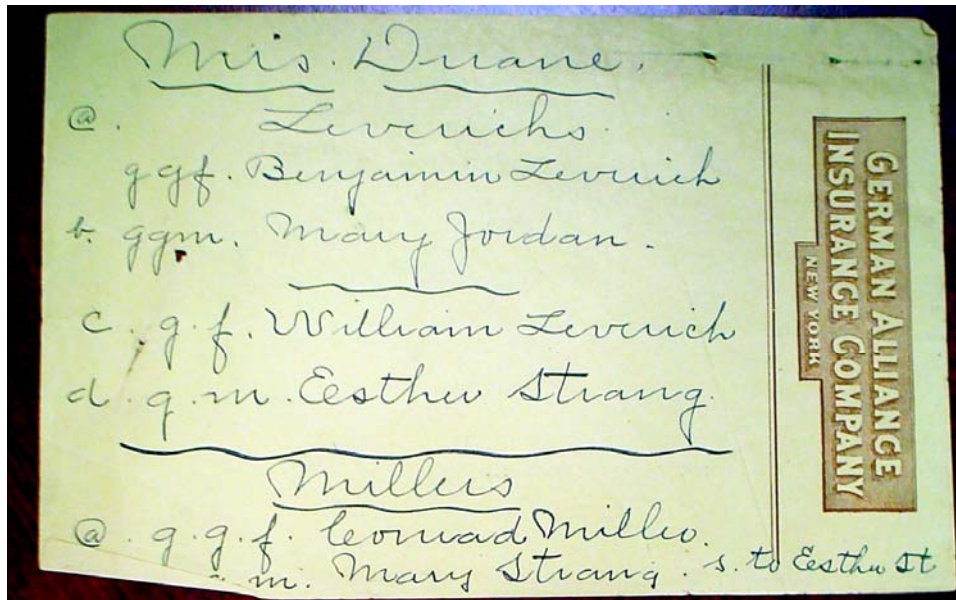
Specific dates of birth and death have not been determined for Mary Briggs, wife of Benjamin Leverich. If Mary had been age 16 to 21 at the time of marriage circa 1771, then Mary would have been born, probably in Westchester Co, New York, between 1750 and 1755. Mary may have died after 1824, probably in Richland/Crawford Co, Ohio, Benjamin's 1824 will filed in Richland Co having named his wife Mary. However, it is also possible that the Mary of 1824 was a second wife for Benjamin.^{9,10,11,12}

Mary's father, Cornight Briggs, leased a farm of 125 acres in 1758 from Philip Van Cortlandt in Cortlandt Manor. Cornight Briggs is recorded on tax lists in Cortlandt Town, Westchester Co, New York in 1800 and 1802. He is not found in the 1800 U.S. Census of Westchester Co, New York.^{13,14,15}

Benjamin Leverich served in the 3rd Westchester County, New York Militia commanded by Col Samuel Drake during the Revolutionary War from 1778 to 1781.^{16,17,18}

Benjamin Leverich is recorded in the 1790 U.S. Census, Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. Two lines below Benjamin's record is a record for Cornight Briggs, Benjamin's father-in-law. The census tallies for Benjamin's record included 3 free white males under the age of 16 (sons William, John, Benjamin), 3 free white males over the age of 16 (Benjamin Sr, son James, unidentified), and 4 free white females (wife Mary; daughters Martha, Elizabeth, and Charity).¹⁹

Benjamin Leverich may have had a second marriage to a Mary Jordan, according to the Couch Genealogical Files. The Couch files are a collection of historical and genealogical information, created by Franklin Couch (died 1929). Couch was a Peekskill, New York area lawyer, Deputy County Clerk, and Democratic leader in the town of Cortlandt. He spent his retirement years recording genealogy of local families and writing about area history. A marginal note by Couch mentions a Mrs. Duane, stating that her grandparents were William Leverich and Esther Strang, and her great grandparents were Benjamin Leverich and Mary Jordan.²⁰



Franklin Couch Genealogical Notes
Field Library, Peekskill, Westchester Co, New York
30 June 1947

