

**Individual Narrative of Elizabeth⁶ Gorsline [95]
Daughter of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah⁵ Leverich [26]
Wife of Abraham Morrell, son of John Morrell and Elizabeth Skillman**

Elizabeth Gorsline was born circa 1767 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the daughter of Joseph Gorsline and Sarah Leverich. The birth date is a calculated estimate based upon the birth order of Elizabeth and her siblings.^{1,2}

Elizabeth Gorsline married Abraham Morrell, son of John Morrell and Elizabeth Skillman, probably about 1788-1789 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. The marriage may have taken place at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, but marriage records for the Church at that time have not survived.^{3,4,5,6}

Elizabeth Morrell was baptized as an adult on 10 April 1791 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Also baptized on the same date were her father Joseph Gorsline Sr, and her brothers Joseph Gorsline Jr and William Gorsline. Elizabeth's first child, Joseph Gorsline Morrell, was baptized at the same church on 5 June 1791. These events support the estimated marriage date of 1788-1789.⁷

Abraham Morrell, the son of John and Elizabeth Morrell, was baptized 2 February 1760 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. James Riker and Josephine Frost both state that Abraham was born 25 December 1759, but neither author cites a specific source.^{8,9,10,11}

Another Abraham Morrell of about the same age was living at Newtown in this time period. This Abraham was born about 1759 and was the son of Jonathan Morrell and Hannah Cook who were married 25 December 1751. This Abraham Morrell had a wife named Judith (surname unidentified), and he died at Newtown about 1816. The two Abraham Morrell's living at Newtown at the same time present a challenge in determining which Abraham was associated with which record. The two Abraham's were likely cousins, but the specific relationship has not been identified.^{12,13,14}

Two Abraham Morrell's are recorded in the 1790 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Abraham and Elizabeth Morrell are likely the household of four persons, listed in close proximity to the household of Joseph Gorsline, either Elizabeth's father or her brother. The census tallies include 1 free white male under the age of 16 (Joseph), 1 free white male over the age of 16 (Abraham), and two free white females (Elizabeth and unidentified). The household of eight persons is likely that of Abraham and Judith Morrell, located in close proximity to Isaac Morrell (brother) and Jonathan Morrell (father).¹⁵

The records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church list an Elizabeth Morrell becoming a member of the Church in 1798 and an Abraham Morrell becoming a member of the Church in 1800. The lateness of the dates make it unlikely that these persons are the same as Abraham and Elizabeth (Gorsline) Morrell.¹⁶

In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. Tax lists for 1799-1803 record the following: 1799: Abraham Morrell and Abraham Morrell Sr.; 1800: Abraham Morrell Sr; 1801: Abraham Morrell Jr; 1802 Abraham Morrell Jr.; 1803: Abraham Morrell. Abraham Morrell and wife Judith had a son Abraham Morrell, so they likely correspond to the Sr and Jr in the tax lists. Abraham Morrell and Elizabeth Gorsline did not have a son Abraham, and appear not to be included in these tax lists, for unknown reasons.¹⁷

