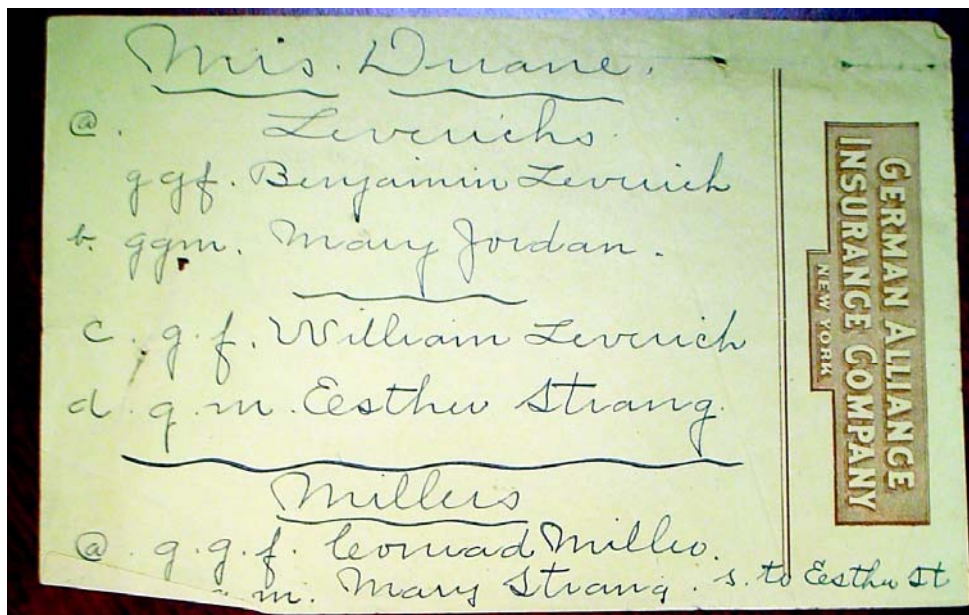


**Individual Narrative of William<sup>7</sup> Leverich [211]  
 Son of Benjamin<sup>6</sup> Leverich [100] and Mary Briggs  
 Husband of Esther (aka Hester) Strang**

William Leverich was born on 13 July 1782 at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York, the son of Benjamin Leverich and Mary Briggs. On 12 December 1797, Benjamin Leverich and Mary his wife executed a mortgage in the amount of 690 pounds to William Hallock on land in the Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. Payment terms were established by several bonds, one of which required the payment of 250 pounds at the decease of said Leverich's father-in-law Cornight Briggs.<sup>1,2</sup>

Benjamin Leverich may have had another marriage to a Mary Jordan, according to the Couch Genealogical Files. The Couch files are a collection of historical and genealogical information, created by Franklin Couch (died 1929). Couch was a Peekskill, New York area lawyer, Deputy County Clerk, and Democratic leader in the town of Cortlandt. He spent his retirement years recording genealogy of local families and writing about area history. A marginal note by Couch mentions a Mrs. Duane (Mary E. Leverich Duane, son of James P. Leverich and Mary A. Richey), stating that her grandparents were William Leverich and Esther Strang, and her great grandparents were Benjamin Leverich and Mary Jordan.<sup>3</sup>



**Franklin Couch Genealogical Notes  
 Field Library, Peekskill, Westchester Co, New York  
 30 June 1947**

Benjamin Leverich is recorded in the 1790 U.S. Census, Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. Two lines below Benjamin's record is a record for Cornight Briggs, Benjamin's father-in-law. The census tallies for Benjamin's record include 3 white males under the age of 16, probably **William**, John, and Benjamin.<sup>4</sup>

William Leverich was the fourth child of Benjamin Leverich and Mary Briggs. William's birth year of 1782 places him between his sister Elizabeth born in 1779 and his brother John born circa 1785.<sup>5,6</sup>

Neither William Leverich nor his father Benjamin are found in the 1800 U.S. Census. Benjamin, but not William, is found on the 1800 tax list for Westchester Co, New York. William may have been living in the household of his future father-in-law Joseph Strang of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The 1800 census tallies for Joseph provide for the inclusion of William Leverich, then age 18; and Esther Strang, then age 14. Joseph Strang is listed in this census adjacent to George Wood (two of his daughters likely married sons of Benjamin Leverich) and William Bell who was probably the first husband of Martha Leverich, daughter of Benjamin Leverich.<sup>7,8</sup>

