

Individual Narrative of James⁷ Leverich [208] Son of Benjamin⁶ Leverich [100] and Mary Briggs Husband of Sarah Hatfield

James Leverich¹ was born circa 1774 at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York, the eldest child of Benjamin Leverich and Mary Briggs. The birth year is an estimate based upon the U.S. Census which reported James as age 86 in 1860.^{2,3,4}

Benjamin Leverich is recorded in the 1790 U.S. Census of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The Census tallies include 3 males age 16 and over, presumably Benjamin, James, and likely a hired farm hand.⁵

James Leverich married Sarah Hatfield on 31 December 1799 at Yorktown, Westchester Co, New York, The marriage was performed by the Rev. Silas Constant, who was associated with the Yorktown Presbyterian Church. The parents of Sarah Hatfield have not been identified. Undocumented, unsourced family tree on-line references suggest that her mother was Susan Fulmer. There are multiple male Hatfields in the 1790 U.S. Census of Westchester County, including a John Hatfield of Yorktown. However, no record of John Hatfield's family has been found.^{6,7}

In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. Benjamin Leverich is recorded on the tax assessment roles at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York for the period 1799-1803. The property of Benjamin (land, but not house and land) was valued at \$1280.00 during this period of time. Also recorded on the tax assessment roles is James Leverich, son of Benjamin, house and land valued at \$400, 1800 to 1803.⁸ Neither James Leverich, nor his father Benjamin, is found recorded in the 1800 U.S. Census of Westchester Co, New York.⁹

Muskingom County, Ohio was formed in 1804, at which time it included what would become Guernsey Co, Ohio in 1813. On 19 December 1805, Benjamin Leverich, father of James Leverich, purchased land in Muskingom County, i.e. Range 1, Township 2, Section 21, which would subsequently be located in Guernsey County.¹⁰

Circa 1808, James Leverich, several siblings, their father Benjamin, and their families removed from Westchester Co, New York and settled in the future Guernsey Co, Ohio. James and Benjamin are not found in the 1810 U.S. Census of Westchester Co, New York, and the 1810 U.S. Census of Ohio has been lost. The 1850 U.S. Census records for the grandchildren of Benjamin Leverich narrow the family's arrival in Ohio to about 1808. Ira Leverich, son of James, was born in New York circa 1806. Ira's brother John Leverich was born in Ohio 14 October 1808. James S. Leverich, son of John Leverich, brother of James, was born in New York circa 1808. George Wood Leverich, brother of James S. was born in Ohio circa 1810.^{11,12,13,14,15}



Early Ohioans' Residences from the Land Grant Records
by Mayburt S. Rigel, Ohio Genealogical Society, 1976

James Leverich is recorded on the 1812 Ohio tax list for the Southeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 2, Range 1; 139 acres of what was then referred to as the Congress Lands, bordering the U.S. Military District. This plot of land was located in what would become the southeast corner of Guernsey County in 1813. Also listed in nearby Section 21 were James' father Benjamin (94 acres), and James' brother John (27 acres). These plots of land were in the same immediate vicinity as the tract of land purchased by Benjamin in 1805. The same properties and the same owners are listed on the 1814 Tax List, this time identified as Guernsey County.^{16,17,18}

