

## Individual Narrative of William<sup>5</sup> Leverich [18]

William Leverich was born on 5 Oct 1723 at Newtown, Queens, New York, the son of John Leverich and Amy Moore. William's birth date is a calculated date, based upon his age at death.<sup>1</sup> He was baptized on 13 Jan 1729 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>2</sup> On 26 January 1746/1747, William and Mary Sackett sold 10 acres of land at Newtown to William Leverich. It is likely, based upon the location of the land, that this was William Leverich the blacksmith (married Hannah Way) who lived at Trains Meadow, rather than William Leverich the carpenter (married Martha Way) who lived at Hellgate. However, in his manuscript papers James Riker specifically identifies this William as "William Jr", although the actual record does not include the "jr" reference. Such a William Jr would have been a son of William the Carpenter.<sup>3,4</sup>

William married Hannah Way (41), daughter of John Way and Martha Leverich (12), on 13 Dec 1747 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. William Leverich and Hannah Way were first cousins. William's father John Leverich was the brother of Hannah's mother Martha Leverich Way.<sup>5,6,7</sup> Hannah Way was born prior to 26 August 1736, on which date she was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>8</sup> Hannah Way Leverich died at Newtown on 3 March 1751.<sup>9</sup> William Leverich and Hannah Way had two children. John Leverich was born 26 September 1748, and died unmarried at the age of 24 at Newtown on 18 March 1772. Amy Leverich was born 30 October 1749 and married Samuel Moore III at the Newtown Presbyterian Church on 18 January 1769. They had a son William Moore. Amy Leverich Moore died before 1787, according to the probate of her father's will. John and Amy Leverich were both baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church on 24 September 1752. Birth dates for John and Amy are cited by James Riker in *The Annals of Newtown*, but Riker does not specify a source for this data.<sup>10,11,12,13</sup>

William Leverich married for a second time Dorothy Morse, daughter of Ephraim Morse and Hannah Verrieu, on 15 Sep 1751 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>14</sup> Dorothy Morse was born 25 January 1728, the daughter of Ephraim Morse and Hannah Verrieu, according to the *Morse Genealogy*. However, no primary sources are cited.<sup>15</sup> On 24 September 1752 John, Amy, and Abigail Leverich, children of William Leverich, were baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>16</sup> Hannah, daughter of William and Dorothy Leverich, was baptized 28 April 1754 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>17</sup> Jesse, son of William and Dorothy Leverich, was baptized 25 April 1756 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>18</sup>

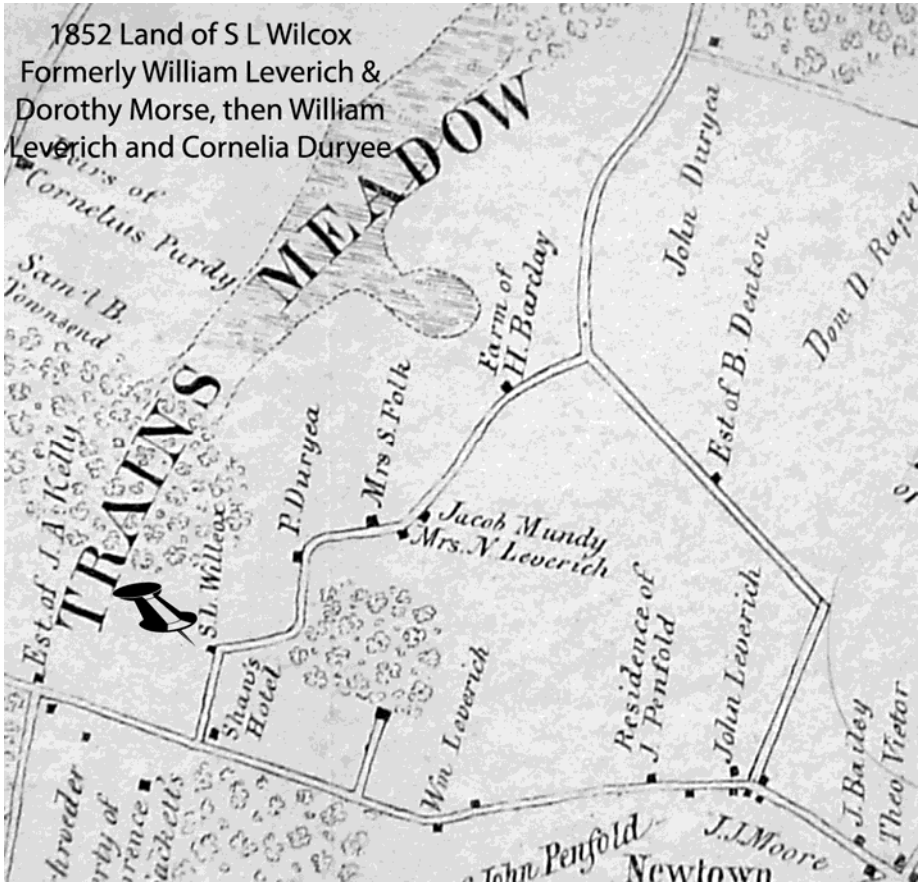
At a Town Meeting at Newtown on 6 April 1756, William Leverich and Francis Cornish were voted to be overseers of highways for the ensuing year.<sup>19</sup> On 2 May 1757, William Leverich and Elias Bailey the younger were witnesses to a deed Lambert Woodard and Bridget his wife to Richard Betts.<sup>20</sup> On 8 September 1757 Lambert Woodard, yeoman of Newtown, sold land at Newtown to William Leverich of Newtown. These records could have been either William Leverich the blacksmith, who married Dorothy Morse in 1747, or William Leverich, probably the son of William Leverich the carpenter, who married Else Cook in 1748.<sup>21</sup>