William Leverich married Esther Strang circa 1805 at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The marriage date is an estimated date based upon the 1806 birth year of their first child, Joseph T. Leverich.<sup>9</sup> Esther Strang was born 24 July 1786, probably in Westchester Co, New York. Esther was the daughter of Joseph Strang and Mary Millow.<sup>10,11</sup>

Circa 1808 Benjamin Leverich and all of his children, except William Leverich, migrated to Ohio. William, unlike his siblings remained in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. William is not named in his father Benjamin's 1824 will in Ohio. This may have been because William had already received his inheritance, perhaps assuming ownership of the family farm in Westchester County.<sup>12,13</sup>

On 18 October 1809 William Leverich, Cooper (William's father Benjamin and brother James were both coopers also), in consideration of \$1,750, purchased 123 acres of land from Thomas Moshure and his wife Mary of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. This tract of land was located in Cortlandt and bordered the lands of Cornelia Kronkhite (purchased from Pierre Van Cortlandt), Isaac Strang, and Thomas Moshure. The deed was recorded on 10 May 1813.<sup>14</sup>

William Leverich is recorded in the 1810 U.S. Census of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The census tallies include 1 free white male under age 10 (son Joseph); 1 free white male age 16 to 25 (head of household William); 1 free white female under the age of 10 (unidentified, perhaps a daughter); 1 free white female age 16 to 15 (wife Esther). Andrew and Joseph Strang are recorded adjacent to William.<sup>15</sup>

On 29 September 1815, the Westchester Co, New York Court of Common Pleas issued a "capias" (i.e. arrest warrant) for William Leverich in the case of James Hall vs William Leverich, accused of assault and battery and seeking damages of \$500. The ultimate disposition of the case has not been found in the county court records.<sup>16</sup>

William Leverich is recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The census tallies include 2 free white males under the age of 10 (son John, and unidentified); 2 free white males age 10 to 15 (son Joseph and unidentified); 1 free white male age 26 to 44 (head of household William Leverich); 3 free white females under the age of 10 (daughter Charlotte and 2 unidentified); 1 free white female age 10 to 15 (unidentified); 1 free white female age 26 to 44 (wife Esther).<sup>17</sup> The two unidentified females under the age of 10 (born c 1810-1820) or the one unidentified female age 10 to 15 (born c 1805-1810) may have been daughters that did not survive to adulthood. There is a six year gap between son Joseph born 1806 and son John born 1813, and a five years gap between son John born 1813 and daughter Charlotte born 1818.

On 14 February 1827, William Leverich co-signed an appeal bond with his first cousin Benjamin Leverich (son of John Leverich and Mary Brundage). Benjamin had been the defendant in a Westchester Co Court of Common Pleas lawsuit, John Depew plaintiff, seeking payment of \$45 and damages of \$15 for rent and alleged damage to property. Benjamin had been constable for the Town of Cortlandt at the time. Depew obtained a judgement against Benjamin on 5 February 1827. Benjamin appealed the judgement. The appeal bond was filed 17 May 1827. Final disposition of this case was not found in the court files.<sup>18</sup>

On 28 July 1827 William Leverich, in consideration of \$1000, purchased at auction 60 acres of land, property mortgaged by William Nelson who had taken a mortgage of \$820 from Catherine Briggs, deceased. The tract bordered the property of John Knight, William Leverich, Pierre Van Cortlandt, Isaac Hatfield, and Conrad Miller. The auctioneer was William Leverich's first cousin Benjamin Leverich.<sup>19</sup>

William Leverich is recorded in the 1830 U.S. Census of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The census tallies include 1 free white male under age 5 (son Alfred); 3 free white males ages 5 to 9 (sons George, James, and William); 1 free white male age 15 to 19 (son John); 1 free white male age 20 to 29 (son Joseph); 1 free white male age 40 to 49 (head of household William Leverich); 1 free white female age 10 to 14 (daughter Charlotte); 1 free white female age 15 to 19 (unidentified); 1 free white female age 20 to 29 (unidentified); 1 free white female age 40 to 49 (wife Esther). In addition, the census record lists 2 free white persons age 14 to 24 who were deaf and dumb. These individuals do not appear to be any of William and Esther's known children, but may have been the two unidentified females age 15 to 29 who were tallied. Subsequent census records do not indicate any disabilities among William and Esther's children and grandchildren. However, surviving to adulthood, 5 of William's 8 children, and 10 of his 15 grandchildren, never married, an unusually high number for that time period. No explanation for this situation has been determined, although it may suggest that some type of genetic disability or illness affected the family.<sup>20</sup>