On 20 September 1793, Benjamin Leverich and Mary his wife of Cortlandt executed a mortgage in the amount of 890 pounds to Alexander Young, also of Cortlandt. The property mortgaged is described as 135 acres beginning at the southeast corner of Lot No. 18, being part of lot 18 purchased by Daniel Strang of Joseph Lee, formerly and runs from thence north 35 chains more or less to the line of lot number 14, sold by Andrew Johnson to Thomas See, thence west 38 chains thence south 35 chains more or less to the land of Philip V. Cortlandt, Esquire, deceased; thence east to the place of beginning. The mortgage was recorded 25 March 1794, and Alexander Young recorded the payment of the mortgage amount on 30 April 1795. Benjamin Leverich signed the document with his mark.²¹

On 30 April 1795, Benjamin Leverich and Mary his wife of Cortlandt executed a mortgage in the amount of two hundred pounds to Sampson Benson Jr of New York County. The property mortgaged is the same as that mortgaged in 1793, except for 16 and a half acres at the southwest corner of the tract sold to Wright Frost. The mortgage was recorded 30 April 1795, and Sampson Benson Jr recorded the payment of the mortgage amount on 24 July 1798.²²

On 12 December 1797, Benjamin Leverich, Cooper, and Mary his wife, executed a mortgage in the amount of 260 pounds to John Barret, yeoman of Cortlandt. The property mortgaged is described as 30 acres beginning at the northeast corner of Doctor Huford's garden, thence to the northwest corner of the same, thence west to a stone fence, thence north to the land of John Paulding, thence along said Paulding's land to a line ditch between the lands of said Leverich and Joseph Fowler, deceased, thence along said ditch to the Peekskill and Crompond road, thence southerly along said road to the place of beginning. The mortgage was recorded 10 January 1798. The executors of the estate of John Barret recorded the payment of the mortgage on 28 May 1810.²³

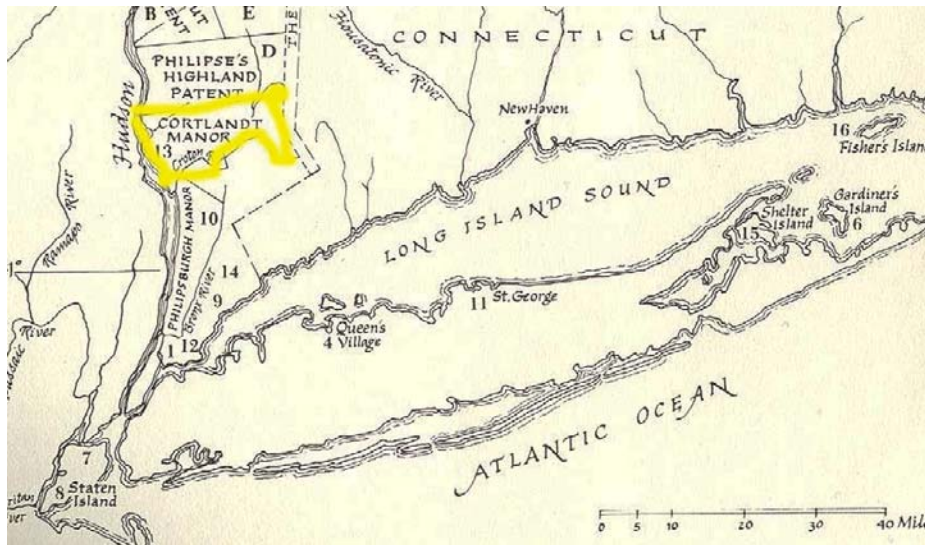
A second mortgage, also dated 12 December 1797, was executed by Benjamin Leverich and Mary his wife of Cortlandt, to William Hallock of Cortlandt, as cited above. The property mortgaged is described as 120 acres beginning at the northwest corner of the land of Abijah Lee, deceased, and joining John Haight's land, thence westerly along said Haight's

land 33 chains to the land of Isaac Drake, deceased, thence southerly along said Drake's land to the land of Pierre Van Cortlandt, thence easterly along said Cortlandt's land to the aforesaid Lee's land, thence northerly along said Lee's land to place of beginning. The mortgage was recorded 10 January 1798, and William Hallock recorded the payment of the mortgage amount on 13 June 1804.²⁴

