

Individual Narrative of John⁷ Leverich [125] Son of Jesse⁶ Leverich [57] and Gashe Berrian Husband of Alletta Berrian

John Leverich^{1,2,3,4,5} was born on 3 Jan 1789 at Newtown, Queens, New York, the son of Jesse Leverich and Gashe Berrian.^{6,7,8,9,10} John Leverich was baptized 1 January 1792 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, along with 4 siblings.¹¹

John Leverich of Newtown, Queens Co, New York, served in the War of 1812 as a sergeant, in the 64th and 93rd consolidated regiment of New York militia commanded by his uncle Col. Edward Leverich. John Leverich was awarded a warrant for Bounty Land based upon his service, which he transferred to his son John G. Leverich. Based upon this bounty land warrant, John G. Leverich was assigned 43 acres of land in Danville, Vermilion Co, Illinois, described as the west half of lot 2 of northeast quarter section 5, in Township 22 north of range 12 west. The land patent was dated 15 March 1856.^{12,13}

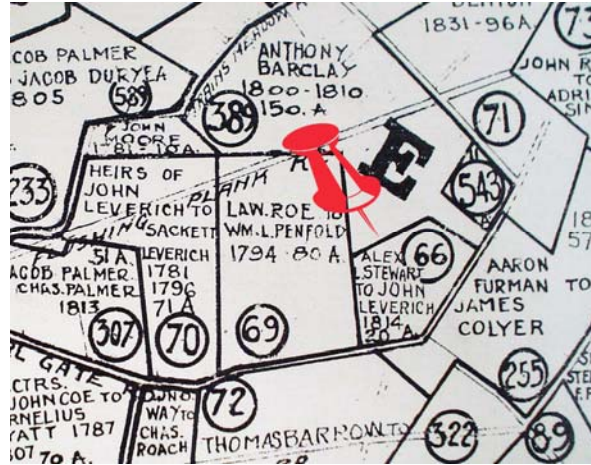
John Leverich married Alletta Berrian, daughter of Samuel Berrian and Sarah Newman, on 27 Oct 1814 at Newtown, Queens, New York, probably at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. The Church records for 1810-1819 which cover the entire pastorate of Rev. Boardman are missing and it is not known if they were kept or not. John and Alletta were second cousins through the Berrian line.^{14,15,16,17}

Alletta Berrian was born 18 July 1788 at Newtown, Queens County, New York.^{18,19} Alletta Berrian was baptized 29 February 1792 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, along with her sister Jane.²⁰

Portraits of John Leverich and Alletta Berrian were published in the *Berrian Family Genealogy* by Baumeiser and Plumb, and sketches of the same republished in *A Genealogical History of the Berrian Family*, by E. Renee Heiss.^{21,22}



On 17 May 1814 John Leverich purchased a 20 acre farm at Newtown from Alexander L. Stewart of New York City and his wife Sarah in consideration of \$2,750.00. The tract bordered the land of Robert Moore on the northeast; the land of Anthony Barclay on the northwest; the land of William Penfold on the southwest, and south and southeast by the main road. The purchase also included 12 acres of salt meadow near Flushing Creek belonging to the estate of William Betts, deceased, and Joseph Betts. The deed was witnessed by James Campbell, and recorded on 12 June 1820.^{23,24}

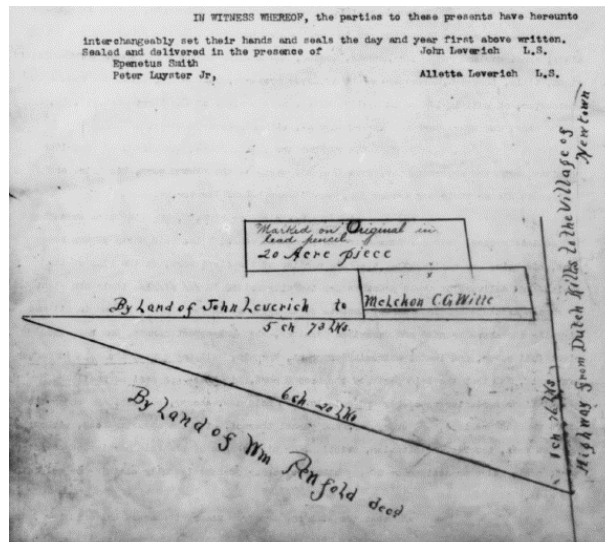


John Leverich is recorded as a head of family in the 1820 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York. The census tallies include: 1 free white male under the age of 10 (son John G.); 1 free white male age 10 to 15 (Richard T, actually age 5); 1 free white male age 16 to 25 (John Sr, actually age 30); 1 free white female under the age of 10 (daughter Jane T); 1 free white female age 26 to 44 (wife Alletta).²⁵

John Leverich is recorded as a head of family in the 1830 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York. The census tallies include: 2 free white males age 10 to 14 (sons Richard T. and John G.); 1 free white male age 40 to 49 (John Sr); 1 free white female age 10 to 14 (daughter Jane T); 1 free white female age 40 to 49 (wife Alletta).²⁶