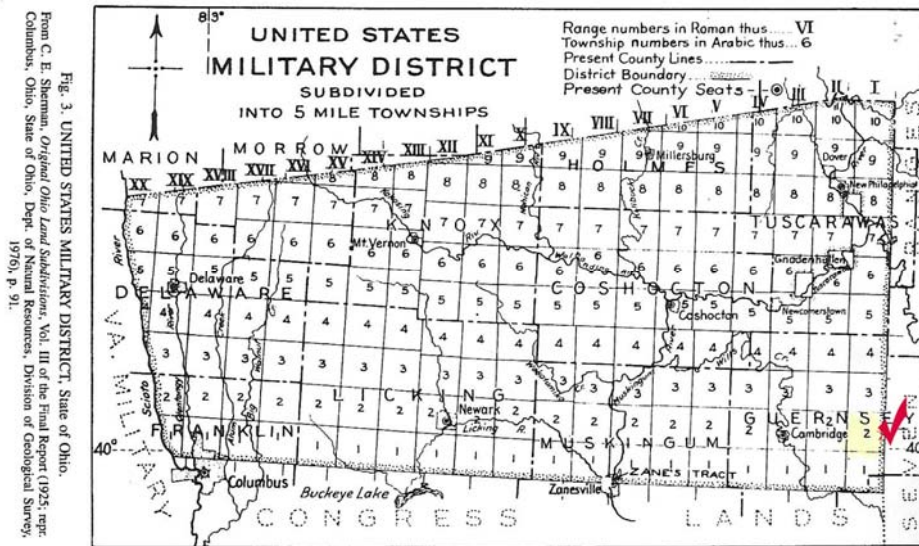


Fig. 3. UNITED STATES MILITARY DISTRICT, State of Ohio. From C. E. Sherman, *Original Ohio Land Subdivisions*, Vol. III of the Final Report (1925; rpt. Columbus, Ohio, State of Ohio, Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey, 1976), p. 91.

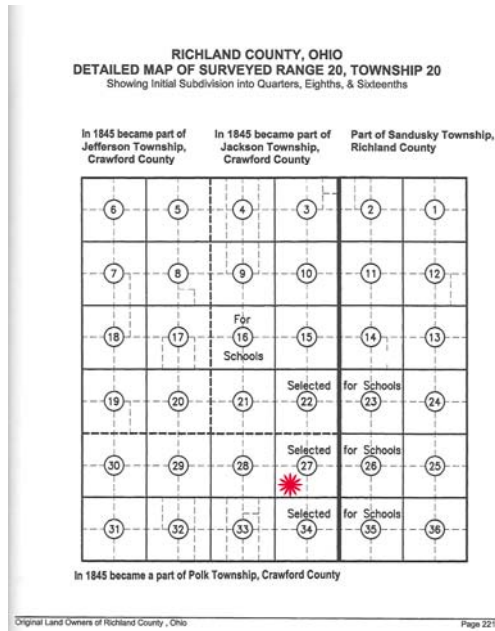
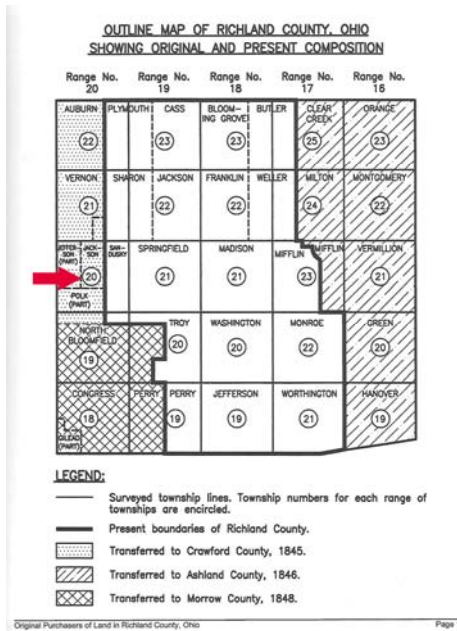
Richland County, Ohio was formed in 1813. On 11 March 1815, James Leverich entered into a lease from Winn Winship, Registrar of the Land Office being appointed by the assembly of the State of Ohio to lease and dispose of the lands granted by congress for the use of schools. The property description was the southeast quarter of Section 27, Township 20, Range 20, 160 acres. The lease term was 99 years. The lease conditions were interest at the rate of 6% per annum of \$370 to commence at the expiration of five years from the time of purchase; within three years lessor to build cabin and clear three acres of land. The Indenture was recorded at Mansfield, Richland Co, Ohio on 11 April 1818.^{19,20}

On 18 May 1815 John Young of Richland Co, Ohio granted land to James Leverich, 152 acres in Richland County, southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 20, Range 20, in consideration of \$312.89. The transaction was recorded 27 July 1820.^{21,22}

About 1817, James Leverich, his father Benjamin Leverich, and some of the extended family removed further to the northwest in Ohio. *The History of Richland County, Ohio*, published in 1880, provides the following account. "Benjamin Leveridge and his sons, James and Nathaniel, came with George Wood" (who came to Ohio with Benjamin from Westchester Co, NY) "and David Gill to Galion" (formerly Sandusky Township, Richland Co, now Polk Township, Crawford Co). "The Leveridges did the first clearing and put up the first cabins. Benjamin Leveridge's cabin was erected of unhewn logs, near the spring, now within the corporation limits, on Atwood St. That of James Leveridge stood on the site now occupied by David Mackey's fine brick residence on Atwood St, and Nathaniel's stood near the center of the present public square. The old well on the square, filled up several years ago, was dug by him and was but a few yards from his cabin door."^{23,24}