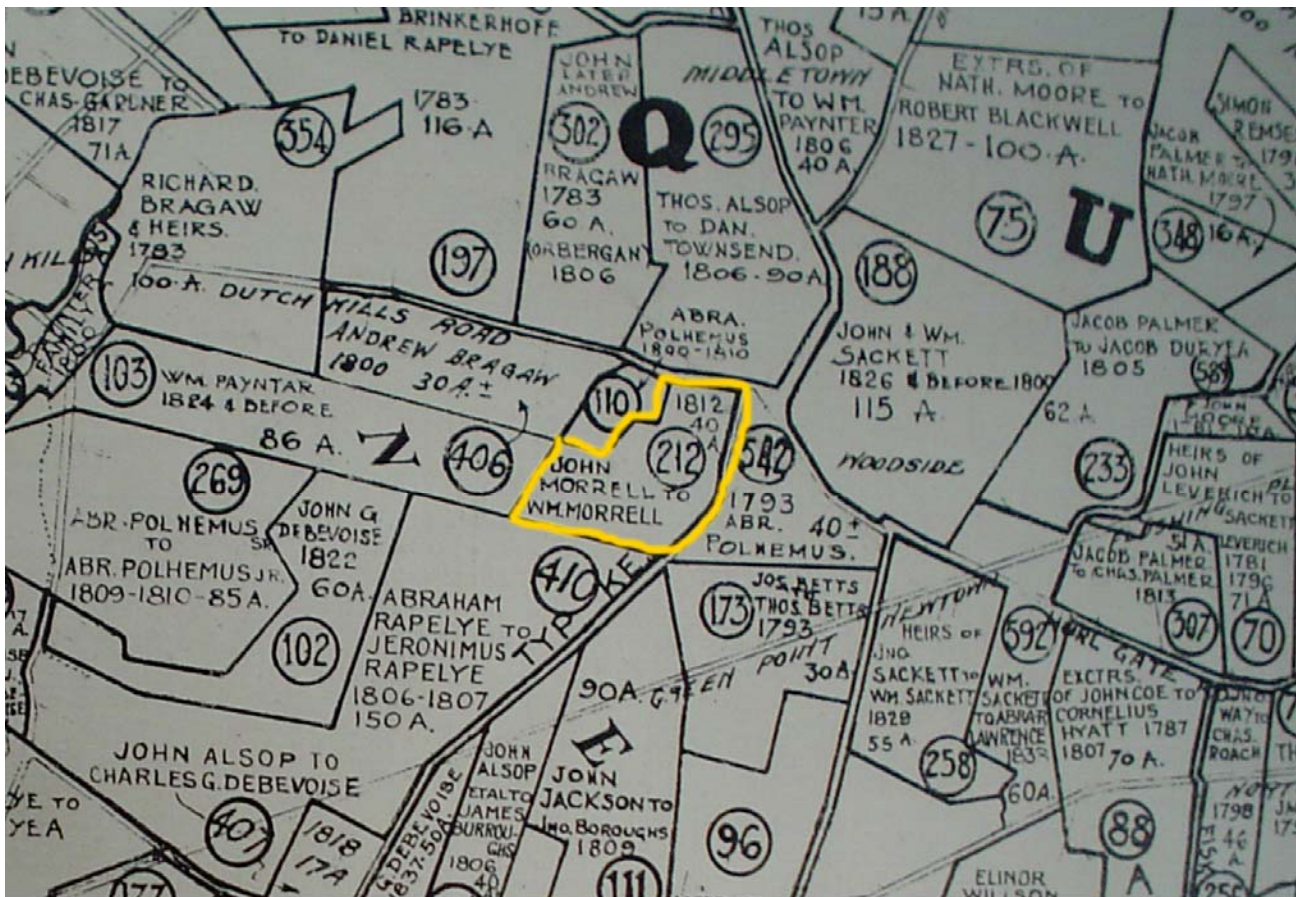
Two Abraham Morrell's are recorded in the 1800 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Abraham and Elizabeth Morrell are likely the household of 8 persons: 2 free white males under the age of 10 (Joseph and unidentified); 1 free white male age 10-15 (unidentified); 1 free white male age 26-45 (Abraham); 2 free white females under age 10 (Sarah and Maria); 1 free white female age 10 to 15 (unidentified); 1 free white female age 26 to 44 (Elizabeth). The Abraham Morrell household of 12 is likely that of Abraham and Judith Morrell, recorded adjacent to Jonathan Morrell (father) and Isaac Morrell (brother).¹⁸

On 2 July 1804, Abraham and Elizabeth Morrell were witnesses to the will of Joseph Denton of Newtown, Queens Co, New York.¹⁹

Two Abraham Morrell's are recorded in the 1810 U.S. Census: a family of 11 in Newtown, Queens County; and a family of 4 in Bushwick, Kings Co, New York. The Bushwick household is likely that of Abraham and Elizabeth, with census tallies that correspond to Abraham and children Joseph, Maria, and Sarah. For unknown reasons there is no tally corresponding to Elizabeth, who was presumably still alive, having been mentioned in her father's will in 1813. The Queens household is likely that of Abraham and Judith. The census tallies of this household do not correspond to the family of Abraham and Elizabeth.^{20,21}

Joseph Gorsline Sr, the father of Elizabeth Morrell, made a will at Newtown dated 13 August 1813. The will mentions multiple heirs, including his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Abraham Morrell.²² Elizabeth Gorsline Morrell died after 1813, probably at Newtown, Queens Co, New York.^{23,24} Neither a specific date of death nor a place of burial has been identified for Elizabeth. No specific record of Elizabeth has been found subsequent to the 1813 will of her father. Elizabeth likely died prior to 1834, at which time an apparent second wife of Abraham Morrell, that is James (sic) Ann Morrell, appears in a deed with Abraham.

