

Individual Narrative of Deborah⁶ Leverich [64] Wife of Daniel Riker

Deborah Leverich^{1,2,3} was born on 4 Jun 1772 at Newtown, Queens, New York, the daughter of William Leverich and Dorothy Morse. The birth date is a calculated birth date based on her age at the time of death, as recorded on her gravestone.^{4,5}

Deborah Leverich married Daniel Riker, son of Jacob Riker and Anna Catrina Rapelye, in Feb 1791 at Newtown, Queens, New York. The marriage date is cited by James Riker Jr in the *Annals of Newtown*, but a specific source is not cited. Their first child, James Riker Senior, was born on Christmas Day 1791.^{6,7}

Daniel Riker was born 7 March 1771 at Newtown, the son of Jacobus Riker and Anna Catrina Rapelye, according to grandson James Riker Jr in the *Annals of Newtown*.⁸ Prior to marriage, Daniel Riker probably was living 1790 in the household of his father Jacobus Rycker in Newtown, Queens County, New York. The census tally indicates that there were three males over the age of 16 living in the household.⁹

On 29 January 1792 James (aka Jacob) Riker, son of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.¹⁰

On 26 January 1794 William Leverich Riker, son of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.¹¹

James Riker Jr, grandson of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich, notes in the *Annals of Newtown* that "with the exception of two years, between 1795 and 1797, when he resided successively at Middletown and Bushwick, Daniel continued to live on the paternal estate, which became his own at the demise of his father."¹²

On 21 February 1796 Maria Rapelye Riker, daughter of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.¹³

On 15 April 1798 Patience Stanton Riker, daughter of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.¹⁴

On 6 April 1800 John Rapelye Riker, son of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.¹⁵

Daniel Ryker is recorded as a head of household in the 1800 U.S. Census in Newtown, Queens County, New York. The household included 3 free white males under the age of 10 (James, William, John), 1 free white male age 26 to 44 (Daniel), 2 free white females under age 10 (Maria and Patience), and 1 free white female age 16 to 25 (Deborah).¹⁶

On 3 July 1803 Anne Catherine Riker, daughter of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.¹⁷

On 15 September 1805 Joseph Lawrence Riker, son of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.¹⁸

On 26 April 1807 Hannah Eliza Riker, son of Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich, was baptized at the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church.¹⁹

Daniel Riker served as an Assessor in the Town of Newtown 1807-1808 and 1813-1815.²⁰

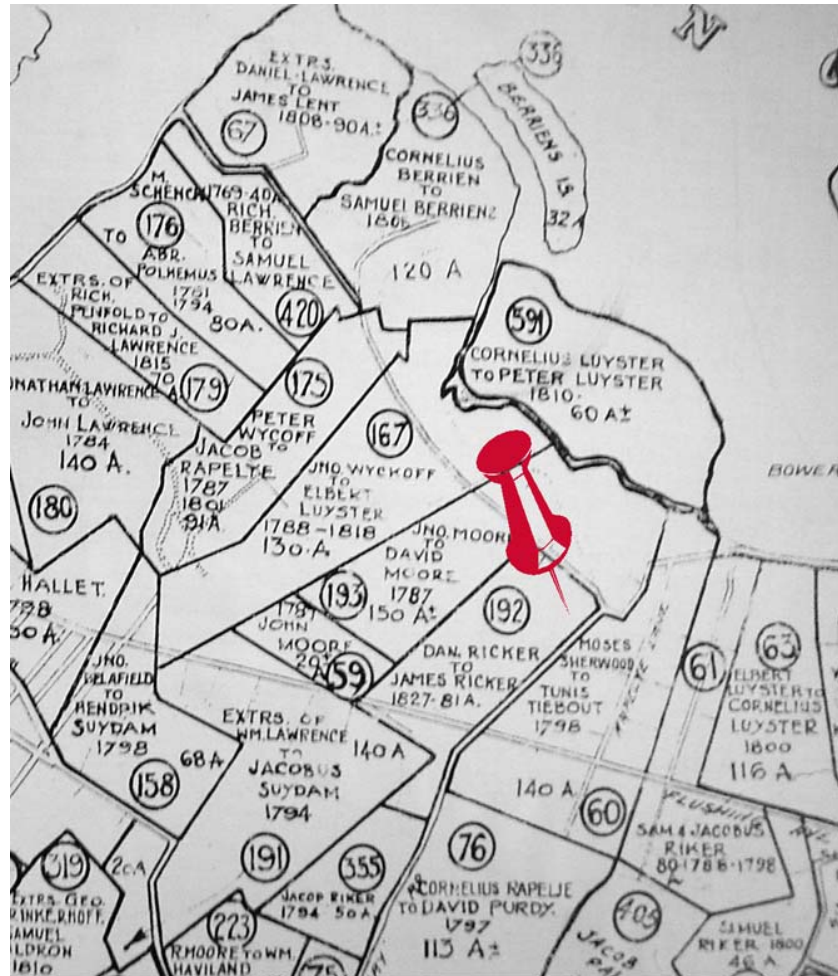
On 19 August 1808, a treasure was found in Newtown by a schoolboy, John son of Daniel Riker. It was a bag of gold, valued at \$840, which had belonged to John Kearns, a schoolmaster, and was hid during the Revolution. The money was taken possession of by the teacher, whose name was Neal, but the neighbors hearing of it, collected and took him before William Leverich, Esquire, by whose order the money was forced from him. Owing however to some irregularity in the