The History of Crawford County, Ohio, published in 1881, adds to the chronicle. "Probably the first men who cleared any land within the present limits of Polk were Benjamin Leveredge and his two sons, James and Nathaniel. Most of the early settlers were from New York and Pennsylvania. No biography of this first family can be obtained, and very little is known of them previous to their arrival in this vicinity. They came in the year 1817, cutting their way to their land. The father built his cabin near the springs on

Atwood St, Galion, on the quarter section he had entered. James Leveredge erected his cabin on the ground now occupied by David Mackey's residence, and Nathaniel built his primitive dwelling near the center of the public square in Galion. The two former had water in abundance from the numerous springs in their vicinity, but Nathaniel dug a well near his cabin door. This was the well that was filled up about ten years ago, and traces of which were found within the present year (1880) by workman while engaged in grading the square.^{25,26}



James Leverich is recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census of Sandusky Township, Richland Co, Ohio. The census tallies include 2 free white males under age 10 (sons Charles and James Jr.); 2 free white males ages 10 to 15 (sons Ira and John); 2 free white males age 16 to 25 (sons Joel and William); 1 free white male age 26 to 44 (James Leverich Sr., actually age 47); 2 free white females under age 10 (daughters Susan and Julia); and 1 free white female over the age of 45 (wife Sarah, actually age 41). Also tallied were three persons engaged in agriculture (James Sr and sons Joel and William).²⁷

Between the years 1821 to 1830 James Leverich was the grantor of Richland Co land in at least nine deeds, including to his sons Ira and William, as well as his younger brother Nathaniel.²⁸

Benjamin Leverich, the father of James Leverich, made a will dated 20 May 1824, which was proved 14 August 1824 at the Court of Common Pleas Richland County, Ohio. Among multiple bequests was the following: to eldest son James \$50.00 and cooper's tools.²⁹

James Leverich is listed on the 1825 tax list for Sandusky Township, Richland Co, Ohio for land located Section 31, Town 20, Range 20. Also included on the tax list are James' son William, his brother Nathaniel, his sister-in-law Sarah Leverich (widow of John), and family friend George Wood.^{30,31}

James Leverich is recorded in the 1830 U.S. Census of Sandusky Township, Richland Co, Ohio. The census tallies include 1 free white male age 5 to 9 (son Asbury); 1 free white male age 10 to 14 (son James Jr.); 1 free white male age 15 to 19 (son Charles); 1 free white male age 20 to 29 (son John); 1 free white male age 50 to 59 (James Leverich Sr.); 1 free white female age 15 to 19 (daughter Julia); 1 free white female age 40 to 49 (wife Sarah). James' son William is recorded in a separate household in Sandusky Township, as is his son-in-law Lewis Sweitzer (husband of Susan Leverich). Sons Joel and Ira are recorded in the Town of White Pigeon, St. Joseph Co, Michigan.^{32,33}

About 1832, James Leverich and some of his children removed to Lagrange Co, Indiana. On 5 October 1832, James and his son-in-law Lewis Sweitzer purchased 115.5 acres in Lagrange County from the U.S. Government, designated as Northeast Quarter, Section 21, Township 38 north of Range 10 east.³⁴

On 16 May 1833, in the Circuit Court of Lagrange County, Indiana a case was tried against James Leverich on a charge of trespass. "Now here comes John B. Chapman, Esq prosecuting the pleas of the State in this behalf and says he will no further prosecute the said indictment against the said defendant. It is therefore considered by the court that the said Defendant as to said indictment go hence without delay." An explanation for this decision is not provided. It is likely this case pertained to James Leverich Sr., since James Leverich Jr would have been only 15 years old at the time.³⁵

In the Spring Term 1834, at the request of James Leverich, his daughter Susan Leverich Sweitzer is named guardian of her minor children by Lewis Sweitzer, deceased, i.e. Charles, Ann, and Lewis H. Sweitzer.³⁶

On 17 September 1836 James and Sarah Leverich sold 80 acres of land in Lagrange Co, Indiana to their son William Leverich, and 260 acres of land in Lagrange Co, Indiana to Robert Cummings.^{37,38}

