

Individual Narrative of Richard⁸ Titus Leverich [241]
Son of John⁷ Leverich [125] and Alletta Berrian
Husband of Lydia Fanning Gilbert

Richard Titus Leverich was born on 27 August 1815 at Newtown, Queens County, New York, the son of John Leverich and Alletta Berrian. Richard was baptized 28 July 1822 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, in addition to his sister Jane Townsend Leverich and his brother John Goldsmith Leverich.^{1,2,3}

Richard Leverich was brought up in Newtown, engaged in farming. In 1835 he, in company with Dr. Fithian, left New York for Danville, Vermilion county, Illinois. He had made arrangements with Dr. Fithian to clerk in his store. Richard went to Dayton, Ohio, riding Dr. Fithian's horse from there to Indianapolis. From here he took the stage to Perrysville, Vermilion county, Indiana, and from there to Danville, where he arrived on the 14th of September, 1835, taking him about two weeks in making the trip. The first two years he clerked for Dr. Fithian at twelve dollars per month, and on account of business he worked for his board the third year. From there he entered in partnership with L. T. Palmer in the general store business. These gentlemen continued in partnership some fourteen years. From that he entered into partnership with his brother, John Goldsmith Leverich, which connection continued about five years. Richard continued alone in business some five years longer. He then came to the farm where he lived for the remainder of his life.⁴



On 27 August 1836 Richard T. Leverich purchased 80 acres of public land in Illinois located at Range 9 East, Township 23 North, section 9, in consideration of \$100. At this time, this tract was located in Vermilion County. It is now part of Ford County which was formed from Vermilion County in 1859. Richard sold this tract to James Morton on 21 March 1837 in consideration of \$500.^{5,6}

Richard Titus Leverich, and in some instances his wife Lydia Fanning Gilbert Leverich, engaged in multiple land transactions in Vermilion County. The Vermilion County Deed Indexes at FamilySearch.org reflect 57 transactions as grantee 1844-1886, and 100 transactions as grantor 1837-1885.⁷

On 16 November 1838 Jane T. Leverich wrote from Newtown, Queens Co, New York to her brother Richard T. Leverich in Danville, Vermilion Co, Illinois. She recounted the activities of family and friends including their brother John. Also included were Uncle Ezra, Aunt Betsey, Aunt Catherine, Peter Rapelye and his sisters and Henry Riker. She further

reports that Miss Maria Wetmore was married to a Capt. Hoyt of New York; that Doctor Woodhull has been dead about three weeks; Miss Margaret Rapelye was to be married to the Rev. Mr. Garretson; and Aunt C. will be married to Mr. Samuels. Others of note included Jane Bonnett, Sally and Ann Palmer.^{8,9}

Richard Leverich was recorded as a head of household in the 1840 U.S. Census of Vermilion County, Illinois, a free white male age 20 to 29 (i.e. 1811 to 1820). The household also included 1 free white female age 20 to 29 whose identity and relationship to Richard is unknown.¹⁰

Richard Titus Leverich married Lydia Fanning Gilbert on 22 November 1843 at Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. Lydia was born 15 September 1822 in Rushville, Ontario County, New York. Lydia was the daughter of Solomon Gilbert and Esther Green.^{11,12,13,14,15}

On 19 September 1845 Mary Elizabeth Bogert Leverich of Newtown wrote to her sister-in-law Lydia Leverich in Danville. Mary was age 11 at the time. Mary reports that her cousin Mary E. Bonnett would be soon married on 23 September 1845 to George E. Vanderburgh. "There is quite an excitement at Aunt Bonnett's. Mary's wedding is to come off next Tuesday. There has been 300 invitations given and the cake they gave 100 dollars for." Mary also recounted that "we took another trip to Rockaway ... Mr. Townsend's family, Jane, Jane and myself, thirteen in all. The surf was very high and we went in twice ..." "Tell brother Richard that the kittens grow finely and eat and drink as well as the old cat the worst is if we feed them too well they will not be good for anything." "Mother says that she would like you to consider this letter from her as well as she very seldom writes and when one gets out of the habit of it it is a great task."^{16,17}

