

Individual Narrative of Nathaniel⁷ Leverich [215] Son of Benjamin⁶ Leverich [100] and Mary Briggs Husband of Martha Wood and Nancy Maria Alvord

Nathaniel Leverich) was born on 12 Feb 1793 at Cortlandt, Westchester Co, New York, the son of Benjamin Leverich and Mary Briggs. Nathaniel's birth date is carved on his gravestone.¹

Circa 1808, Benjamin Leverich Sr and extended family, including sons Nathaniel, James, and John removed from Westchester Co, New York and settled in the future Guernsey Co, Ohio. Benjamin Sr. is found in the 1790 U.S. Census of Westchester Co, New York but not the 1800 U.S. Census. He is found in Westchester Co, New York Tax lists circa 1800. Benjamin Sr. is not found in the 1810 U.S. Census.^{2,3,4,5,6,7}

On 8 June 1815 Robert Williams of Allegheny Co, Pennsylvania sold 160 acres of land at \$2.00 per acre to Nathaniel Leverich. This tract of land was located in the SE 1/4 of Section 31, Range 20, Township 20 in what was then Sandusky Township in Richland County, Ohio. This location would later become Polk Township in Crawford Co, Ohio. This transaction was recorded on 2 June 1823.⁸

About 1817, Nathaniel Leverich, his father Benjamin Leverich, and some of the extended family removed further to the northwest in Ohio. *The History of Richland County, Ohio*, which was 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 Twp, Richland Co, now Polk Twp, Crawford Co). "The Leveredges 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 Leveredge 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."^{9,10}

The History of Crawford County, Ohio (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."^{11,12"}

Circa 1817 Nathaniel Leverich married Martha Wood probably in Richland County, Ohio. The marriage year is an estimate based upon the 1819 birth year of their first child. Martha was likely the daughter of George Wood, and the sister of Sarah Wood who married John Leverich, a brother of Nathaniel Leverich. Martha was probably born circa 1795 to 1800 in Westchester County, New York, based upon the census tallies for Nathaniel in 1820 U.S. Census of Richland County, Ohio and the 1830 U.S. Census of Saint Joseph County, Michigan. George Wood probably removed to Ohio at the same time as Benjamin Leverich. Both George Wood and Benjamin Leverich are recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census of Sandusky Township, Richland Co, Ohio. George Wood was a witness to the will of Benjamin Leverich in 1824 in Richland County.^{13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20}

Nathaniel Leverich is recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census of Sandusky Township, Richland County, Ohio. The census tallies included 1 free white male under the age of 10 (son Benjamin); 1 free white male age 26 to 44 (head of household Nathaniel Leverich); 1 free white female age 16 to 25 (wife Martha).²¹

Nathaniel Leverich's father Benjamin made a will dated 20 May 1824 in Richland County, Ohio. In his will, Benjamin left the following legacy to his son Nathaniel: "two fields adjoining his farm, various other parcels of land, for which Nathaniel must pay to the estate \$70.00."^{22"}

