

Individual Narrative of Susannah⁶ Leverich [69] Daughter of Elnathan⁵ Leverich [31] and Mary Coe Wife of Thomas Burroughs

Susannah Leverich was born circa 1770 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. According to James Riker's *Annals of Newtown*, Susannah was the daughter of Elnathan Leverich and Mary Coe, who were married in 1767. Susannah's birth date is an estimate based upon her parents' marriage date.¹

Letters of Administration were granted in Queens Co, NY on the estate of Phebe Coe on 13 July 1802 to granddaughters Susannah Burroughs and Nancy Jagger and their husbands Thomas Burroughs and Rufus Jagger. Phebe <Field> Coe was the wife of John Coe. They were the parents of Mary Coe who married Elnathan Leverich, Susannah's father.^{2,3,4}

Susannah Leverich became a member of the Newtown Presbyterian Church in 1791, being baptized as an adult on April 10.⁵ She married Thomas Burroughs, son of ? Joseph Burroughs ? and ? Elizabeth Cornish ? (341), on 4 Dec 1791 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. This was a first marriage for Susannah but may have been a second marriage for Thomas. A first wife has not been identified. However, Thomas' will written in 1804 mentions a daughter Hannah Remson. A Hannah Burroughs married Abraham Remson at the Newtown Presbyterian Church on 29 December 1801. Assuming that this is Hannah, the daughter of Thomas, then it is likely that she was a child of an earlier marriage for Thomas, since Hannah would only have been 10 years old when married if she had been Susannah's child.^{6,7,8}

There were two Thomas Burroughs's living at Newtown, Queens Co, New York in this time period.

- Thomas Burroughs, who married Susannah Leverich, was born before 1754, and died in 1805.
- Thomas Burroughs, who married Sarah Wyckoff, was born 1769 and died 1835. According to the probate of his will, the latter Thomas Burroughs had the following children: Joseph, George W., Sarah Roach, and Anne Marie, wife of George I. Rapelye. This Thomas was the son of a Joseph Burroughs who died at Newtown in 1820.^{9,10,11}

Thomas Burroughs, husband of Susannah Leverich, was likely born prior to 1754. This date is an estimate based upon the assumption that Thomas was a least age 21 in 1775 when he voted for deputies to the Continental Congress. No Thomas Burroughs is listed as a head of family in the 1771 Census of Newtown.^{12,13}

The parents of Thomas Burroughs have not been identified with any certainty. James Riker Jr, in the *Annals of Newtown*, proposes that Thomas was the son of James Burroughs, who married Deborah Sallier in 1710, and died about 1725-1730. Riker is likely incorrect in so identifying Thomas' parents. If this were the case, then Thomas would have been born between 1710 and 1730, which would make him age 61 to 81 when he married in 1791. Although possible, this is questionable.^{14,15}

Other Burroughs Family researchers suggest that Thomas Burroughs was the son of Joseph Burroughs and his second wife Elizabeth Cornish, who married in 1739 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Joseph died in 1768. Although specific evidence to support this theory is lacking, it is more likely in that Thomas would have been born between 1740 and 1754, making him age 37 to 51 when married in 1791.^{16,17,18}

The New-York Committee, March 16, 1775, sent circular letters to the different counties in the colony, requesting them to choose deputies to a Provincial Convention, which was to meet, April 20, for purposes of electing delegates to the Continental Congress, to be held at Philadelphia, May 10. In Queens county, the election was held by towns on Friday March 31, 1775. In Newtown, Thomas Burroughs was among 100 freeholders voting for Col Jacob Blackwell as Deputy from Newtown. Also included were James and John Burroughs, as well as Elnathan Leverich and John Leverich Jr.¹⁹ On 7 November 1775 Thomas Burroughs again voted in support of Deputies to the Provincial Congress.²⁰

