

Individual Narrative of John⁶ Penfold [86] Son of Richard Penfold and Mary⁵ Leverich [24]

John Penfold was born circa 1753 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of Richard Penfold and Mary Leverich. The birth date is a calculated estimate based upon John's baptismal date, as well as his place in birth order.¹ John Penfold was baptized 15 June 1755 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, the son of Richard Penfold. Also baptized on the same date were John's siblings Elizabeth, William Leverich, Mary, and Edmund.²

John Penfold died young and unmarried circa 1777, in his early 20's, killed by natives while trading on the Spanish main, in the employ of his brother-in-law Cornelius Berrien.³ An account written by a son of Cornelius recounts that Cornelius "being himself detained by sickness after having got three Vessles ready for sea and intending to command one himself. their names The Chance, Flying Fish, & Fryed Oyster, all bound on the same Voyages with alike cargoes to the West Indies & thence to the Spanish Maine for Mules -- and all arrived at their last place of Destination. By some unhappy altercation between the Natives Officers & Crews or what is quite as probably by the treachery of the former, the Vessels Cargoes & Money was taken & Crews murdered with the exception of a Sailor & a Cook who returned but could assign no cause for the attack -- State that the Natives armed & in a Body rushed upon them sparing no one they could Destroy and stated how they escaped.

"Beside this great pecuniary loss of property, his loss of Kindred & long tried friends was trying in the extreme, deprived by so Logical a Death of a Brother (Peter) **a Brother in Law (John Penfold)** Capt Richardson who had been a long time in his employ in different capacities and most of the other Officers & Crews had been associated with & were known to him, and all was in a great measure endeared by the ties of Kindred, Friendship & Worth."^{4,5,6}

Printed on: 12 Jul 2015
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Bibliography

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Endnotes

¹James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), page 351. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.

²Arthur 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, 1755. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."

³Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, page 351.

⁴Cornelius Von Erden Mitchell, *Ancestry of William Spingler Mitchell, Cornelius Von Erden Mitchell, John Van Beuren Mitchell* (Privately Printed: Edited by H. Minot Pitman, 1967), pages 61-62. Hereinafter cited as *Mitchell Ancestry*.

⁵Genealogical and Family Papers of Cornelius von Erden Mitchell, 1706-1957, Manuscript Collection 18127, New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Manuscripts and Archives Division, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, Manhattan, New York, New York, Box 7, folders 17-19. Hereinafter cited as *Mitchel Family Papers*.

⁶Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown*, pages 342-343.