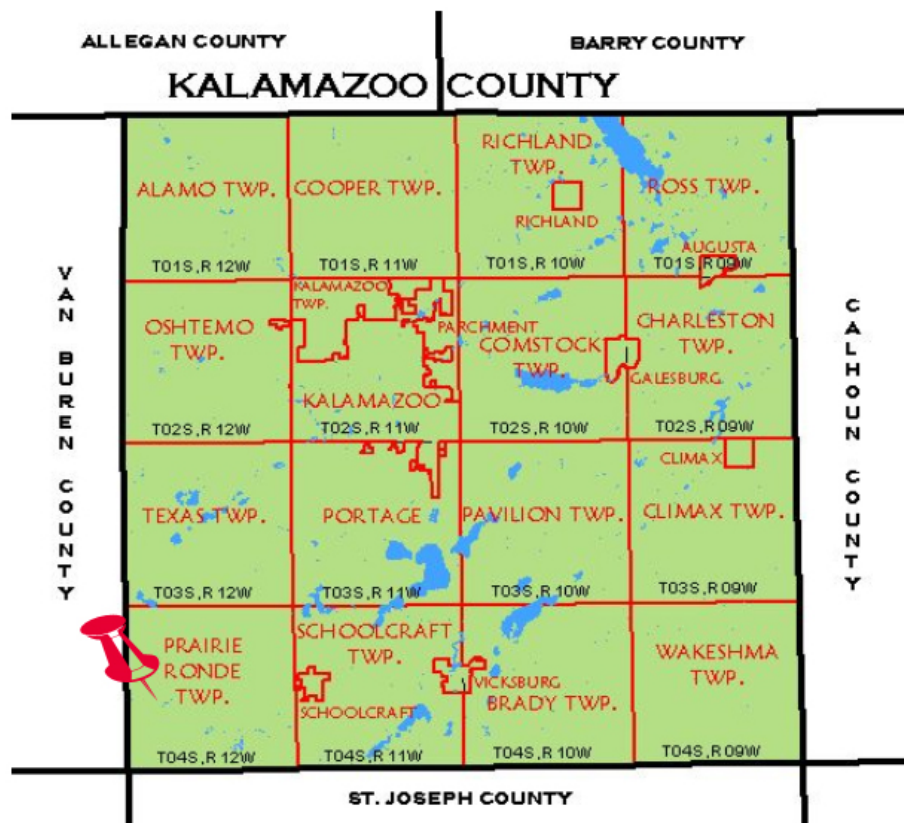
Nathaniel Leverich is listed as a property owner on the 1825 Tax List for Richland County, Ohio, accompanied by his brothers Benjamin Leverich Jr and James Leverich.²³

By 1830 Nathaniel Leverich and his family had removed to the Michigan Territory. Nathaniel is recorded in the 1830 U.S. Census of White Pigeon, Saint Joseph County, Michigan. The census tallies included 1 free white male under the age of 5 (son Rezin); 1 free white male age 10 to 14 (son Benjamin); 1 free white male age 15 to 19 (unidentified); 1 free white male age 30 to 39 (head of household Nathaniel Leverich); 1 free white female under the age of 5 (daughter Eliza, actually age 9 born circa 1821); 1 free white female age 30 to 39 (wife Martha). Adjacent to Nathaniel in the census record is Ira Leverich, and nearby is Joel Leverich, nephews of Nathaniel, brothers the sons of James Leverich.²⁴

On 10 November 1830, the U.S. General Land Office issued a land patent to Nathaniel Leverich, W 1/2 of NE 1/4, Section 3, Township 8 south, Range 12 west in St. Joseph's County, Michigan.²⁵

On 4 January 1831, the U.S. General Land Office issued a land patent to Nathaniel Leverich, W 1/2 of SE 1/4, Section 3, Township 8 south, Range 12 west in St. Joseph's County, Michigan.²⁶

Later in 1831, Nathaniel and his family removed to what would become in 1836 Prairie Ronde Township, section 1, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, formed from Brady Township.^{27,28}



On 5 June 1832 Peter Kniss sold 37.5 acres of land in Brady Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan to Nathaniel Leverich in consideration of \$152. The tract was defined as N1/2 of NW1/4 Section 1, Township 4 south, Range 12 west.²⁹

On 4 June 1833 the U.S. Land Office issued a land patent to Nathaniel Leverich, south 1/2 of NE 1/4 and south 1/2 of NW 1/4, Section 1, Township 4 south, Range 12 west in Kalamazoo County, Michigan.^{30,31}

HARRISON Bazel 1833		FELLOWS James M 1831		SEARLE Ambrose 1833	BACON Daniel 1833
PERRINE John 1833				LEVERICK Nathaniel 1833	LEVERICK Nathaniel 1833
SMITH Joseph A 1833	2	[Shaded Area]		1	SMITH Doctor 1833
KELSEY Roswell 1833				PERRINE John 1833	
DAVIDSON Abram 1831	WHEELER John N 1839	HARRISON Bazel 1833	BENDURE Thomas 1833	FOX Reuben W 1833	HARRISON Ephraim 1831
	LYON Lucius 1833			11	FOX Reuben W 1833