Joseph Burroughs, weaver of Newtown, made a will dated 12 March 1776, which was proved in Queens County 28 November 1784. This will confirms that Joseph had brothers Thomas, James, and John Burroughs, and sisters Deborah and Mary Burroughs. Thomas Burroughs, Benjamin North, and Abraham Ramson were named executors.²¹

New York City and Long Island, including Queens County, were occupied and controlled by British military authorities for the duration of the war of independence. Historian Henry Onderdonk Jr observed that "the King being now in possession of Queens county, and his soldiers scattered over it, the leading Whigs having been thrown in prison, and the property of those who fled seized by the enemy, the remainder were constrained to join the Loyalists in petitioning the King's Commissioners that Queens County might be restored to Royal Favor." The petition, issued on 21 October 1776, requested "And we humbly pray, that your Excellencies would be pleased to declare this county at the peace of His Majesty, and thereby enable us to receive the benefits flowing from his most gracious protection." This petition was signed by Thomas Burroughs.²²

On 1 April 1783 at a Newtown Town Meeting, Thomas Burroughs was among several residents appointed as a highway master.^{23,24} The 1786 Tax List of Newtown included the following residents grouped together, i.e. Thomas, John, Deborah, and Mary Burroughs.²⁵ On 1 May 1786, Thomas Burroughs is included on a Subscribers List in support of Rev. Peter Fish of the Newtown Presbyterian Church.²⁶ Thomas Burroughs witnessed the will of Gabriel Smith of Newtown dated 23 August 1776, which was proved in Queens County on 12 May 1788.²⁷

The 1790 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York includes Thomas Burroughs as a head of household. The census tallies include 2 free white males under the age of 16, 2 free white males over the age of 16, and 3 free white females. These tallies would lend support to the theory that Thomas Burroughs had a first marriage prior to his 1791 marriage to Susannah Leverich. Neighbors recorded near Thomas Burroughs in the 1790 census include Phobe Coe, John Hamilton, Luke Remsen, Benjamin Coe, and Abraham Remson. Also a head of household in 1790 is Joseph Burroughs, including 3 free white males over the age of 16, suggesting that the younger Thomas Burroughs, then age 21, was still living in his father's household.²⁸

At a Church session held at the parsonage house for the Newtown Presbyterian Church, in the presence of the minister and all the leaders, it was recorded that "Susannah Burroughs, the wife of Thomas Burroughs, formerly Susannah Leverich, appeared before the session and confessed herself guilty of the sin of ante-nuptial fornication, and by her confession, made satisfaction to the Church and was restored to all the privileges of the same." This circumstance presumably pertained to Thomas Burroughs Jr who was born prior to 26 August 1792 when he was baptized, whereas Thomas and Susannah had been married in December of 1791.²⁹

