

**Individual Narrative of Cornelius⁸ Alexander Leveridge [391]
Son of John⁷ Leveridge [204] and Mary Jane Poillon
Husband of Eleanor Jane Mills**

Cornelius Alexander Leveridge was born on 30 April 1829 at Manhattan, New York County, New York.^{1,2}

At an early age Cornelius A. Leveridge attended the Union Hall Academy, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, connected with the Reformed Dutch Church, Henry Onderdonc principal, where he remained until 1842, when he entered the grammar school of Columbia College, where he received a classical education. Having spent four years in studies and in the school of chemistry, Cornelius removed in 1849 to Westfield, Union County, New Jersey, and resided on the farm formerly owned by his uncle Benjamin Chase Leveridge, a physician.³

Cornelius Alexander Leveridge married Eleanor Jane Mills 24 September 1849 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Quebec City, Province of Quebec, Canada.⁴

Eleanor Jane Mills was born 3 April 1831 in Exeter, Devon County, England. Eleanor was baptized 3 April 1831 at the Mint Lane Wesleyan Methodist Church in Exeter. Eleanor was the daughter of James Mills and Jane Eliza Richardson. Eleanor went to Canada as a young girl with her father.⁵

After their marriage Cornelius A. Leveridge and his wife Eleanor Jane returned to New Jersey where they settled in Westfield, then Essex County, subsequently Union County. They were instrumental in organizing and supporting a Methodist religious congregation in Westfield. Beginning in 1849, services were held, weather permitting, under the walnut trees of Cornelius's farm. The congregation was incorporated in 1851 and a church building erected and dedicated in 1853. Cornelius was elected one of the first trustees of the church on 27 March 1851. Cornelius and Eleanor Jane remained very active in the Church for the duration of their residence in Westfield.⁶

Cornelius A. Leveridge, age 21 farmer, and his wife Eleanor Jane, age 19, were recorded in the 1850 U. S. Census of Westfield, Essex County, New Jersey. Value of Cornelius' real estate was reported as \$5000.⁷

Cornelius A. Leveridge, age 31 farmer, and his wife Eleanor Jane, age 24, were recorded in the 1860 U. S. Census of Westfield, Union County, New Jersey. Value of Cornelius' real estate was reported as \$7500 and his personal estate \$2000.⁸

Cornelius A. Leveridge was clearly a man of some financial means which increased over time. Cornelius gave his attention to his favorite pursuits of geology, chemistry, and historical research. He accumulated an extensive and valuable collection of geological, historical, and numismatic matter, which in 1865 he sold for a large sum to P. T. Barnum for his second museum, then being established in the upper part of Broadway in New York City, his first having been consumed by fire in 1864.⁹

Cornelius A. Leveridge, age 41 real estate agent, and his wife Eleanor Jane, age 38, were recorded in the 1870 U. S. Census of Westfield, Union County, New Jersey. Their household was now joined by Isabella Miller, Eleanor's sister, age 36. Value of Cornelius' real estate was reported as \$5,000 and his personal estate \$21,000.¹⁰

Cornelius A. Leveridge, age 51 keeping house, was listed in the 1880 U. S. Census of Piscataway, Middlesex, New Jersey. Cornelius' household included his wife Eleanor J., age 49, and his sister-in-law Isabella Miller, age 47.¹¹

Cornelius A. Leveridge and his wife Eleanor J., as well as Isabella Miller, were all recorded in the 1885 New Jersey State Census of Cranford, Union County, New Jersey.¹² Upon removing to Cranford, Cornelius A. Leveridge became interested in the formation of this new township, where he became identified with the growth of the village in the establishment of its churches and school building.^{12a}

Cornelius A. Leveridge was engaged in literary pursuits, writing historical and geological articles for local newspapers, and as a correspondent, and at the same time attending seminaries and schools in Newark and other places, giving instruction on scientific subjects. During this time he has been in correspondence with different historical and scientific societies throughout this country as well as Europe.^{12b} For a number of years Cornelius was a member of the Union County Board of Freeholders.¹³

Cornelius A. Leveridge also became interested in family history and genealogy. He received correspondence from all parts of the union relating to family history. Specifically, he corresponded with Susan Leverich [7-105] of Newtown, Queens County, New York. Susan published articles pertaining to the life of the Rev. William Leverich, the original immigrant ancestor (1633) of the Leverich/Leveridge family. Cornelius' father John Leveridge the lawyer, had received information from England (1854) alleging the early history of William Leverich's ancestors in England, and a supposed coat of arms. Cornelius passed along to Susan Leverich, via his sister-in-law Isabella Miller, the information he received from his father. Susan used the information in some of her articles. Unfortunately, much of the information provided to John Leveridge by his English correspondent has since proven to be erroneous. For more information, see the Individual Narrative for John Leveridge (7-204), page 5.^{14,15,16}