Neither Benjamin Leverich nor Cornight Briggs are found in the 1800 U.S. Census of Westchester Co, New York.²⁵

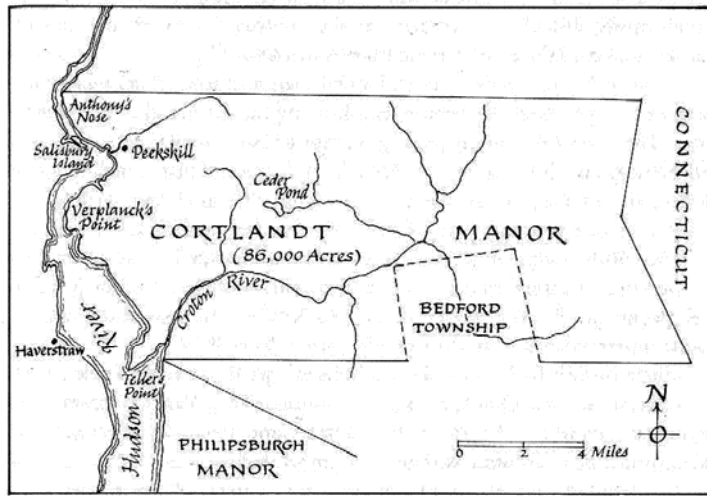
In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. Benjamin Leverich is recorded on the tax assessment roles at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York for the period 1799-1803. The property of Benjamin (land, but not house and land) was valued at \$1280.00 during this period of time. Also recorded on the tax assessment roles is James Leverich, son of Benjamin, house and land valued at \$400, 1800 to 1803. These assessment roles are compiled alphabetically by surname, as a result a proximity analysis is not possible.²⁶

On 2 June 1802, Benjamin Leverich, Cooper, and Mary his wife of Cortlandt, executed a mortgage in the amount of \$625 to William Fowler of Dutchess Co, New York. The property mortgaged is described as 20 acres beginning at the southeast corner of said piece of land at a white oak stump by the road by land belonging to Timothy Conklin and from thence running westerly with said Conklin's land unto the land formerly belonging unto John Haight now in possession of Benjamin Leverich nine chains and forty links and from thence running northerly with said Leverich's old possession until it meets the land that Benjamin Leverich sold unto John Haight, unto a stake with stones about it, and from thence running easterly with said Haight's land unto the road unto the place of beginning, at the white oak stump. The mortgage was recorded 16 November 1802, and William Fowler recorded the payment of the mortgage amount on 19 December 1812. Both Benjamin and Mary signed their names with their marks, suggesting that neither Benjamin nor Mary could not read or write.²⁷



Benjamin Leverich was a farmer, but he is also identified as a "Cooper" in 1797 and 1802 land transactions in Westchester Co, New York. Benjamin's father John Leverich, the husband of Mary Seaman, is also identified as a "Cooper" in a 1773 land transaction in Westchester County. In his 1824 will in Richland Co, Ohio Benjamin Leverich leaves his cooper's tools to his eldest son James Leverich.^{28,29,30,31}

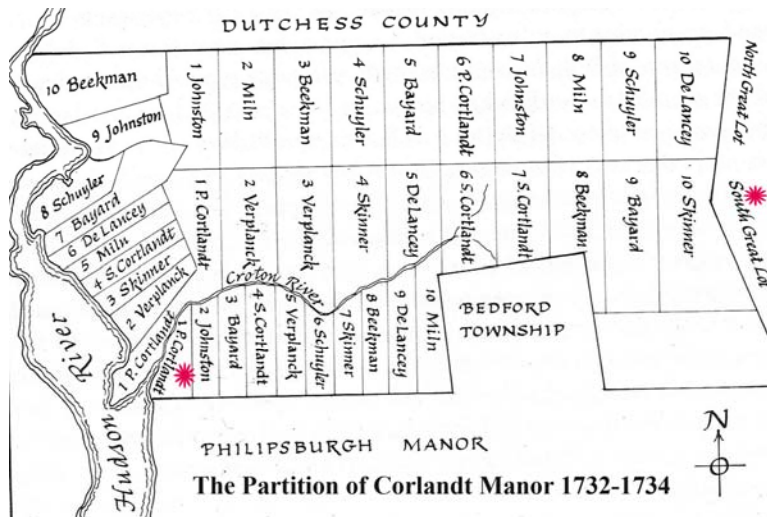
On 12 June 1804, Benjamin Leverich and Mary his wife of Cortlandt executed a mortgage in the amount of \$760 to John Haight, also of Cortlandt. The property mortgaged is described as 120 acres beginning at the northwest corner of the land of Abijah Lee, deceased and joining John Haight's land thence westerly along said Haight's land 33 chains to the land of Isaac Drake, deceased, thence southerly along said Drake's land to the land of Pierre Van Cortlandt, thence easterly along said Cortlandt's land to the aforesaid. The mortgage was recorded on 15 June 1804, and John Haight recorded the payment of the mortgage amount on 18 May 1805. Benjamin and Mary both signed their names with their marks.³²