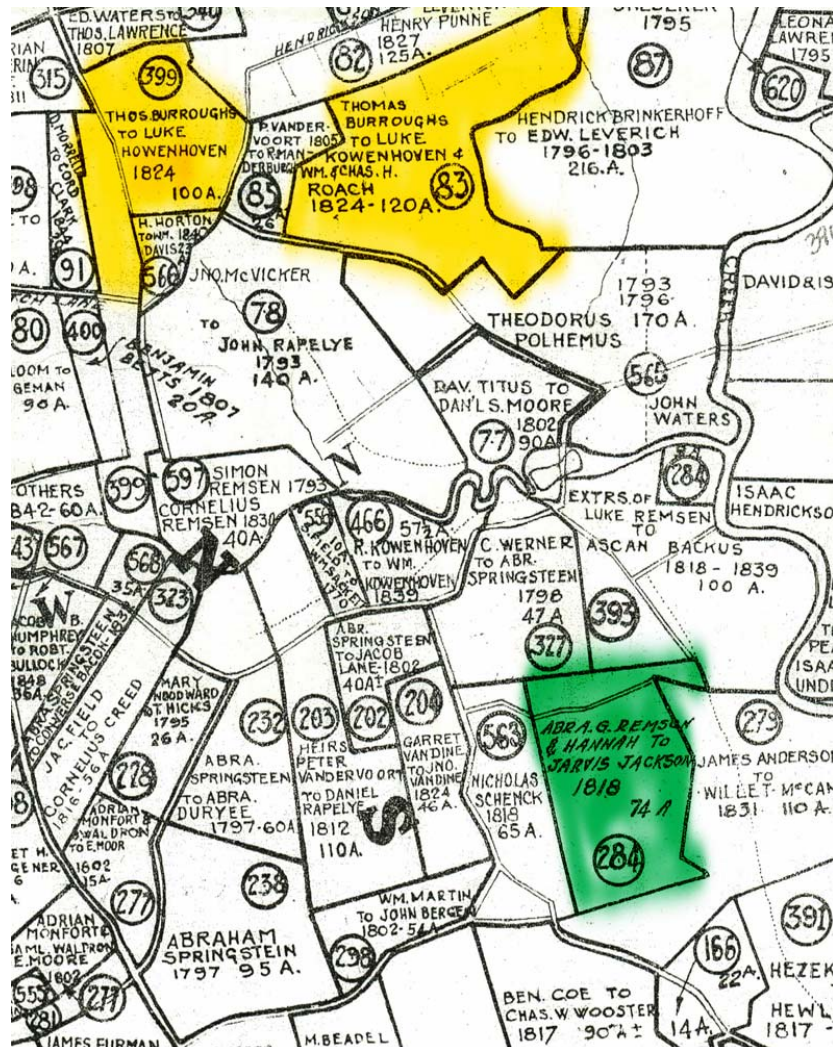
Multiple Church sessions held 1793-1794 pertained to Mary Hamilton, second wife of John Hamilton. "Accused of intemperate imbibing of spirituous liquors by Abigail Pettit. Allegedly told by Thomas Burroughs of indiscretions by his wife Susannah, and repeating such to Judge Benjamin Coe, then subsequently denying it all. Mary ultimately confessed and was eventually received back in good favor of the Church. There was further examination of Mary Hamilton by the Church for excessive drinking, and she was again suspended." Mary Hamilton was the daughter of Sarah⁵ Leverich [26] and Joseph Gorsline,³⁰ and therefore was a cousin of Susannah, in addition to being a neighbor. Mary Hamilton died 20 September 1795.³⁰

In 1798, the records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church twice noted the death of a "child of Thomas Burroughs". This could have been either of the two Thomas Burroughs living at Newtown at that time, but it is more likely to have been the older Thomas who had children baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. The younger Thomas Burroughs and his family appear in the records of St. James Episcopal Church at Newtown.^{31,32}

The 1800 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens County, New York records a Thomas Burroughs as a head of household with 1 male age 26 to 44, hence born between 1756 and 1774, and therefore likely the younger Thomas Burroughs. This conclusion is further supported by the households recorded nearby (e.g. Peter Vandervoort and Benjamin Betts).³³

Also recorded in the 1800 Census at Newtown is a Thomas "Burriss" or "Burrie" as a head of household with 1 free white male age 45 and over, hence born before 1755, and therefore likely the older Thomas Burroughs. This conclusion is further supported by the remaining census tallies as well as the households recorded nearby (e.g. Benjamin Coe, Abraham Springstein, Luke Remsen, John Hamilton, Hezekiah Field). The census tallies for this Thomas Burroughs include 3 free white males under the age of 10 (Robert, Thomas, William), 1 free white male over the age of 45 (Thomas Senior), 1 free white female age 16 to 25 (Hannah), and 1 free white female age 26 to 44 (Susannah).³⁴

An 1800 map of Queens County showing the names of property owners show two tracts of land owned by the younger Thomas Burroughs, northeast of Newtown Village. Another tract southeast of Newtown Village is labeled Abraham G. Remsen and Hannah to Jarvis Jackson, 1818. Hannah was a daughter of the older Thomas Burroughs. This tract is mentioned in W. W. Munsell's 1882 History of Queens County in a biographical sketch of a Robert Burroughs born in 1821, presumably a grandson of the elder Thomas Burroughs: "His father, Thomas Burroughs, was born on a farm then belonging to the family, in the town of Newtown, at White Pot, which farm was more recently owned by Jarvis Jackson, and is now the property of Abraham V.S. Lott and Frederick D. Backus."^{35,36}



