

## Individual Narrative of John<sup>7</sup> Rapelye Riker [175] Son of Daniel Riker and Deborah<sup>6</sup> Leverich [64]

John Rapelye Riker was born on 26 Jan 1800 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich.<sup>1</sup> John was baptized 6 April 1800 at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.<sup>2</sup>

It is not known if John R. Riker was married. No marriage record has been found, and no wife has been identified. If there was a marriage, it likely took place about 1818-1819.<sup>3</sup>

Edgar Alan Nutt, in his book *The Rikers: Their Island, Homes, Cemetery, and Early Genealogy in Queens County*, attributes two children to John Rapelye Riker:

- i. Maria Riker, born about 1820
- ii. John Riker, born about 1822

Further information regarding these two alleged children has not been found. Nutt does not cite specific source information other than James Riker's *Annals of Newtown*, which names the children, but does not provide a source. Since John R. Riker died when these children were very young, it is possible that his widow remarried and her new husband adopted the two children. Another possibility, lacking further information on a wife/widow, is that the two children were raised by unidentified relatives.<sup>4,5</sup>

The index (ancestry.com) to the 1820 U.S. Census of New York County, New York lists five "John Rikers", one in Ward 3, two in Ward 5, and 2 in Ward 6. None of the census tallies for these individuals match up with John R. Rapelye, who being a very young 20 years of age, may well have been living in another household of which he was not the head. The household of his father Daniel Riker does not appear to fit for John R. either.<sup>6</sup>

The 1822 and 1823 New York City Directories list a John R. Riker, grocer, Division corner Rutgers, which was located in Ward 7. There are no listings for John R. Rapelye immediately prior to or immediately following 1822-1823, nor any reference to a widow after 1824.<sup>7,8</sup>

John Rapelye Riker died on 4 Feb 1824 at Manhattan, New York, New York, age 24 years and 9 days. John was buried at the Riker Family Burial Ground at Bowery Bay in Queens County.<sup>9,10,11,12</sup>

The 1850 U.S. Census of Manhattan, Ward 13, New York County, New York lists a John Riker, age 30, hence born about 1820, a machinist. The household includes his wife Ann age 22, son John, age 3, and daughter Ann, age 1. This could be John, the son of John R. Riker, although there is no conclusive evidence to support this theory. The household also includes a Daniel Riker, age 22, relationship to John unknown; and a John Mills, age 45, his wife Catherine age 22, and a daughter Emily, age 3.<sup>13</sup>

A John R. Riker died 4 March 1855 after a lingering illness, age 31 years. This individual could be the John Riker of the 1850 Census.<sup>14</sup>

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Prepared by:  
Tom Leverich  
28 Saratoga Drive  
West Windsor, New Jersey 08550  
tomaug12@aol.com  
609-275-1239  
www.leverichgenealogy.org

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1850 U.S. Census New York, New York Co. NARA, M432, Roll 537. Ancestry.com, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, Utah 84604.

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## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup>James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), page 306. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.
- <sup>2</sup>Josephine 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), page 29. Hereinafter cited as *Reformed Dutch Church Newtown Baptisms*.
- <sup>3</sup>Edgar Alan Nutt, *The Rikers: Their Island, Homes, Cemetery and Early Genealogy in Queens County, New York* (Charlestown, New Hampshire: Privately Printed, New Edition 2007), page 131. Hereinafter cited as *Rikers (The)*.
- <sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*
- <sup>5</sup>Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 306.
- <sup>6</sup>1820 U.S. Census New York, New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M33, Roll 77, no page citation.
- <sup>7</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1822* (New York, New York: David Longworth, 1822). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1822*.
- <sup>8</sup>*New York NY City Directory 1823* (New York, New York: David Longworth, 1823). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1823*.
- <sup>9</sup>*New York American*, New York, New York, 1821-1845. Hereinafter cited as *New York American*, 5 February 1824, page 3.
- <sup>10</sup>Charles U. Powell - Compiler and Alice H. Meigs - Editor, *Description of Private and Family Cemeteries in the Borough of Queens Compiled by the Topographical Bureau* (Jamaica, New York: Long Island Collection, Queens Borough Public Library, 1932), page 20. Hereinafter cited as *Description Private and Family Cemeteries Queens*.
- <sup>11</sup>William F Wyckoff, compiler, *Long Island Cemetery Inscriptions* (Brooklyn, New York: Josephine C. Frost, Typescript, March 1912), Volume 12, page 88. Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Cemetery Inscriptions*.
- <sup>12</sup>Find A Grave, online <[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)>, Memorial Number 14015042. Hereinafter cited as Find A Grave.
- <sup>13</sup>1850 U.S. Census New York, New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 537, Manhattan, Ward 13, page 366B.
- <sup>14</sup>*New-York Evening Post*, New York, New York, 1832-1920. Hereinafter cited as *New-York Evening Post*, 5 March 1855, page 3.