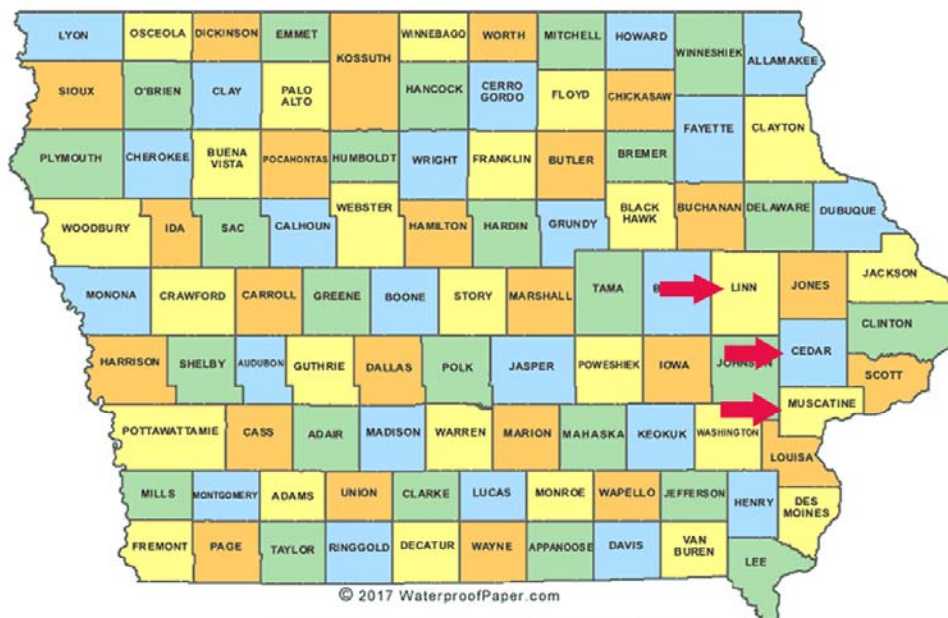


1830: St. Joseph Co, Michigan: Joel and Ira Leverich
1832-1839: Lagrange Co, Indiana: James Leverich Sr.

On 30 March 1837 James Leverich was issued a land patent by the Fort Wayne, Indiana land office for 160 acres in Lagrange County identified as the southeast quarter, Section 31, Township 36-N, Range 10-E, 2nd Prime Meridian.³⁹

In the fall of 1839, the Brodies and Leverichs settled two miles northwest of the town of Marion, Linn County, Iowa.⁴⁰

James Leverich Sr. is recorded in the 1840 U.S. Census of Linn County, Iowa Territory. The census tallies include 1 free white male age 15 to 19 (son Asbury); 1 free white male age 60 to 69 (James Leverich Sr.); 1 free white female age 50 to 59 (wife Sarah). Also recorded as separate households in Linn County are sons Joel and Charles. Son James Jr, who was age 22, was likely "working out" in another household, perhaps a Brody household; James Leverich Jr. married a Hannah Brody in 1842 in Linn County.⁴¹ The remaining children of James and Sarah Leverich had also removed to Iowa Territory by 1840. William Leverich is recorded in Muscatine Co. Ira and John Leverich are recorded in Cedar County. Susan Sweitzer (widow of Lewis) and Henry and Julia Sweitzer are also recorded in Cedar County.^{42,43}



1840 U.S. Census Iowa Territory
Linn Co: James Leverich Sr, Sons Joel & Charles Leverich
Muscatine Co: Son William Leverich
Cedar Co: Sons Ira and John Leverich
Cedar Co: Susan and Julia Sweitzer

On 6 February James Leverich of Linn Co Iowa purchased land from Horatio Sanford in consideration of \$88.00, land in Linn Co described as east half of southwest quarter, Section 35, Township 84 north of Range number 7, west of 5th principal meridian.⁴⁴

On 21 February 1846 Asbury Leverich sold land to James Leverich Sr in consideration of \$50.00, land in Linn Co described as southeast quarter of the northwest quarter, Section 35, Township 84 north of Range 7, west of the 5th principal meridian, 40 acres at \$1.25 per acre.⁴⁵

On 14 February 1848 James Leverich and his wife Sarah (who signed with her mark) sold land to James Leverich Jr. in consideration of \$200, land in Linn Co described as east half of northwest quarter of Section 35, Township 84 north of Range 7, west of the 5th Principal Meridian, 80 acres.⁴⁶

On 27 June 1849 James Leverich Sr and wife Sarah, and James Leverich Jr and wife Hannah, sold land to Vincent Beale, in consideration of \$700, land in Linn Co described as east half of northwest quarter, Section 35, Township 84, north Range 7, west of the 5th principal meridian, 140 acres.⁴⁷

James Leverich, farmer, was recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census of Linn County, Iowa. The household included James, age 70; wife Sarah, age 65; and grandson Henry Sweitzer, son of Susan and Lewis Sweitzer (deceased), age 17.⁴⁸