Cortlandt Manor, 1697. Adjusted from a map in the Cadwallader Colden Papers, New-York Historical Society, New York. (Drawn by Richard J. Stinely.)

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by Sun Bok Kim
University of North Carolina Press, 1978, page 71**

Cortlandt Township had originally been the Manor of Cortlandt owned by Stephanus Van Cortlandt. The manor was partitioned among his heirs 1732-1734. His son Pierre Van Cortlandt was the owner of the tract described as Great South Lot Number 1. By 1805, 1000 acres of this tract had been sold off. In addition to Cornight Briggs and Samuel Field, land had been purchased by James Russell, John Ferris, Joseph Strang, Conrad Miller, Isaac Hatfield, and Benjamin Leverich.^{33,34}



Benjamin Leverich is named as the subject of two bail pieces dated 28 May and 15 June 1805, relative to legal matters pending in the Westchester County Court of Common Pleas.^{35,36}

Muskingum County Ohio was formed in 1804, at which time it included Guernsey Co, Ohio which was created in 1810. On 25 December 1805, Benjamin Leverich purchased land in Muskingum County: Range 1, Township 2, Section 21. This location would subsequently be identified as Guernsey Co, Ohio. This location was also identified as part of what was known the U.S. Military District, which was set aside by the U.S. Congress on 1 June 1796 for Revolutionary War veterans, but could not be redeemed at the Zanesville Land Office until March of 1805, under an act of Congress in 1803.³⁷

Sometime between 1805 and 1812 Benjamin Leverich and his extended family (except son William who remained in Westchester Co, New York) migrated to Ohio. Benjamin is not found in the 1810 Census of Westchester Co, New York; and the 1810 Census of Ohio has been lost. The Leverich family does not appear on the 1810 Tax List for Guernsey Co. The payoff of mortgages was recorded in Westchester Co, NY in 1810 and 1812, but Benjamin and family could have already departed for Ohio by that time. John Leverich, son of Benjamin, is recorded as serving in the War of 1812 in Captain Beatty's company of Guernsey County Militia. Charity Leverich, daughter of Benjamin, married 18 June 1812 Eli Bartow in Guernsey Co, Ohio.^{38,39,40,41,42,43}

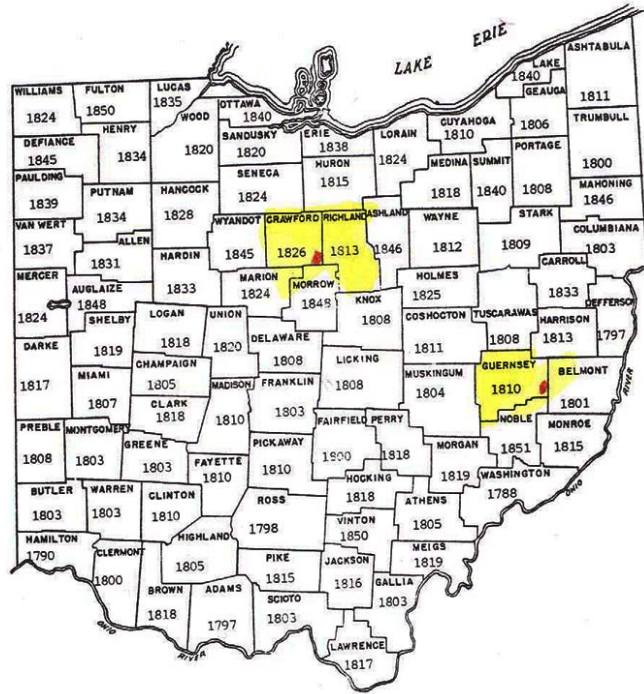
1850 U.S. Census records, however, for grandchildren of Benjamin Leverich, narrow the family's arrival date in Ohio to about 1808. James S. Leverich, son of John Leverich, was born in New York circa 1808. His brother, George Wood Leverich, was born in Ohio circa 1810. Ira Leverich, son of James Leverich, was born in New York circa 1806. His brother John Leverich, was born in Ohio 14 October 1808.^{44,45,46,47}

