

**Individual Narrative of William⁷ Leverich Riker [172]
Son of Daniel Riker and Dorothy⁶ Leverich [64]
Husband of Catherine R. Brinkerhoff**

William Leverich Riker was born on 8 Dec 1793 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich.¹ William L. Riker was baptized 26 January 1794 at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.²

William L. Riker married Catherine Remsen Brinckerhoff on 16 Feb 1820 at Newtown, Queens, New York, by the Rev. Mr. Kuypers at Hallets Cove.^{3,4}

Catherine R. Brinckerhoff was the daughter of George Brinckerhoff and Rebecca Berrian. Catherine was born 15 October 1798 at Newtown. Catherine was baptized 4 September 1808 at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.^{5,6}

William Riker is recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census in Newtown, Queens Co, New York. The census tallies record 1 free white male age 26-44 (William), 1 free white female age 16 to 25 (wife Catherine), and 1 free white female age 10 to 15 (unidentified).⁷

William L. Riker died on 8 Mar 1828 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, at age 34. William was buried at the Riker Family burial ground at Bowery Bay in Newtown.^{8,9,10,11}

Between 1830 and 1831, Catherine Remsen Brinckerhoff Riker married for a second time Jeremiah Simonson. Jeremiah is recorded in the 1830 U.S. Census, at which time he was apparently not yet married, there being no females noted in the household. On 2 June 1831, Catherine "Simonson" published a public notice announcing the auction of a certain lot or parcel of land and buildings thereon late the property of William L. Riker, deceased, situated at Newtown.^{12,13} On 22 July 1831 Catherine R. Simonson of Newtown, formerly the widow of William Riker and administrator of William's estate, sold four acres in the town of Newtown to Charles Welling in consideration of \$258, more or less bordering the land of Charles Welling. The sale was made in order to pay off in part William's debts of \$932. The deed was witnessed by George Brinckerhoff and recorded 5 January 1832.¹⁴

The following notice was published in the Long Island Farmer beginning 4 August 1831. "QUEENS COUNTY. Notice is hereby given, that distribution of the money arising from the sale of the real estate of William L. Riker, deceased, will be made among the creditors of the said deceased, by Nicholas Wyckoff, Surrogate of said county, at his Office in the town of Jamaica, in the said county, on the fifteenth of September next, at two o'clock in the afternoon of that day, at which time and place the creditors who have not heretofore established their debts or demands before the said Surrogate, will present and provide their respective debts and demands. Nicholas Wyckoff, Surrogate."¹⁵

Charles Simonson, the only child of Catherine R. Brinkerhoff, widow of William L. Riker, and Jeremiah Simonson was born at Newtown, Queens Co, New York on 16 March 1833.^{16,17,18}

Jeremiah Simonson died in July 1835, at the age of 55, in Jamaica, Queens County, New York.¹⁹

The 1840 U.S. Census of Manhattan, New York County, New York records a Catherine Simonson living in Ward 14. However, there is no listing in the New York City Directory for a Catherine Simonson. The census tallies account for Catherine's three children by William L. Riker, but not her son Charles by Jeremiah Simonson. The census record may account for Catherine's sister Grace, age 40, and her mother Rebecca, age 68. There is a listing for a Catherine Simonson in the 1840 Brooklyn City Directory residing at 65 Cranberry, and a census record in the 1840 U.S. Census Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. However, the census tallies for this Catherine do not match up with known family members.^{20,21,22,23}

The 1850 U.S. Census records "Mary" Simonson, age 50 (hence born c 1800) living in Williamsburg, Kings Co, New York. The household also includes William Riker, painter, age 27; and Chas Simonson, age 18. The "Mary" instead of Catherine would appear to be a recording error by the census enumerator. William would be Catherine's son by her first marriage to William L. Riker, and Chas would be Catherine's son by her second husband Jeremiah Simonson.²⁴

The 1860 U.S. Census records Catherine R. Simonson, age 61, living in the household number 1365 of her son Chas Simonson, Butcher, age 27; the household also includes Frances A. Simonson, age 26, wife of Chas, and their son Albert Simonson, age 6. Living nearby are the households of Daniel Riker, household number 1363; and the household of William L. Riker, household number 1360.²⁵

Catherine R. Brinckerhoff Riker Simonson died 27 February 1866 at Newtown, Queens County, New York, age 67. Catherine was buried at the St. James Episcopal Church yard in Newtown.^{26,27,28}

On 25 March 1866, letters of administration on the estate of Catherine R. Simonson in the Queens County, New York Surrogate were granted to her sons William L. Riker and Charles Simonson, both of Newtown.²⁹

William Leverich Riker and Catherine Remsen Brinckerhoff Riker (Simonson) had four children, three of whom survived to adulthood.^{30,31}

- i. Daniel Riker was born in Newtown, Queens County, New York 31 January 1821. Daniel Riker was baptized 15 October 1821 at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church. Daniel married for the first time Eliza Jane Penfold 7 January 1847 at Newtown. Daniel married for the second time Catherine A. Flook 15 November 1865 at Montoursville, Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Daniel married for the third time Mary M. Schad 19 June 1882 at Martinsburg, Berkley Co, West Virginia. Daniel died in 1886 at Newtown, and was buried at the Montoursville Cemetery in Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Daniel Riker was recorded in the 1850 and 1860 U.S. Census in Newtown. Daniel was recorded in the 1870 U.S. Census in Williamsport, Ward 1, Lycoming Co, Pennsylvania. Daniel was recorded in the 1880 U.S. Census in Opequon, Berkley Co, West Virginia.^{32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40}
- ii. William Leverich Riker Jr was born in Newtown, Queens Co, New York circa 1823. The birth year is a calculated estimate based upon William's age at the time he died. William was married to Hannah Maria Penfold 13 March 1854 at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church by the Rev Thomas C. Strong. William Leverich Riker Jr died 4 July 1890 at his home in Newtown. William was a painter by trade. William was recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census in Williamsburg, Kings Co, New York. William was recorded in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 U.S. Census in Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Widow Hannah Riker was recorded in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 U.S. Census in Newtown. Hannah died 31 August 1922 at Newtown. William and Hannah were buried at the St. James Episcopal Church yard in Newtown.^{41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50}
- iii. Evelina Riker was born in Newtown circa November 1825. The birth date is a calculated estimate based upon Evelina's age as recorded in the 1880 and 1900 U.S. Census. Evelina married Thomas W. Cornell in 1840 at the St. James Episcopal Church in Newtown. The Church record does not give a month and date for the marriage. Evelina Riker Cornell died 16 November 1909 at her residence 301 Hewes Street in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. Evelina was buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church grave yard. An Evelina Cornell, widow Thomas W. Cornell, is listed in the 1913 Brooklyn City Directory living at 301 Hewes Street. This would appear to be an error in the directory, since Evelina died in 1909. It may be that Evelina's daughter Emaline A. Cornell was the actual resident in 1913, but that for unknown reasons she had not changed the information she provided to the directory publisher. Evelina and Thomas W. Cornell are recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census in Williamsburg, Kings Co, New York; Brooklyn Ward 15 in the 1860 and 1870 U.S. Census; Hewes St Brooklyn in the 1880 U.S. Census; and widow Evelina Cornell in Brooklyn Ward 19 in the 1900 U.S. Census. Thomas W. Cornell had died 14 August 1892 and was buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church grave yard.^{51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60}
- iv. Berrian Riker died at Newtown as an infant 26 June 1828, aged 1 year, 9 months, and 13 days; hence resulting in a calculated birth date of 13 September 1826. Berrian was buried with his father at the Riker Family Burial Ground at Bowery Bay.⁶¹

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