Individual Narrative of Asbury⁸ Leverich [421] Son of James⁷ Leverich [208] and Sarah Hatfield Husband of Hannah Thomas Converse

Asbury Leverich was born 1 December 1822 in Richland County, Ohio.^{1,2,3}

Asbury Leverich's parents had been settled in Cortlandt Township, Westchester County, New York. Circa 1808, Asbury Leverich's grandfather Benjamin Leverich, Asbury's father James Leverich Sr, several of James Sr's siblings, and their families moved westward and settled in the future Guernsey County, Ohio.⁴ Circa 1817, James Leverich Sr, 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). As indicated above Asbury Leverich was born in Richland County, Ohio about 5 years later.^{5,6,7}

Asbury Leverich was likely included in the 1830 U. S. Census of Sandusky Township, Richland County, Ohio for his father James Leverich Sr. Asbury would have been one of the free white males age 5 to 9.8

Asbury Leverich was likely included in the 1840 U. S. Census of Linn County, Iowa Territory for his father James Leverich Sr. Asbury would have been one of the free white males age 15 to 19.9

On 21 February 1846 Asbury Leverich sold 40 acres of land in Linn County, Iowa Territory to his father James Leverich, Sr. in consideration of \$50.00. The property description was southeast quarter of the northwest quarter section 35 township 84 north of range 7 west of the 5th principal meridian. The deed was recorded 10 March 1848.¹⁰

On 1 March 1848 Asbury Leverich of Linn County, Iowa Territory purchased land in Linn County from the Dubuque Iowa U.S. General Land Office. The property description was 5thPM, Township 84N, Range 7W, Section 35 (40 acres).¹¹

In 1850 Asbury Leverich, his brother James Leverich Jr.'s and his wife Hannah, and Asbury's first cousin Lowry Sweitzer all went to California as part of the "gold rush" phenomenon. According to a letter from William Leverich of Donalsonville, Georgia, they went overland from Linn County, Iowa and it was a hard trip. They are all recorded in the same household of the 1850 U. S. Census of Rough and Ready, Yuba County, California. They made a strike and decided to come back by boat, crossing the Isthmus on foot. The Isthmus was part of Columbia then. They caught a boat up the Mississippi to Muscatine, Iowa. They were robbed on the way back, but returned OK.^{12,13,14}

Asbury Leverich was the assignee from John Atkins of two Bounty Land parcels (granted to officers and soldiers who had been engaged in the Military Service of the United States) Warrant number 22143 for 80 acres and Warrant number 27008 for 40 acres. Both warrants were dated 6 January 1853 and were located in Butler County, Iowa. The property descriptions were east one half of north east quarter and southwest quarter of north east quarter, both section 13, township 91N, range 15W, 5thPM.¹⁵

Asbury Leverich married Hannah Thomas Converse on 5 April 1853 at Buchanan County, Iowa.¹⁶ Hannah Thomas Converse was born 14 May 1834 in Waterford, Erie County, Pennsylvania. Hannah was the daughter of George Converse and Maria A. Lyman.¹⁷

On 1 May 1855 Asbury Leverich of Bremer County, Iowa purchased land in Bremer County from the Dubuque Iowa U.S. General Land Office. The property description was 5thPM, Township 93N, Range 14W, Section 7 (40 acres).¹⁸

In 1856 Asbury Leverich was elected a township trustee in Jackson Township, Bremer County, Iowa.¹⁹

Asbury Leverich, age 37 "Gentleman", was recorded in the 1860 U. S. Census of Jackson Township, Bremer County, Iowa. Asbury's household included his wife Hannah, age 26, and children A. M. Leverich, age 6, and E. J. Leverich, age 4.²⁰

Asbury Leverich enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War on 16 September 1861. He was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant in Company G, 9th Iowa Infantry Regiment. Asbury was mustered out 11 May1862. Asbury resigned to go home to take care of some urgent personal business with the understanding that he would reenlist.²¹ Asbury Leverich reenlisted in the Union Army 15 July 1862. He was appointed a 1st Lieutenant in Company B, 38th Iowa Infantry Regiment.²² Lowell M. Greenlaw, a grandson of Asbury Leverich, published in an article "And Christmas 1862" the following letter which Asbury wrote to his wife Hannah.