The 1814 tax list for Guernsey County, Ohio records Benjamin and John Leverich (son of Benjamin) in Section 21, Town 2, Range 1. This is the same location as land purchased by Benjamin in Muskingum County in 1805. James Leverich, eldest son of Benjamin Leverich, is found on the same tax list in two locations: Section 22, Town 2 and Section 8, Town 1, both Range 1 (just south of Town 2, also in Guernsey Co).⁴⁸

Benjamin Leverich and some of the extended family removed further to the northwest in Ohio circa 1817. *The History of Richland County, Ohio*, which was published in 1880, provides the following account. "Benjamin Leveredge and his sons, James and Nathaniel, came with George Wood" (who came to Ohio with Benjamin from Westchester Co, NY) "and David Gill in 1817 to Galion" (formerly Sandusky Township, Richland Co, now Polk Township, Crawford Co). "The Leveredges did the first clearing and put up the first cabins. Benjamin Leveredge's cabin was erected of unhewn logs, near the spring, now within the corporation limits, on Atwood St. That of James Leveredge stood on the site now occupied by David Mackey's fine brick residence on Atwood St, and Nathaniel's stood near the center of the present public square. The old well on the square, filled up several years ago, was dug by him and was but a few yards from his cabin door. The first religious meeting in the township was held in Benjamin Leveredge's cabin, near the spring. It was a Methodist meeting, at which Russel Bigelow, who organized many churches through this county, in an early day, preached a most eloquent sermon."⁴⁹

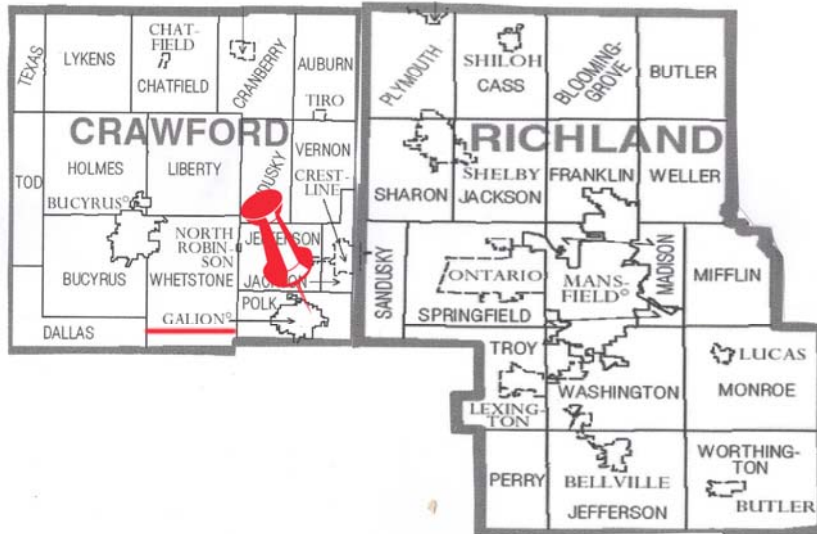
The History of Crawford County, Ohio (1881) adds to the chronicle. "Probably the first men who cleared any land within the present limits of Polk were Benjamin Leveredge and his two sons, James and Nathaniel. Most of the early settlers were from New York and Pennsylvania. No biography of this first family can be obtained, and very little is known of them previous to their arrival in this vicinity. They came in the year 1817, cutting their way to their land. The father built his cabin near the springs on Atwood St, Galion, on the quarter section he had entered. James Leveredge erected his cabin on the ground now occupied by David Mackey's residence, and Nathaniel built his primitive dwelling near the center of the public square in Galion. The two former had water in abundance from the numerous springs in their vicinity, but Nathaniel dug a well near his cabin door. This was the well that was filled up about ten years ago, and traces of which were found within the present year (1880) by workman while engaged in grading the square."