William Leverich died on 11 September 1839 at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York, at age 57. William was buried at the Old Baptist Churchyard in Yorktown, Westchester Co. A gravestone placed in the cemetery lists William and his wife Esther, five of their children, and one grandchild (James B. Leverich). The burials at the Old Baptist Churchyard suggest that the family professed the Baptist faith, although no further evidence has been found to confirm this.



**William Leverich & Hester Strang and Children  
Old Baptist Churchyard: Yorktown  
Westchester County, New York**

William's grandchildren by his son Joseph are buried at the Shrub Oak Methodist churchyard in Yorktown. Again, no further evidence that Joseph's family professed the Methodist faith has been found.<sup>21</sup>



William Leverich did not prepare a will. Letters of Administration on William's estate were granted to his widow Hester Leverich 9 January 1840 by the Westchester County, New York Surrogate (Esther Strang Leverich had adopted the given name Hester). Hester signed her name with a mark. The estate file identifies William and Hester's children Joseph and John, but does not specify the names of their other children. Hester successfully petitioned the court to allow her son Joseph to join her in administering the estate.<sup>22</sup>



Hester Leverich was recorded in the 1840 U.S. Census of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The Census tallies include 1 free white male age 10 to 14 (son Alfred); 4 free white males age 15 to 19 (sons George, James, William and 1 unidentified); 3 free white males age 20 to 29 (son John, possibly son Joseph, 1 unidentified); 1 free white female age 5 to 9 (daughter Amanda); 1 free white female age 15 to 19 (unidentified); 1 free white female age 20 to 29 (daughter Charlotte); 1 free white female age 30 to 39 (possibly Hannah, wife of Joseph); 1 free white female age 50 to 59 (head of household Hester Leverich). Neither Joseph Leverich nor John Leverich are found as separate households in the 1840 Census. Joseph and Hannah's daughter Jennie who would have been age 2 is not accounted for in the census tallies.<sup>23</sup>

On 16 February 1843, in consideration of \$200, Joseph and John Leverich sold two tracts of land in Cortlandt to their widowed mother Hester Leverich. The first tract of 60 acres bordered the land of John Knight, land formerly of Pierre Van Cortlandt, Isaac Hatfield, and Conrad Miller. The second tract of 123 acres bordered the land of Cornelia Cronkhite (purchased from Pierre Van Cortlandt), Isaac Strang, and Thomas Moshure. The deed was recorded 21 February 1843.<sup>24</sup>

On 23 April 1844, in consideration of \$1225, Hester Leverich purchased at auction mortgaged land as part of the settlement of litigation between Hester and her four older children (Joseph, John, Charlotte, George), complainants versus Hester's four younger children (James, William, Alfred, and Amanda), as well as William Nelson and John W. Frost, defendants. The mortgaged property, 81 acres in Cortlandt, bordered the land of Philip Travis, John Chase, David Rich, and Andrew Dusenberry. The transaction was recorded 25 April 1844.<sup>25</sup>

Hester Leverich, age 64, is recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York. The household also included son George, age 26; son William, age 25; son Alfred age 23; daughter Charity age 24 (presumably census taker error, this would have been daughter Charlotte age 32); and daughter Amanda, age 18.<sup>26</sup>



**Heirs of W. Leverich**  
**1851 Map of the Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co, NY**  
**Published by Sidney & Neff**

On 17 January 1853, in consideration of \$2,100, Hester Leverich sold 81 acres of land in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York to her sons George, William, and Alfred Leverich. The property bordered on the land of John Chase, Daniel Rich, and Richard Lancaster. The deed was recorded 6 May 1853.<sup>27</sup>

Hester Leverich, age 74, is recorded in the 1860 U.S. Census of Cortlandt, Westchester County, New York. The household also included son William, age 35; son George, age 38; son Alfred, age 33; daughter Amanda, age 25; daughter Charlotte, age 40; and Jas Leverich, age 7. The census record indicates that Hester and George could not read or write. However, although not so indicated in the census record, William signed with his mark estate documents for his brothers Alfred and George (Westchester Co, NY Surrogate Files 1895-314 and 1895-315).<sup>28</sup>

