

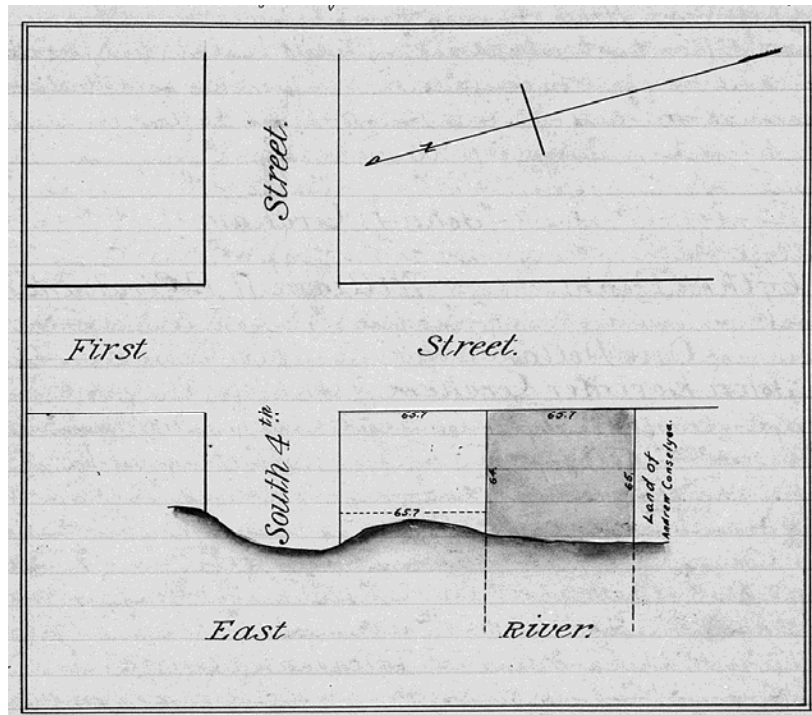
**Individual Narrative of William⁷ L. Devoo [167]
 Son of Frederick Devoo and Sarah⁶ Leverich [63]
 Husband of Malvina Ryer**

William L. Devoo was born circa 1801 at Bushwick, Kings Co, New York, the son of Frederick Devoo and Sarah Leverich. William was likely baptized at the Bushwick Reformed Church in Kings Co, New York, as were several of his siblings. However, a baptismal record for William has not been found.^{1,2,3}

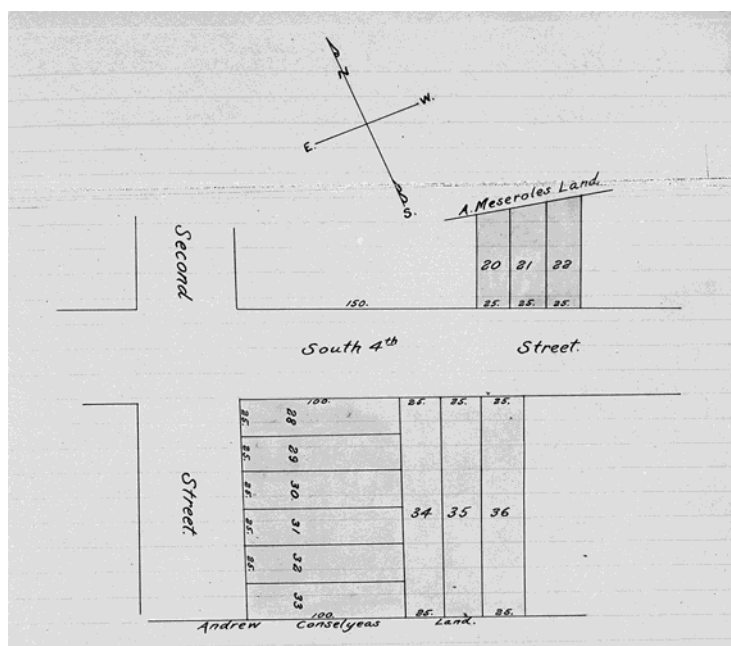
Frederick Devoo died in 1829. No will was found for Frederick Devoo filed in Kings County, New York. However, in the years 1829-1829 Frederick and his wife Sarah executed six deeds granting lands in his estate to various of their then surviving children, "in consideration of the love and affection which they have and bear toward the grantee, as well as receipt of \$1.00." Two of these deeds granted land to their son William L. Devoo.