proceeding, Neal prosecuted the several persons engaged in searching him, including the justice, and recovered damages for assault and battery; meanwhile N. Moore as administrator of Kearns, sued and obtained the money.^{21,22} Daniel Riker served as an Overseer of the Poor at Newtown in 1808 and 1816-1817.²³

The *Annals of Newtown* reported that on June 7, 1808, Daniel Riker was appointed a justice of the peace for Queens county by a special commission, and for nearly 18 years performed its duties without having a single decision reversed by a higher court.²⁴

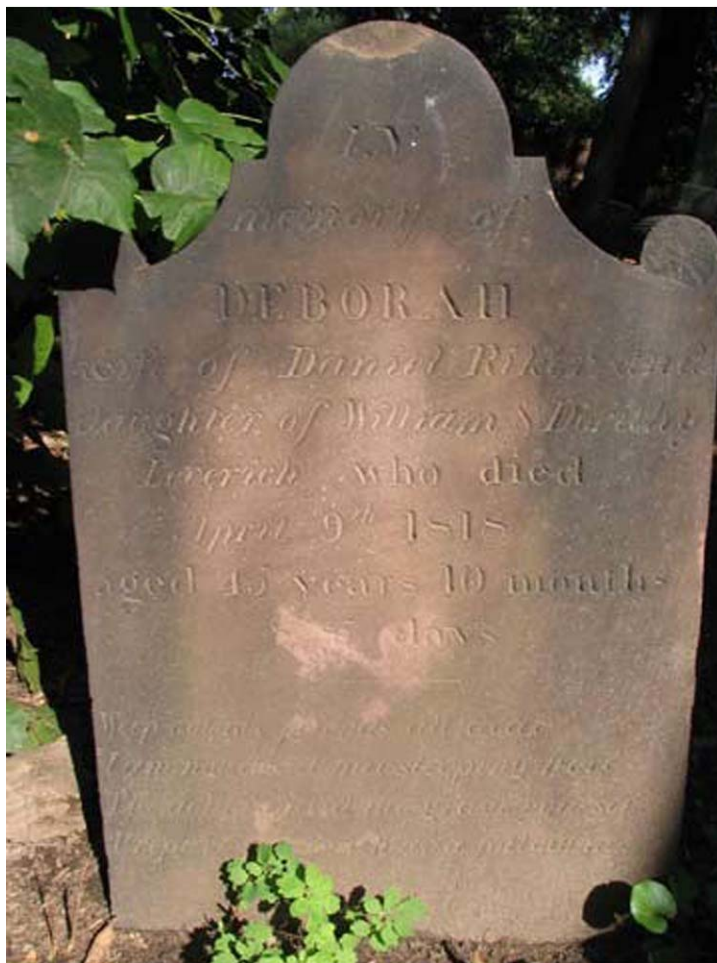
The will of Jacobus Riker was proved in Queens County, New York on 19 October 1809. The will names his wife Anna Catherine, his son Daniel, and his daughter Maria, wife of Cornelius Rapelye. Daniel Riker inherits the family farm conditioned upon providing for his mother and sister, as directed by the will.²⁵

Daniel Riker lived on the family farm until 1827, when he removed to Manhattan. The farm consisted of 81 acres, located south of Bowery Bay, and northwest of Trains Meadow, the south east quadrant of the intersection of the road from Hellsgate (west to east) and the road from Middleton to Bowery Bay (south to north). The farm is depicted on both the 1800 Land Ownership Map of Queens, and the 1852 James Riker map of Newtown and vicinity.^{26,27}



