

Individual Narrative of William⁸ Leverich [414] Son of James⁷ Leverich [208] and Sarah Hatfield Husband of Laura Brown

William Leverich was born 30 July 1803 (obituary) or 31 July 1803 (findagrave.com, age at time of death) in Cortlandt, Westchester County, New York.^{1,2}

Circa 1808, William Leverich's grandfather Benjamin Leverich, William's father James, several of James' siblings, and their families moved westward and settled in the future Guernsey County, Ohio.³ Circa 1817, James Leverich, his father Benjamin, and his brother Nathaniel moved further northwest to what would become Galion, Ohio (then Sandusky Township, Richland County; now Polk Township, Crawford County). William Leverich would then have been about 14 years old and it is assumed that he joined this party in the move to Galion.^{4,5,6}

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**).⁷

William Leverich married Laura Brown 15 April 1825 probably in Richland County, Ohio.⁸ Laura Brown was born circa 1806 in New York State, as per census records. Laura's parents have not been identified.^{9,10,11,12}

In 1827 James Leverich sold land 3 acres 109 rods to his sons William and Ira Leverich in Richland County, Ohio (SW quarter, Section 31, Township 20, Range 20). The county index stipulates 3-109/160 acres, but the deed dated 11 May 1827 and recorded 18 May 1827 only cites 3 acres 109 rods.¹³

William Leverich was recorded in the 1830 U.S. Census of Sandusky Township, Richland County, Ohio. The census tallies included 1 male under the age of 5 (Nathan), 1 male age 20 to 29 (William), 2 females under the age of 5 (Loretta and Sarah) 1 female age 20 to 29 (Laura).¹⁴

Circa 1832 James Leverich (father of William) and some of his children, including William, removed to Lagrange County, Indiana. James purchased 115.5 acres of land in Lagrange County.¹⁵ William Leverich was indicted for trespass by the Lagrange County, Indiana Circuit Court. William pled "not guilty" and his jury trial was held in the May Term 1833. The jury declared William "not guilty" and William was discharged by the court to go hence without delay.¹⁶

On 8 June 1833 William Leverich as the assignee of John Adams took possession of 80 acres of land in Lagrange County, Indiana from the Fort Wayne Indiana U.S. General Land Office. The property description was 2nd PM, Township 38, Range 10E, north 1/2 of NW 1/4, Section 21.¹⁷ On 5 June 1837 William Leverich of Lagrange County, Indiana purchased 160 acres of land in Noble County, Indiana from the Fort Wayne Indiana U.S. General Land Office. The property description was 2ndPM, Township 35N, Range 10E, Section 23.¹⁸

William Leverich was recorded in the 1840 U.S. Census of Muscatine, Iowa Territory. The census tallies included 3 free white males under the age of 5 (Samuel, William, Unidentified); 2 free white males age 5 to 9 (George, Benjamin); 1 free white male age 10 to 14 (Nathan); 1 free white male age 30 to 39 (William); 1 free white female age 5 to 9 (Sarah); 1 free white female age 30 to 39 (Laura). The census tallies do not account for daughter Loretta who would have been age 14.¹⁹

On 10 November 1841 William Leverich of Muscatine County, Iowa Territory purchased 80 acres of land in Muscatine County, Iowa Territory from the Dubuque, Iowa Territory U.S. General Land Office. The property description was 5thPM, Township 78-N, Range 2-W, Section 2.²⁰ On 8 October 1847 William Leverich of Muscatine County, Iowa purchased 80 acres of land in Muscatine County, Iowa from the Dubuque, Iowa U.S. General Land Office. The property description was 5th PM, Township 78-N, Range 2-W, Section 3.²¹ On 1 March 1850 William Leverich of Muscatine County, Iowa purchased 55.85 acres of land in Muscatine County, Iowa from the Iowa City, Iowa U.S. General Land Office. The property description was 5th PM, Township 78-N, Range 2-W, Section 1.²²

William Leverich, age 47 farmer, was recorded in the 1850 U. S. Census of Moscow, Muscatine County, Iowa. William's household included his wife Laura, age 44, and children: Loretta, age 24; Nathan, age 22; Sarah, age 20; George, age 18; Benjamin, age 16; Samuel, age 12; William, age 12; John, age 3.²³

William Leverich, age 56 farmer, was recorded in the 1860 U. S. Census of Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa. William's household included his wife Laura, age 54; and children: Ann (this was likely Sarah A.), age 28; George, age 26; William, age 21; and John, age 12.²⁴

William Leverich, age 66 retired farmer, was recorded in the 1870 U. S. Census of Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa. William's household included his wife Laura, age 64; and children Sarah A., age 40, and John H., age 22.²⁵

William Leverich died 12 May 1879 in Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa. William was buried at the Oakdale Cemetery in Wilton.^{26,27}

William Leverich was one of Iowa's pioneers, and during a residence of nearly 43 years he became well known and there was no better way of speaking of him than did Rev. Pentzer when he said he was a quiet, peaceable, and substantial man. In politics he was a Democrat until the slavery question came up (William was anti-slavery) since which time he had been a Republican. William was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.²⁸