Date of Record	Date of Instrument	Grantee	Liber-Page
4 March 1828	1 March 1828	John Devoo	24-011
27 July 1828	1 March 1828	William L. Devoo	25-020
16 March 1829	7 March 1829	John Devoo	26-123
21 March 1829	13 March 1829	Cornelia L. Devoo	26-136
21 March 1829	7 March 1829	William L. Devoo	26-138
13 January 1830	7 March 1829	John J. Cisco	27-496

Each of these deeds included a map of the property, and the six deeds combined subdivided the tract in Williamsburg bordered by the East River on the West, South 4th St on the North, 3rd street on the east, and South 5th Street on the south.^{4,5}



**Deed, Kings Co, NY Liber 25, page 20
 Frederick Devoo and Sarah his wife to William L. Devoo
 Land at Williamsburgh Village**



**Deed, Kings Co, NY Liber 26, page 138
 Frederick Devoo and Sarah his wife to William L. Devoo
 Land at Williamsburgh Village**

These deeds reflect the use of the family surname "Devoo" instead of "Devoe". Hereafter, William primarily used the spelling "Devoo".^{6,7}

William Devoo married Malvina Ryer, daughter of John Ryer and Hannah (--?--), circa 1830 at New York. *The Genealogy of the Deveaux Family*, by Thomas F. Devoe, incorrectly identifies Malvina's maiden name as "Wakeman". "Wakeman" was actually the married name of two of Malvina's sisters. Malvina's death record in 1894 identifies her parents as John and Hannah Ryer, and indicates that she was born c 1812. A deed executed on 1 March 1831 identifies the grantors as William L. Devoo of Williamsburgh and his wife Malvina. A specific date and place of marriage for William and Malvina has not been identified. William and Malvina did not have any children.^{8,9,10}

William Devoe is recorded in the 1830 U.S. Census, Bushwick and Williamsburgh, Kings County, New York. The household includes six free white persons and 4 free black persons. The census tallies include 1 free white male age 20-29 (William) and 1 free white female age 20 to 29 (Malvina). Unidentified are 2 free white males age 70 to 79, 1 free white female under age 5, 1 free white female age 50 to 59.¹¹

On 1 March 1831 William L. Devoo of Williamsburgh and Malvina his wife sold to Edward Leverich of Newtown, in consideration of \$900, lots 74-76 in Williamsburgh, located on the north side of South 4th St, between Third and Fourth Streets. The deed was recorded on 21 March 1831. "Edward Leverich" could have been Edward, Senior (1763-1835) or Edward, Junior (1780-1861). The deed does not identify Edward as either Senior or Junior, nor does the deed provide the name of his wife.¹²

On 18 October 1833, Sarah Devoe, John Devoe, William L. Devoe (note that the "oe" spelling was used) and his wife Malvina sold land to John J. Cisco (widower of Sarah's daughter Maria) of Manhattan in consideration of \$500, lot 25 in Williamsburgh bordering lots already owned by John J. Cisco, fronting 25 feet on South 4th Street, west of Third Street. The deed was recorded on 29 October 1833.¹³

In a deed dated 9 December 1837 Jacob Hunter grocer of New York City and his wife Charlotte, and Robert Shields hardware merchant of New York City and his wife Elizabeth, sold a house, lot, and improvements to William L. Devoo of New York City in consideration of \$5100 in Ward 7 of Manhattan, New York County, New York. The lot was located on

the south side of East Broadway, bordering lots 5 and 9 front and rear and lot 6 on the east. The deed was recorded on 26 December 1837. On 5 June 1840, William Devoo, lately of New York City, then of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, sold the property, perhaps 257 East Broadway, to Abner Mellen of New York City in consideration of \$4000. The deed was recorded 5 June 1840.^{14,15}