**Riker Family Homesteaded at Bowery Bay
Daniel Riker and wife Deborah Leverich
1800 Ownership Map Queens Co, NY**

Deborah Leverich Riker died on 9 Apr 1818 at Newtown, Queens, New York, age 45 years, 10 months, and 5 days. She was buried at the Riker Family Cemetery at Bowery Bay. Her gravestone includes the following epitaph: "Weep not my friends all dear, I am not dead but sleeping here; the debt is paid, the grave you see, prepare for death and follow me."^{32,33}



Deborah Leverich Riker (1772-1818)
Riker Family Burial Ground
Photograph by John Bartlett

Daniel Riker and Deborah Leverich had eight children.³⁴

- i. James (aka Jacobus) Riker was born at Newtown 25 December 1791. He married 29 December 1814 Elizabeth Van Arsdale. He died at Manhattan, New York County, New York 4 April 1852. James and Elizabeth were the parents of James Riker Jr, the historian and author of the *Annals of Newtown* and the *History of Harlem*.^{35,36,37,38,39}
- ii. William Leverich Riker was born at Newtown on 8 December 1793. He married 16 February 1819 Catherine Remsen Brinckerhoff. He died at Newtown 8 March 1828.^{40,41,42}
- iii. Maria Rapelye Riker was born at Newtown 22 December 1795. She married 2 November 1825 Samuel Valentine. She died 3 March 1828, probably at Newtown.^{43,44,45,46}
- iv. Patience Stanton Riker was born at Newtown 25 February 1798. She married 4 March 1841 John T. Welling. She died at Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York 3 December 1862.^{47,48,49,50}
- v. John Rapelye Riker was born at Newtown 26 January 1800. He died young at the age of 24 at Newtown on 4 February 1824. He left two children, John and Mary, but the name of his wife has not been identified.^{51,52,53}

- vi. Anna Catherine Riker was born at Newtown 1 May 1803. She died unmarried at Newtown 31 October 1826 at the age of 23.^{54,55,56}
- vii. Joseph Lawrence Riker was born at Newtown 17 August 1805, and died unmarried 27 October 1823 at the age of 18.^{57,58,59}
- viii. Hannah Eliza Riker was born at Newtown 20 March 1807. She married 15 May 1826 George Elder. She died at Stamford, Fairfield Co, Connecticut 7 May 1884.^{60,61,62,63}

On 12 June 1818, Daniel Riker was reappointed a Justice of the Peace at Newtown.⁶⁴

Daniel Riker is recorded as a head of family in the 1820 U.S. Census of Newtown, Queens Co, New York. The household included 1 free white male age 10-15 (son Joseph), 1 free white male over the age of 45 (Daniel), 1 free white female age 10-15 (daughter Hannah), 2 free white females age 16-25 (daughters Ann Catherine and Patience), and four slaves.⁶⁵

The Newtown Presbyterian Church records note the death 15 February 1823 of a son of Mr. Riker of Riker's Island, at the home of Samuel Riker of Bowery Bay. Also noted is the death 15 March 1823 of a brother of the above at the home of Daniel Riker, Esq.⁶⁶