**Prairie Ronde Township (northeast corner)
Kalamazoo Co, Michigan: Section 1, Twp 4S, Range 12 W**

On 5 September 1834 Nathaniel Leverich and his wife Martha sold 40 acres of land in Brady Township, Kalamazoo County to Hector Wago in consideration of \$350. The tract was defined as W1/2 and S1/2 of NW1/4, Section 1, Township 4 south, Range 12 west in Brady Township. Both Nathaniel and Martha signed the deed with their marks, suggesting that neither of them could read or write. This document confirms that wife Martha Wood Leverich was alive in 1834.³²

On 26 January 1835 Nathan Merrimon of Lagrange County, Indiana sold 72 acres of land in Brady Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan to Nathaniel Leverich in consideration of \$185. The tract was defined as N1/2 of NE1/4, Section 1, Township 4 south, Range 12 west.³³

In December 1835 Nathaniel Leverich purchased land in Texas Township, section 34, Kalamazoo County, Michigan.³⁴

Nathan Leverich appears on the 1838 tax list of Prairie Ronde Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. His property is listed as 240 acres of land, 4 horses, 5 cows, and 7 young cattle. Nathan's nephew Stephen Leverich, son of John Leverich, appears on the same tax list.³⁵

On 1 May 1839, the U.S. General Land Office issued a land patent to Nathaniel Leverich, E1/2 of NW, Section 34, Township 3 south, Range 12 west in Texas Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan.^{36,37}

Nathaniel Leverich is recorded in the 1840 U.S. Census of Prairie Ronde Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. The census tallies included 1 free white male under the age of 5 (son Nathan); 1 free white male age 5 to 9 (son William); 1 free white male age 10 to 14 (son Rezin); 1 free white male age 40 to 49 (head of household Nathaniel Leverich); and 1 free white female age 15 to 19 (daughter Eliza). There was no census tally that would be consistent with Nathaniel's wife Martha, who would have been about age 40 to 45 in 1840.³⁸

1976 correspondence from Leland Leverich of Kalamazoo, Michigan stated that Martha Wood Leverich had died in 1832 when her daughter Eliza was ten years old. This assertion is inaccurate. In 1834, Martha signed a deed with her husband Nathaniel. A son Nathan was born in 1836. Since there is no census tally corresponding to Martha in the 1840 U.S. Census of Kalamazoo County, it is likely that Martha died between 1836 and 1840, probably in Prairie Ronde Township, Kalamazoo Co. There is a gravestone for Martha in the Harrison Pioneer Cemetery in Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, but no dates are legible.^{39,40,41,42}

If Martha had died in 1832, then son Nathan Leverich born in 1836 would have had a different mother, who has not been identified, and who also lacks a corresponding census tally in the 1840 U.S. Census. Data to support this theory is inconsistent. Martha Wood Leverich would have been born in New York State. Daughter Eliza Leverich Longwell's 1908 death certificate identifies her mother as Martha Wood born in Ohio. However, both the 1880 and 1900 U.S. Census for Eliza Longwell records that her father and mother were both born in New York. Son Nathan Leverich's death certificate does not name his parents. The 1880 and 1900 U.S. Census for Nathan records that his mother was born in Ohio, his father in New York. If Nathan's mother was different from Martha Wood Leverich, then she also would likely have died between 1836 and 1840. There is no known burial at the Harrison Pioneer Cemetery for a wife for Nathaniel other than Martha.^{43,44,45,46,47,48}

Nathaniel Leverich married for a second time Nancy Maria Alvord, daughter of Elias Alvord and Cynthia Price, on 21 May 1845 at Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo Co, Michigan. Nancy was born 3 September 1821 in Grove, Allegheny County, New York. Nancy had no children by Nathaniel.^{49,50}

Nathaniel Leverich died on 25 August 1855 at Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo Co, Michigan, at age 62. He was buried at the Harrison Pioneer Cemetery in Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, Michigan.⁵¹ Nathaniel Leverich made a will, but it was not dated. An Administrator's bond was signed and filed with the Kalamazoo County Probate Court on 13 October 1855. In his will, Nathaniel names his wife Nancy, his daughter Eliza Longwell, and his son Nathaniel. In addition, Nathaniel Leverich Sr provided that: "I give and bequeath to my natural son Nathaniel Wisner by me begotten of Mrs. Wisner, the sum of one hundred dollars to be paid by my executor for the education or ?maintenance? of my said son, so soon as said Executor may think the interests of the estate will permit." The will was witnessed by M.R. Cobb and H. Smith. Hezekiah G. Wells of Schoolcraft was named executor, but he subsequently declined in an affidavit to the court dated 30 October 1855. The estate was settled in Kalamazoo County Probate Court on 20 October 1856.⁵²