In a deed dated 30 September 1837 Robert Shields hardware merchant of New York City and his wife Elizabeth, sold a house lot, and improvements to William Devoo of New York City in consideration of \$5500 in Ward 7 of Manhattan, New York County, New York. The lot was located on the south side of East Broadway near Montgomery Street, bordering lots 6 and 10 front and rear, and lots 7 and 5 east and west. This lot appears to be adjacent to that lot purchased by William on 9 December 1837. The deed was recorded on 10 October 1837. On 1 March 1844, William Devoo and Malvina his wife of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania sold the property, probably adjacent to 257 East Broadway, to Adam W. Youle cooper of New York City in consideration of \$8000. The deed was recorded 27 April 1844.^{16,17}

William and Malvina Devoo likely were leasing these properties as an investment, while living in Williamsburgh 1837 to 1839 and living in Philadelphia 1840-1845 according to the Philadelphia City Directory. There are no entries for William Devoo in the New York City Directory 1837-1845.^{18,19,20,21}

On 21 June 1839, Sarah Devoo of the City of New York, widow of Frederick Devoo of Williamsburgh; and John Devoo, Gentleman of the City of New York; and William L. Devoo of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Packer and Provision Dealer, and Malvina his wife; John and William being the only children and heirs of Frederick Devoo: sold land lot 56 at Williamsburgh to William Leaycraft of Williamsburgh. On 7 September 1839, the same grantors sold lots 128, 129, 130 at Williamsburgh to Albert B. Van Cott, Jeweler of the City of New York. Both deeds were recorded on 6 June 1840. Both deeds were witnessed by John W.C. Leveridge. John was a 22 year old law student or attorney at the time, and was a second cousin once removed to John and William L. Devoo.^{22,23}

The 1840 through 1845 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania City Directory lists William L. Devoo, merchant, 444 Front Street.^{24,25}

William L. Devoo is recorded in the 1840 U.S. Census living in Northern Liberties Ward 7, City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The household size is five free white persons, but the census tallies do not line up for William, although they do line up for Malvina.²⁶

On 14 November 1843, Sarah Devoo of the City of New York, widow of Frederick Devoo of Williamsburgh deceased, and William L. Devoo, a son, and his wife Malvina of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, executed a Power of Attorney designating John Devoo of the City of New York to act on their behalf re real estate transactions in Williamsburgh.²⁷

A Legal Notice dated 6 August 1846 was printed in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle on 11 September 1846 concerning in Chancery, John Devoo and William L. Devoo vs. Stephen B. Masters, and others. Masters sale will be held of land in Bushwick, conveyed by deed to Frederick Devoo by Abraham Luquoer, 23 April 1799. See Kings Co Conveyances Liber 82-166, recorded 7 June 1839. Property originally owned by Frederick passed to his widow and two sons, who subsequently sold the land to Stephen B Masters, who borrowed money via mortgage from the Devoo's. Masters did not pay off the mortgages, and the property reverted to Devoos on foreclosure, with the property put up for auction in 1846. The original 1799 deed was apparently not recorded; it is not found in either the grantor or the grantee index.²⁸

William L. Devoo is listed in the 1846 New York City Directory residing at 217 Madison Avenue.²⁹

The New York City Directory 1847-1850 lists William L. Devoo living at 167 East Broadway.^{30,31}

In a deed dated 10 April 1847 Richard T. Haines and Francina E. his wife of New York City sold a house, lot and improvements to William L. Devoo of New York City in consideration of \$8000 in Ward 7 of Manhattan, New York County, New York. The lot was located at 167 East Broadway, 52 feet 3 inches easterly from the southeast corner of East Broadway and Rutgers Street. The deed was recorded on 28 April 1847. On 25 March 1851, William L. Devoo and his wife Malvina of New York City, sold the same lot to William's cousin Benjamin C. Leveridge, Attorney of New York City, in consideration of \$9000. The deed was recorded 27 March 1851.^{32,33}



167 East Broadway, Ward 7
William L. Devoo: NYC Directory 1847-1850
<M. Drips Map Manhattan 1867>

The 1850 U.S. Census, Ward 7, District 1, Manhattan, New York County, New York records William L. Devoo, age 48, born New York; his wife Malvina, age 38, born New York; and two Irish born female servants Mary M. Kenna and Cathleen Tulley.³⁴

In 1850 William L. Devoo is listed as a member of the American Art-Union of New York City.³⁵