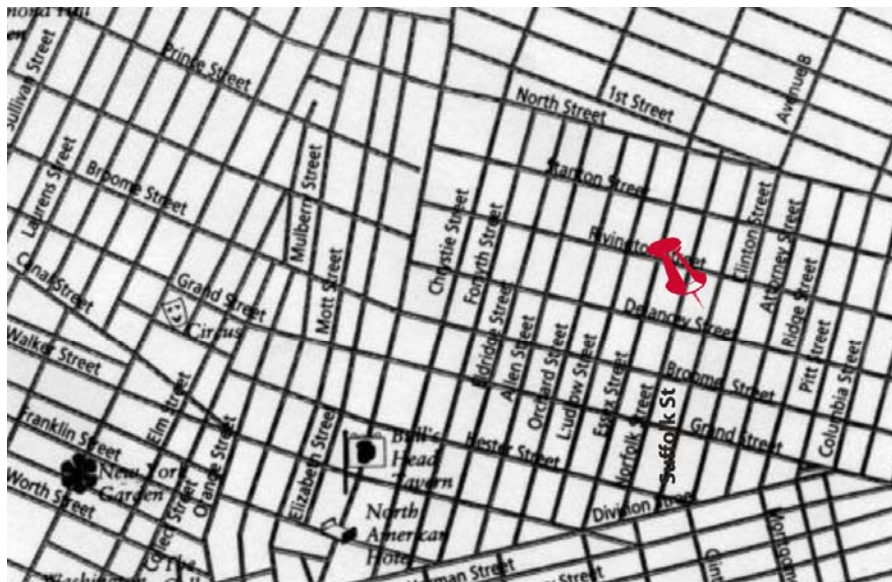
On 6 December 1826 the following notice was published in the *Long Island Farmer*. A FARM FOR SALE. Situated at Newtown on Long-Island and near the Poor Bowery, six miles from New-York, containing 86 acres of land, be the same more or less; of which 7 acres are woodland adjoining said farm, and 4 acres of salt meadow lying within 300 yards of said farm. There is on said farm a good convenient Dwelling-House, Barn, and other necessary out-houses - all of which are in good repair. Said farm is well stocked with fruit, such as cherries, pears and two apple orchards, one of which is Newtown pippins, which is not second to any on the island. ALSO, a large asparagus bed. This farm is well watered with a good well and never failing springs; it lies within 300 yards of the Bowery Bay, where market boats ply 2 or 3 times a week; a daily stage also passes the door to and from New York. A further description is deemed unnecessary, as it is presumed no person will purchase without viewing the premises. For further particulars inquire of JAMES RIKER, corner of Delancey and Suffolk streets, New York, or to DANIEL RIKER, on the premises. December 6, 1826. N.B. Should it not be sold by the 3rd day of January, next, it will be sold on that day at 11 o'clock, at PUBLIC AUCTION, on the premises, together with all the movables of said Daniel Riker, consisting of farming utensils, fodder, fourteen head of cattle, three horses, hogs, together with the Household and Kitchen Furniture. Sale peremptory. Should the weather prove unfavorable, the sale will take place the first fair day following.⁶⁷

On 16 January 1827, Daniel Riker sold the family farm to his son James Riker Sr, in consideration of \$1,500.00 (about \$36,100 in 2013 dollars). The deed was recorded on 23 January 1827, and included the following property description. "Beginning at the road from Poor Bowery to Hellsgate at the juncture of said road with the new road leading towards Middletown and bounded as follows. Northeastwardly by the said road leading from Poor Bowery; then southeastwardly and eastwardly and southeastwardly again by the land of Isaac Rapelye to the land of the heirs of Daniel Purdy deceased; then southwesterly, southeastwardly, and southwesterly again by the land and woodland of the heirs of James Suydam deceased; then northwestwardly by the woodland of the said heirs of James Suydam deceased and by the woodland of Abraham Polhemus Jr to a stone set in the fence in the old orchard; then southerly by the woodland of the said Abraham Polhemus Jr and the said heirs of the said James Suydam deceased to a stone set in the middle of the woods; then northwesterly by the woodland of Nathaniel Moore and James Lent to a stone set in the middle of the woods; then northerly by the woodland of the said James Lent and land of Thomas Moore; and then northwesterly by the land of the said Thomas Moore to the place of beginning; containing 81 acres of ground more or less. Also an island of salt meadow five acres".^{68,69}

James Riker Sr, grocer of the City of New York, sold the family farm on 28 December 1830 to Charles Rapelye, in consideration of \$4,000.00. The deed was recorded 30 December 1830. Charles Rapelye was a 3rd cousin to Daniel Riker, both being great grandsons of Joris Rapelye. Charles died in 1834, and by 1851 the farm was in the possession of his children, David P, Isaac C, Catherine M, and Lavinia P. Rapelye. The approximate contemporary location is 49th Street between Astoria Blvd and 25th Ave.^{70,71,72}

Daniel Riker relocated to Manhattan, New York County, New York sometime between 1827 and 1829. On 16 July 1827 Daniel purchased a house and lot from Ann Rogers, located at 28th Street near Lexington Avenue. Daniel does not appear in the 1827-1828 New York City Directory, but his son James, a grocer, is listed living at Delancey Street, corner

of Suffolk. Daniel is listed in the 1829-1830 New York City Directory, a grocer, living at 70 Delancey St. His son James, a grocer, is listed living at 148 Delancey, corner of Suffolk. Daniel Riker is not found in the 1830 U.S. Census in Manhattan, New York County.^{73,74,75,76}