Jas (i.e. James B.) Leverich is listed in the same household in the 1870 (age 14) and 1880 (age 23) U.S. Census of Cortlandt. The 1880 census identifies James as a nephew of George, William, and Amanda Leverich. James died in 1889. The family gravestone at the Old Baptist Churchyard in Yorktown, Westchester Co, New York identifies his birth year as 1848. James is buried with his grandparents, uncles, and aunts. James may have been the son of Joseph Leverich. Joseph's census record in 1850 includes a male child age 2 who is identified as "not named". It has not been determined why James was unnamed at the age of two, or why he was living with his uncles and aunts instead of his parents. One explanation might be that his parents expected that he would soon die and would not survive to adulthood. However, the census records do not identify James as disabled. James' presumed parents and presumed siblings are buried separately at the Shrub Oak Methodist Churchyard in Yorktown. The 1900 U.S. Census for his presumed mother Hannah Leverich indicates that she was the mother of six children, four then living. This tally does not account for an additional son James.<sup>29,30,31,32,33</sup>

Esther (aka Hester) Strang Leverich died 3 September 1869 at Cortlandt, Westchester County, New York. She is buried at the Old Baptist Church graveyard in Yorktown, Westchester Co. The findagrave.com record on-line for Esther misinterprets the death year on her gravestone as 1889, which would have made her age 103 when she died. A death year of 1869 is the correct interpretation of the gravestone.<sup>34</sup>

William Leverich and Esther (aka Hester) Strang had eight children surviving to adulthood.<sup>35,36,37,38</sup>

- i. Joseph T. Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York in 1806. Joseph married c 1837 probably in Westchester Co, Hannah Knapp. The marriage date is an estimate based upon the 1838 birth year of their first child. Hannah's probable parents David and Lydia Knapp are living in the same dwelling as Joseph and Hannah in the 1850 U.S. Census of Yorktown, Westchester Co. Joseph and Hannah named two of their children David and Lydia. According to his gravestone, Joseph died in 1884 probably in Westchester Co. However, Joseph is not found in the 1880 U.S. Census, but his wife Hannah is listed as a widowed head of household in the same census living in Bedford, Westchester Co., given name Anna. No explanation has been found for Joseph's absence from the 1880 Census, or the designation of his wife as a widow. Perhaps Joseph died prior to 1880, and the 1884 death date on his gravestone is an error. However, no other record of his death has been found. Joseph is buried in the Shrub Oak Methodist Churchyard accompanied by his wife and all eight of his unmarried children, except for the possibility of an additional son James B. Leverich as discussed above.<sup>39,40,41,42</sup>
- ii. John Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York 21 March 1813. The birth date is calculated based upon John's age at the time he died. John married c 1838, probably in Westchester Co, Elizabeth Purdy. The marriage date is an estimate based on the 1839 birth year of their first child. The marriage certificate of their son Augustus P. Leverich identifies his mother as Elizabeth Purdy. John died 15 January 1893 in Peekskill, Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co. A place of burial has not been determined for John. It may have been an unrecorded burial at Hillside Cemetery in Peekskill. John and Elizabeth's son Horace (died age 3 months in 1839) is recorded as buried at Hillside Cemetery.<sup>43,44,45,46,47</sup>
- iii. Charlotte Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 21 December 1818. Charlotte never married. Charlotte died 18 December 1875 at Cortlandt. Charlotte was buried at the Old Baptist Churchyard in Yorktown, Westchester Co, New York.<sup>48,49</sup>
- iv. George Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 17 March 1821. George never married. George died 25 December 1891 at Cortlandt. George was buried at the Old Baptist Churchyard in Yorktown, Westchester Co.<sup>50,51,52,53</sup>
- v. James P. Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 18 June 1824. James married c 1855 probably in Westchester Co, Mary A. Richey. The marriage date is an estimate based upon the birth year of 1856 of their first child. James died 13 January 1886 in Peekskill, Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co. James was buried at the Hillside Cemetery in Peekskill.<sup>54,55,56,57,58,59</sup>
- vi. William Leverich (Jr.) was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 6 June 1825. William never married. William died 5 August 1898 in Cortlandt. William was buried at the Old Baptist Churchyard in Yorktown, Westchester Co.<sup>60,61,62</sup>