On 30 November 1847 Mary E. Leverich age 16 of Newtown wrote to her brother Richard T. Leverich of Danville. She notes that she has become an "aunty" for the second time (i.e. John Penfold Hinckley and **Richard Berrian Leverich**) "and aunty to a boy weighing 9 pounds too! I think he must take after me ... his weight is one sixteenth of mine. I don't know but what his grandparents will be traveling off one of these days to see him. Do tell us who he looks like. I suppose you can't tell yet though but you can tell whether he is good and what sort of eyes he has. Has he a name yet? His grandma says she would like it to be Ezra Berrian but don't call him Ezra whatever you do ..." "P.S. I am fearful that you will not be much the wiser for all that I have written for I find upon a second perusal that I can hardly read it myself but I am in such a hurry and you will excuse me this once."^{18,19}

On 3 June 1848 Mary E. Leverich age 17 of Newtown wrote to her brother Richard T. Leverich of Danville. Mary tells her brother that "I do wish Lydia would come up with (copy cut off) ... Such a great undertaking. You know Jane came on alone and as for you, you would get along well enough I daresay but you might bid farewell to the baby for I apprehend you would find it not an easy matter to get it out of grandmother's hands." Mary also refers to the birth of her sister Jane's baby Mary Eugenia Hinckley on April 19th.^{20,21}

On 23 December 1849 Mary E. Leverich age 18 of Newtown wrote to her sister-in-law Lydia Leverich of Danville. "I received your welcome letter dated November 29th in due season and should have replied to it ere this but I had just returned from a visit of about two weeks in N.Y. and I found so much to do when I came home in the way of sewing that I could not write very well and for the last week past I have been busy making preparations to go to the city again which I intend doing tomorrow to stay over New Year's day."^{22,23}

Richard T. Leverich, merchant age 35 was recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census of Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. The household included his wife Lydia age 28 and son Richard B. age 2.²⁴

The *Commercial Advertiser* records the February 1850 arrival of R. T. Leverich of Illinois at the United States Hotel in New York City.²⁵

On 14 September 1851 Alletta Leverich of Newtown wrote to her son Richard in Danville. "I received your short note a few days since and was happy to hear of your safe arrival at your own home and that the dear little ones' health was improving. We have all enjoyed our usual health since you left. I have had a visit from your Uncle and Aunt Scofield since you left. They wished to be remembered to you and were very sorry you could not visit them. Charlie Wiggins and Mr. Christy have been here twice to see us lately but have not left for St.Louis. It is perhaps the last of the western friends I shall see this summer. We have had very dry hot weather since you left, not any rain till last evening, we had a little shower. The late crops will be very small. I have had two letters from Mary. She was in Amsterdam and was in good health and expected to be in Bremen in two weeks. She thinks she will not be home till spring. The Penfold's came home

last night. I miss the children very much but I have not been home some as I have had company most of the time. Your Father got me a girl from the intelligence office. She has been with me about a week and does very well as yet. How does Bidy like her new residence. I want to hear from her; please tell her to write to me soon and I will answer her letter. I hope to have a letter from John soon. Please excuse this short scrawl, it is a task for me to write. Do write to me often. Kiss the little ones for me; my love to Lydia, John, and the Townsend families not forgetting Jimmys. From your affectionate mother Alletta Leverich.^{26,27}

On 15 January 1852 Alletta Leverich of Newtown wrote to her son Richard in Danville. "My dear son. When I received your letter of 13 December I did not think it would have been so long unanswered as I thought to set you a better example. I hope to hear from you more frequently for the future ..." "All join with me in wishing you a happy new years and that we may be permitted to meet once more is the earnest prayer of your affectionate mother Alletta Leverich."^{28,29}

