

Individual Narrative of Mary⁵ Leverich [24] Wife of Richard Penfold

Mary Leverich was born circa 1726 at Newtown, Queens, New York. Mary was the daughter of William Leverich and Martha Way, who were married in 1722. Mary's birth year is a calculated estimate based on her parents' marriage year, and assumed birth order. Circumstantial evidence suggests that Mary was likely the second born of four daughters. Mary and her husband are named second in a deed selling the family farm in 1758.^{1,2}

Mary Leverich married Richard Penfold, son of William Penfold and Elizabeth Lawrence, circa 1745 at Newtown, Queens, New York. The marriage date is a calculated estimate based upon the birth data, 1746, of their first child Elizabeth Penfold. Mary would have been about age 19 at the time of marriage. Elizabeth Penfold's birth date is cited by Cornelius von Erden Mitchell from "a very old document unsigned and undated which is among the family papers in the possession of this compiler."^{3,4} Elizabeth Penfold's birth date is also cited, without sources, in Riker's *Annals of Newtown* and *The Berrien Family Genealogy* by Baumeister and Plumb.^{5,6}

Richard Penfold was the son of William Penfold, an English Sea Captain who died at sea, and Elizabeth Lawrence, who were married 18 June 1713 according to an unsourced account in James Riker's *Annals of Newtown*. Richard would have been born before 1724, assuming he was at least age 21 at the time of his marriage c 1745.⁷

The death of a child of Richard Penfold is recorded on 27 January 1754 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.⁸

On 18 April 1754 at the New York County Surrogate Court, Letters of Administration on the estate of William Leverich of Newtown, Queens Co, carpenter were granted to his widow Martha. Bonds were posted by Martha Leverich, widow; Samuel Gorsline, mason; and Richard Penfold, farmer; all of Newtown.⁹

Richard Penfold became a member of the Newtown Presbyterian Church in 1755.¹⁰ On 26 May 1755, Jacob Blackwell of Newtown prepared a list of negroes in Queens County, pursuant to an Act of the Assembly of the Province of New York. This list records 2 negroes belonging to Richard Penfold.¹¹ On 15 June 1755, Elizabeth, William Leverich, Mary, Edmund, and John Penfold, children of Richard Penfold, were baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.¹²

During the French and Indian War, James Riker reports that "at this date, the fate of war had thrown into our hands a considerable number of French officers who were permitted to enjoy their liberty, within certain limits, on parole of honor. Several of them arrived at Jamaica in August 1757, under conduct of the sheriff of the county, and some were provided with board at Hinchman's Tavern, while others were sent to Newtown, wither they and their baggage were conveyed by Benjamin Waters, the constable. The next month, those at Hinchman's were distributed to private families. Nathaniel Moore took two of them with their baggage to his residence in Newtown, and Richard Penfold and William Lawrence received each the same number into their house. Their expenses were borne by the government, which allowed seven shillings a week for their board, embracing simply lodging and victuals." Riker does not cite a source for this account.¹³

A deed was executed on 20 April 1758 selling the 105 acre William Leverich farm at Hellsgate to Halimous Wycoff, yeoman of Newtown. The grantors were Martha Leverich, widow of William Leverich, Samuel Gorsline and Martha his wife, Richard Penfold and Mary his wife, Ruth and Sarah Leverich, all of Newtown. The deed was recorded on 3 January 1759.¹⁴

Martha, daughter of Richard Penfold, was baptized 23 April 1758 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.¹⁵ Richard, son of Richard Penfold, was baptized 4 May 1760 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.¹⁶

The following notice was published in the *New-York Mercury* on 26 April 1762.