John Morrell, father of Abraham, made a will at Newtown 24 June 1814. The will was proved 13 April 1816. In his will, John names as heirs his children William, Abraham, Thomas, Jacob, Mary, Margaret, and Catherine.²⁵ John Morrell was buried in 1816 in the Morrell Family Burial Ground in Newtown. The contemporary location is the south side of 39th Avenue, between 50th Street and Woodside Avenue. *The Graveyard Shift, A Family Historian's Guide to New York City Cemeteries* notes that "there were seven interments in this little burial ground. John Morrell, who died in 1816, was the only one memorialized by a gravestone." It is possible that Elizabeth Morrell may be among the unmarked burials, no other burial location having been identified for Elizabeth. The contemporary location corresponds closely with the John Morrell Farm as recorded on the 1800 Land Ownership Map of Queens County.^{26,27}



**1800 Queens County Property Ownership Map
John Morrell Farm**

Abraham Morrell, son of Jonathan Morrell and husband of Judith, died at Newtown, Queens Co, NY in 1816.²⁸

No Abraham Morrell is found in the 1820 U.S. Census in either Queens or Kings Counties, New York. Abraham and Elizabeth Morrell had a son Joseph G. Morrell born in 1790, hence age 30 in 1820. There is a Joseph Morrell listed in the census in New Lotts, Kings Co, with a census tally of 1 free white male age 26 to 45, which would correspond to Joseph. However, this household of 5 does not include any census tallies that would correspond with Abraham and/or Elizabeth Morrell. Another Joseph Morrell with a household of 6 persons is listed in Queens County, and includes a census tally for 1 free white male over the age of 45, which would correspond with Abraham who was age 61 in 1820. There is no tally corresponding to Elizabeth, but she may have died prior to 1820.^{29,30}

An Abraham Morrell is recorded as a member of a Brooklyn Fire Company called Protector Number 6, which was organized on 2 September 1825. There is insufficient information to determine if this Abraham is the same Abraham who was the husband of Elizabeth Gorsline.³¹

The 1830 U.S. Census records 2 Abraham Morrell's living in Newtown, Queens County. One Abraham is age 20 to 29, and is recorded adjacent to Isaac Morrell. This Abraham therefore is likely Abraham Morrell Jr, son of Abraham and Judith Morrell. The second Abraham Morrell is included in a census tally for 1 free white male age 40 to 49, which is too young for Abraham Morrell who would have been age 71 in 1830. However, the age tallies may be incorrect, since this Abraham is listed nearby to the household of Joseph Morrell, which includes a tally for 1 free white female age 60 to 69. This could have been his mother Elizabeth Gorsline Morrell, who would have been age 61 at the time. It also could be a second wife of Abraham. Insufficient information has been identified to resolve these circumstances. A J.G. Morrell is recorded in Ward 4, Brooklyn, Kings County with a tally of 1 free white male age 30 to 39, which would correspond to Joseph G. Morrell. However, there are no census tallies that correspond to Abraham or Elizabeth Morrell, and no Abraham Morrell found in Kings County.^{32,33}