The widow Nancy Maria Alvord Leverich appears to have married a "Burson" between 1855 and 1860. A marriage record has not been found. A Nancy Burson is found recorded immediately adjacent to the household of Eliza Longwell in the 1860 U.S. Census of Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. This Nancy Burson is living alone, age 38 born in New York, with real estate valued at \$2000. Therefore it would appear that Nancy's Burson marriage was short lived, terminating prior to 1860. A cluster of "Bursons" is found in Schoolcraft Township, but none that would be consistent with a marriage to Nancy Maria. A Nancy A. Burson, wife of James Burson, is buried at the Schoolcraft Town Cemetery in 1856 at the age of 30. Perhaps Nancy Maria Alvord Leverich married the widower James Burson circa 1856-1857, and James died before 1860. Such a James however is not found buried in Schoolcraft Cemetery.^{53,54}

On 1 June 1864 a Nancy M. Burson was married to Abner S. Brown in Kalamazoo County, Michigan.⁵⁵

Nancy Brown, age 48 born New York, is recorded in the 1870 U.S. Census of Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. The household included A. S. Brown, a blacksmith age 45 born New York; also two children presumably fathered by A. S. Brown in a prior marriage: Abner Brown age 10 and Smith Brown age 9, both born in Wisconsin. The household also included two unrelated adults: ?Anson? Somjoy, a laborer age 23 born New York and Reuben Rice, a farmer age 40 born New York. A.S. Brown and Nancy Brown each had their own separate financial assets. A.S. had real estate valued at \$7,000 and personal estate valued at \$5,000. Nancy had real estate valued at \$1,700 and personal estate valued at \$800.⁵⁶

An 1873 Atlas of Prairie Ronde Township in Kalamazoo County, Michigan shows a Mrs. Brown with 63 acres, adjacent to N(athan) Leverich, 102 acres, and Mrs. Longwell, 61 acres in Section 1 in the northeast corner of the township.⁵⁷



Prairie Ronde Township, Northeast Corner, 1873

Nancy Brown is not found in the 1880 U.S. Census of Kalamazoo County, Michigan adjacent to Nathan Leverich and Eliza Longwell, as indicated in the 1873 Atlas of the county. A "Mrs. N. Brown" (Ancestry.com indexes as Mrs. M. Brown) is recorded living as a roomer at 33 North Burdick Street in Kalamazoo City, Kalamazoo Co, Michigan. She is identified as a widow, age 60, born New York, parents born New York, occupation "stamping."^{58,59,60}

The 1883 Kalamazoo County Directory lists Mrs. Nancy Brown, owner of 63 acres in Section 1 of Prairie Ronde Township. This is consistent with the information contained in the 1873 Atlas discussed previously. The 1887 Kalamazoo County Directory records the same information regarding Mrs. Nancy Brown.^{61,62}

The 1894 Michigan State Census records Nancy M. Brown, age 72, boarding in the household of her step-grandson Loren E. Longwell in Prairie Ronde Township.⁶³

Nancy M. Brown died of pneumonia on 8 February 1896 in Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Nancy was buried at the Harrison Pioneer Cemetery in Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County.^{64,65}

Nathaniel Leverich Sr and Martha Wood had five children, two of whom survived to adulthood. Nancy Maria Alvord had no children with Nathaniel, nor any known children by her subsequent two marriages. In his 1855 will, as cited above, Nathaniel identifies a son who was born out of wedlock.^{66,67}

- i. Benjamin Leverich was born circa 1819 in Sandusky Township, Richland County, Ohio. This birth year was consistent with the census tallies in the 1820 and 1830 U.S. Census in Richland Co, Ohio and St. Joseph County, Michigan. Benjamin was age 16 when he died unmarried in Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo County, Michigan on 7 May 1835. He was buried at the Harrison Pioneer Cemetery in Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo Co.^{68,69,70}