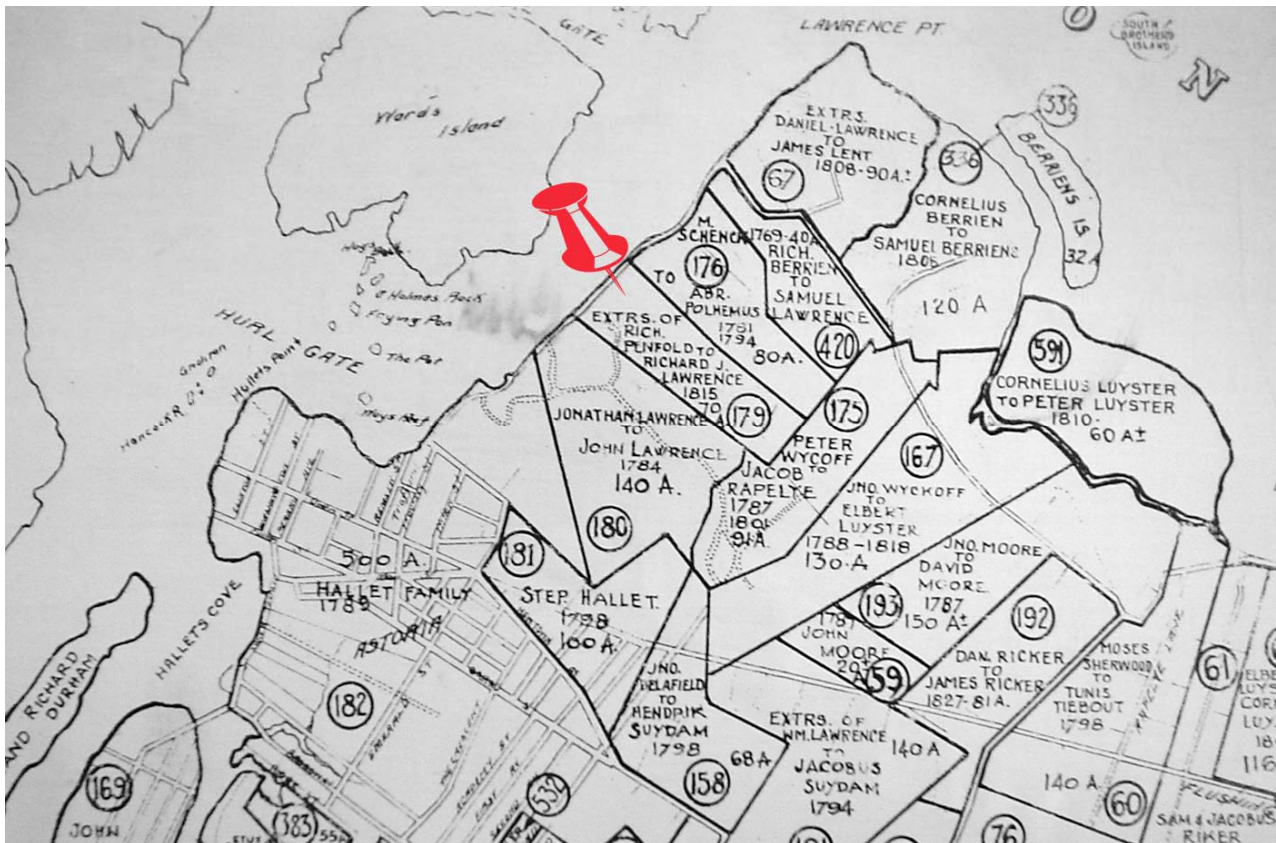
"TO THE PUBLIC, This is to give Notice, to all whom it may concern, That William Rudge, late of the City of Gloucester, in Old England, still continues his School at Hallet's Cove, where he teaches Writing in the usual Hands, Arithmetick in its different Branches, the Italian Method of Book-keeping, by Way of Double Entry, Latin and Greek. Those who choose to Favour him may depend upon having proper Care taken of their Children, and he returns Thanks to those who have already obliged him. The School is healthy and pleasantly situated, and at

a very convenient Distance from New-York, from whence there is an Opportunity of sending Letters and Parcels, and of having Remittances almost every Day by the Pettiaugers. P.S. Letters will be duly answered, directed to the aforesaid William Rudge, at Hallet's Cove."

"We who have subscribed our Names being willing to continue the School Master, as we have hitherto found him a Man of close Application, Sobriety, and capable of his Office, are ready to take in Boarders at £18 per Annum.