On 28 March 1759, John Leverich, Jr, mason of Newtown, sold land at Newtown to William Leverich, blacksmith of Newtown.<sup>22</sup> On 1 May 1760, William Leverich, blacksmith of Newtown, sold land at Newtown to Samuel Culver of Newtown, tailor, 2.5 acres of woodland for £40.<sup>23</sup> On 2 May 1760 Lambert Woodard, cordwainer of Newtown, sold land at Newtown to William Leverich, blacksmith of Newtown.<sup>24</sup> On 1 May 1763 Nathaniel Woodard of Newtown sold land to William Leverich, blacksmith of Newtown. John Leverich Jr. and Thomas Hazard were witnesses.<sup>25</sup> On 10 April 1764 Samuel Scudder Sr and Jr, yeomen of Newtown, sold land to William Leverich, blacksmith of Newtown.<sup>26</sup>

In the year 1769, Dorothy Leverich is listed as becoming a member of the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>27</sup> The 1771 Census of Newtown, Queens County, New York, copied at Albany, New York by James Riker, includes the following Leverich's: John, John Jr., William, and Elnathan.<sup>28,29</sup> William Leverich, blacksmith, and Dorothy his wife lived on the Trains Meadow Road, southwest of the family farm then occupied by John Leverich, Jr., and a short distance north of the Hellgate Road. James Riker in his *Annals of Newtown* refers to William Leverich's farm several times, indicating that it was then (1852) occupied by Samuel Wilcox. Riker's map of Newtown, which is included with the *Annals*, identifies both the family farm, then occupied by Nancy Leverich (widow of Richard Leverich), as well as the S.L Wilcox house.<sup>30</sup>

An article about Trains Meadow by Town Clerk William O'Gorman in the Newtown Register, 10 May 1877, provides the following account. "The old roads, encompassing Train's Meadow, are redolent with historic interest ... down the road

westward and across the railroad track, the crooked piece of road in the Township conducts the tourist around the Meadows. Situate in the angle of the first turn, the old house of W. Leverich is deserted and crumbling away ... in after times English officers who quartered here in 1776 used to speak of the ... hours spent therein. The echo of one's footsteps seemed to conjure up the ghosts of the former owners, following the strange intruder through the deserted rooms. The great fire place of the kitchen brings to mind visions of soldiers smoking around the blazing logs and watching the bread drawn from the old oven whose mouth is in the chimney. A singular, bowl shaped stone near the old well attracts attention; probably it served some useful domestic purpose. Pondering over the drama of life, the births, deaths, marriages, lovers engagements, and little quarrels, of which this house has been the theatre, we pass on to the old stone house of John Leveridge, not far from the old family graveyard of the family.<sup>31</sup>"