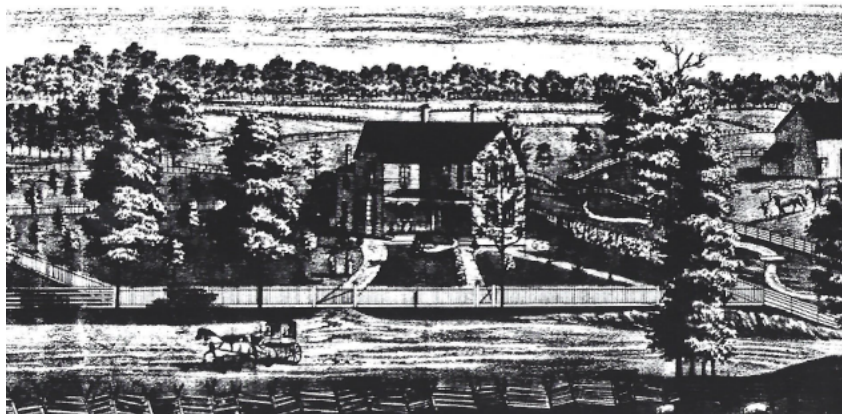
On 15 March 1853 Mary E. (Leverich) Witte of Newtown wrote her brother Richard T. Leverich in Danville. "Our little boy is now four months old and so fat that we scarcely know how to carry him about." "PA has just come in and says that I must tell you if you will come on he and mother will go back with you." "Mother is not very well at present and we are thinking it will do her good to go away from home for a short time either to Connecticut or even to the city for the pleasanter weather."^{30,31}

On 26 April 1858 Richard T. Leverich wrote from New York to his brother John in Danville. As we have concluded not to leave here until the last of the coming week and will stay over at Cannandagua until Monday morning next one week. So you need not expect us until about Tuesday a week from next Tuesday. Mary Eliza has a fine boy and was getting along very well until last night when she was quite unwell. All the rest of the family and friends are well. Yours truly. R.T. Leverich.^{32,33}

Richard T. Leverich, merchant age 44 was recorded in the 1860 U.S. Census of Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. The household included his wife Lydia age 37 and son Richard B. age 13, son John R. age 7, daughter Mary Jane age 5, and daughter Lydia F. age 1. The value of Richard's real estate is given as \$6000, and the value of his personal estate is also given as \$6000. Also living in the household is Samuel Palmer age 25 and John Palmer age 21, both identified as clerk's. They likely were working for Richard in his business.³⁴

Richard T. Leverich, age 55 farmer, was recorded in the 1870 U.S. Census of Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. Richard's household included his wife Lydia age 48, son John age 18, daughter Mary age 14, son Gilbert age 9, and daughter Esther age 5. Richard's real estate was valued at \$18,000, and her personal estate was valued at \$14,100.³⁵

**U.S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps
1875 Vermilion County, Illinois**



**Residence of Richard T. Leverich and Sons: Section 13, 14, & 23
Township 19. Range 12. Vermilion Co. Illinois**



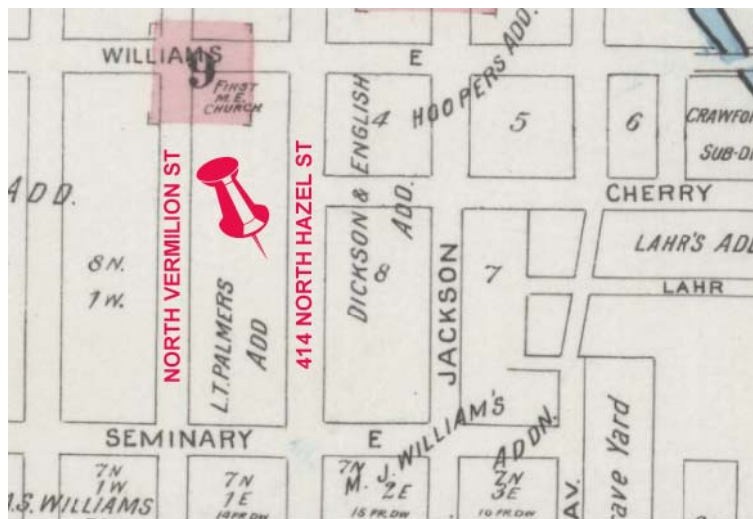
**Richard Titus Leverich Farm - Vermillion Co, Illinois
Township 19, Range 12, Sections 13, 14, 23
Catlin Township**