C. A. Leveridge.

History of Union and Middlesex Counties, NJ - 1882, page 407

Cornelius A. Leveridge was listed in the 1897-1898 Plainfield NJ City Directory living at 531 West Front Street.¹⁷

On 24 September 1899 Cornelius A. Leveridge and his wife Eleanor Jane Mills celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The Daily Press of Plainfield provided extensive coverage of two surprise parties held at the Leveridge residence 531 Front Street by various groups of friends.¹⁸

Cornelius A. Leveridge, age 71 retiree, was recorded in the 1900 U. S. Census of Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey. He was living at 531 West Front Street. Cornelius' household included his wife Elma (Eleanor), age 69, and his sister-in-law Isabella Miller, age 67.¹⁹

Eleanor Jane (Mills) Leveridge died 24 August 1900 of a stroke of apoplexy in Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey. Eleanor was buried at the Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, Union County, New Jersey.^{20,21}

Eleanor J. Leveridge made a will dated 18 July 1888 which was proved at the Union County, New Jersey Surrogate Court on 11 September 1900. Heirs identified included her husband Cornelius A. Leveridge and her sister Isabella Miller.²²

Cornelius A. Leveridge, age 76, widower, occupation "Bank Stock" was recorded in the 1905 New Jersey State Census of Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey. Cornelius was living at 531 West Front Street, accompanied by his sister-in-law Isabella Ann Miller, age 72. The census record indicates that Isabella owned the residence.²³

Cornelius Alexander Leveridge died 6 January 1906 in Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey. Cornelius was buried at the Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, Union County, New Jersey.^{24,25,26}

Cornelius Alexander Leveridge and Eleanor Jane Mills had no children.

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Endnotes

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- ²*Daily Press Plainfield NJ*, Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey, 1887-1917. 8 January 1906. Hereinafter cited as Daily Press Plainfield NJ.
- ³W. Woodford Clayton, editor, *History of Union and Middlesex Counties NJ with Biographical Sketches of Many of Thier Pioneers and Prominent Men* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: J. B. Lippenpott, 1882), pages 406-407. Hereinafter cited as Clayton, *History of Union and Middlesex Counties NJ*.
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- ⁷1850 U.S. Census New Jersey, Essex Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Westfield, page 341 A.
- ⁸1860 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Westfield, page 40.
- ⁹Clayton, *History of Union and Middlesex Counties NJ*, pages 406-407.
- ¹⁰1870 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M593, Westfield, page 819 A.
- ¹¹1880 U.S. Census New Jersey, Middlesex Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T9, Piscataway, ED 131, page 256 D.
- ¹²1885 NJ State Census, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NJ State Archives Film Number 42, Cranford, New Jersey State Archives.
- ^{12a}Clayton, *History of Union and Middlesex Counties NJ*, pages 406-407.
- ^{12b}*Ibid.*
- ¹³*Ibid.*
- ¹⁴*Ibid.*
- ¹⁵Leverich, Susan M. Papers.
- ¹⁶Leverich-Leveridge Family History and Genealogy, online <<https://leverichgenealogy.org>>, www.leverichgenealogy.org. See Individual Narratives under the descendants tab for 7-105 Susan Leverich and 7-204 John Leveridge. Click on the PDF symbol to bring up the individual narrative.
- ¹⁷*Plainfield NJ City Directory 1897-1898*. New York, New York: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford, 1897.
- ¹⁸*Daily Press Plainfield NJ*, 26 September 1899.
- ¹⁹1900 U.S. Census New Jersey, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T623, ED 091, Plainfield, ED 130, page 10.
- ²⁰*Daily Press Plainfield NJ*, 25 August 1900.
- ²¹Find A Grave, online <www.findagrave.com>, Memorial Number 99752275. Hereinafter cited as Find A Grave.
- ²²Union County New Jersey Surrogate Office, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07207. New Jersey State Archives, New Jersey State Archives, 225 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608.
- ²³1905 NJ State Census, Union Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. New Jersey State Archives, NJ State Archives, Film Number 40.
- ²⁴*The Christian Advocate*, New York, New York, 1826-1956. Volume 81, page 623, 26 April 1906.
- ²⁵*Daily Press Plainfield NJ*, 8 January 1906, page 1.
- ²⁶Find A Grave, online www.findagrave.com, Memorial Number 212208599.