

THE ESTATE OF MONTEAGLE

GOV. CARR AND REV. PIGOT, 1722-27

In 1722, Gov. Caleb Carr of Rhode Island built the house which still stands at 42 Fairview Ave., West Warwick. He built it for his Granddaughter, who married Rev. George Pigot of St. John's Episcopal Church in Providence. At that time, the estate lay far into the wilderness. Rev. Pigot named it Monteagle, after an English estate he was fighting to inherit. But he was transferred to St. Michael's Church in Marblehead, Mass. (where he preached the first sermon in favor of celebrating Christmas in New England). There he bought one of Peter LeValley's three houses, and Peter bought the estate of Monteagle for 700 pounds.

PETER LEVALLEY, 1727-56

Peter acquired the property in 1727. His maps show that it consisted of 265 acres. In 1740, he divided it into four parts, selling 60 acres off the east end to his son John. A week later, he sold a 60-acre strip down the middle to his son Michael. Peter retained 75 acres in the center, where the house stood, and 70 acres at the west end. In 1748, Peter bought an additional 48 acres adjoining his northwest corner--bringing the total LeValley estate to 313 acres. According to one report, this land eventually became parts of five separate villages--Phenix, Clyde, Lippit, Birch Hill, and Riverpoint--today all incorporated within the city of West Warwick.

At least three of Peter's children married just before he made the move. The house consisted of one large L-shaped room, with a warm hidden nook behind the fireplace ideal for a bed. To that nook, he added a tiny back room, which eventually served as the bedroom of his youngest son Michael. The 1756 inventory shows there was also a small barn, which stood south of the house.

Peter left the new 48 acres plus 30 acres off the southwest corner to his grandson Peter Sr. The northwest corner and central portion where the house stood were divided between John and Michael, leaving each with approximately 117 acres.

MICHAEL LEVALLEY (1/3)

Michael immediately bought the 30 acres of his nephew Peter Sr., thus acquiring an estate just short of 150 acres, which he in turn divided among his seven children when he died. One by one, Michael's children sold all or nearly all of their land to their cousin Peter Sr. But before that happened, Michael's son Peter Jr. had bought additional parcels totaling 135 acres--bringing total LeValley land in 1786 to 603 acres,

JOHN LEVALLEY, 1756-1808 (1/3)

Probably because the northwest corner lay across Michael's land, John traded some small parcels with Michael until he ended up with 137 acres, including the house. To accommodate his growing family of eleven children, John did a massive remodeling job on the house. He dug a basement with outside stairs in the uncovered area that the

L-shaped house wrapped around, and also tunneled under the existing house for an indoor stairway. He removed the roof, squared off the house with a new addition above the basement, and added an entire second storey and attic. With old walls knocked out, the new addition and ell formed a large living room, the old living area became the master bedroom, and the kitchen remained where it was. Upstairs, there was a boys' room and a girls' room. The original house and later additions all utilized log floor joists, but John used fine sawmill-cut timbers. He did the same when building a three-storey barn northeast of the house. There were also two corncribs which have since disappeared.

To pay off debts, John sold most of the land in 1778 to three of his sons--20 acres off the east end to Cook LeValley, 12 acres at the west end for himself, and the remainder divided equally between Peleg and John Jr. at 42 acres each. The sons gave him a life lease, and Cook dropped out of the Rhode Island records. Six years later, Peleg and John Jr. gained control by having their father declared incompetent. He fought this action all the way to the state legislature, and won. So in 1788, John Jr. sold his half-interest to Peter Sr. for 90 pounds--a ridiculously low price--but he died before his father anyway. When John finally died in 1808, the children of John Jr. were able to renegotiate the agreement with Peter Sr. and sell their share to him for an additional \$600.

PETER LEVALLEY SR. 1808-18 (all)

Peter Sr. had immediately sold to his uncle Michael 30 of the 78 acres his grandfather left him. He then bought nearby parcels totaling 155 acres, and over the years he gradually bought up from the heirs of John and Michael all or nearly all of the land his grandfather had once owned. But he could not acquire and move into the house until he was an eighty-year-old man.

The 1818 inventory shows that at least during the winter months, one bed was kept in a (curtained?) niche near the fireplace--what used to be known as the back room. Peter himself may have slept there, while his two daughters slept in the master bedroom next to the kitchen among cabinets of dishes and silverware. His youngest daughter and granddaughter used one upstairs room, while the other stored a few old things. Having reunified the estate, Peter Sr. then divided it among his ten children.

JOSIAH LEVALLEY AND HEIRS (1/10)

Peter's son, Josiah, kept his tenth. Josiah's son, Thomas, also farmed there. Thomas' son continued to live somewhere in the area, but it is not known if it was on the same land. There is no record of this tenth ever being reunified with the rest of the LeValley lands--though it may have been eventually.

MARY AND AMANDA LEVALLEY 1818-75 (1/2)

Peter's three unmarried daughters continued to live in the house, and bought up two more of the shares. Mary, the last surviving daughter thus owned half of the original estate, which she passed on to her daughter Amanda--known as the eccentric Amanda for her views on women's liberation. Sometime during the residency of these four

women, a low kitchen and pantry wing was added, and the original kitchen with its fireplace became a dining room. Amanda apparently left her half of the original estate to her cousin's daughter, Matilda Spencer.

THOMAS LEVALLEY AND HEIRS (1/3)

Peter's son Thomas kept his land and bought out one sister. His children later bought all or part of the land belonging to the heirs of his brother William. Thomas sold some land, but it is not known whether it was part of the original estate or some other piece. Thus his children may have owned up to a third of the original LeValley land. He lived in the toll house across the road from the original house.

MATILDA SPENCER AND HEIRS 1875- (most or all)

Thomas' granddaughter Matilda inherited up to a third of the estate from her close relatives. It appears that she also inherited Amanda's half--certainly the house. She skimped for years to hold the estate intact. She remodeled the upstairs into four rooms with closets. She also added a low wing to the big barn to shelter her undertaker-husband's funeral carriages. Matilda's sons and grandsons eventually sold much of the land for subdivision--including the main house and Thomas' house. Her grandson, Lee Valley Spencer, still lives on and owns part of the original estate.

A-1

PETER LEVALLEY

b. probably 1683 (Some sources say 1663 or 1675.)

m. Sarah (Last name may have been LeConte)

d. 1756 Warwick RI

bur. Cowesett RI. Cemetery (now vanished)

census:

1747 Warwick RI--Peter

He probably came from the Channel Isles. Guernsey seems the best guess, for a LeValley family was known there since the 1200s. Clues leading to Jersey have proven false. The family may or may not have been Huguenots who fled from France before that. The report that he had been a silk merchant at Lyons, France is not supported by any records there.

Judge Savary of Nova Scotia (descended from Susanna Sabin, who turns out to be no relation) found records on the Isle of Jersey spelled LeVallier. Peter's granddaughter Sarah Beaubier is supposed to have married there in St. Mary's Parish. I have seen the record book, and found no such notation.