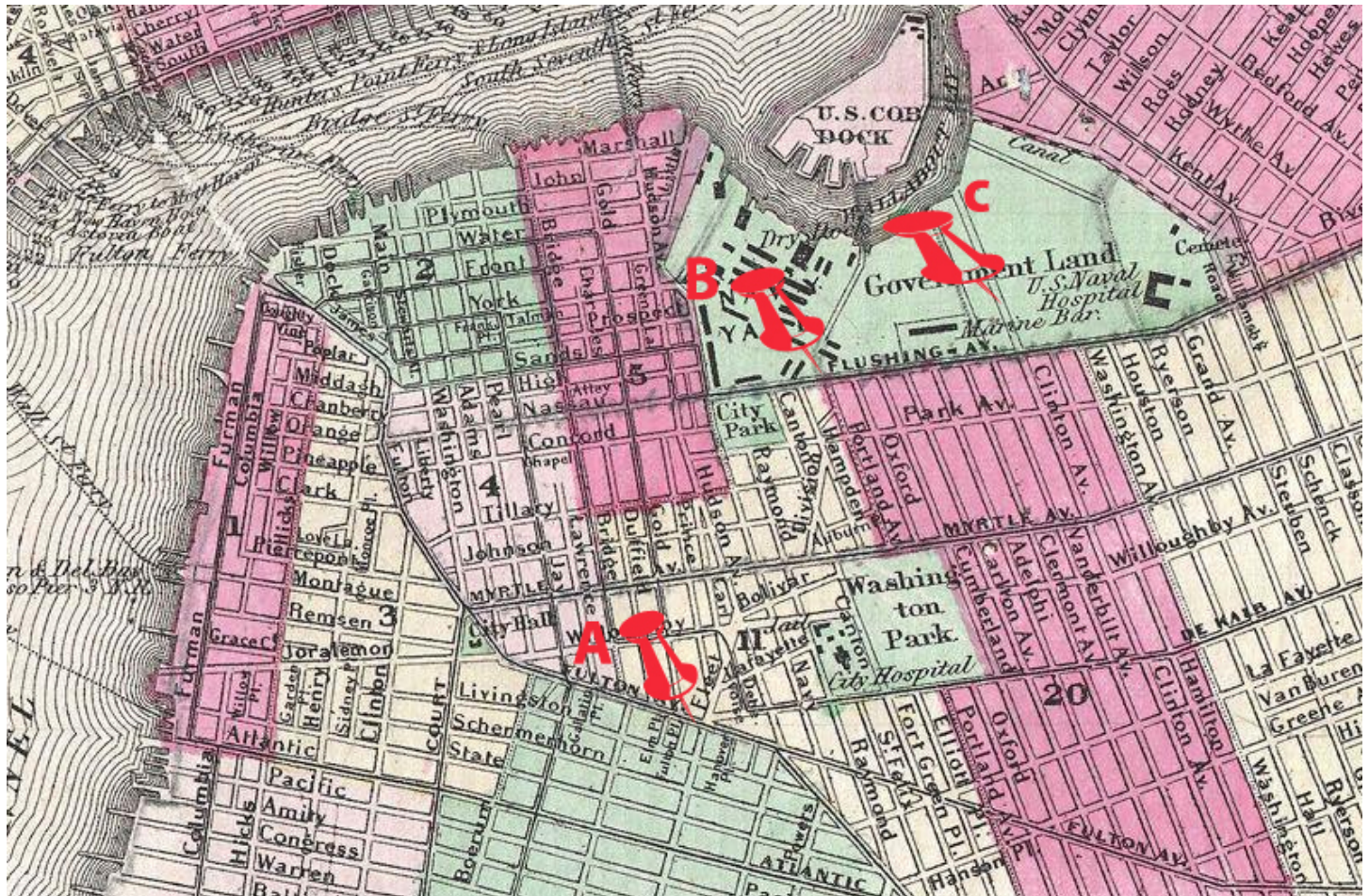
The following advertisement was published in the New York Evening Post on 6 November 1834. "Will be sold at auction on Saturday, the 15th day of November, at 12 o'clock, at John A. Conklin's Hotel, Fulton Ferry, 3 and 3/4 acres of Land, with a new barn and old house thereon, situated on the Newtown and Flushing road, adjoining the property of Governor De Witt Clinton, deceased, and nearly opposite the Maspeth Hotel, kept by Mr. John Van Cott. There is upon the premises a first rate well of water, and an abundance of fruit trees of various kinds. Terms 10 per cent at the sale, \$500 can remain on mortgage, the balance as soon as the deed is ready. A map can be seen at the auctioneers. For further particulars enquire of Mr. Abraham Morrell, Navy street, near Tillary street. Brooklyn November 5, 1834."³⁴

On 9 December 1834, Abraham Morrell and his wife James (sic) Ann Morrell, sold to James Renne, in consideration of \$1100.00, all that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate at Maspeth or Newtown landing in the town of Newtown; 3 3/4 acres bordered northerly by land of Benjamin Gifford, easterly by land of Thomas Laine, southerly by the Newtown and Bushwick Turnpike Road, and westerly by land of James Renne. The deed was witnessed by Samuel R. Way and Jacob Field, and recorded at the Queens County courthouse on 12 January 1835. Thomas Laine was likely a son-in-law of Abraham. James Ann Morrell was likely a second wife to Abraham.³⁵

On 2 May 1836, Joseph Morrell of Newtown purchased of John Cozine and Sarah his wife, a house and land at Williamsburg, Kings County, New York, the northerly half of lot 143. The deed was witnessed by Lewis Sanford, and recorded on 5 May 1836 at the Kings County courthouse. This may have been Joseph the son of Abraham and Elizabeth Morrell.³⁶