*The Annals of Newtown, James Riker*

New York City and Long Island, including Queens County, were occupied and controlled by British military authorities for the duration of the war of independence. Historian Henry Onderdonk Jr observed that "the King being now in possession of Queens county, and his soldiers scattered over it, the leading Whigs having been thrown in prison, and the property of those who fled seized by the enemy, the remainder were constrained to join the Loyalists in petitioning the King's Commissioners that Queens County might be restored to Royal Favor." The petition, issued on 21 October 1776, requested "And we humbly pray, that your Excellencies would be pleased to declare this county at the peace of His Majesty, and thereby enable us to receive the benefits flowing from his most gracious protection." This petition was signed by John Leverich, presumably senior although not so stated, and W. Leverich, presumably William Leverich the blacksmith. Noticeably missing from the list of petition signatures were John Leverich Jr and his brother Elnathan, as well as their nephews Gabriel and Samuel Leverich, sons of Samuel Leverich deceased.<sup>32</sup> Onderdonk's account also noted "there was an encampment at Trains Meadow, in front of Wm. Leverich's, on Wm. Palmer's land (since Shaw's) ... Col. Richmandt, a German, was quartered at W. Leverich's ... Major Thomas Barclay of the Loyal American Regiment, son of Rev. H. Barclay, quartered at Wm. Leverich's and Richard Berrian's, Newtown."<sup>33</sup>

In deed dated 1 March 1781, Sackett Leverich, grandson of John Leverich Senior (son of John Leverich Jr who died in 1780) buys out the shares in the family homestead and farm held by his three uncles. The grantors are William and Elnathan Leverich, sons of John Leverich Senior, and Samuel Leverich, grandson of John Leverich Senior (son of Samuel Leverich who died in 1754). This deed includes the earliest specific reference to the family burial place.

*"This indenture made the first day of March in the year of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus One thousand seven hundred and eighty one. And in the twenty first year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the grace of God over Great Britain, France and Ireland King. Defender of the Faith. Between William Leverich Elithan Leverich and Samuel Leverich Legatees in and by the last Will and Testament of John Leverich Senr ?<Satate>? of New Town in Queens County in Nassau Island in the Colony of New York dec'd of the one part and Sackett Leverich of the same place of the other part. Whereas the said John Leverich Senr in and by his last Will and Testament did make John Leverich Junr late of the said Town decd & said William Leverich Elithan Leverich and Sam Leverich Legatees in & for the whole of his Estate both real & personal to be equally divided amongst them share and share alike Relation being thereunto had is fully set forth and expressed.*

*"Now this indenture witnesses that they the said William Leverich Elithan Leverich and Samuel Leverich for and in Consideration of the Sum of Twelve Hundred pounds lawful money of said Colony well and truly to them in hand paid by the said Sackett Leverich ... Three fourths of that undivided Messuage, tenements dwelling house outhouses barn orchards cyder mill and all other improvements & pieces or parcels of land and meadows situate lying and being in New Town above said containing by estimation Seventy One acres be the same more or less. This deed was witnessed by Robert Moore and Samuel Moore 3rd. Although executed in 1781, the deed was not recorded at the county courthouse until 15 years later on 10 June 1796.<sup>34,35</sup>*

The First Presbyterian Church of Newtown was legally incorporated in 1784. On 4 May 1784, the congregation elected the first board of trustees; those elected were Capt. Thomas Lawrence, William Sackett, Peter Alburdis, William Leverich, and Dr. John B. Riker.<sup>36</sup>

The 1786 Tax List for Newtown included the following members of the Leverich family: Widow Sarah Leverich; William Leverich; William and Edward Leverich; Sackett and William Leverich; Gabriel Leverich; Samuel Leverich; Jesse Leverich One of the William's is likely William Leverich the blacksmith. Sons of William included William, Edward, and Jesse. It is uncertain which William was the William identified with Sackett Leverich, who would have been living on the old family homestead. Gabriel and Samuel were sons of Samuel Leverich, died 1754, who was a brother of William the blacksmith.<sup>37,38</sup>

William Leverich died on 13 Jun 1787 at Newtown, Queens, New York, age 63 years, 8 months, and 8 days. He was buried in the family burial ground.<sup>39</sup>