A Canadian LeValley family came from the channel island of Alderney in 1828. I have charts, compiled by Peggy Wilson, of the LeVallee family in Alderney. I can make no connection to Peter.

The head librarian of the Piraulx Library in Guernsey has located a record of a Pierre Lavallee, son of Pierre and Marthe Dupont, who was born Feb. 10, 1672, and baptized July 2 of that year. Godparents were George Bourget, James Pethley, and Julienne de la Saye. The marriage record of the parents could not be found.

The place and date are about right for our Peter, but there is absolutely no clinching proof here. We must regard this as very interesting circumstantial evidence.

W. Wolcott, a descendant of Peleg through the Andrews family, suggested that Sarah's name was LeConte, but was certain that she was French. Immediately after their marriage, he mentions 1710 in New Rochelle NY. Was that the place of their marriage, or more likely the location of the Isaiah who he goes on to write about?

The Pierre and Sarah Valleau who sponsored the French Church of the Holy Spirit in New York City 1685-1720 are no relation. Neither is Stephen Valleau (fl. NYC. 1700) from the Ile d'I Re two miles from Rochelle.

Lora LaMance wrote a lot of speculative balderdash. In her book Huguenot Pedigrees, she claimed he was a descendant of the counts LeValois de Villette and Theodore Agrippa d'Aubigne. But she also hypothesized that he was descended from the counts

de la Val. Neither claim has stood up under investigation.

Early researchers frequently gave his name as Pierre, and sometimes spelled the last name LaVallais. These seem to have been flights of fancy, for I can find no evidence that he ever went by any name other than Peter LeValley.

He was probably tall, with shoulder-length black hair. This can be deduced from the following:

- His grandson Peleg was six feet, six inches tall (according to Leslie LeValley).
- His daughter Mary King had black hair (according to Lora LaMance).
- The prevailing fashion in his younger years was for long hair and a moustache. By his later years, the moustache had gone out of style.
- Rich people cropped their hair short if they wore wigs, but the inventory of his estate shows that he owned none.
- To this day, baldness is rare among the LeValleys.

World War I draft records almost never recorded a LeValley who was short, stout, or balding. But they show an unusually high number of LeValleys with blue eyes--especially among the descendants of John. Only the lines of Christopher, Cook, and Peter Jr. provide a sampling large enough to be statistically significant, but here are the percentages:

Peter		Blue	Gray	Brown
Peter				
	Peter Sr.	0	0	100
John				
	CHRISTOPHER	58	17	25
	John Jr.	100	0	0
	Peleg	33	66	0
	COOK	55	20	33
	Gardner	100	0	0
Michael				
	PETER JR.	27	27	45
	Benjamin	25	50	25
	Caleb	0	50	50

Reports that he had a different wife back in France are not very convincing. Two names have been offered. The name "Elizabeth" is almost certainly a confusion with his son Peter's wife, Elizabeth Yabsley. The name "Susanna" or "Susanne" appears in sloppy accounts of his family in America, and should probably be taken as reference to his wife Sarah. The report that he had a granddaughter named Susanna has been disproved.

Lee Valley Spencer has a notation marked "Marblehead Vital Records--Peter b. 1675. Moved to Marblehead from Channel Islands in 1700. Moved to Warwick 1727."

There is no landing record. All accounts agree that his ship was attacked by pirates, but that some sort of deal was made whereby the pirates surreptitiously dropped off the

LeValley family at Marblehead MA. No one knows where they were coming from, and no one knows where they were trying to go. Probably not Marblehead, since they didn't stay there long.

Variations on the pirate story have traveled down several lines of the family:

- Descendants of Peter's son Peter

- Descendants of Peter's daughter Mary King

- Descendants of Peter's son John, namely:

 - Descendants of John's son John Jr.

 - Descendants of John's son Peleg

 - Descendants of John's son Cook

- Perhaps descendants of Peter's son Michael

Practically none of these lines had any contact with each other after the Revolutionary War. This means the story is so old that it had to have been told while there were people still living who could have corrected it if it were not so.

Descendants of Peter's son Peter

The Snow ms. mentions the story, but refers to undisclosed evidence from descendants of John Jr. and Michael. See under Michael.

Descendants of Mary King

Lora LaMance: He was a silk merchant robbed by pirates. He came to RI twice from France. He had two wives--one French and one American. Realtor and mariner here. His sons were all mariners and shipbuilders. [Much inaccuracy here. She also told of Magdalen King's father being a pirate, without connecting the two stories.]

The Kettelle family know they are descended from the original Peter, and think it is through Mary King. Their legend differs from all the others. Yvonne Baumeister: I started this portion of my research with the simple statement passed down to me by family that Edmund Kittell's maternal grandfather, who was named Peter LeValley, had been kidnaped at age five from a beach in France and indentured to a farmer.

Minnie Belle Newell, another Kittle descendant:

Peter La Valley, was a Huguenot who fled to America during the French Catholic persecution of Protestants. He paid his passage but was defrauded and his precious Bible stolen. He was sold for his passage money as an indentured servant.

Descendants of John Jr.

The Michigan D.A.R. record on John Jr. states "This LeValley was a descendant of Pierre LeValley, the Huguenot Refugee who had come to Warwick, RI, from France to escape the Insurrection."

Eri LeValley:

When New Netherland and Philadelphia were small hamlets, my [great-] great grandfather, James [Peter] LeValley, a prosperous silk and wine merchant of Lyons, France, traded goods in these towns.

After a few years he decided to settle in Boston, left France with two of his vessels, family and goods.

When off the coast of New England, Captain Kidd, the pirate captured the ship which contained his family and most of his valuables, putting the family on a leaking schooner with two days' provisions. They floated into a harbor used by fishermen, where he lived in a fish hut until he could go to Boston, where he found the other ship which had been separated from him in a storm before the pirates found him.

After trading goods for supplies, he returned to his family and purchased a large tract of land from the Indians and started the town which he named Providence, now the chief city of RI. [This last part is false.]

From the printed biography of Eri LeValley:

His father in turn was a silk merchant and was robbed on the high seas by the notorious pirate Capt. Kidd.

After the robbery, he was placed on board a schooner which floated into a Providence harbor. He laid out the city by that name.

Descendants of Peleg LeValley

David Wilford LeValley, a careful genealogist, wrote: "In addition to the facts capable of absolute proof I will relate the family record as handed down to me by word of mouth & family traditions. As I have been told, the [grand]father of Peleg & Cook LeValley came from France,--was a silk-merchant, was robbed by pirates--landed at Rhode Island.--Afterwards returned to France, then again came to Rhode Island, went into business there.--Married a woman of English ancestry.--had several children."

Leslie LeValley: The LeValleys, who . . . were of French name and descent, . . . were engaged in sea trade between Holland and the West Indies. . . .