Jacob Blackwell	William Hallett
Jacob Hallett, jun.	Richard Hallett
Thomas Hallett	Richard Berrian
Jacob Hallett	Richard Pinfold
Jacob Rapalje	William Hallett
John Greenoak	John McDonnaugh
Samuel Hallett Jun.	^{17ⁿ}

Thomas, son of Richard Penfold, was baptized on 9 June 1763 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.¹⁸



Map of the Borough of Queens City of New York Showing Ownership as of the Year 1800
Queens Topographical Bureau 19 August 1935

Richard Penfold died on 7 January 1764 of smallpox according to the records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church. A burial record for Richard has not been located. He was likely buried in the Church yard.^{19,20}

Richard Penfold prepared a will dated 15 December 1763. The will named his wife Mary, and his children Elizabeth, William, Mary, Edmund, John, Martha, Richard and Thomas. The will was witnessed by Amy Lawrence, Richard Lawrence, and Jacob Rapelye. Richard's brother Edmund Penfold and brother-in-law Joseph Gorsline were named executors. The will was proved 25 February 1764.²¹

Mary Leverich and Richard Penfold had nine children, all born at the family farm in Hellsgate.

- i. 1746 Elizabeth Penfold. Queens Co, New York; married Cornelius Berrien; died 1817.
- ii. 1747 William Leverich Penfold. Queens Co, New York; married Catherine Fish; died 1828.
- iii. c 1749 Mary Penfold. Queens Co, New York; married John Lawrence; died 1829.
- iv. c 1751 Edmund Penfold. Queens Co, New York; married-1 Sarah Hallett, married-2 Phebe Hallett; died 1828.
- v. c 1753 John Penfold. Not married; died in the West Indies 1777.
- vi. c 1754. Child of Richard Penfold died.
- vii. 1757 Martha Penfold. Dutchess Co, Kings Co, New York Co, Westchester Co, New York. Married John O. Cooper; died 1778 in childbirth. John O. Cooper m-2 Margaret Campbell.
- viii. c 1760 Richard Penfold. Queens Co, New York; married Catherine Bogart; died 1806.
- ix. c 1762 Thomas Penfold. Queens Co, New York; married Mary Lowere; died 1827.^{22,23,24}

The Newtown, Queens County, New York Census of 1771 records as a head of household "Widow Penfold."²⁵ The 1786 tax list of Newtown includes the Widow Penfold and Edmund Penfold.²⁶ A subscribers list dated 1 May 1786 for the Rev. Peter Fish of the Newtown Presbyterian Church included Mary Penfold and William Penfold.²⁷ A subscribers list dated 1 May 1790 for the Rev. Mr. Woodhull included Mary Penfold, William L. Penfold, and Edmund Penfold.²⁸ The 1790 Federal Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York includes the following individuals as heads of family: Mary Penfold, William L. Penfold, and Edmund Penfold.²⁹

The 1800 Federal Census of Newtown, Queens County, New York includes the following individuals as heads of families: Widow Mary Penfold, William Penfold, Edmund Penfold.³⁰ In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. Mary Penfold is recorded on the tax assessment list for the years 1800-1803, as are her sons Edmund Penfold and William L. Penfold.³¹ The 1810 Federal Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York included the following individuals as heads of families: William Penfold, Edmund Penfold, Catherine Penfold.³²

Mary Leverich Penfold died on 16 Dec 1813 at Newtown, Queens, New York. A death notice in the *Mercantile Advertiser* says that Mary was 95 years old. A death notice in the *Long Island Star* says that Mary was 93 years old. This would place her birth date c 1718-1720, or 2 to 4 years prior to her parents' marriage date, i.e. 23 July 1722 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. In light of the specific marriage date, it is likely the death notices' information on Mary's age at death was inaccurate. Neither a probate record nor a burial record for Mary has not been located. She may have been buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church yard.^{33,34}

On 9 February 1814 Joseph Gorsline, Executor, advertised in the *Mercantile Advertiser*, a farm for sale formerly occupied by the widow Mary Penfold, who was Joseph's sister-in-law. The farm is listed as being on the banks of the East River at Hurlgate, containing about 80 acres.³⁵

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Endnotes

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- ¹⁵Newtown Presbyterian Records, Baptisms 1758.
- ¹⁶Ibid., Baptisms 1760.
- ¹⁷*The New-York Mercury*, New York, New York, 1752-1768. Hereinafter cited as *New-York Mercury*, 26 April 1762, page 3.
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³⁴*Mercantile Advertiser*, New York, New York, 1798-1820. Hereinafter cited as Mercantile Advertiser, 18 December 1813, page 3.

³⁵*Ibid.*, 9 February 1814, page 4.