The 1840 U.S. Census records Joseph G. Morrell in Ward 6 of Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. The census tallies include 1 free white male age 40 to 49, likely Joseph; and a free white male age 80 to 89, possibly Joseph's father Abraham Morrell. On 1 free white female is recorded, probably the wife of Joseph.³⁷ The 1840 census also lists two Abraham Morrell's in Kings Co, New York: Abraham, age 20 to 29, Ward 7 of Brooklyn; and Abraham age 30 to 39, also Ward 7 of Brooklyn. Assuming that the census tallies are accurate, neither of these would be the Abraham Morrell husband of Elizabeth Gorsline.³⁸

The 1840-1841 Brooklyn City Directory includes Abraham Morrell, carpenter, Navy near Myrtle; and Abraham Morrell, blacksmith, 70 Prospect. Also listed in the 1840-1841 Brooklyn City Directory are Joseph G. Morrell, pound master, Fulton near Fleet (Ward 6, likely the son of Abraham and Elizabeth); Thomas Lane, carpenter, Newtown Road near Division Avenue (Ward 7, likely a son-in-law of Abraham and Elizabeth); and the widow of Robert Van Voorhis, Wallabout near Clinton Avenue (Ward 7, likely the daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth).^{39,40}



1840 Brooklyn City Directory

- A: Joseph G. and Ann Morrell: Pound Master, Fulton near Fleet**
 - B: Thomas and Sarah Lane: Carpenter, Newtown Road near Division Ave**
 - C: Maria, widow of Robert Van Voorhis: Wallabout near Clinton Ave**
- <1866 Johnson Map of Brooklyn, New York>**

On 15 May 1841 Abraham Morrell purchased for \$400 land at Brooklyn from Foster Pettit and his wife Clarissa, known as lot 199 situated at the intersection of the northerly line of Lafayette St and the southeasterly line of Fleet Street. The deed was witnessed by William Ellsworth, and recorded on 19 May 1841.⁴¹ In 1843, the same property was the subject of a mortgage sale by Foster Pettit and his wife Clarissa, a mortgage <Liber 69, page 29, 19 May 1841> that had been taken out by Abraham Morrell and his wife James (sic) Ann Morrell. The sale was advertised in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle on 4 April 1843 and was then valued at \$679.33.⁴²

As per James Riker in the *Annals of Newtown*, Abraham Morrell died on 18 June 1842, probably in Kings County, New York. Riker does not cite a source.⁴³ Abraham Morrell was buried on 25 February 1861 at Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn, his remains having been removed from Bushwick. The burial place in Bushwick is not identified, but there were two possibilities: Bushwick Village Cemetery or Bushwick Reformed Dutch Church Cemetery.^{44,45}

Elizabeth Gorsline and Abraham Morrell had three children.⁴⁶

- i. Joseph Gorsline Morrell was born at Newtown, Queens Co, New York on 22 April 1790. He was baptized 5 June 1791 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Joseph married 12 December 1813 Ann Marie Bennet. He died 6 April 1871 at Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York, and was buried at Cypress Hills Cemetery. Joseph is found in the 1820 and 1830 U.S. Census of Newtown; 1840, 1850, and 1860 at Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York; 1855 and 1865 New York State Census at Brooklyn.^{47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58}
- ii. Sarah Morrell was born about 1795 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. She was baptized May 1795 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Sarah married Thomas Lane about 1814. Sarah Lane died at Brooklyn 5 January 1869, and was buried at Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn. Thomas Lane is found in the 1820 U.S. Census at Newtown; 1830 and 1840 at Brooklyn. Widow Sarah Lane is found in the 1850 U.S. Census at Williamsburg, Kings Co, New York and the 1855 New York State Census at Brooklyn, Ward 16.^{59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68}
- iii. Maria Ann Morrell was born about 1799 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Maria was baptized 1 October 1799 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Maria Ann Morrell married Robert Van Voorhis 6 November 1820. Maria died 26 April 1878 at Brooklyn, Kings Co, NY, and was buried at Green-wood Cemetery. Robert Van Voorhis is found in the 1820 U.S. Census at Newtown and the 1830 U.S. Census at Brooklyn. Widow Maria Van Voorhis is found in the 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 U.S. Census of Brooklyn Ward 7; also the 1865 New York State Census of Brooklyn.^{69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82}