At the time when England and France were struggling for the possession and control of most of the great North American continent, Christopher and Holdeen LeValley [names belonging to Peter's great grandsons], probably spelled LaVallee, owned a schooner and were returning to Holland with a cargo of rum from the West Indies when they were overhauled and captured by an English pirate or privateer named Captain Lee. The first mate of the English ship, having in former days sailed with the LeValleys, persuaded Captain Lee to allow his old shipmates to continue their voyage. The English Captain compromised by taking the sails from the LeValley ship, which had been new at the start of the voyage, giving them in exchange his own badly worn canvas. Some rum moved from ship to ship and from cask to mug, and in a gathering storm, the friendly enemies parted. Tradition has it that the storm was too much for the old sails, and with their ship battered and almost disabled, the LeValleys were forced to put into the nearest port, which happened to be Warwick, Rhode Island.

After taking stock of the situation there, Christopher and Holdeen decided it would be prudent to get out of the hazardous shipping business, so they disposed of their ship and its remaining cargo. Holdeen took his share and went to French Canada; Christopher remained in Rhode Island. [In a more dramatized telling of this story, Leslie sets the date as 1748, just after a war between France and England, and gives lingering hostility toward Frenchmen as Holden's reason for leaving. I have found no evidence of

a Canadian brother.]

Descendants of Cook LeValley

Mary Church:

The name was spelled thus: Le Valle. The final y is a yankee innovation & doesn't belong there at all while the spelling of the first syllable with a instead of e is a piece of weak infatuation on the part of those who think they know French but don't.

This man, Le Valle, traded his estate in France for a trading vessel & started trade with the colonies. On his first voyage he encountered a storm & his ship was dismantled. He beat into harbor on the coast of Rhode Island & there traded the hull of his vessel for land.

[In another place, she stated]: Pierre traded his estate in France for one or two vessels to trade with the American colonies. He encountered storms, was dismantled, and foundered on the Rhode Island shore. He traded the hulls for Rhode Island land.

Dorothy Otterson:

There is a tradition in our family that our man was a Count, but no record of his using the title in this country.

Our family always had the legend of a wealthy man, a noble?, who sold all his possessions and came to America with family and servants, was shipwrecked on the coast. Some told that it was two brothers who came in two boats.

The Tolcotts, cousins of the LeValleys in Pennsylvania, tell the story of a famous pirate who knew Peter and took his cargo. Peter said he hoped to see him hanged--and did, in Boston. I asked if the famous pirate could have been Captain Kidd. and was told yes. But he died in London.

Descendants of John Jr. and Michael

The Snow ms. mentions letters by John I and Benjamin W. which supposedly say Peter came from Lyons, France, and was attacked by pirates. This is probably true of John I, who was in contact with his cousin Eri, but the affidavit by Michael's grandson Benjamin makes no mention of pirates. And unlike the above accounts, Benjamin's affidavit accurately has Peter landing at Marblehead MA.

A large LeValley family has spread out from Xenia, Ohio. They cannot be related on this side of the ocean. They trace their ancestry back to Virginia, and the line may go from there back to ship landing records in Georgia in 1735. Could these be relatives from the old country? Could Peter have been heading for any of these destinations before the pirates detoured him?

Whatever his occupation on the other side of the ocean, documents at Marblehead consistently listed him as a fisherman or shoreman. The deed selling his last piece of Marblehead property in 1728 refers to him as a husbandman of Warwick RI. Besides running his large farm, it is known that he was appointed surveyor of Warwick Nov. 24, 1740 and again in 1741.

The earliest solidly documented date we have on him is 1718, when he paid £20 (a hefty

sum) to reserve pew #3 in St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Marblehead. He served for three non-consecutive years as a church vestryman (or member of the large governing board). The fact that he and his Puritan neighbors in Massachusetts referred to each other as heathens should probably not be taken very seriously, as such terminology between high-church and low-church people was commonplace at the time. His name dropped out of the church records three years before he moved to RI.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church records (which start in 1716):

4/21/1718 Peter Lavally paid £20 for pew 3.

3/2/1719 Peter Lavaley elected a vestryman.

7/18/1720 Peter Lavaley among those assessed 7s. 6p. to help pay the minister's rent.

4/10/1721 Peter Lavaley elected as a vestryman.

11/19/1722 Peter LeVallier donated £1 toward the purchase of a church bell.

4/6/1724 Peter LeVallier elected as a vestryman.

Despite being robbed by pirates, he quickly acquired three houses in Marblehead, plus additional land. He must have had other resources.

Marblehead MA land records:

11/15/1723 Peter LeValley, fisherman, bought a house and 2 acres and the right to pasture one cow on the commons in Marblehead MA for £390 from Joseph and Ruth Swett. It bordered NE on a lane or highway, SE on John Yabsley, SW on Richard Skinner, NW formerly on Elias Tayner dece.

1/10/1727 Peter LeValley, fisherman, and Sarah his wife sold the above property for £550 to George Pigot of Monteagle.

2/16/1727 Peter LeValley, shoreman, and Sarah his wife sold some additional land with a house and warehouse (reserving yet another house at the corner) for £250 to John Picket. The property was "near the S end of town bounded NE John Allen and there measures about 4 poles, NW with ye street leading into town and there measures from Allen's land 39'7" to the corner of ye house still reserved by the grantor, SW with the house reserved and extends from the street to land of the purchaser measuring about 4 poles & 4', SE with land of the purchaser and there measures from Allen 41½'."

10/28/1728 Peter LeValley sold the garden and small house SW of the land he sold Picket for £110 to Thomas Grant. It bordered "NW on the street and there measures about 260, NE on land sold to Picket, SE on other land of Picket and there measures 101, SW on Eleven Oaks Land and there measures about 4 poles in depth from the street."

In selling the two Marblehead houses in 1727, he signed with a large P, and Sarah signed with a large S. He later signed his will the same way.

The decision to move split the family right down the middle. His three oldest children had found boyfriends or girlfriends in Marblehead. Rather than leave, they all married within about a year--1726-27. Second daughter Margaret married first. Then probably first daughter Mary. Then first son Peter. Was Peter born before, between, or after these

two sisters? John and Michael came later. Was Sarah born before, between, or after them?

West Warwick and East Greenwich are not pronounced in the British fashions but exactly as spelled.

Peter Lavile admitted Freeman of Warwick at meeting of March 4, 1727/8. Indexed as LeValley--RI. archives. Also listed as 1747--which was the year he and his son John took the Freeman's Oath against bribing officials.

History of Warwick, Rhode Island (1875):

On the south side of the river, on the hill, stands the house owned previous to 1820 [a confusion with his grandson Peter Sr.] by Peter LeValley, who is said to have been a descendant of the Huguenots... Whatever may have been the religious proclivities of Peter LeValley, he found the hill-top overlooking the valley of the Pawtuxet a pleasant place to reside, and here he spent his life rearing his family and cultivating a portion of his extensive farm.