- vii. Alfred Oscar Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 12 November 1827. Alfred never married. Alfred died 25 March 1877 at Cortlandt. Alfred was buried at the Old Baptist Cemetery in Yorktown, Westchester Co.<sup>63,64</sup>
- viii. Amanda M. Leverich was born in Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York on 8 December 1831. Amanda never married. Amanda died 30 March 1911 at Cortlandt. Amanda was buried at the old Baptist Churchyard in Yorktown, Westchester Co.<sup>65,66,67</sup>

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## Endnotes

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- <sup>2</sup>1798 Jan 10 Mortgage Westchester Co, NY F-378: Benjamin and Mary Leverich to William Hallock; Westchester County, New York Archives; 2199 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, Westchester, New York 10523; Liber F, pages 378-379. Hereinafter cited as 1798 Jan 10 Mortgage Westchester Co, NY F-378.
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- <sup>6</sup>William Henry, J.H. Battle, and Weston Arthur Goodspeed Perrin, *History of Crawford County, Ohio* (Chicago, IL: Baskin and Beatty, 1881), page 427. Hereinafter cited as *History of Crawford County, Ohio*.
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- <sup>14</sup>1809 October 18 Deed Westchester Co, New York: Thomas Moshure to William Leverich; Westchester County, New York Archives; 2199 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, Westchester, New York 10523; Liber Q, page 110; FamilySearch.org, Westchester Co Deeds 1810-1815 Volumes P-R, image 240 of 547. Hereinafter cited as 1809 October 18 Deed Westchester Co, New York.
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- <sup>36</sup>1839 Administration William Leverich, Westchester County, New York Archives, Estate File #33-1840.
- <sup>37</sup>*Couch Genealogical Files*.
- <sup>38</sup>*Peekskill (NY) Highland Democrat*, Peekskill, Westchester Co, New York, 1858-1942. Hereinafter cited as *Peekskill (NY) Highland Democrat*, 27 January 1894.
- <sup>39</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 147289906.
- <sup>40</sup>1900 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Yorktown, ED 0147, page 12.
- <sup>41</sup>1850 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Yorktown, page 255B.
- <sup>42</sup>1880 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Bedford, ED 083, page 6C.
- <sup>43</sup>*Peekskill (NY) Highland Democrat*, 21 January 1893, page 5.
- <sup>44</sup>Family History Library LDS, Vital Records of Westchester Co, NY, Film Number 17199, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 35 North West Temple St, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150, Item 5, William P. Horton. Hereinafter cited as *Vital Records of Westchester Co, NY*.
- <sup>45</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 52628850.
- <sup>46</sup>New York Marriages 1686-1980, online <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>, 10 March 1869 marriage of Augustus P. Leverich and Susan Turner. Hereinafter cited as *New York Marriages 1686-1980*.
- <sup>47</sup>New York Death Index 1852-1956, New York Department of Health (Albany, New York), Certificate 2530.
- <sup>48</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 52289902.
- <sup>49</sup>1860 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Cortlandt, page 287.
- <sup>50</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 52290071.
- <sup>51</sup>*Peekskill (NY) Highland Democrat*, 2 January 1892.
- <sup>52</sup>New York Death Index 1852-1956, Certificate Number 53223.
- <sup>53</sup>1860 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Cortlandt, page 286.
- <sup>54</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 75891501 and 75891515.
- <sup>55</sup>1870 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Cortlandt, page 131B.
- <sup>56</sup>1850 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Yorktown, page 255B.
- <sup>57</sup>1860 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Cortlandt, page 195.
- <sup>58</sup>New York Death Index 1852-1956, Certificate Number 33519.
- <sup>59</sup>*Peekskill (NY) Highland Democrat*, 16 January 1886 and 27 January 1894.
- <sup>60</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 52290142.
- <sup>61</sup>New York Death Index 1852-1956, Certificate Number 28442.
- <sup>62</sup>1860 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Cortlandt, page 286.
- <sup>63</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 52289953.

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<sup>64</sup>1860 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Cortlandt, page 287.

<sup>65</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 52290245.

<sup>66</sup>1860 U.S. Census New York, Westchester Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Cortlandt, page 287.

<sup>67</sup>New York Death Index 1852-1956, Certificate Number 16684.