Individual Narrative of Martha⁷ Leverich [209] Daughter of Benjamin⁶ Leverich [100] and Mary Briggs Wife of (?William?) Bell Wife of Frederick Dickerson

Martha Leverich was born on 1 April 1777 at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York, the daughter of Benjamin Leverich and Mary Briggs. The birth date is based upon Martha's age at the time she died in 1841 (i.e. 64 years, 1 month, 15 days). In his will prepared in 1824, Benjamin refers to his eldest daughter Martha Dickerson. 1,2

Martha's New York birth place and year is an estimate based upon an analysis of birth places and years for her siblings. Brother James Leverich, referred to in his father's will as the eldest son, was born circa 1774. Sister Elizabeth was born in 1779 and brother William was born in 1782. Each of these siblings was born in New York State. Their father Benjamin Leverich is recorded on tax lists for Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York 1799 to 1803. 3,4,5,6,7

Multiple public family trees at Ancestry.com identify Martha as the daughter of Nathaniel Bell (1760-1820) of North Carolina and Georgia. However, Martha's daughter Fanny Bell was born in New York in 1804. This would suggest that Martha's maiden name was not "Bell". In addition, Nathaniel had a daughter Martha Bell, born in 1785, who married Needham Gause and Allen Johnson. Also, there is no record of Nathaniel Bell ever living in New York State. Therefore, the assertion that Martha was the daughter of Nathaniel Bell is likely inaccurate.⁸

Martha Leverich married for the first time (?William?) Bell circa 1799 at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The 1800 U.S. Census lists only one male "Bell" in Westchester Co, New York, i.e. "William" Bell in the township of Cortlandt. The census tallies for William include one free white female age 16 to 25 (i.e. 1775 to 1784) which is consistent with the estimated birth year for Martha of 1777. William Bell is recorded immediately adjacent to George Wood, known as a friend of Martha Leverich's father Benjamin Leverich. The marriage record in 1823 for Calvin T. Dorwin names his wife as Fanny Bell. Fanny was the daughter of Martha Leverich Bell. Fanny had a daughter Martha Dorwin who married Samuel Kunkle. Martha Dorwin Kunkle's death certificate identifies her mother as Fanny Bell. 9.10,11

Martha Leverich Bell married second Frederick Dickerson on 16 February 1809 at Belmont County, Ohio. Belmont County is the county immediately east of Guernsey County. Benjamin Leverich, father of Martha Leverich Bell Dickerson, removed from Westchester Co, New York circa 1808, settling in Guernsey County, Ohio. As cited above, Benjamin's 1824 will names eldest daughter Martha Dickerson. 12,13,14

William Bell presumably died between 1804 (the birth year of daughter Fanny Bell) and 1809 (the marriage date of Martha Leverich Bell to Frederick Dickerson), either in Westchester Co, New York or Belmont County, Ohio. The land records of Belmont County, Ohio record multiple William Bell's during the period 1802 to 1815, but it is uncertain which if any of these William Bell's might have been the first husband of Martha Leverich. A William Bell is buried in the Morristown Cemetery in Belmont County, but no date of death is recorded. 15,16,17,18,19

By 1817 Frederick Dickerson had removed to Guernsey County, Ohio. Frederick is recorded in Guernsey County Tax Lists from 1817 to 1832.²⁰

Frederick Dickerson is recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census of Wills Township, Guernsey Co, Ohio. The census tallies include 4 free white males under age 10; 2 free white males age 16 to 25; 1 free white male age 26 to 44 (Frederick Dickerson); 2 free white females under age 10; 1 free white female age 10 to 15; 1 free white female age 26 to 44 (Martha Dickerson); 1 person engaged in manufactures. The total family size is 11 persons, although there was only two known children in the household at the time, i.e. step-daughter Fanny Bell (age 16) and son Thomas Dickerson (age 9). It is likely that at least some children did not survive to adulthood, or there were children of Frederick from a prior marriage, or there were other related children. The total household size in the 1830 U.S. Census is 6 persons. 21,22

By 1828 Frederick Dickerson had removed to Richland County, Ohio. Frederick is recorded in Richland County Tax Lists from 1828 to 1836.²³

Frederick Dickerson is recorded in the 1830 U.S. Census in Sandusky Township, Richland County, Ohio. The census tallies include 1 free white male age 10 to 14 (unidentified); 1 free white male age 15 to 19 (son Thomas Dickerson); 1 free white male age 50 to 59 (Frederick Dickerson); 1 free white female age 5 to 19 (unidentified); 1 free white female age 50 to 59 (wife Martha).²⁴

Frederick Dickerson was recorded in the 1840 U.S. Census in Madison Township, Richland County, Ohio. The census tallies include 1 free white male age 15 to 19 (unidentified); 1 free white male age 60 to 69 (Frederick); 1 free white female age 15 to 19 (unidentified); 1 free white female age 60 to 69 (wife Martha); 1 person engaged in agriculture.²⁵



Martha Leverich Bell Dickerson died on 16 May 1841 at Richland County, Ohio. Martha was buried at the Mansfield Cemetery in Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio. Her gravestone identifies her as the wife of F. Dickerson, died at the age of 64 years, 1 month, 15 days.²⁶

Frederick Dickerson, age 69, born Pennsylvania is recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census of Madison Township, Richland County, Ohio. Frederick was living in the household of his son Thomas Dickerson, age 39, born Ohio; also included in the household were Rachel, Thomas' wife age 28 and their children Fanny age 4 and Helen age 1. Living adjacent is Adam Gault, perhaps Rachel's father.²⁷

Frederick Dickerson, age 79, born Pennsylvania is recorded in the 1860 U.S. Census of Madison Township, Richland County, Ohio. Frederick was living in the household of his son Thomas Dickerson, age 49, born Ohio; also included in the household were Rachel, Thomas' wife age 37; and their children Fanny age 14, Helen age 11, William age 8, and Thomas age 3. Again, living adjacent is Adam Gault, perhaps Rachel's father.²⁸

Frederick Dickerson died 1 November 1860 in Richland County, Ohio. Frederick was buried at Mansfield Cemetery in Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio.²⁹

Thomas Dickerson was named administrator of his father Frederick Dickerson's estate in November 1860 in Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio. Final settlement of the estate occurred on 19 September 1874. 30

- i. Martha Leverich and (?William?) Bell had one known child. Fanny Bell was born 19 March 1804 in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The birth date is based upon Fanny's age at the time she died. Fanny was married on 27 March 1823 in Guernsey Co, Ohio to Calvin T. Dorwin. Fanny died 28 July 1872 in Adams County, Indiana. Fanny was buried at the Monmouth Cemetery in Decatur, Adams Co, Ohio. 31,32,33,34,35,36
- ii. Martha Leverich and Frederick Dickerson had one known child that survived to adulthood. Thomas Dickerson was born 18 January 1811 in Guernsey Co, Ohio. The birth date is based upon Thomas' age at the time he died. Thomas married Rachel E. Gault 11 January 1845 at the Congregational Church in Mansfield, Richland Co, Ohio. Thomas served during the Civil War in Company H, 69th Ohio Infantry and Company B, 121st Ohio Infantry. Thomas died 18 May 1875 in Madison Township, Richland Co, Ohio. Thomas was buried at the Mansfield Cemetery in Mansfield, Richland Co, Ohio. 37,38,39,40,41,42

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