Richard T. Leverich is not found in the 1880 U.S. Census in either Illinois or New York.^{36,37}

Richard T. Leverich died on 20 Mar 1886 at Danville, Vermilion, Illinois. The Indianapolis Journal of March 21, 1886 recounted that "R. T. Leverich, a prominent citizen, one of the first settlers of this county, and an early businessman of this city, died at his country home, three miles southwest of town, today March 20, 1886, in his seventy first year. Mr. Leverich was a native of New York. Richard was buried in the Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum in Danville."^{38,39}

Richard Titus Leverich prepared a last will and testament on 18 January 1858. Richard left his entire estate to his wife Lydia F. Leverich. The will was submitted for probate 13 April 1886 at the Probate Division, Vermilion County, Illinois Circuit Court.⁴⁰

Lydia F. Leverich, widow of Richard T. Leverich, is listed in the 1889 City Directory of Danville, Vermilion Co, Illinois, residing at 414 North Hazel St. This location is bordered on the North by Cherry St, on the South by Seminary St, on the East by North Jackson St, and on the West by North Vermilion St. Sharing the residence with Lydia was her unmarried daughter Sarah Leverich.⁴¹



**1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Danville,
Vermilion County, Illinois: Image 1**

Lydia Fanning Gilbert Leverich died 27 April 1895 at Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. Lydia was buried at the Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum at Danville.^{42,43}

Lydia Fanning Gilbert Leverich, widow of Richard T. Leverich, prepared a will dated 22 July 1893. The will was submitted for probate on 21 January 1896. Lydia's will leaves her estate to her daughter Sarah Esther Leverich and her four grandsons, the children of her deceased son Richard Berrian Leverich: Conrad, Richard, Othniel, and Edwin. For unknown reasons, Lydia's will does not mention her children John Russell and William Gilbert. However Sarah and Richard were the eldest surviving children by sex.⁴⁴

Richard Titus Leverich and Lydia Fanning Gilbert had seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood.⁴⁵

- i. Richard Berrian (aka Berrian) Leverich was born 17 October 1847 in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. Richard married 24 December 1868 Hannah Marilla Silliven in Danville. Richard died 1 March 1879 in Danville and was buried at the Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum.^{46,47,48,49,50,51}
- ii. Gertrude Leverich was born 30 July 1850 in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. Gertrude died as a child 16 August 1852 in Danville and was buried at the Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum.^{52,53}
- iii. John Russell Leverich was born 1 January 1853 in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. Richard married Mary Ellen Brady 2 January 1873 at Danville. Richard died 27 September 1915 at Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California. John was buried at Sunnyside Cemetery in Long Beach.^{54,55,56,57,58,59}
- iv. Mary Jane Leverich was born 13 October 1855 in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. Mary Jane married Winthrop Condict 22 October 1879 at Danville. Mary Jane died 28 January 1881 at Danville and was probably buried at Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum (Mary Jane is not found at Findagrave.com).^{60,61}
- v. Lydia Fanning Leverich was born 20 January 1859 in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. Lydia died as a child 14 July 1860 at Danville, and was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum.^{62,63}
- vi. William Gilbert Leverich was born 10 September 1861 in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. William married Ada Smith 22 September 1885 at Danville. William died 6 June 1917 at Danville, in Danville and was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum.^{64,65,66,67}
- vii. Sarah Esther (aka Aunt Dollie) Leverich was born 4 April 1865 in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois. Sarah died unmarried 22 September 1950 at Danville, in Danville and was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery and Mausoleum.^{68,69}

Printed on: 29 Oct 2021

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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Endnotes

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