William Leverich made a will dated 11 March 1879, which was proved in the Muscatine County, Iowa Probate Court on 29 October 1879. William left his entire estate, both land and personal property to his wife and children.²⁹

Laura Leverich, age 74 widow, was recorded in the 1880 U. S. Census of Moscow, Muscatine County, Iowa. Laura was living with her son John H. Leverich, age 32; his wife Harriet F., age 25; and their children Laura May, age 6, and John A., age 2.³⁰

Laura Leverich, age 78 widow, was recorded twice in the 1885 Iowa State Census. The first instance finds Laura in Center, Cedar County living with her daughter Sarah and her husband A. J. Nebergall. The second instance finds Laura in Wilton, Muscatine County living with her son John H. Leverich and his family.³¹

Laura (Brown) Leverich died 25 August 1889 in Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa. Laura was buried at the Oakdale Cemetery in Wilton.³²

William Leverich and Laura Brown had eight children, all of whom survived to adulthood.

- i. Loretta Leverich was born circa 1826 in Ohio, probably in Richland County. Loretta married Jonathan M. Smith 28 June 1858 in Muscatine County, Iowa. Loretta died after 1880 when she was recorded in the U. S. Census of Muscatine County. Loretta was not located in the 1900 U. S. Census. A specific date and place of death for Loretta has not been found. Loretta was recorded in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 U. S. Census of Muscatine County, Iowa.^{33,34,35,36,37}
- ii. Nathan Leverich was born 5 January 1828, probably in Richland County, Ohio. The birth date was calculated based upon Nathan's age (54 years, 5 months, 22 days) at the time of death. Nathan married Roxcena Curtis 10 February 1857 in Steuben County, Indiana. Nathan died 27 June 1882 in Muscatine County, Iowa. The newspaper Waterloo Iowa State Reporter described the circumstances pertaining to his death: "Nathan Leverich, a farmer living near Wilton, was so depressed over the wet season and the bad prospect for crops, that he put a pistol to his brain and fired. The ball did not produce instant death, but made so bad a wound as to leave no hopes for recovery". Nathan was buried at the Oakdale Cemetery in Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa. Nathan was recorded in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 U. S. Census of Moscow, Muscatine County, Iowa.^{38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45}
- iii. Sarah A. Leverich was born 24 January 1830, probably in Richland County, Iowa. Sarah married Andrew J. Nebergall 2 July 1871 in Muscatine County, Iowa. Sarah died 11 August 1908 in Wilton, Muscatine Co, Iowa. Sarah was buried at the Oakdale Cemetery in Wilton. Sarah was recorded in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1900 U. S. Census of Muscatine County, Iowa; 1880 Cedar County, Iowa.^{46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53}

- iv. George Leverich was born 13 September 1832 in Lagrange County, Indiana. George married Louisa H. Thomas 20 March 1861 in Muscatine County, Iowa. George died 12 December 1905 in Vinton, Benton County, Iowa. George was buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Vinton. George was recorded in the U.S. Census 1850 and 1860 Muscatine County, Iowa; 1870, 1880, and 1900 Benton County, Iowa.^{54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61}
- v. Benjamin Leverich was born circa 1834 in Lagrange County, Indiana. Benjamin was not married. Benjamin died 6 March 1858 age 23 years 9 months. Benjamin was buried at Oakdale Cemetery in Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa. Benjamin was recorded in the 1850 U. S. Census of Muscatine County, Iowa.^{62,63}
- vi. Samuel Leverich, a twin to his brother William Leverich, was born 9 February 1839 in Muscatine County, Iowa. Samuel's birth date was calculated based upon his age at the time he died, i.e. 19 years, 1 month, 27 days. Samuel was not married. Samuel died 8 March 1858 in Muscatine County, 2 days after his brother Benjamin died. Samuel was buried at the Oakdale Cemetery in Wilton, Muscatine County. Samuel was recorded in the 1850 U. S. Census of Muscatine County, Iowa.^{64,65}
- vii. William Leverich Jr, a twin to his brother Samuel, was born 9 February 1839 in Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa. William was not married. William enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War. William served in Company D of the 11th Iowa Infantry. William was killed in action at the Battle of Shiloh (Tennessee) 6 April 1862. William was buried on the battlefield and later his remains were transferred to the Shiloh National Cemetery in Shiloh, Hardin County, Tennessee. William was recorded in the 1850 and 1860 U. S. Census of Muscatine County, Iowa.^{66,67,68,69,70,71,72}
- viii. John H. Leverich was born 26 August 1847 in Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa. John married Harriet F. Healey 24 December 1872 in Muscatine County. John died 2 February 1938 in Wilton. John was buried at Oakdale Cemetery in Wilton. John was recorded in the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910 U. S. Census of Muscatine County, Iowa; 1920 Logan County, Oklahoma.^{73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82}

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