Thomas Burroughs and Sarah Wyckoff



Thomas Burroughs and Susannah Leverich

In 1799 legislation provided for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property in the state of New York. Tax rolls were prepared on the county level and submitted to the state comptroller's office. The tax lists included the name of the "possessor," a description of the real estate (e.g., farm, house, land), value of real estate, value of personal property, and the amount taxed.³⁷

The older Thomas Burroughs appears on the tax rolls each year from 1799 to 1803. The value of house and farm 1799-1801 was \$2,000; 1802 and 1803 the value of house and farm was \$1,300. The 1800 Queens County ownership map indicates he owned a tract of 74 acres. In the years 1802 and 1803, a Robert Burroughs, probably the eldest son of the elder Thomas Burroughs, appears on the rolls, assessed just for the land he owned, which suggests he may still have been living in his father's household.^{38,39}

The younger Thomas Burroughs appears on the tax rolls each year from 1799 to 1803 (titled "Jr" each year except 1802). The value of house and farm 1799-1803 was \$3,000. The 1800 Queens County ownership map indicates he owned 2 tracts of land 100 acres and 120 acres. "Jr" likely meant "the younger" in this context.^{40,41}

On 15 November 1804, Thomas Burroughs, as well as several of his children, was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.⁴²

Thomas Burroughs died at Newtown 5 January 1805. His burial place has not been identified, but it may have been at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, where his death was recorded.⁴³

Thomas Burroughs made a will dated 30 October 1804, which was proved in Queens County on 18 January 1805. In his will, he bequeathed to his loving wife Susannah Burroughs all household furniture and a legacy of \$500.00. His daughter Hannah Remsen was bequeathed \$250.00. Directing that his estate both real and personal be sold, Thomas specified that the balance of his estate be equally divided among his children (who are not named except for Hannah), with those not yet of age at the time of his death to benefit from the interest on their share of the estate to be applied to their schooling and bringing them up until they become of full age. Thomas further specified that it was his wish that "my children do not suffer while under age and if the interest arising from their respective portions is not sufficient to maintain School and bring them up and if at any time they should require and actually be necessitated for their particular use more than the interest arising as aforesaid then my executors shall advance such sums of out of the principal as they think will be for their use and benefit." Thomas named as executors Richard Leverich, Cornelius Remsen, and Edward Leverich Senior. The will was witnessed by John Hamilton, John Burroughs, and John Burroughs Jr.⁴⁴

The following notice appeared in the newspaper Republican Watch-Tower on 30 January 1805:

For Sale at Public Auction. On Saturday the 9th day of February at 12 o'clock, a valuable FARM, lying in Newtown, county of Queens and state of New York, late the property of Thomas Burroughs, deceased; by estimation 90 acres, well watered and in good fence: six acres of which is woodland, 12 of salt meadow and half an acre of turf meadow. There is on said farm a good dwelling house, barn and cow-house, a young orchard containing upwards of 100 grafted apple trees, chiefly Newtown pippins, with a variety of other fruit trees. Said farm is within one mile of a good gristle mill, and good landing for manure. N.B. Also, on said day, horses, cows and 1 yoke of oxen, a pleasure splay, wood sled, wagon, ploughs, harrows, two weaver's looms and tackling, together with the farming utensils. An indisputable title will be given by us: Cornelius R. Remsen, Richard B. Leverich, Edward Leverich, Executors.⁴⁵

In an indenture dated 1 May 1805, Susannah Burroughs confirmed the receipt of \$500 from executors (Edward Leverich, Cornelius Berrien, and Richard B. Leverich. as her share of the estate of her late husband Thomas Burroughs. The indenture was witnessed by Peter Schenck and John Burroughs Jr. and Signed with her mark by Susanna Burroughs.⁴⁶