His land at Warwick was at the fork of the Pawtuxet River. Homestead address: 42 Fairview Ave., Phenix, RI (P.O. West Warwick). Cemetery on Card Street. The Coventry RI land records refer to his farm as "No. 1 of the first Deoction of the Seven mens Land." Lee Valley Spencer has a survey map of the original property dated Aug. 22, 1729. I have a dark copy.

Rev, George Pigot, rector of Kings or St. Johns Episcopal Church in Providence: "The first rectory of this church was situated more than a dozen miles away in the heart of the primeval forest"--Hist. of RI. He was transferred to St. Michael's Church in Marblehead, where he gave the first sermon in favor of celebrating Christmas in New England.

Warwick RI land records:

11/24/1727 "George Pigott of Monteaagle" sold to "Peter LeValley... fisherman" for £706 about 250 acres at Warwick RI.

5/29/1749 Sarah Pigot sold her one-seventh of common land to Peter for 5 pounds.

Documents possessed by LeValley family member:

1/14/1740--peter sold 60 acres to John

1/14/1740--Peter sold 60 acres to Michael

Map shows john's, Michael's, and undivided land.

5/21/1748--John Greene sold 48 acres to Peter.

6/21/1756--Michael sold John "part of homstead farm of Peter Levally late of Warwick deceased.""

His cattle mark at Warwick: Square piece cut out of right ear and half penny over and under the left.

7/19/1975 The Pawtuxet Valley Daily Times of West Warwick published a front-page article on Peter's house, and a picture of Lee Valley Spencer standing in front of the

house. The article contains three inaccuracies: the date of construction, a confusion of Peter with his grandson Peter Sr., and the Villette connection stated as fact rather than speculation. I have the article.

May 18, 1990 the Pawtuxet Valley Historical Society put a plaque on the original house, believed to be the oldest in West Warwick. I have a clipping from the Kent County Daily Times.

By the mid-nineteenth century, five villages had reportedly sprung up on his land. River Point was in the fork of the two rivers (west side), Phenix (where the house stands) to the northwest, Clyde across the river north of River Point (that is, east of Phenix), and Lippitt north of Clyde. I have not located Birch Hill. In the early 1800s, Phenix was originally called Roger Williams. All of these are today part of West Warwick.

Anna LeValley wrote in her journal 8/28/1861, "We came round by the old house and had a drink from the old spring." Again 9/6/1861 she wrote, Wednesday I started for a walk and went up to the old homestead. I had another drink from the old spring. I went onto the old hill and ran down it and then went home around by the road." There is a steep drop-off just beyond the remaining woods behind the house. Lee Valley Spencer thinks that the spring was the old well that still stands in front of the house.

A common notation in Rhode Island inventories during the 1700s was "one old gun"--left over from Queen Anne's War (ended 1713) and distributed to each landowning family that cared to ask for one. The other colonies kept their weapons stored in central armories.

The report that one Peter LeValley helped found the Episcopal church at "Frenchtown" in Narragansett RI is probably another flight of fancy.

According to Lee Valley Spencer, Peter was admitted into the old Narragansett Church (St. Paul's) in 1727. It then stood on "The Platform" about 5 miles south of Wickford, or more than 15 miles from the LeValley home. It is now relocated in the village.

The Old Naraganset Church which he attended has been moved to Wickford (North Kingstown) RI where his descendant Peter LeValley Spencer was the rector during the late twentieth century. One or more services are held in the old church each Sunday in July and August. On the first Sunday in August they do a "Queen Anne Service" using the Communion equipment she donated, dressed up in authentic costume, and using the old order of worship. His descendants did not attend this church because another was built closer to Warwick at Cowesett (where he and they were probably all buried).

The History of Warwick records that some gravestones at Cowesett were still standing at the time of publication. (p. 363)

from Hist. of Narragansett Church:

Sept. 9, 1739 Mr. LeValley admitted to Lords Supper. (Note says probably Peter.) Peter attended St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Marblehead. Stayed there

c.1700-c.1726. Moved to Warwick and attended Cowesett Episcopal Church. The LeValley lands were said to embrace "all that you can see." Estate originally called Monteagle because Rev. Pigot tried to claim Barony of Morley and Monteagle in England.

Sarah and Mr. Tingley (a stranger to the minister) sponsored baptism of Mary King's son Paul (stated as Sarah's grandson) May 19, 1751. Several references to baptisms of other King children with Peter as sponsor.

A mistaken notation: Peter LeValley who died at Warwick 1756 had his daughter Magdalene King and grandson Samuel King baptized in 1745.

He may have had a fourth son who died without heirs shortly after marriage. An otherwise unexplained Lewis James LeValley of Warwick married a daughter of Benjamin Bennett of East Greenwich Nov. 7, 1751. This man was too old to be John's son, and Michael was not even married yet. Possibly he could be an unrecorded son of Peter's oldest son Peter, or some more distant relative such as a nephew. The intriguing thing is that in 1740 Peter divided his land into four parts and gave John and Michael their shares. Why would he divide it into four parts if he had only three sons? Possibly because he wanted to live on part of it. But with his oldest son dead, he showed no inclination to surrender that portion to his grandson Peter Sr. until his own death, so he would have had a place to live anyway. It would appear that his estate planning changed between 1740 and 1755--probably after the death of Lewis James in the early 1750s. The listing of the middle name in the records is unusual, and may indicate that the man went by it. John's son Christopher, who would have been 6 to 10 at Lewis James' death, named his first son James.

An alternate explanation for the division of his land into four unequal parts in January 1740: Two things were happening: John married sometime in the early 1740s. The gift of 60 acres may have been a wedding gift, or providing a place for a house in preparation for the wedding. Plans were also underway to divide Warwick later that same year into the towns of Warwick and Coventry, with the dividing line running through the middle of the LeValley land. Very likely, this left 100 acres in Coventry, and 135 acres in Warwick. To treat his two living sons equally, Peter probably intended to give Michael 60 acres on his twenty-first birthday later that year. But when they registered John's deed, they may have learned that the paperwork would be much simpler if the deed to Michael were completed before the division of the town. So they moved that transfer up to the following week. It may be that the westernmost 40 acres in Coventry were wooded or otherwise not equal in value to John's land, so Peter gave . the 60 acres on the Coventry border. This split Peter's land into 75 acres in Warwick where the house stood, and the less desirable 40 acres in Coventry.

A pound in his day had the purchasing power of about 100 pounds today. In other words, he paid the equivalent of \$5,000 for a church pew, and \$142,000 for the original LeValley farm. The inventory of his estate (not counting the land and buildings) calculates to a surprising \$182,000 in today's money. This last figure seems overinflated.