Rebuilding the City (Manhattan) 1783-1825

The Historical Atlas of New York City

On 2 October 1829 the *New York Spectator* reported on a court case entitled Isaac Rogers vs. Daniel Riker. "This was an action for damages for the seduction of the plaintiff's daughter. A mass of testimony was adduced to show that the defendant had been a visitor at the plaintiff's house, in the character of a suitor, for more than a year: that his attentions were so marked as to induce a belief among all her friends that his object was honorable. The defendant was then a farmer, residing in Newtown, Long Island; a man of supposed respectability, and a Justice of the Peace. Judge Duer charged the Jury, that in their estimate of damages, regard must be had to the loss of service, and to the expenses to which the plaintiff had been subjected, as well as to the injury and agony of feeling which had been occasioned. That reposing perfect confidence in his character, she had yielded to temptation. There was no excuse for the seducer. Having done the injury which he had hitherto refused to repair, it was for the Jury to render that justice between the parties which the defendant had denied. The Jury retired, and in a few minutes returned, with a verdict for the plaintiff -- one thousand dollars damages."⁷⁷

On 1 May 1831, Daniel Riker married for a second time Ann Eliza Martin at the Seventh Presbyterian Church in Manhattan.⁷⁸

In 1833, Daniel Riker is a City Marshall, living at 134 Delancey St, listed under appointments by the Common Council of New York.⁷⁹ The *New York Annual Register* for 1836 lists Daniel Riker, residing at 71 Suffolk St, as a police officer, "to attend daily at the upper office, corner of Bowery & 3rd Avenue."⁸⁰

On 9 April 1839, the *New York Evening Post* names Daniel Riker as a candidate for Constable from the 13th Ward.⁸¹ The 1839-1840 *New York City Directory* lists Daniel Riker, police officer living at 71 Suffolk St, as well as James Riker, grocer, living at 148 Delancey St, corner of Suffolk St.⁸²

On 13 November 1839, James Riker Sr and his wife Hannah, grocer, sold to his father Daniel Riker, Marshall of New York City, in consideration of \$2,200.00, a 2 story house and lot located near the corner of Suffolk St and Delancey St. The deed was recorded 15 August 1851. James had purchased this property from James C. Roosevelt, surviving executor of the estate of Abraham Duryee, deceased, on 3 December 1834.⁸³

Daniel Riker is recorded as a head of household in the 1840 U.S. Census in Manhattan, Ward 13, New York County, New York. The household included 1 free white male under the age of 5 (son Daniel Jr), 1 free white male age 60 to 69 (Daniel Sr), 1 free white female age 5 to 9 (daughter Susan Ann), 1 free white female age 15 to 19 (unidentified), 1 free white female age 30 to 39 (Ann Eliza, 2nd wife of Daniel), one free white female age 40 to 49 (daughter Patience).⁸⁴

The New York Annual Register for 1841-1842 lists Daniel Riker, residing at 71 Suffolk St, as a police officer.⁸⁵ On 10 April 1847, the *New York Evening Post* names Daniel Riker as a candidate for Constable from the 13th Ward.⁸⁶

The 1848-1849 New York City Directory lists Daniel Riker, late marshal, living at 71 Suffolk St.⁸⁷

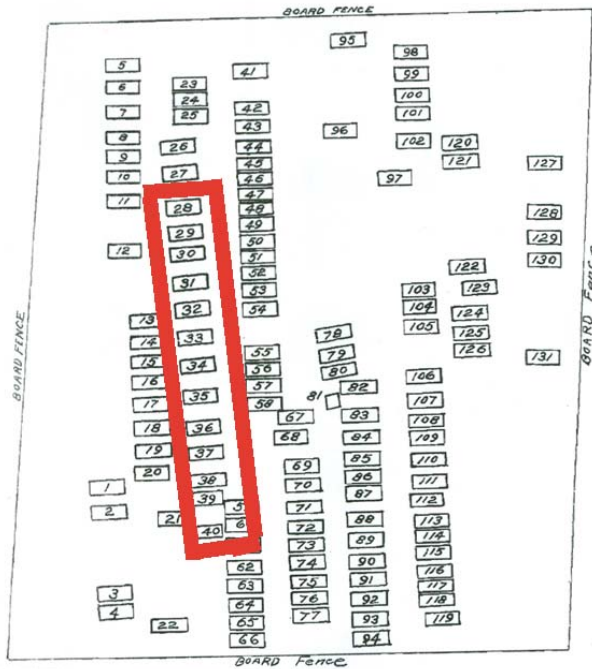
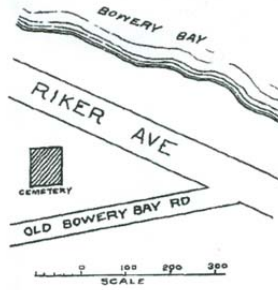
The 1850 U.S. Census, Ward 13, Manhattan, New York Co, NY includes the following household: Daniel Riker, age 81; Anne E. Riker (wife) age 40; James Riker (son) age 59; Susan Riker (daughter) age 18. No occupation is listed for Daniel. James Riker Sr is also listed in this census living with wife and children in Ward 12, which included the neighborhood of Harlem. In this record James is listed as a "gentleman", with an estate valued at \$15,000.⁸⁸