Nathaniel Story ... passed the winter of 1818-1819 in a cabin of John Leveredge, situated southeast of the public square of Galion. Mr. Leveredge had been killed but a short time previous to this, by a log falling upon him at the raising of John Williamson's new hewed-log cabin. When they came into the settlement, that hewed-log cabin stood up near the square without a roof, and exactly as it was left when Leveredge was killed".



State of Ohio
YEAR COUNTY ORGANIZED

Galion
1813 Sandusky Township, Richland Co, Ohio
1826 Polk Township, Crawford Co, Ohio



"Many suppose that the graves lying in the street belong to the graveyard. This is a mistake. These graves were made on the corner of a farm owned by Benjamin Leveredge, Esq., which joined Mr. Brown's farm ... Good old Benjamin Leveredge lies beneath Main street, opposite this old grave yard. When Main street was laid out, it followed the quarter line and lapped over the edge of Mr. Leveredge's farm, and covered the spot consecrated by him as a private burying-ground."

"During the same year ... work was commenced upon the old Methodist meeting-house, yet standing on West Main Street ... it was the first to be completed and ready for services. The land upon which it stands was donated by Father Fellows, who was a zealous worker in the cause, and a pillar of strength in the Methodist Church for many years. Father Fellows had purchased the farm on which this building stood from Benjamin Leveredge.⁵⁰ⁿ

Benjamin Leverdige is noted in 1820 as among the pastors and circuit riders of the old German Methodist Church in Galion, Ohio. Their salary is listed as \$200.00 for the year.⁵¹

The 1820 U.S. Census of the Town of Sandusky, Richland Co, Ohio, includes 27 heads of families, including Benjamin Leverich and his sons James and Nathaniel. Also living in Sandusky Township are Jonathan Mosier (who would marry Sarah, the widow of deceased son John Leverich); George Wood (who came to Ohio with Benjamin from Westchester Co, New York); daughters of George Wood may have been Sarah Wood widow of John Leverich and Martha Wood wife of Nathaniel Leverich; Moses Key (who would be an executor of Benjamin's will); John Williamson, Benjamin's son-in-law married to daughter Elizabeth; and David Gill, original settler with Benjamin of Galion. The census tallies for Benjamin included Benjamin and wife Mary (1 free white male over 45 and 1 free white female over 45) and one free white male under age 10 (perhaps grandson Simon, who is mentioned in Benjamin's will). Also recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census of Ohio were Frederick Dickerson, husband of Martha Leverich in Guernsey County; and Eli Bartow, husband of Charity Leverich in Harrison County.^{52,53,54}

Benjamin Leverich died between May and August 1824 at Galion. His will was filed at the Court of Common Pleas Richland County, August 1824 Term. The provisions of Benjamin's will are as follows.

Wife Mary Leverich: \$80.00

Eldest son James Leverich \$50.00 and coopers tools.

Eldest daughter Martha Dickerson: \$10.00

Daughter Elizabeth Williamson: \$40.00

Son Nathaniel Leverich: two fields adjoining his farm, various other parcels of land, for which Nathaniel must pay to the estate \$70.00

Son Benjamin Leverich: \$65.00

Daughter Charity Barto: \$10.00

Grandson Simon Leverich: the field which is now in with wheat

Daughter-in-law Sarah Leverich: use of said field until Simon comes of age

Remainder of estate to be divided among his children equally

Executors: Moses Key and son Nathaniel Leverich

Will dated 20 May 1824

Witnesses: George Wood and Moses Kay

Letters Testamentary issued to Nathaniel Leverich 14 August 1824.⁵⁵

Ohio Cemeteries, compiled by the Ohio Genealogical Society, records a burial for Benjamin Leverich, described as follows: Crawford County, Polk Township; Section 31, Town 20N, Range 20W: 0.6 mile west from Galion Public Square according to WPA; SR 309 goes over spot now.⁵⁶