WILL OF PETER LEVALLEY

In the Name of God Amen. The third day of March A.D. 1755 I Peter Levalley of Warwick in the County of Kent, in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. Yeoman, being weak in body but of Perfect mind and Memory, Thanks be given unto God. Therefore calling to mind the mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my Last Will & Testament. That is to say principally and first of all I give and Recommend my Soul, into the hands of God, that gave it and my Body I Recommend to the Earth to be Buried in decent Christian Burial at the Discretion of my Est. nothing Doubting at the Genl. Resurrection I Shall Receive the Same again by the mighty Power of God, And as Touching Such Worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this Life I give Demise & dispose, of the same, in the following manner & form----

Imprimis, I Give to my dearly Beloved Wife Sarah Levalley one Room in my Dwelling house which She Shall think Suitable, and two Milch Cows, and a previledge in my peach orchard, before the door, and all my household Goods, and Twenty bushl. of Corn, every Year, and as much Woll (?) as She Shall have Occation for, her uses, Yearly and the keeping Two Cows, winter and Summer as long as She lives, to be allowed and paid out of my Estate, by my Executors after my decease.

Item. I Give to my beloved Daughter Mary King one hundred and Seventy pounds, in good and Lawful money of New England, or bills of Credit old Tenor, to be paid by my Executors, out of my Estate.

Item. I Give to my Beloved Daughter Margaret Beaubier Two hundred pounds, in good and Lawful money of New-England, or Bills of Credit old Tenor, to be paid out of my Estate by my Executors.

Item. I Give to my beloved Daughter Sarah Cook Two hundred pounds, in Good and Lawful money of New England or Bills of Credit old Tenor, to be paid by my Executor, out of my Estate---

Item. I Give to my Grandson Peter Levalley ... Forty eight acres of Land, and it is the Land I Bought of John Green, forge Master, be the Same more or less formerly the Right of Jeremiah Pearce and thirty acres of Land, of the South west corner, of my homestead Farm to be laid out on a Square, and the above said land I Give to my GrandSon, his Heirs & assigns forever.

Item. I Give to my two Sons, John Levalley and Michal Levalley, my Dwelling house, and all my Land, that is not already disposed of the said house and Land to be equally Divided between them the said John and Michel their heirs and assigns forever. I also give to my two Sons, John Levalley and Michel Levalley all my live Stock and all my out doors Utensils or Farming tools, and all my household Goods after their Mother's desease, to be equally Devided between them the sd. John Levalley and Michel Levalley whom I likewise ordain my two sons, John Levalley and Michel Levalley, my Sole Executors, of this my last Will and Testament, all and Singular my Lands, messuages, (?) and Tennements, by them, freely to be possessed, and enjoyed. And I do hereby Utterly disallow Revoke, and disanovul -(?) all and every other former Testament Wills ... and bequests, and Exeuttors (?) by me in any ways, before Named Willed and bequeathed, Ratyfying and Confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal, the day and Year

within mentioned.

Signed Sealed published, pronounced and Declared, by the Said Peter Levalley as his last Will and Testament in presence of us the Subscribers.

John Streight
Desire Greene
James Greene

his
Peter Levalley
 mark

Accepted by the town council as his last will, June 14, 1756.
Recorded July 9, 1756.

INVENTORY OF PETER LEVALLEY

A true and perfect Inventory of all and Singular the Goods, Chattles, Rights and Credits of Peter LeValley lat of Warwick in the County of Kent deceased, prized by us the Subscribers.....

Imprimis his apparel--one duroy [wool] coat & Jacket,
 leather Breeches.....£ 23.10--
 To one fulled cloath Great coat, Strait bodied coat
 and Jacket, flannel Jacket.....£ 22-----
 To 1 pr. Shoes 50/, 1 pr. Shoes 40/, 4 pr. Stockings
 5.10.....£ 10-----
 To one hat £ 10---, 2 linin Shirts 40/.....£ 12-----

In the Great Room

To one bed, bedstead, bedcord, bolster, two pillows,
 one blanket, one coverlet, 2 sheets, and under bed
 2 pillow Cases, all.....£ 75-----
 To 4 flannel blankets £ 12.10, to 3 lining Sheets,
 2 napkins £ 1.15, all.....£ 24. 5--
 To one chest £ 4---, one table 20/, one low case draws..£ 11-----
 To one table £ 3---, to 5 Cheirs £ 4---, one churn 35/..£ 8.15--
 To pates £ 12.10, to knives and forks 35/, one pr.
 Sheers.....£ 14.12--
 To 2 old bibles, one other book 55/, 2 iron pots,
 one kittle £ 6.5.....£ 9-----
 To 2 hammers, one Tap borer 30/, and other old iron
 20/.....£
 2.10--
 To Earthen Ware 31/, wooden ware 15/, one iron bason
 25/.....£
 3.11--
 To pr, Steelyards [scales] 25/, 2 augers 50/, one
 Chissel and Saw £ 6.....£ 9.15--
 To 1 Spit, one Scure, 1 iron bason, 1 fire pan £ 3.5....£ 3. 5--
 To one hatchet £ 8---, one cain 30/, 2 curtain rods
 20/.....£ 10.10--
 To one looking Glass 5/, one mortar and Pestle 2/.....
 To one Warming pan £ 8---, 2 candlesticks, other things
 on the Shelf.....£ 8.10--
 To one Gun £ 12---, 1 pr. bellows 5/.....£ 12. 5--
 To 3 pails, 1 tub, one half busshel.....£ 3-----
 To pr. andirons £ 20---, 2 trammels [chains to hang
 cooking pots], Slice [fire shovel] & tongs £ 8.....£ 28-----
 To one Gridiron 40/.....£ 2-----

In the backroom -----

To one brass kittle £ 15/ one iron kittle £ 8---
 wheel 50/.....£ 25.10--
 To one linin wheel £ 4--, one clock Peal [bell] 40/.....£ 6--
 To one Note hand £ 4.10, book accts. £ 24.7.8.....£ 28.17.8
 To one pistareen [coin of Spanish West Indies] 16/,
 one small trunk 30/£ 2. 6--

To one book for accts.....£ 2-----

In the Chamber

To Loom, 3 Geers, 4 Shuttles.....£ 18-----

To one bed, bedstead, bedcord & bedding, 2 Rugs.....£ 50-----

To one pillion [saddle cushion] £ 5---, 3 Riddles

[sieves[35/, one bedstead 30/.....£ 8. 5--

£ 435.13.8

Brought Over

£ 435-13.8

Out doors Utensils

To 2 Chains £ 16., 2 Rings, and Staples 40/.....	£ 18. 5--
To bread trough and clever 30/, 11 harrow teeth £ 12.5...	13.15--
To 2 sets plow irons.....	£ 11-----To
one bed bolster and pillow.....	£ 25-----
To one Mair and Colt.....	£ 80-----
To one ox £ 55, pr. stags [bulls] £ 75--, one yerling heifer £ 11.....	141-----
To 2 Cows £ 80---, one cow £ 28---, one yerling £ 10---	118-----
To 20 Sheep £ 55---/ 4 Shoats [pigs] £ 20.....	£ 75-----
To one iron bar £ 6---, one horse collar 30/.....	£ 7.10--
To one drawing knife 40/ one wheel 50/.....	£ 4.10--
To one Spade 45/, horse trace [strap] £ 5---.....	£ 7. 5--
To one Sledge 45/, Stub Scithe ----- 30/.....	£ 3.15--
To one iron bar 3---, one iron pin 30/.....	£ 4.10--
To wooden funnel 20/, one tin funnel 5/.....	£ 1. 5--
	<hr/>
	£ 945.18--

