

Individual Narrative of Edmund⁶ Penfold [85] Son of Richard Penfold and Mary⁵ Leverich [24]

Edmund Penfold was born circa 1751 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of Richard Penfold and Mary Leverich. The date of birth is a calculated date based upon Edmund's age at the time he died.^{1,2} Edmund Penfold was baptized 15 June 1755 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, the son of Richard Penfold. Also baptized on the same date were Edmund's siblings Elizabeth, William Leverich, Mary, and John.³

Edmund Penfold married Sarah Hallett after 1772 at Newtown, Queens, New York. Sarah was the daughter of Robert Hallett (son of Joseph Hallett and Lydia Blackwell) and Phebe Hallett (daughter of Samuel Hallett and Bridget Blackwell). Robert Hallett married 2nd Lydia Pidgeon, and third Ruth Leverich, sister of Edmund Penfold's mother Mary Leverich. Sarah Hallett Penfold died 29 October 1820, and probably was buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Churchyard. Sarah and Edmund Penfold did not have any children. The estimated marriage date is based upon the assumption that Edmund Penfold was at least age 21 at the time of his first marriage.^{4,5,6}

Edmund Penfold witnessed the will of Jacob Rapelye of Newtown dated 6 January 1775.⁷ On 7 November 1775, an election was held at Jamaica, Queens County, New York for persons nominated as Deputies to the Continental Congress. Edmund Penfold is listed as a supporter of the Deputies. However, the vote stood against Deputies 788 to 221, so Queens County was not represented.⁸

From 25 July to 31 August 1776, Edmund Penfold was a private in Captain Benjamin Coe's Company of Militia, in Col. Josiah Smith's Regiment, in Queens County, stationed on Long Island to guard the stock and inhabitants.⁹

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 Edmund Penfold. This could have been Edmund Penfold of Newtown, son of Richard Penfold and Mary Leverich, or Edmund Penfold of Flushing.¹⁰

The 1786 tax list of Newtown includes Edmund Penfold.¹¹ Edmund Penfold is listed in the 1790 U.S. Census at Newtown, Queens County, New York. The Census tallies record 1 free white male under the age of 16, 2 free white males over the age of 16, 1 free white female, and 3 slaves.¹² A subscribers list dated 1 May 1790 for the Rev. Mr. Woodhull of the Newtown Presbyterian Church included Mary Penfold, William L. Penfold and Edmund Penfold.¹³

Edmund Penfold is listed in the 1800 U.S. Census at Newtown, Queens County, New York. The Census tallies record 1 free white male over the age of 45, 1 free white female over the age of 45, and 1 slave.¹⁴ The 1800 Land Ownership Map of Queens County, New York displays E Penfold living on an 18 acre tract of land on the Ridge Road, bordered on the east by Samuel Waldron and on the north by Hendrik Suydam.¹⁵ In an interview conducted by James Riker Jr c 1848-1849, Richard P. Berrien said that he knew very well Robert Hallett, a trader, and my own uncle Edmund Penfold bought the farm, on the ridge that he owned. He was a cordwainer and Ed Penfold learned his trade of him.¹⁶

In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. Edmund Penfold is recorded on the tax assessment list for the years 1799 to 1803 at Newtown. The average assessment was \$1,500 real estate and \$390 personal estate.¹⁷



**1800 Ownership Map Queens Co, New York
Edmund Penfold**

Edmund Penfold is listed in the 1810 U.S. Census at Newtown, Queens County, New York. The Census tallies record 1 free white male age 26-44, 1 free white male over the age of 45; 1 free white female over the age of 45; 3 other free persons and 1 slave.¹⁸

Edmund Penfold is listed in the 1820 U.S. Census at Newtown, Queens County, New York. The Census tallies record 3 free white males over the age of 45; 1 free white female age 26 to 44; and 1 free white female over the age of 45.¹⁹

Edmund Penfold married for a second time Phebe Hallett after 1820 at Newtown.²⁰ Phebe Hallett was the daughter of Jacob Hallett and Susannah Betts. In an interview by James Riker Jr of Joseph Hallett of Astoria c 1848-1849, Joseph says that Phebe married Edmund Penfold after she was advanced in years. Phebe was born between 1744 and 1761, and died at Newtown the "widow of Edmund Penfold" in 1832. She was probably buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Edmund and Phebe did not have any children. Phebe Penfold of Hallett's Cove made a will dated 28 October 1831, proved 10 April 1832. Her will mentions her niece Mary Hallett, and her nephews Samuel, John, and Edmund Hallett.^{21,22,23,24}

Edmund Penfold of Hallett's Cove died on 16 Apr 1828 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York,, at the age of 78. He was probably buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church cemetery.^{25,26}

Edmund Penfold made a will dated 18 March 1828 which was proved 28 April 1828. In his will, Edmund mentions his wife Phebe, and the children of his brother's and sisters. He names as executors his nephews John and Edmond Penfold and John Cooper.²⁷

Edmund Penfold's 18 acre farm was sold to A. Samis in 1828, as per the 1800 Ownership Map of Queens County.²⁸

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Endnotes

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- ²*New York Spectator*, New York, New York, 1804-1867. Hereinafter cited as *New York Spectator*, 22 April 1828, page 1.
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- ⁵Cora Snapp, *Historical Notes of Newtown, a Transcription of the James Riker Papers at the New York Public Library*, LDS Film 17805 (Jamaica, New York: Queens Borough Public Library, 1941), 4 Volume Typescript, pages 381 and 406; Box 17, Volume 7, Memoria. Hereinafter cited as *Riker Papers, Snapp Transcription*.
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- ⁷William S. Pelletreau, compiler, *Abstracts of Wills in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York, Volumes 1-17, 1665-1801* (New York, New York: Collections of the New York Historical Society, 1893-1909), Volume X, page 34; Liber 34, page 34. Hereinafter cited as *Abstracts Wills Surrogate New York City*.
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- ¹⁴1800 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M32, Roll 25, Town of Newtown, page 537.
- ¹⁵Queens Topographical Bureau, *1800 Ownership Map Borough of Queens* (Jamaica, New York: Queens Topographical Bureau, 19 August 1935). Hereinafter cited as *1800 Ownership Map Borough of Queens*.
- ¹⁶*Riker Papers, Snapp Transcription*; page 406; Box 17 Volume 7 Riker Memoria.
- ¹⁷New York Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804. New York State Archives, Albany, New York; Series B0950. Ancestry.com, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, Utah 84604, Newtown, Queens County 1799-1803. Hereinafter cited as *New York Tax Assessment Rolls 1799-1804*.
- ¹⁸1810 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M252, Roll 34, Town of Newtown, page 281.
- ¹⁹1820 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M33, Role 78, Town of Newtown, page 45A.
- ²⁰Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 405-406.
- ²¹Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 405-406.
- ²²*Riker Papers, Snapp Transcription*; page 381; Box 17, Volume 7 Riker's Memoria.
- ²³Newtown Presbyterian Records, Deaths, 1832.
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