On 1 May 1805, Grantor John Burroughs Jr of Newtown and Elizabeth his wife sold 15 acres of land at Newtown to widow Susannah Burroughs of Newtown in consideration of \$562.50. The tract was described as beginning at a southerly corner adjoining town land; northwesterly by said town lands; westerly by lands of John Hamilton; northerly by land and meadows of Abraham Springstein; easterly by Luke Remsen; southerly by lands of Thomas Burroughs, late of Newtown, to the place of beginning. Nevertheless reserving the privilege of a road for Edward Moore, Peter Vandervoort, Luke Remsen, and David Springstein, to pass from the town land over said lot for the purpose of hauling or carting hay. The deed was witnessed by Edward Leverich and Abraham Remsen, and recorded 15 June 1805.⁴⁷

Thomas Burroughs had at least seven children.

By an assumed first marriage, wife's name not known, there were:

- i. Robert, born c 1780
- ii. Hannah, born c 1785. married Abraham Remson

By his second marriage to Susannah Leverich, there were:

- iii. Thomas, born c 1792
- iv. William, born c 1793
- v. Elizabeth, born c 1795, married Joseph Wainwright
- vi. John, born c 1798
- vii. Joseph, born c 1800

These children are cited by James Riker Jr in the *Annals of Newtown*, but no sources were identified. The presumed first marriage is also not mentioned by Riker.⁴⁸

Four of the children had baptisms recorded at the Newtown Presbyterian Church:

- Thomas, 26 August 1792
- Elizabeth, 15 November 1804
- Joseph, 15 November 1804
- John, 15 November 1804.⁴⁹

Susannah Leverich, widow of Thomas Burroughs, is not found in the 1810, 1820, or 1830 Censuses. In 1810, Susannah would have had 5 children between the ages of 10 and 18. Shortly after her husband died in 1805, Susannah had purchased a tract of land amounting to 15 acres in Newtown. A search of the census by known neighbors in 1810 however did not locate Susannah. By 1820, Susannah may have been living in the household of one of the children, but census records found for some of the children in this period do not record a female of Susannah's age as part of the household. However, the 1830 U.S. Census for son Joseph does include a free white female of Susannah's age. Census records were searched for Queens, New York, and Kings Counties.^{50,51,52,53}

It is possible that the three youngest Burroughs children may have been living with their uncle William Leverich Jr. The 1810 Census record for William at Newtown includes three census tallies that reflect unidentified persons not the children of William, i.e. one free white male under the age of 10 (could be Joseph Burroughs age about 10); one free white male age 10-15 (could be John Burroughs, age about 12); and one free white female age 10 to 15 (could be Elizabeth Burroughs age about 15). The older two sons, William age about 17 and Thomas age about 18, may have been hired out to work on neighboring farms. However, the location of Susannah Leverich Burroughs 1810 to 1830 remains unknown.⁵⁴

On 1 April 1831 Willet McCoun purchased 132 acres of land at Newtown from James Anderson, Master in Chancery Queens County. The property description was southerly upon the road that leads from Newtown to Jamaica; easterly and southerly upon land lately belonging to Hezekiah Fields; easterly again upon the salt meadow belonging to Hendrick Schenck and Abraham Morrell; westerly and northerly upon land belonging to Abraham Remsen and Robert Burroughs; westerly and northerly again upon land belonging to Rem Remsen; south and west upon the road that leads from Newtown; south and west again upon land late belonging to Hezekiah Field. The deed was recorded 2 April 1831.⁵⁵