The above and foregoing is a true inventory taken by us the
Subscribers this 14th day of June A.D. 1756 -----
Taken in Warwick in the County of Kent

By James Greene
Job Greene-----

James Green of Warwick Esq, and Mr. Job Green of Coventry Came before the Town Council of Warwick the 14th day of June in the 29th Year of his Majesty's Reign George the Second King Over Great Britain &c. Anno Dom. one thousand Seven hundred and fifty Six, and upon Oath Declared that the afore Written Inventory was taken by them according to the best of their Judgement and that the Same was an account of all the personal Estate of the Said Peter LeValley deceased that was Shewn and Set forth to them by John LeValley & Michel LeValley. And John LeValley and Michel LeValley came before the afore Said Town Council likewise and upon Oath declared that they had Shewn and Set forth unto the afore Said James Greene and Job Greene all the personal Estate of the Said Peter LeValley deceased as had come to their hands, possession, and knowledge, and that if any thing more hereafter Should come to their hands or knowledge, would cause the Same to be added to the afore written Inventory.

Warwick June 14th, 1756

Teste. Jer. Lippitt, Con. Clk.

Registered July 10th, 1756

By J. Lippitt, Clk.

B-1

JOHN LEVALLEY

- b. 1714
- m. (1) Hester [probably Cook] (d. c. 1767, probably bur. Cowesett RI cem.--now vanished)
(2) c.1779 Anne (d. 3/18/1814 Warwick RI)
d. Nov. 26, 1808 Warwick RI age 94
bur. perhaps with Anne under uninscribed natural rock headstones in the first two graves of what became known as the Peter LeValley Cem. Warwick RI

census:

1747 Warwick RI--John

1774 Warwick RI--2 m 16+ [John & John Jr.], 2 m 0-16 [Peleg & Cook], 1 f 16+ [Hester], 1 f 0-16 [who?]

1777 Warwick RI--age 50-60 and able

1782 Warwick RI--1 m 50+ [John], 1 m 0-16 [the younger Christopher], 1 f 22-50 [Anne], 1 f 16-22 [who?], 1 f 10-16 [Martha G.]

1790 Warwick RI--John, 2 m 0-16 [Christopher & Gardner], 3 f [Anne, Martha G., Sarah]

1800 Warwick RI--couple 45+, 1 m 16-26 [Christopher], 2 m 10-16 [Gardner & who?], 2 f 10-16 [Sarah & who?]

1810 Warwick RI--Nancy (later listed as Anna): 1 f 45+, 1 f 25-45 [who?], 1 f 16-26 [Sarah], 1 f helper

The 1714 birthdate was simply calculated back from his age at death. But David Wilford LeValley arrived at a date of 1715.

One of his wives was said to be the sister of his brother-in-law, Peleg Cook.

Hester was closer in age, and did name one son Peleg and another one Cook. A 1768 letter from Christopher Beaubier at Marblehead MA to John at Warwick RI appears to report the death of Hester's father without naming him. Claims that these Cooks descended from Francis Cooke, 17th signer of the Mayflower Compact appear unfounded.

David Wilford LeValley: "There was a family tradition that they were related to Captain Cook the English navigator."

Hester died sometime between 1758 when she sold land jointly with her husband, and 1778 when he sold land by himself--apparently a widower. (Anne first appears in the land records in 1783, though she and John probably married about 1779.) Hester's last daughter was born sometime between 1762 and 1766. Hester was probably dead in 1768 when Christopher Beaubier waited four months before bothering to write John that his father-in-law had died--hardly the way to inform a grieving daughter.

Anne must have been close in age to the children from John's first marriage--which may

partially explain Peleg and John Jr.'s disrespect for her and her children.

Caleb Hathaway was the father-in-law of John's niece. But that does not seem sufficient to explain Hathaway's deep involvement in John's family finances in the 1780's, Could he have been the father or brother of Anne?

One of Carll LeValley's (grandson of Gardner T.) great-grandmothers was Irish. Could that have been Anne?

The family began farming at Warwick when he was 13. He would have been his father's main helper in clearing the stony fields. (His brother Michael was only 7.) Those large stones are now piled into fences. John may have had to help clear trees too, as the place was called a wilderness when Rev. Piggott moved there, and the clergyman probably did not engage in farming.

1739 John LeValley of Warwick admitted as freeman of RI by the General Assembly.
1747 He took the Freeman's Oath against bribing officials.
9/17/1776 He signed the Association Test.

The Town of Warwick paid one John LeValley for services during March, June, July, Aug., Sept., and Oct. 1781. This was probably his son John Jr.--a known soldier. The father was getting a bit old for such things.

Rhode Island archives:

11/28/1745 He won a trespass case against the tax collector and recovered his taxes.

8/16/1746 He was paid five pounds owed from the estate of Thomas Freeborn.

8/19/1751 Lottery petition and sheet of calculations both in his handwriting. He signed first,

3/1/1765 Listed among signers of petitions against dividing Warwick.

4/20/1796 He signed a petition for a dam so the mill could grind corn faster.

Documents possessed by LeValley family member (I have photo copies):

3/28/1755--John wrote and witnessed a note by Michael promising to pay Peter Sr. (then called Jr.) 118 pounds and 10 shillings by Nov. 1. Both John and Michael signed.

6/21/1756--Michael sold 15 acres "part of the homestead farm of Peter LeValley late of Warwick deceased" to John for 300 pounds.

10/10/1758--John (and Hester who signed with an X) sold 8 acres to Michael for 300 pounds

10/10/1758--Michael sold 8 acres to John for 240 pounds.

1/12/1769--boundary delineation between Job Greene and John and Michael.

12/21/1778--John sold 20 acres off the west end to Cook, kept 12 acres at the east end for himself, and sold the rest jointly to Peleg and John Jr.

12/21/1778--Peleg, John Jr. and Cook gave John a life lease of the land he had just sold them. Cook did not sign.