On 19 December 1850 a notice was published in the Albany New York Argus summoning to a probate hearing a list of potential heirs including Malvina Devoo of the estate of Ann Hutchins, John M. Ryer Executor. Also included were James Ryer, Henry Ryer, Thomas Ryer, James Ryer, Lindy Ryer, Sarah Howe, William T. H. Ryer, Frederick Ryer, Susan Ryer, and Mary Ryer severally residing in the city of New York; also Harriet Wakeman and Mary Wakeman residing in Brooklyn; also Catharine Ann Ryer and Elizabeth Gelser living in Tennessee; George Ryer of Philadelphia; and Edward Ryer a minor of New York City.³⁶

No listing appears for William L. Devoo in the 1851-1856 New York City Directory. It is likely that William lived in Williamsburgh during this period of time.^{37,38}

The 1857 New York City Directory lists William L. Devoo living at 187 10th Avenue.³⁹

William L. Devoo died on 2 Jul 1857 at Manhattan, New York County, New York. William was buried in the Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn.^{40,41}

William L. Devoo made a will dated 10 November 1856. William's heirs were his wife Malvina, his brother John, and no children. William left a large estate with substantial bequests to Malvina, John, and the American Bible Society. Malvina, John, and brother-in-law and friend John J. Cisco were named Executors. The will was witnessed by Samuel M. Meeker and David E. Meeker. The will was proved 9 July 1857.⁴²

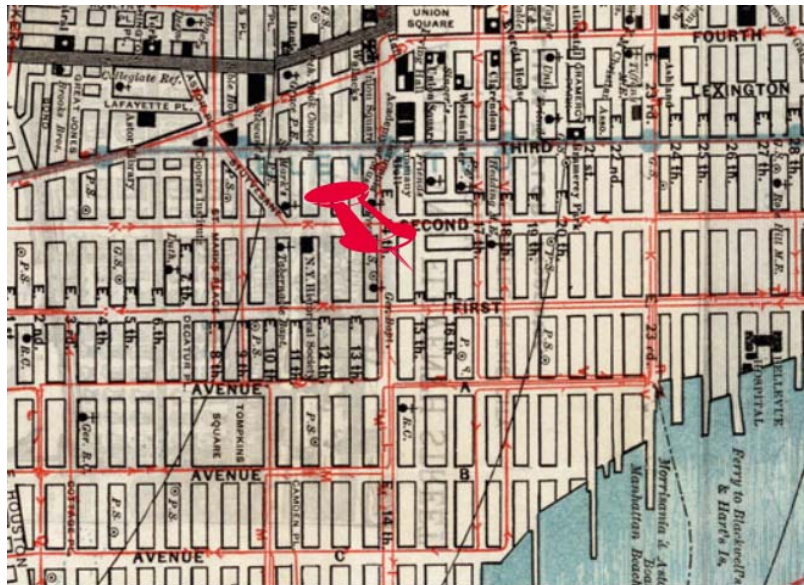
The New York City Directory 1858 through 1864 lists Malvina Devoo, widow William L. Devoo, living at 187 10th Avenue. However, no record of Malvina is found in the 1860 U.S. Census.^{43,44,45}

There is no listing for Malvina Devoo in the 1865-1868 New York City or Brooklyn City Directories. She may have been living at one of the family properties in Williamsburgh.^{46,47}

On 11 October 1868 the New York Herald published an accounting and status report of the legacy William L. Devoo had left from his estate to the American Bible Society. "Last week, Mr. Cisco (an executor) paid over to the American Bible Society the sum of \$151,000, as part of the avails of this legacy, and on the death of the widow of the testator, something more perhaps \$75,000, will be coming to the same institution."⁴⁸

The 1870 U.S. Census of Manhattan, ward 18, District 9 records Malvina Devoo, living alone accompanied by two Irish born servant women. The census record notes the value of personal estate to be \$5000 and the value of real estate to be \$18,000.⁴⁹

The New York City Directory 1870 to 1894 lists Malvina Devoo, widow William L. Devoo, residing at 324 E. 15th St, between 1st and 2nd Avenues.^{50,51}



Malvina Devoo, Widow of William L. Devoo
New York City Directory 1870-1894
324 East 15th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues
<Edsalls' New York City Map 1880>