Camp Scott, New Madrid, Missouri, December 25, 1862. This is Christmas night, 9 o'clock, and the camp is quiet. I am well at present. Well, Hannah, how are you getting along, and how did you spend Christman? I have spent most of mine in camp. One of the men went out yesterday to a farm house and spoke for dinner for 5 men ... For a Missouri dinner we had roast turkey and other things too numerous to mention, and it cost 90 cents each. Hannah, we received a telegram dispatch today that we must hold ourselves ready to move at a moment's warning but where to I can't say; maybe to Kentucky ... but in active service. So I suppose we will have some fighting to do before long, and if we have half a chance we will do some good fighting. The boys are all anxious to get in the fight. For my part I am not so keen as some of them. But I enlisted to fight, and if the worst comes I think I can fight pretty good. Our pay is due the first of next month, and I will send you all the money I can spare. You must take good care of it, so if I don't live to get home you will have something for yourself and those poor little children. But, dear Hannah, I know you will be more saving than I would be myself ... But I hope I will live to come and enjoy it with you and the children, but that is all guess-work to us, as well as everything else nowadays.²³

James Leverich, Jr. wrote 3 February 1863 to his younger brother Asbury Leverich who had enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War. It is not known if James ever received a reply.²⁴ Asbury Leverich died 6 April 1863 of disease (erysipilas) contracted on the battlefield in the service of the United States. Lowell Greenlaw observed that Asbury had been in the service for two years through several battles, without leave to go home to see his family. A letter of condolence from his commanding office to Mrs. Leverich said his perfection of duty led to the expression among his comrades throughout the regiment: "Lieutenant Leverich, every inch a soldier". Asbury was buried at the Oakland Cemetery in Janesville, Bremer County, Iowa.^{25,26}

After Asbury's death, his wife Hannah went to Joliet (Kendall County) and Elwood (Will County) Illinois where she had relatives. There she met William Keith.^{27,28} Hannah (Converse) Leverich married for a second time William F. Keith on 19 July 1866 in Dupage County, Illinois.²⁹

Hannah Keith, age 35, was recorded in the 1870 U. S. Census of Jackson Township, Will County, Illinois. Hannah's household included her husband William F. Keith, age 42; and children: William Keith with William Keith, age 1; children with Asbury Leverich: Adda Leverich, age 16; Emma Leverich, age 14; Frank Leverich age 8. Also included in the household is Thomas Greenlaw, age 22.³⁰

Hannah Keith, age 46, was recorded in the 1880 U. S. Census of Ellwood, Will County, Illinois. Hannah's household included her husband William F. Keith, age 50; their Keith children William, age 11; Eddie, age 9; and Eva, age 1; also Frank Leverich, age 19.³¹

Hannah Keith, age 66, was recorded in the 1900 U. S. Census of Jackson Township, Will County, Illinois. Hannah's household included her husband William F. Keith, age 72 and their daughter Eva M. Keith, age 21.³²

Hannah (Converse, Leverich) Keith died 27 June 1904 in Elwood, Will County, Illinois. Hannah was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Joliet, Will County, Illinois.^{33,34}

Asbury Leverich and Hannah Thomas Converse had three children, all of whom survived to adulthood.

i. Adda Marie Leverich was born 29 March 1854 in Janesville, Bremer County, Iowa. Adda married Joseph H. Nichols 7 May 1873 in Will County, Illinois. Adda died 3 September 1883 in Elwood, Will County, Illinois. Adda was buried at the Oakwood Cemetery in Joliet, Will County, Illinois. Adda was recorded in the 1860 U. S. Census of Bremer County, Iowa; 1870 and 1880 Will County, Illinois.^{35,36,37,38,39,40}

- Emma Julia Leverich was born 9 June 1856 in Janesville, Bremer County, Iowa. Emma married Thomas Brewer Greenlaw 8 July 1871 in Kendall County, Illinois. Emma died 20 October 1918 in Flora, Clay County, Illinois. Emma was buried at the Elmwood Cemetery in Flora. Emma was recorded in the 1860 U. S. Census of Bremer County, Iowa; 1870 Will County, Illinois; 1880, 1900, and 1910 Clay County, Illinois.^{41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49}
- iii. Frank Asbury Leverich was born 15 September 1860 in Janesville, Bremer County, Iowa. Frank married first Nellie Kendall 19 October 1882 in Will County, Illinois. Frank married second Mary C. Spangler Gaylord (her first husband was John Gaylord) 9 June 1910 in Kane County, Illinois. Frank married third Clara Razner 18 October 1933 in Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois. Frank died 28 September 1945 in Stevens Point, Portage County, Wisconsin. Frank was buried at the Elmwood Cemetery in Yorkville, Kendall County, Illinois. Frank was recorded in the 1870 and 1880 U.S. Census of Will County, Illinois; 1900 (no Frank, just his wife Nellie and son Stanley) and 1910 Kendall County, Illinois; 1920 and 1930 Kane County, Illinois; 1940 Portage County, Wisconsin.^{50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63}

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