Warwick RI land records:

1758 John sold land to Michael

1778 Cook et. al. granted a life estate to John
 1778 John Jr. & Peleg granted a life estate to John
 1778 John sold land to Peleg & John Jr. & Cook
 12/7/1783 John and wife Anne took out a mortgage for £24 & 6 shillings
 on twelve acres from Job Manchester and Josiah Potter. He and Anne both
 signed. The land bordered Peter Jr. on the west and north, and Peleg and John
 Jr. on the east.
 1/8/1784 John and Anne sold the above 12 acres to Stukeley Hudson for £30. [More
 likely this was an indenture of lien, or mortgage transfer--notes
 1/5/1786 Peleg gave him lifetime use of land at Warwick, and sold his right of inheritance
 to Josiah and William for a value to be determined at John's death.
 1/28/1809 Price on the above set at \$725.
 7/24/1786 He granted an indenture of lien on 40 acres for £120 to John Jr. & William &
 Josiah. They granted him a life lease. It bordered Cook on the east
 7/24/1786 John Jr. et. al. acknowledged their debt to John for the above.
 9/4/1786 Caleb Hathaway paid off his mortgage of 12/7/1783
 1/1/1787 John Jr. agreed to pay John "one tun of English hay" every year of John's life.
 Cook and Peleg witnessed.
 1/23/1794 He and Job Green signed an agreement on a dividing fence. The boundary
 ran south of John's barn. The Greenes were to get the fence rails.
 11/28/1796 He transferred his ton of hay payments (of 1/1/1787) to Caleb Hathaway [who
 transferred them back to Gardner T. 6/8/1805]

Though it seems unlikely he would be buried away from the rest of his family, it is possible
 that two field stone markers in the Peter LeValley cemetery designate his and Anne's
 graves. They divide the Manchester section from the LeValley section, but someone has
 erected identical tombstones for all Manchesters (including children), so these stones
 must belong to LeValleys. The plot had to have been marked out by 1809, but none of
 Peter's family are known to have died that early. Perhaps the unexpected death of
 John's younger son Christopher in 1807 filled up the old family plot at Cowesett.

Warwick probate records:

12/17/1808 Gardner T. appointed administrator of the estate of John who died intestate.

Unlike his father and nephews who busied themselves acquiring more land, John
 concentrated on refining what he already had. The house underwent a massive
 rebuilding and expansion, and he added several fine outbuildings.

The LeValleys seem to have been a little more educated and lived on a grander scale
 than some of their Baptist neighbors. So when two of his sons complained, the
 puritanical town council was all too willing to declare John a wastrel. (His
 daughter-in-law Bethia may have been the driving force behind this move; at least she
 wrote out documents in her bad spelling and handwriting for the others to sign when the
 whole scheme collapsed and they decided to leave.) Among other charges, John was
 accused of drinking strong liquors--though his estate inventory showed only a barrel of
 cider. Feisty as ever, John fought the guardianship up to the state legislature--and won.

An 1886 newspaper article about his grandnephew Benjamin reminisced that "The greater part of the new village of Phenix was at that time [1815] a forest and it was not a place noted for its strong temperance principles.

Despite the fears of his sons and the town elders, John certainly did not die penniless. Though he had sold off all the land to his sons, he still left a larger personal estate than his nephew Peter Sr. did. Peleg's share came to \$725, and that of John Jr.'s children was worth \$600 more than previously expected (£ 90). Since Gardner administered the estate, it hardly seems likely that he would have let himself, his two sisters, or his mother Anne be cut out. In the absence of a will, common law probably applied, in which case it would have been divided at least eleven ways between John's widow and surviving children or their heirs. Thus, his personal estate totaled at an absolute minimum \$1,450, and more likely was \$7,975--respectable amounts in either case. This would be in the \$18,000 to \$100,000 range today.

The newspaper reported that he died "in the 94th year of his age, deeply and justly regretted by all his acquaintance."

His sons each chose a different profession--mostly in the skilled trades:

- Christopher--soldier (probably not full time)
- John Jr.--clock manufacturer and Indian trader
- Peleg--farmer
- Cook--blacksmith
- younger Christopher--sailor
- Gardner--carpenter

Susannah LeVallee Sabin, long thought to be his daughter, could not possibly have been. Her dates are too early, and no such person ever appeared in the Warwick records.

Lora LaMance claimed that his descendants included Eunice, Esther, and Elizabeth who all married Quinceys. This is totally false. Eunice DeVolney (ancestry known) m. a Quincey, and her two above-named aunts m. Sewells. They are no relation to LeValleys.

Children of John LeValley--

By his first marriage to Hester Cook:

Martha (Brayton) c.1741-76
Christopher A. c.1746-c-76
Mary (Straight) c.1753-c.76
John Jr. c.1757-c.1808
Peleg 1759-1833
Cook 1761-1838/9
daughter c.1763-

Censuses of 1774 and 1782

By his second marriage to Anne:

Martha Greene (Foster) 1780-1823
Christopher A. 1782-1807
Gardner Thurston 1786-1877
Sarah (Parish) c.1787-

Named after her dead sister
Named after his dead brother
Named after a famous minister

The listing of children from the second marriage is based on slender evidence.

The Snow ms. also lists a James from the first marriage. That may be a confusion with Christopher's son James or it could be a child who died young.

FILE ON JOHN LEVALLEY
RHODE ISLAND STATE ARCHIVES

At a Council meeting held in Warwick in the County of Kent on the 21st day of April A.D. 1784

WHEREAS it hath been fully proved to this Council that John LeValley of said Warwick, for want of discretion in managing his Estate, is like to bring himself & family to want & misery, and thereby become Chargeable to said town of Warwick--this Council after taking the subject matter under Consideration, do adjudge it necessary that Some Suitable person or persons be Immediately appointed as guardian to the said John LeValley-Therefore do appoint Peleg LeValley & John LeValley Jr.(Sons of the aforesaid John LeValley) to be Guardians over the said John LeValley, they giving Bond as the Law directs.

To the Honorable the General Assembly Sitting at Newport the fourth Monday of June A.D. 1784

John LeValley of Warwick in the County of Kent Yeoman humbly sheweth that on the Twenty first day of April A.D. 1784, The Town Council of the Town of Warwick in said County of Kent, adjudged him incapable of transacting his Secular Business, and appointed his Son John a Guardian over him; Your Petitioner begs Liberty therefore to observe that from his Youth to his present advanced Age he hath used an honest Industry, and lived in a Sober Manner, That he hath acquired a competent Estate, whereby he is able to support himself and Family, And finds himself as capable as ever he was of managing the Same to Advantage; Wherefore he humbly prays your Honors to annul the Order of the Said Town Council, and restore him to his Liberty; And as in duty bound will ever pray,

John LeValley

In the Lower House 1st July 1784

Noted that this Petition be received & referred to the next Sessions, & that, in the mean Time, the Town Council of Warwick be notified to Shew Cause, If any they have why the Same should not be granted. Noted and passed by Order

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the state of Rhode Island

As the Town Councils are officers under oath, acting under the Honorable General Assembly, by virtue of the Laws of the State aforesaid, they trust and believe their

Relation of facts will be Received & Credited.--we are far from wishing to Exaggerate or render John LeValley or family more odious than the Case Requires.--The farm he Possessed Contains upward of one hundred Acres of good Land,, mostly under improvement, his family Consists of himself, wife, & two Children, and it appears he now is at Least four hundred dollars in debt, notwithstanding the great waste he hath made of timber on said farm within a few years past--hath neither Cow nor Sheep, having parted with all his stock except one pair of Oxen & a horse.--his sons in the year 1778 paid all. his debts he acquainted them with, which was nearly all he owed at that time, in Consideration of which he gave his sons a deed in fee Simple to all his Land (Except about twelve acres) his sons gave him a lease for life of the said land at the same time--The twelve Acres the said John LeValley hath Since sold, and from the vicinity, and our own knowledge, we are fully persuaded that one great Cause of the said John LeValley's being so greatly involved in debt, is owing to entertaining too much Company, and too frequently. & Lavishly purchasing of strong Liquors, and it Is worthy of notice, that even Mr. Hudson Late an inholder of Warwick, who appeared at Council as an Advocate for the said John LeValley, to oppose his being put under guardianship, agreed he spent at his house Fifteen dollars, in such a way as he did not see Cause to tell, more than it was by keeping bad Company, and that the said Hudson had said LeValley's note of hand for the same. And we have every reason to believe, that if the Law is ever put in force, upon the occasion of men's wanting discretion in managing their affairs, it ought to be in this Case, more than any other we ever were Acquainted with.--We are with Respect your Honors' most Obedient & Humble servants.