Sarah Hatfield Leverich, wife of James Leverich Sr, died 12 May 1852 in Linn County, Iowa at the age of 73. Sarah was buried in the Shiloh Cemetery, Hiawatha, Linn County in East Section, Row 8, plot 12.^{49,50,51,52}



James Leverich Sr. is recorded in the 1852 Iowa State Census in Rapids Township, Linn County.⁵³

James Leverich, age 86, is recorded in the 1860 U.S. Census of Butler Township, Butler County, Iowa. He is listed as part of the household of his granddaughter Sarah Leverich Davis, daughter of John Leverich and wife of James Davis, and their two children Emiline and Isabel. The census record describes James Leverich as "infirm."⁵⁴

James Leverich died circa in 1863 at Butler County, Iowa. James may have been buried in Riverside Cemetery, Shellrock, Butler County.⁵⁵

James Leverich and Sarah Hatfield had nine children, all of whom survived to adulthood.^{56,57,58}

- i. Joel Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York circa 1801. Joel married Matilda Farrell 4 July 1822 in Richland County, Ohio. Joel died circa 1848-1849 in Linn County, Iowa. Joel was buried at Shiloh Cemetery, Linn County, Iowa.^{59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68}

- ii. William Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 30 July 1803. William married Laura Brown 15 May 1825 in Richland Co, Ohio. William died 12 May 1879 in Wilton, Muscatine Co, Iowa. William was buried at Oakdale Cemetery in Wilton.^{69,70,71,72}
- iii. Ira W. Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 23 December 1806. Ira married Jane Morgan 13 September 1832 in Marion County, Ohio. Ira died 5 April 1892 in Oxford, Johnson Co, Iowa. Ira was buried at Oxford Cemetery.^{73,74,75}
- iv. John Leverich was born in Guernsey Co, Ohio on 14 October 1808. John married Lucy A. Smith 25 February 1841 in Linn County, Iowa. John died 9 September 1889 in Shellrock, Butler Co, Iowa. John was buried in Riverside Cemetery in Shellrock.^{76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83}
- v. Susan Leverich was born in Guernsey Co, Ohio on 22 November 1811. Susan married first Lewis Sweitzer circa 1833 in Lagrange Co, Indiana. Susan married second Hiram Davis 26 November 1842 in Cedar Co, Iowa. Susan died 10 January 1890 in Shellrock, Butler Co, Iowa. Susan was buried in Riverside Cemetery in Shellrock.^{84,85,86,87,88}
- vi. Charles Leverich was born in Guernsey Co, Ohio on 24 March 1813. Charles married first Lucy Heron 3 October 1835 in Lagrange Co, Indiana. Charles married second Jane Eliza Adair 18 April 1839 in Cedar Co, Iowa. Charles married third Elizabeth (Betsy) Dixon 3 February 1856 in Butler Co, Iowa. Charles died 29 May 1894 in Bremer Co, Iowa. Charles was buried at Riverside Cemetery, Shellrock, Butler Co, Iowa.^{89,90,91,92,93,94,95}
- vii. Julia Leverich was born in Guernsey Co, Ohio circa 1814. Julia married Henry E. Sweitzer 14 March 1834 in Lagrange Co, Indiana. Julia died 26 September 1892 in Suisun, Solano Co, California. Julia was buried at Rockville Cemetery, Suisun City.^{96,97,98,99,100,101}
- viii. James Leverich Jr. was born at what was then Galion, Richland Co, Ohio, now Crawford County, 6 September 1818. James married first Hannah Brody 19 February 1842 in Linn Co, Iowa. James married second Margaret Clarinda Jenks 25 December 1865 in Vinton, Benton Co, Iowa. James died 29 January 1895 at Shellrock, Butler Co, Iowa. James was buried at Riverside Cemetery in Shellrock.^{102,103,104,105}
- ix. Asbury Leverich was born at what was then Galion, Richland Co, Ohio, now Crawford Co, on 1 December 1822. Asbury married Hannah Thomas Converse 5 April 1853 in Buchanan Co, Iowa. During the Civil War, Asbury was a First Lieutenant, Co B, 38th Iowa Infantry. Asbury died 6 April 1863 in New Madrid Co, Missouri from illness (erysipelas) contracted during his military service. Asbury was buried at Oakland Cemetery in Janesville, Bremer Co, Iowa.^{106,107}

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Endnotes

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²Correspondent, *Leverich, William*.

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