Daniel Riker died 16 September 1850 at Manhattan, New York Co, New York. His death notice reports that he died suddenly of heart disease, in the 80th year of his age. Daniel's burial place has not been determined with certainty. However, it is likely that he is buried at the Riker Family Cemetery in Queens Co, NY where his parents, his first wife, and many of his children by his first marriage are buried. At least one gravestone in the area of this family's burials is not readable (number 34) and could be Daniel.^{89,90}



Riker Family Burial Ground, Bowery Bay at Newtown
Long Island Historic Homes Ancient and Modern, 1901

No. 5.
RIKER CEMETERY
 NORTH BEACH
 SCALE 1" = 10' 0"
 SURVEYED JULY 9-AUG 1, 1919



PAGE EIGHTEEN

Dorothy Leverich Riker and Daniel Riker Family

*Description of Private and Family Cemeteries in the
 Borough of Queens*

Daniel Riker made a will in March 1843. The will was submitted for probate in New York County on 10 April 1851. The will provides for Daniel's widow Eliza and his two youngest children Susan and Daniel D. The will further provides that after the decease or remarriage of his wife, the estate was to be divided equally among all his children, including the children of his deceased sons John and William, their portion. The will was witnessed by Alfred W. White and Samuel H. Martin. Daniel named as executors James Riker Sr, John Hutchins, and James Riker Jr.⁹¹

Daniel Riker and his second wife Ann Eliza Martin had two children.⁹²

- i. Susan Ann Riker was born at Manhattan 10 January 1832. She married 13 November 1850 Isaac Webb. Susan and Isaac had at least one child, Eliza Jane, who married 16 June 1869 Charles Frederick Moadinger. Susan's date of death and her burial place has not been determined. A Susan Webb died in Manhattan 12 April 1896, age 70, hence born about 1826, which is too old for Susan daughter of Daniel and Eliza. An Isaac Webb died at Manhattan 15 July 1895, age 67.^{93,94,95}

- ii. Daniel B. Riker was born at Manhattan 26 July 1836. He died as a child in Manhattan 4 December 1844. He was buried in the Riker Family Cemetery in Queens Co.^{96,97,98}

Anna Eliza Martin Riker, widow of Daniel Riker, died at Hoboken, Hudson Co, New Jersey on 10 August 1875 at the age of 68. Funeral took place from the residence of her (grand)son-in-law Charles Moadinger of Newark Street in Hoboken.⁹⁹

On 19 April 1907, an article appeared in the New York Times regarding the settlement of Daniel Riker's estate, more than 50 years after his death. "When the City of New York has finally paid the awards for property taken in the Williamsburg Bridge improvement, and when the Court of Appeals has passed upon certain technical questions awaiting its decision; when the already discovered heirs have been rounded up and all the lawyers have been paid, then the 50 descendants of Daniel Riker, who died in 1850, will receive the patrimony that has been coming to them since before most of them were born ... Judge Fitzgerald ... has had judgment entered in the partition case that was brought in 1876, when the first attempt was made to settle the estate of Daniel Riker ... as much as \$23,000 is to be distributed (about \$428,000 in 2013 dollars) ... Daniel Riker, dying in 1850 possession of the property at 81 Suffolk Street , which also had a frontage on Delancey Street which was left in a general estate expected to belong to his five children ... by some of them it was either occupied or rented down to 1870, when the character of the neighborhood having changed and the property run down, a partition suit was brought ... it appeared that nobody in the action was particularly anxious to have the matter wound up .. the city was the real peacemaker bringing about the final solution. It decided that it wanted the property for the Williamsburg Bridge, and started condemnation proceedings."^{100,101}

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- ³³Deborah Leverich Riker Tombstone, Riker Family Burial Ground, Riker Family Burial Ground, 19th Road and 78th St, East Elmhurst, Queens Co, New York; John Bartlett, 1818, photograph by John Bartlett, formerly of Staten Island, New York.
- ³⁴Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 305-306.

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