Mary Leverich died after 1824, at which time she was mentioned in her husband's will in Galion, then Richland Oh, now Crawford Co, Ohio.⁵⁷

The 1825 Tax List for Richland County, Ohio includes Benjamin Jr., James and Nathaniel Leverich; also Sarah Leverich, widow of John, and her father George Wood.⁵⁸

In May of 1826 Nathaniel Leverich, Executor, filed in Richland Co the Final Settlement of the Estate of his father Benjamin Leverich. Estate receipts totaled \$536.04 less the executor's costs of \$32.16, leaving net receipts of \$503.88. Estate payouts for outstanding debts and bills amounted to \$112.58. This left a balance of \$391.30 to be distributed according

to the terms of Benjamin's will, which provided for legacies of \$325.00, the balance to be equally divided among the heirs. A simple Purchasing Power Calculator would say the relative value of \$391.30 from 1824 to 2019 is \$10,700.00.⁵⁹

Benjamin Leverich and Mary Briggs had eight children, all born in Westchester County, New York.^{60,61}

- i. James Leverich, designated "eldest son" in his father's will in 1824, was born in Cortlandt, Westchester County, New York circa 1774. James was married by the Rev. Silas Constant on 31 December 1799 in Westchester Co to Sarah Hatfield. James died circa 1863 in Butler County, Iowa.^{62,63,64,65,66,67}
- ii. Martha Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York 1 April 1777. She was designated "eldest daughter" Martha Dickerson in her father's 1824 will. She married first (?William?) Bell at Cortlandt circa 1799. Martha married second Frederick Dickerson 16 February 1809 at Belmont County, Ohio. Martha died 16 May 1841 at Richland County, Ohio.^{68,69,70,71,72,73}
- iii. Elizabeth Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 25 December 1779. Elizabeth married 11 December 1801, probably in Westchester Co, to John Williamson. Elizabeth Leverich Williamson died in 1855, likely Marion County or Morrow County, Ohio.^{74,75,76,77}
- iv. William Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 13 July 1782. William was the only child of Benjamin Leverich and Mary Briggs to remain in Westchester Co, while the rest of the family moved west to Ohio. William is not named in his father's 1824 will, but is identified as the son of Benjamin and Mary Leverich in the Couch Genealogical Notes. William's birth date is consistent with the birth dates of his siblings. William married circa 1805 in Westchester Co to Esther (Hester) Strang. William Leverich died 11 September 1839 in Westchester Co, New York.^{78,79,80,81}
- v. John Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York circa 1785. The birth date is a calculated date based upon the birth date patterns of John's siblings. John married circa 1807-1808, probably in Westchester County, to Sarah, perhaps the daughter of George Wood who traveled to Ohio in the company of John's parents. John Leverich was killed in 1818 being struck by a fallen log while helping to erect a cabin for his brother-in-law John Williamson.^{82,83,84,85}
- vi. Benjamin Leverich Jr was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York circa 1788. Benjamin married circa 1808-1809 probably in Columbiana Co, Ohio, Sarah H. Sanders. The marriage date is an estimated date based upon the 1809 birth of Benjamin and Sarah's first child. Benjamin died in April 1863 in Hillsboro, Washington Co, Oregon.^{86,87,88,89}
- vii. Charity Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York circa 1790. The birth date is a calculated date based upon the birth date patterns of Charity's siblings. Charity was married 18 June 1812 in Guernsey Co, Ohio to Eli Bartow. Charity likely died between 1830 and 1840 probably at Harrison County, Ohio.^{90,91,92,93}
- viii. Nathaniel Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 12 February 1793. Nathaniel married first circa 1817, probably in Galion (then Richland Co, now Crawford Co) Ohio, to Martha, perhaps the daughter of George Wood who traveled to Ohio in the company of Nathaniel's parents. Nathaniel married second in Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo Co, Michigan 21 May 1845 to Nancy Maria Alvord. Nathaniel Leverich died 26 August 1855 in Prairie Ronde.^{94,95,96,97}

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