James Riker's papers note that "William Leverich (son of Jesse Leverich) says his grandfather William Leverich was engaged bringing stone for the foundation of the Presbyterian Church when he took cold and died.<sup>40,41</sup>" William Leverich's will was dated 6 June 1787, and proved 8 August 1787. The will of "William Leverich, Blacksmith" mentions his wife Dorothy, and four sons and five daughters: Jesse, William, Edward, James, Abigail Whaley, Hannah McDonough, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Deborah. Jesse is called the eldest son. Daughter Amy Moore is identified as deceased, her share to her son William Moore. The executors named were Jesse, William, and Edward Leverich, and son-in-law James McDonough. The will was witnessed by Samuel Riker, Sackett Leverich, and John Lowwill.<sup>42,43</sup>

Dorothy Morse Leverich, widow of William Leverich, died 17 April 1814, age 86 years, 2 months, and 23 days. She was buried in the family burial ground.<sup>44</sup>

William Leverich and Dorothy Morse had ten children born at Newtown, named in William's will and listed by Riker in the *Annals of Newtown*. Birthdates are recorded by Riker, but no primary sources are cited.

- i. Abigail Leverich was born 16 July 1752, married 4 March 1773 Alexander Whaley, and died 18 February 1794.
- ii. Hannah Leverich was born 11 February 1754, married before 1773 James McDonough, and died 10 February 1815.
- iii. Jesse Leverich was born 13 February 1756, married December 1780 Grace (Gashe) Berrian, and died 3 October 1829.
- iv. Patience Leverich was born 2 December 1757, married 15 May 1782 Henry Stanton, and died childless on 10 August 1795.
- v. William Leverich was born 29 January 1760, married 3 June 1787 Cornelia Duryee, and died childless 20 May 1831.
- vi. Edward Leverich was born 3 December 1763, married first about 1789-1790 Elizabeth Palmer, married second about 1828-1829 Patience Moore, and died 14 June 1833.
- vii. Elizabeth Leverich was born 23 March 1765, married 26 April 1789 James Hedenberg, and died 31 August 1819.
- viii. James Leverich was born 13 June 1767, married 27 October 1793 Hannah Mott, and died 24 January 1811.
- ix. Sarah Leverich was born 22 November 1769, married before 1792 Frederick Devoe, and died 17 January 1851.
- x. Deborah Leverich was born 4 June 1772, married February 1791 Daniel Riker, and died 9 April 1818.

Patience, Hannah, Elizabeth, and James are buried in the family burial ground. The sources for the above death dates are cited in the individual's specific record.<sup>45,46,47</sup>

Printed on: 29 Jan 2013

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42nd Street, Manhattan, New York, New York 10018. Originally Published in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record: 55 (1924) 162-167, 281-291, 383-400; 56 (1925) 73-83, 173-187, 353-359. Subsequently published in *Collections NY G&B Society*, Volume 8. Original transcript is part of the NYG&B Manuscript Collections, which are now held by the New York Public Library, Archives Division. The original Church records remain at the Church, 54-05 Seabury Street Queens Blvd and 54th Avenue, Elmhurst, Queens County, New York.

## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup> *James Riker Papers 1660-1989*, Historical Research Notes, Donated to NY Public Library 1918 by Title Guarantee and Trust Company, File W94-a231. New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Manuscripts and Archives Division, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, Manhattan, New York, New York, Box 9, Notebook 2, pages 87-91. Hereinafter cited as *James Riker Papers*.
- <sup>2</sup> Arthur White, "Newtown Presbyterian Church Records," 1922, Transcription, New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Irma and Paul Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, Manhattan, New York, New York 10018, Baptisms, 1729. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."
- <sup>3</sup> Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288, Original Town Records: page 486, New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St, Room 103, Manhattan, New York, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as Newtown Town Records 1714-1753 Book 288.
- <sup>4</sup> *James Riker Papers*, Box 9, Notebook 2, page 22.
- <sup>5</sup> Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages 1747.
- <sup>6</sup> Glenn C. Way, *Some of the Descendants of James Way of Newtown, N. Y.* (Niagara Falls, New York: Glenn C. Way, 29 January 1935), pages 2 and 4. Hereinafter cited as *Descendants James Way Newtown*.
- <sup>7</sup> Harry Abel II Way, *The New York Way Family: being the descendants of Sgt. James Way of Newtown, Long Island: from the records of Glenn C. Way of Niagara Falls, NY* (Charlestown, Rhode Island: H. A. Way, 1995), pages 9-10, 15. Hereinafter cited as *New York Way Family*.
- <sup>8</sup> Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms, 1736.
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, Deaths, 1751.
- <sup>10</sup> James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), pages 353-354. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.
- <sup>11</sup> Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms 1752; Marriages 1769; Deaths 1772.
- <sup>12</sup> Kelby, Robert H. and Scott, Kenneth; *New York Marriages Previous to 1784, a reprint of the original edition of 1860, with Additions and Corrections* (1860; reprint Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1968), page 231. Hereinafter cited as *NY Marriages Previous to 1784*.
- <sup>13</sup> William Leverich will (1787), Volume A, page 10: will dated 6 June 1787, proved 8 August 1787, Queens County, New York Surrogate, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435. Hereinafter cited as 1787 Probate William Leverich.
- <sup>14</sup> Newtown Presbyterian Records, Marriages 1751.
- <sup>15</sup> J. Howard Morse and Emily W. Leavitt, *Morse Genealogy Comprising the Descendants of Samuel, Anthony, William, and Joseph Morse, and John Moss, being a revision of the Memorial of the Morses published by Rev. Abner Morse in 1850* (New York, New York: Morse Society, 1903), page 55. Hereinafter cited as *Morse Genealogy*.
- <sup>16</sup> Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms, 1752.
- <sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, Baptisms, 1754.
- <sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, Baptisms, 1756.
- <sup>19</sup> Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289: page 34, New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St, Room 103, Manhattan, New York, New York 10007. Hereinafter cited as Newtown Town Records 1753-1850 Book 289.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 165-166.
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 171-172.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 174-175.
- <sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 141-142.
- <sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 170-171.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, page 208.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 207-208.
- <sup>27</sup> Newtown Presbyterian Records, Members, 1769.
- <sup>28</sup> *James Riker Papers*, Memoria Volume 27, pages 150-152.
- <sup>29</sup> Harry Macy, "Newtown Queens 1771 Census," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* Volume 117, No. 1 (1986): pages 7-9. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Census."
- <sup>30</sup> Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, map; pages 216-217; 353.

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<sup>31</sup> *Newtown Register*, Newtown, Queens Co, New York, 1873-1918. Hereinafter cited as *Newtown Register*, 10 May 1877, page 4.

<sup>32</sup> Henry Onderdonk Jr, compiler, *Documents and Letters Intended to Illustrate the Revolutionary Incidents of Queens County; with connecting narratives, explanatory notes, and additions* (New York, New York: Leavitt, Trow and Company, 1846), pages 117-121. Hereinafter cited as *Revolutionary Incidents of Queens County*.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 133-134, 278.

<sup>34</sup> 1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Original. 1 March 1781; William, Elnathan, Samuel Leverich to Sackett Leverich. Newtown; Susan M. Leverich Papers; Stephen P. Shaw, Chester, Connecticut; Image Files SML 014-016. Hereinafter cited as 1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Original.

<sup>35</sup> 1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Recorded. 1 March 1781; Elnathan, Samuel Leverich to Sackett Leverich William; Newtown; Queens County, New York City Register; 144-06 94th Avenue, Jamaica, New York 11435; Liber G, pages 52-55. Hereinafter cited as 1781 Deed Queens County, New York - Recorded.

<sup>36</sup> Rev. William Hendrickson, *History of the First Presbyterian Church Newtown, Long Island, 1652-1902* (Newtown, New York: Newtown Presbyterian Church, 1902), page 32. Hereinafter cited as *History First Presbyterian Church Newtown*.

<sup>37</sup> Henry Onderdonk Jr, transcriber; *Newtown Tax List 1786*, 1940, Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St, Brooklyn, New York 11201, hereinafter referred to *Newtown Tax List 1786*.

<sup>38</sup> Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 352-353.

<sup>39</sup> *James Riker Papers*, Box 9, Notebook 2, pages 87-91.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, Volume 29 (formerly Memoria Volume 7), "The Red Book", miscellaneous undated notes.

<sup>41</sup> Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 353.

<sup>42</sup> 1787 Probate William Leverich Volume A, page 10.

<sup>43</sup> *Newtown Register*, 1873-1918, 21 August 1890, page 5.

<sup>44</sup> *James Riker Papers*, Box 9, Notebook 2, pages 87-91.

<sup>45</sup> 1787 Probate William Leverich Volume A, page 10.

<sup>46</sup> Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 353.

<sup>47</sup> *James Riker Papers*, Box 9, Notebook 2, pages 87-91.