John Leverich is recorded as a head of family in the 1840 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York. The census tallies include: 1 free white male age 20 to 29 (sons Richard T or John G, ages 25 and 21); 1 free white male age 50 to 59 (John Sr); 1 free white female age 5 to 9 (daughter Mary E.); 1 free white female age 20 to 29 (daughter Jane T.); 1 free white female age 50 to 59 (wife Alletta).²⁷

On 5 November 1847 John Leverich and his wife Alletta of Newtown sold a triangular lot, 1/2 acre, in Newtown to John Penfold, in consideration of \$150.00. The tract was bounded by the northerly side of the highway from Dutch Kills to Newtown, and on the east adjoining the land of William L. Penfold, deceased. The deed was recorded 13 November 1847.²⁸



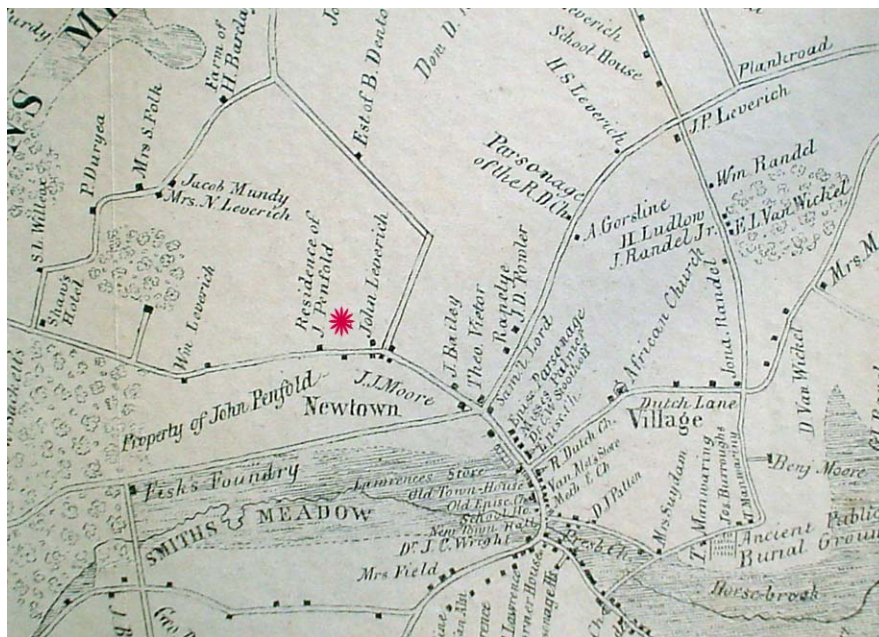
**City Register Queens County, New York
Liber 63, page 166: 5 November 1847**

On 31 August 1849 John Leverich and his wife Alletta of Newtown executed an indenture, in consideration of \$1.00, granting a Release and Quit Claim to Ezra Berrian of their interest in a 23 acre island in the East River called Berrian's Island. The indenture was recorded 26 September 1849.²⁹

James Riker Jr, in his manuscript notes about the revolutionary war says that "John Leverich states [c 1850] that he well recollects hearing his mother [Gashe Berrian Leverich] and Captain Culver (the latter often calls at Jas. R. Rapelye's) tell about the deserter who was hung on a pear tree, the stump of which is remaining. He knew of no other there and there was no orchard. His orchard is the second field from it. Peter Luyster now owns the property, but it was originally part of the premises that John Leverich owns."³⁰

John Leverich is recorded as a head of family in the 1850 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York. John is identified as a farmer, age 61, with real estate valued at \$7,000.00. The family includes wife Alletta age 62 and daughter Mary E. Leverich, age 18. Also listed is a female house servant Bridget Gainer and an Irish farm laborer Morris Fitzgerald.³¹

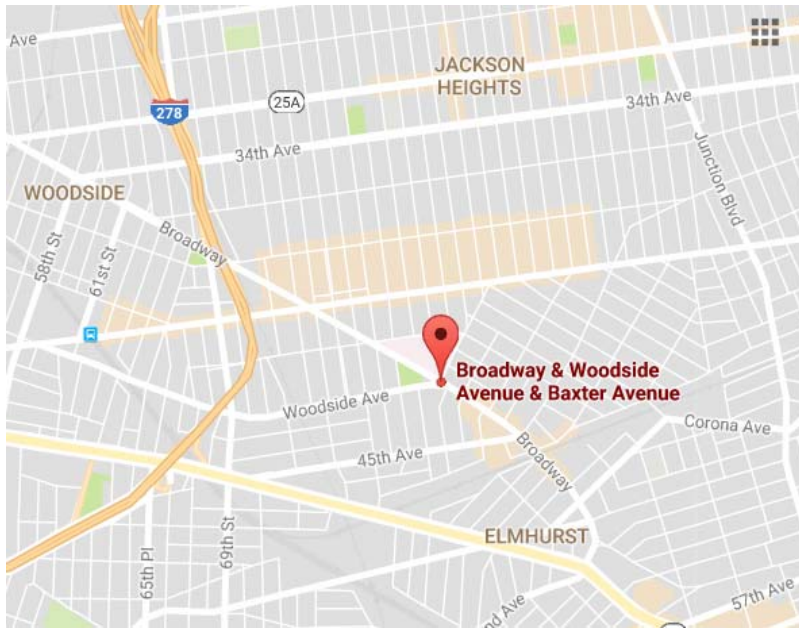
James Riker's 1852 map of Newtown shows the farm of John Leverich located at the intersection of what was then Hurl's Gate-Newtown Road and Trains Meadow Road.³²