As indicated on the 1800 property map of Queens County, this tract of land bordered the Thomas Burroughs farm on the east and the south. The same map indicates that the Thomas Burroughs farm was transferred in 1818 from Abraham Remson and his wife Hannah, the daughter of Thomas Burroughs, to Jarvis Jackson. However, no deed confirming this transaction was found recorded in Queens County. Jarvis Jackson is found living in the vicinity in both the 1820 and 1830 Census. Perhaps Mr. Jackson was leasing the farm, or perhaps paying on a mortgage held by Abraham Remsen and Robert Burroughs. The 1830 Census of Newtown includes two heads of household named Abraham Remsen, but no Robert Burroughs.^{56,57}

The records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church note the death in 1835 (no month and day given) of "Mrs. Burroughs, mother of William Burroughs". This suggests Susan Leverich Burroughs, however more specific information regarding her death and burial place have not been found.⁵⁸

- i. Robert Burroughs appears on the Newtown Tax Assessment Rolls in 1802. If he was age 21 at that time, then he would have been born about 1780. Robert is mentioned in a deed in Newtown dated 1831. Robert's brother Thomas named a son "Robert". Robert is not found in census records.^{59,60,61}
- ii. Hannah Burroughs and Abraham Remson were married at Newtown Presbyterian Church on 29 December 1801. If Hannah was as young as 16 years old at the time, she would have been born before 1786. Hannah and Abraham are referenced for the year 1818 relative to the Thomas Burroughs farm on the 1800 ownership map of Queens County. In his 1804 will, Thomas Burroughs mentions a daughter Hannah Remsen. A Hannah Remson who died December 1857 is buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. Census records for this period indicate two to three Abraham Remsen's in Queens County.^{62,63,64,65,66}
- iii. Thomas Burroughs Jr was born at Newtown circa 1792. He was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church 26 August 1792. Based on the birth year of Thomas' first child, Robert, Thomas married his first wife circa 1820, but she has not been identified. Thomas is mentioned in a biographical sketch of his son Robert Burroughs, born in 1821, in W. W. Munsell's 1882 *History of Queens County*. The article indicates that Thomas died when son Robert was age 13, or about 1834. Thomas Jr is not found in census records.^{67,68,69}
- iv. James Riker Jr's *Annals of Newtown* states that William Burroughs settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. However, no census record has been found to confirm this. William was born at Newtown, Queens Co, New York circa 1793. William married for the first time Ann LaBuisse circa 1815 in New York. He married for the second time Jane Kershaw before 1850 in New York or Indiana. He married for the third time Cynthia Schooling, widow of Eli Wolf, circa 1862-1865 in Indiana. William Burroughs died 3 September 1865 in Spencer County, Indiana.^{70,71,72,73,74,75,76}
- v. Elizabeth Burroughs was born circa 1795 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. She was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church on 15 November 1804. Elizabeth married Joseph Wainwright (not William as cited by James Riker Jr's *Annals of Newtown*) circa 1820 at New York. Elizabeth Burroughs Wainwright died on 24 October 1878 in Manhattan, New York Co, New York.^{77,78,79,80,81,82,83}
- vi. John Burroughs was born circa 1798 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. John was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church on 15 November 1804. No further records of this John Burroughs have been found. The 1850 U.S. Census records three John Burroughs born about 1798 living in Dutchess Co, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Jackson Co, Michigan. None of these are found however in the 1860 or 1870 U.S. Census.^{84,85,86,87,88}
- vii. Joseph Burroughs was born circa 1800 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. He was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church on 15 November 1804. James Riker Jr in the *Annals of Newtown* records that Joseph settled in New Jersey. The 1850 U.S. Census records a Joseph Burroughs, age 50 (hence born about 1800), born in New York, living in Newark, Essex County, New Jersey. Joseph married first Hannah Searles 30 October 1823 in Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. Joseph married second Susan Smith circa 1870-1880 probably in New Jersey. Col. Joseph Burroughs, born 1799, died 8 June 1882 is buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Newark, New Jersey.^{89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96}

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Endnotes

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- ¹James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), page 352. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.
- ²Phebe Coe, Letters of Administration, (1802), Volume A, page 135; Queens County, New York Surrogate, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435. Hereinafter cited as 1802 Administration Phebe Coe.
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