Malvina Devoo is not found in the 1880 U.S. Census. However, Malvina, age 79, is recorded in the 1890 New York City Police Census in Manhattan, Election District 35, Assembly District 16.^{52,53}

Malvina Devoo died 24 December 1894 at Manhattan, living at 324 East 15th Street, at the age of 82. Malvina was buried at the Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York.^{54,55,56}

Malvina Devoo prepared a will dated 7 February 1885, which was proved 28 June 1895. Malvina's listed heirs included: sisters Harriet Wakeman, Mary Louisa Wakeman, and Sarah Jane Stanley; William W. Ryer and Frank Ryer, nephews the sons of brother James Ryer; Ida Anderson, grand niece, daughter of Sarah Ryer, a granddaughter of brother James Ryer; Gerald Mahlstadt, grand nephew; Mary Mahlstadt Siegrist, grand niece children of Maria Louisa Ryer, daughter of brother Thomas J. Campbell Ryer; niece Hannah R. Ashton, wife of J. Hubley Ashton; and niece Malvina Devoo Bloomer, wife of Theophilus J. Bloomer.⁵⁷

On 23 February 1896 the New York Herald announced an auction on 10 March 1896 of property to close out the estate Malvina Devoo located at 115 East 110th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues: "The valuable lot with three story high stoop, basement and cellar brick front dwelling, containing modern improvements and in excellent repair."⁵⁸

In 1904 the American Bible Society of New York published their 88th Annual Report, which included a statement of account regarding the society's use of a legacy received under the will William L. Devoo.⁵⁹

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1829 March 7 Deed Kings County, New York: Frederick Devoo and wife Sarah to John Devoo; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; 35 North West Temple St, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.

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1833 October 18 Deed Kings County, New York: Sarah, John, and William L. Devoo to John J. Cisco; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; 35 North West Temple St, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.

1837 December 9 Deed New York Co, New York: Jacob & Catherine Hunter, Robert & Elizabeth Shields to William L. Devoo; City Register, New York County; 66 John Street, Manhattan, New York, New York.

1837 September 30 Deed New York Co, New York: Robert & Elizabeth Shields to William L. Devoo; City Register, New York County; 66 John Street, Manhattan, New York, New York.

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1843 Nov 14 Deed Kings County, New York: Sarah, widow Frederick Devoo and William L. Devoo, and wife Malvina, to John Devoo; Family Tree DNA; 1445 North Loop West, Suite 820, Houston, Texas 77008.

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- ⁴⁵1860 U.S. Census New York, New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 819, no page citation.
- ⁴⁶*New York NY City Directory 1865* (New York, New York: H. Wilson, 1865). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1865*.
- ⁴⁷*New York NY City Directory 1868* (New York, New York: TROWS, 1868). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1868*.

⁴⁸*New York Herald*, 11 October 1868, page 5.

⁴⁹1870 U.S. Census New York, New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M593, Roll 1009, Manhattan, Ward 18, District 9, page 340B.

⁵⁰*New York NY City Directory 1870* (New York, New York: TROW, 1870). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1870*.

⁵¹*New York NY City Directory 1894* (New York, New York: TROW, 1894). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1894*.

⁵²1880 U.S. Census New York, New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T9, Roll 890, no page citation.

⁵³*New York, New York City, Police Census 1890*, Family Search Index, online <https://familysearch.org>), Volume 522, line 25, New York City Municipal Archives; Family Search, Film Number 001305561, Image Number 469.

⁵⁴*New York Herald*, 27 December 1894.

⁵⁵Database Family Search, 1795-1949, Film Number 1322887, certificate number 40691.

⁵⁶Burial Register The Evergreens Cemetery, Linnet Grove, G-4-5-I.

⁵⁷Malvina Devoo will (1895), Volume 543, page 26; New York County, New York Surrogate, 31 Chambers Street, Manhattan, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as 1895 Probate Malvina Devoo.

⁵⁸*New York Herald*, 23 February 1892, section 2, page 3.

⁵⁹American Bible Society, *American Bible Society 88th Annual Report* (New York, New York: American Bible Society, 1904), page 253-254. Hereinafter cited as *American Bible Society 88th Annual Report*.