- ii. Eliza O. Leverich was born in Sandusky Township, Richland County Ohio, on 1 May 1821. Eliza married Edward L. Longwell 1 May 1842 in Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Eliza died 18 February 1908 in Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo County. Eliza was buried at the Harrison Pioneer Cemetery in Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County.^{71,72,73,74,75}
- iii. Rezin Leverich was born 12 January 1828 in Sandusky Township, Richland County, Ohio. Benjamin was age 21 when he died unmarried in Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo County, Michigan on 10 June 1849. He was buried at the Harrison Pioneer Cemetery in Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo Co.⁷⁶
- iv. William A. Leverich was born 15 February 1833 in Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Benjamin was age 18 when he died unmarried in Prairie Ronde on 27 January 1851. He was buried at the Harrison Pioneer Cemetery in Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo Co.^{77,78}
- v. Nathan Leverich was born in Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo County, Michigan on 10 January 1836. Nathan married Harriet A. Hargraves 11 August 1863 in Saint Joseph County, Michigan. Nathan died 20 January 1916 in Clyde Township, Allegan County, Michigan. He was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Fennville, Allegan County.^{79,80,81}
- vi. In his 1855 will, Nathaniel Leverich identified a son Nathaniel Wisner who was born out of wedlock. His mother is identified only as "Mrs. Wisner". With one exception, no other records of a Nathaniel Wisner have been found. The Ancestry.com database *Oakland County, Michigan Vital Records, 1800-1917* identifies a Nathaniel Wisner, a brick mason, born 1843, the son of Alfred and Lydia Wisner. No further records have been found for Alfred and Lydia Wisner. The year 1843 falls in that period of time between Nathaniel Leverich's first and second marriages.^{82,83}

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- ³² 1834 September 5 Deed Kalamazoo County, Michigan: Nathaniel & Martha Leverich to Hector Wago; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; 35 North West Temple St, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150; Liber B, page 201; LDS film 983189, image 379. Hereinafter cited as 1834 September 5 Deed Kalamazoo County, Michigan.
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- ³⁴ *History of Kalamazoo County, Michigan*, page 539.
- ³⁵ *Ibid.*, page 448.
- ³⁶ U.S. General Land Office Records, online <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1246/>, Accession number MI1330_.289, document 11489.
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- ³⁸ 1840 U.S. Census Michigan, Kalamazoo Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M704, Roll 206, Town of Praire Ronde, page 229.
- ³⁹ *Leverich, Leland Leroy*.
- ⁴⁰ Find A Grave, online www.findagrave.com, Memorial 48957035.
- ⁴¹ 1840 U.S. Census Michigan, Kalamazoo Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Prairie Ronde, page 229.
- ⁴² Find A Grave, online www.findagrave.com, Memorial number 110395840.
- ⁴³ *Kalamazoo Gazette*, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1837-date. Hereinafter cited as *Kalamazoo Gazette*, 20 February 1908, page 5.
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- ⁴⁵ 1900 U.S. Census Michigan, Kalamazoo Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T623, 1854 Rolls, ED 0118, Town of Praire Ronde, ED128, page 6.
- ⁴⁶ 1916 Death Certificate Nathan Leverich, Certificate number 2161, Allegan Co Michigan Clerk's Office, 113 Chestnut St, Allegan, Michigan 49010. Hereinafter cited as 1916 Death Certificate Nathan Leverich.
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- ⁴⁹ Samuel Morgan Alvord, *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Alexander Alvord, an Early Settler of Windsor, Conn. and Northampton, Mass.* (Webster, New York: A.D. Andrews, Printer, 1908), pages 317-318, 517. Hereinafter cited as *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Alexander Alvord*.
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- ⁵³ 1860 U.S. Census Michigan, Kalamazoo Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Town of Praire Ronde, page 71.
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- ⁶⁴ *Appleton Crescent*, Appleton, Wisconsin, 1853-1919. Hereinafter cited as *Appleton Crescent*, 25 February 1896, page 1. Find A Grave, online www.findagrave.com, Memorial number 7931329.
- ⁶⁶ Ancestry.com Family Trees, online <www.ancestry.com>. Hereinafter cited as Ancestry.com Family Trees.
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