No estate record has been found for Abraham Morrell in Kings Co, New York.⁸³

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- ⁴⁸New York, New York City Municipal Deaths 1795-1949, online <www.familysearch.org>, Family Search Reference ID cn2766, FHL Film No. 1323687. Hereinafter cited as New York City Municipal Deaths 1795-1949.
- ⁴⁹Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms, 1791.
- ⁵⁰Josephine C Frost, compiler, *Baptismal Record of the Reformed Dutch Church at Newtown, Long Island, New York 1736 to 1846. Marriages by Rev. Garretson at Newtown from 1835 to 1846*. (Brooklyn, New York: Privately printed, 1913), Baptisms, 1815 and 1818. Hereinafter cited as *Reformed Dutch Church Newtown Baptisms*.
- ⁵¹Burial Record, Cypress Hills Cemetery, 833 Jamaica Ave, Brooklyn, Kings, New York 11208, Lot 81, Section 4.
- ⁵²1820 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co, Ancestry.com, Newtown, page 42A.
- ⁵³1830 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Newtown, page 5.
- ⁵⁴1840 U.S. Census New York, Kings Co, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn Ward 6, page 670.
- ⁵⁵1850 U.S. Census New York, Kings County. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 519, Brooklyn Ward 11, page 237B.
- ⁵⁶1860 U.S. Census New York, Kings Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 774, Ward 18 Brooklyn, page 484.
- ⁵⁷1855 NY State Census, Kings Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NY State Archives, Brooklyn Ward 18, Household No. 306.
- ⁵⁸1865 New York State Census, Kings County. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NY State Archives, Brooklyn, page 19.

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- ⁵⁹Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms, 1795.
- ⁶⁰New York City Municipal Deaths 1795-1949, online www.familysearch.org, Reference ID cn137, FHL Film No. 1323674.
- ⁶¹Burial Record, Cypress Hills Cemetery, 833 Jamaica Ave, Brooklyn, Kings, New York 11208, Lot 328, Section 4.
- ⁶²1820 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Newtown, page 42A.
- ⁶³1830 U.S. Census New York, Kings Co, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn page 368.
- ⁶⁴1840 U.S. Census New York, Kings Co, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn Ward 7, page 768.
- ⁶⁵1850 U.S. Census New York, Kings County, Ancestry.com, Williamsburg, page 422B.
- ⁶⁶1855 1855 NY State Census, Kings Co, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn Ward 16, Household No. 112.
- ⁶⁷1860 U.S. Census New York, Kings Co, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn Ward 15, page 76.
- ⁶⁸Thomas Lane will (1849), Volume 11, pages 429-433; Kings County, New York Surrogate, 2 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. Hereinafter cited as 1849 Probate Thomas Lane.
- ⁶⁹Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms, 1799.
- ⁷⁰New York City Municipal Deaths 1795-1949, online www.familysearch.org, ID cn3206, FHL Film No. 1323738.
- ⁷¹Maria Morrell, *International Genealogical Index (IGI)*; 35 North West Temple St, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Batch No. A22141-1, Film No. 456318.
- ⁷²1820 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co, Ancestry.com, Newtown, page 35A.
- ⁷³1830 U.S. Census New York, Kings Co, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn, page 368.
- ⁷⁴1840 U.S. Census New York, Kings Co, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn Ward 7, page 740.
- ⁷⁵1850 U.S. Census New York, Kings County, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn Ward 7, page 309B.
- ⁷⁶1860 U.S. Census New York, Kings Co, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn Ward 7, page 148.
- ⁷⁷1865 New York State Census, Kings County, Ancestry.com, Brooklyn, page 37.
- ⁷⁸1870 U.S. Census New York, Kings Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M593, Roll 963, Brooklyn Ward 7, page 597B.
- ⁷⁹*New York Herald*, New York, New York, 1840-1920. Hereinafter cited as *New York Herald*, 27 April 1878, page 8.
- ⁸⁰Burial Record, Green-wood Cemetery, 500 25th Street, Brooklyn, Kings, New York 11232; December 1857, Maria Van Voorhis, Lot 2347, Section 91.
- ⁸¹Maria Van Voorhis will (1878), Volume 74, page 103; Kings County, New York Surrogate, 2 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. Hereinafter cited as 1878 Probate Maria Van Voorhis.
- ⁸²Robert Van Voorhis will (1878), Volume 7, pages 107-111; Kings County, New York Surrogate, 2 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. Hereinafter cited as 1839 Probate Robert Van Voorhis.
- ⁸³Index Probate Kings Co NY: New York, Probate Records, 1629-1971; Family Search; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; 35 North West Temple St, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150; Morrell. Hereinafter cited as Index Probate Kings Co NY.