**John and Alletta Berrian Leverich
James Riker Jr 1852 Map of Newtown**

On 1 October 1852 John and Alletta Leverich engaged in land transactions in Newtown with their son-in-law Melchior C. G. Witte. The transactions were recorded on 7 January 1853.

³³The *Berrian Family Genealogy* [Baumeister and Plumb] further adds that the "John Leverich farm house, which he purchased in 1814, was built with timbers from the old Presbyterian Church. The place between the barn and house was used as slaves' quarters before John Leverich bought the property. The house was built in the old Dutch style of architecture with a long sloping roof. A large double piazza extended along the front of the house, with big double doors opening on to it from the lower and upper hall. The front door was ornamented with a ponderous iron knocker in the shape of a lion's head with a large ring in its mouth. The house, when erected, was one of the largest and finest in this locality. In this house were born their children, grandchildren by one daughter, and one great-grandchild. The house was razed to the ground in 1905 but the property was still undivided in the 1920's. It was located at what is now the corner of Baxter Avenue, Woodside Avenue, and Broadway in Elmhurst."^{34,35,36}



This account continues "John Leverich was incapacitated by a severe fall from a tree about ten years before his death. A letter of their daughter Jane to her brother Richard, established in Danville, Illinois states 'We have an excellent Irishman hired by the year. Mother has to take charge almost wholly herself. Crops are all good. Hay and corn very fine and a good market for everything but vegetables.' Alletta is described by her granddaughter Mrs. Davis <Marie Eugenie Hinckley Davis> as 'a tiny woman, black-eyed, a fine house-keeper, a notable needle woman, a strict Presbyterian, proud of her Berrian blood, a great reader, had a rare gift for story telling.'^{37,38,111}

John Leverich died on 25 April 1858 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at age 69 years, 3 months, and 22 days. John was buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.^{39,40,41}



Home of John Leverich and Alletta Berrien, his wife, a 20 acre farm, bought in 1814. Photograph by grandson, 1908, after it has passed from the family. View of Front.



**Home of John Leverich and Aletta Berrien, his wife, a 20 acre farm, bought in 1814.
Photograph by grandson, 1908, after it had passed from the family. View of Rear.**

John Leverich made a will dated 27 August 1831. The probate proceedings identified his heirs as wife Alletta, and children Richard T., John G., Jane T. wife of Russell Hinckley, and Marie E. wife of M.C.G. Witte. John's will left his entire estate to his wife Alletta, and named Alletta as the sole executrix. The will was witnessed by Sarah Berrian (in 1831, Sarah Berrian wife of Seleck Scofield in 1858), David Woodhull, and J. Jackson Gardner.⁴²

Widow Alletta Leverich, age 72 born New York, is recorded in the 1860 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York living in the household of her daughter Mary E. Witte and her family.⁴³

Alletta Berrian Leverich died on 1 December 1863 in Newtown, Queens, New York at age 66. Alletta was buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.^{44,45,46} On 13 June 1864 letters of administration on the estate of Alletta Leverich were granted to her daughter Mary E. Witte in the Queens Co, New York Surrogate.⁴⁷

John and Alletta Leverich had four children all born at Newtown.^{48,49}

- i. Richard Titus Leverich was born at Newtown on 24 August 1815. Richard married 22 November 1848 Lydia F. Gilbert at Danville, Vermilion Co, Illinois. Richard died at Danville 20 March 1886. He was buried in the Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum in Danville.^{50,51,52,53,54}
- ii. Jane Townsend Leverich was born at Newtown 26 September 1817. Jane married 6 January 1846 Russell Hinckley at Newtown. Jane died at Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois 10 December 1888. She was buried at the Walnut Hill Cemetery in Belleville, 2nd addition, Lot 13, Grave 4.^{55,56,57,58}
- iii. John Goldsmith Leverich was born at Newtown 28 October 1819. John married 13 November 1847 Sarah Ann Tilton at Danville, Vermilion Co, Illinois. John died at Danville 18 March 1889. He was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum in Danville.^{59,60,61,62,63}

- iv. Mary Eliza Bogert Leverich was born at Newtown 1 November 1832. Mary Eliza married 26 March 1851 Melchior Conrad Gerhard Witte at Newtown. Mary Eliza died at Northport, Suffolk Co, New York 22 March 1904. She was buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.^{64,65,66,67}

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