Signed by order, and In behalf of the Town Council of Warwick--

To the Sherriff, his Deputy or to either of the Town Sarjeants or Constables, in the County of Kent Greeting.

You are hearby in the name of the Governor and Company of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation Required to Arrest the Body of John LeValley of Warwick in Said County of Kent Yeoman, (if he may be found in your precinct) and for want of his body to Attach his Goods and Chattles, and him or them in Safe Custody keep until he Give Sufficient bond to Answer the Complaint of Thomas Remington of Warwick in Said County Yeoman, At a Justice's Court to be held in Said Warwick According to Law, at the Dwelling house of Gideon Arnold, Inholder, on the 12th day of February Instant, at twelve of the Clock at noon in Said day, In an Action of the Case for the Recovery of money due by note, Whereupon the Plaintiff Complains and saith that at Warwick aforesaid, on the 12th day of August 1782 The Defendant did then and. there for value Received by a Certain note of that date by him Signed, promise and on himself assume to pay the Plaintiff Three pounds Fifteen Shillings and three pence Lawful Silver money, with interest on demand till paid, as per Said note with other evidence in Court to be introduced will fully appear, The which Sum and interest though often Requested the Defendant hath hitherto refused and Still doth Refuse to pay the Same Which Is to the Damage of the Plaintiff (as he saith) Six pounds Lawful money, and hereupon he brings

his Suit. hereof fail not but true Return make with Your doings thereon. Given under my hand and Seal at Warwick Aforesaid this 19th day of February in the 9th Year of American Independence A.D. 1785

James Jerauld, Just. Peace

[Note--the lender had to be charging nearly 25% interest.]

The Deposition of Thomas Bautholick Residing in West Greenwich in the (County of Kent and State of Rhode Island &c. of Lawfull age and Engaged according to Law Testifyeth and Saith--That I the Deponant was at the house of Mr. John LeValley of Warwick on the 16th Day of this Instant and I heard Mr. LeValley Complaining of the Conduct of his two Sons Namely Peleg and John LeValley of the abuse and wastage that was made of the Timber on his, the Said Mr. John LeValley's farm and he the Said John LeValley Desired me the Deponant to go with him and View the Same and I went with him and I Counted the Tops of Twenty five Large Trees that appeared by their Looks to have been Cut the Summer and fall Last past and I also Saw a Number of Large Stumps the Trees all Gone that appeared also to be Cut Since Last Spring; Then the Said John LeValley Desired me to Go to the Barne with him and I went and there See a Quantity of flax in the Straw that appeared to be the Groweth of Last Summer that had not been Rotted; then the Said John LeValley Desired me the Deponant to Go with him and Look at a Lot of Land that he had in Coventry adjoining the Land of Peter LeValley and then I See where the Devision fence was taken away that to my Knowledge had been Standing there Twenty-five years and he the Said John LeValley Told me that the fence was taken away since the Guardian was appointed over him;--
And further the Deponant Saith not---

2/21/1785

The deposition of Josiah Potter of Coventry in the County of Kent &c. of Lawful age, being duly Sworn Saith that about the middle of this month I went by the Request of John LeValley onto his Land to View the waste made of his Timber the Last Year by the pretended Guardians and I then and there Counted about Forty Stumps which appeared to have been the Largest Trees on Said Farm. Said trees appeared to have been Cut the Last Spring and Summer. and whereas I have been Informed that Stephen Arnold Esqr, Reported to the Town Council of Warwick at the Time said Council Voted the Said John LeValley should be Guardianed that I the Subscriber had Sold the Said John LeValley Syder at ten dollars per barrel and had Taken a mortgage of Said LeValley's Land for the Same which is absolutely False in fact and I also Declare that a few days ago I Heard Peleg LeValley one of the nominal Guardians as above mentioned to his Father John LeValley that he would make other... destruction in his the Said John LeValley's Timber the Year to Come than they had done the Year passed. the foregoing

Expression happened in Consequence of the Said John LeValley's Complaining in my hearing of the havock the Said Peleg and his brother the other pretended Guardian had made as afore declared.

And further I the deponant Say not.

2/28/1785

[There are eight additional depositions attesting to John LeValley's frugality and continued mental alertness, signed by:

William Aldrich, physician
Thankfull Hammett, tenant
Caleb Hathaway, neighbor
Stutely Hudson, saloon keeper (no extravagance)
Elijah Leonard, tenant
Hannah Leonard, tenant
Thomas Potter, neighbor
25 old friends and neighbors]

The following will Inform the Honorable General Assembly of the Treatment Your Honors' petitioner Hathe Received since the worshipfull Town Council of Warwick Voted Your petitioner under Guardians by the Information of the Noted Stephen Arnold of Said Warwick Esqr. and never Required bonds of Said Guardians whereby Your petitioner mite have been Righted if afterwards he should have been Deemed Compos mentis. Said pretended Guardians took into their possession my farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Said Warwick and thirteen acres in Coventry adjoining the forge Land. The whole of Said Land Annually produced Sixteen tons of Good hay and two hundred bushels of Grain and between forty and fifty barrels of Syder. They also took into their possession Two barns and two Corncrib Standing on my Land in Warwick aforesaid and Sold all my Corn saving one bushel which they Let me have. Afterward, they delt out to me, my wife, and two Children, Sometimes halfe a peck of meal, Sometimes Less and Sometimes a Little more. I have been gone Some days at Different Times from home and when I returned home found my wife and Children had nothing to Eat all day as my wife told me and Said pretended Guardians had not offered them anything, they living all the while in part of the house with Your petitioner's Family. This fall the persons who occupyes Said premises Let me dig about Six bushels of potatoes which Remained in a acre and half of Land after they had done digging and had let the hogs run among them for Some time. They also suffered us to pick up about Four or five bushels of winter apples when there was Seventy or Eighty bushels in said orchards. And Soon after the Vote of the Council as above said the Line fence between my Land in Coventry and the Land of Peter LeValley who is brother in Law to the forenamed Stephen Arnold was Carried Clear away and hath not been yet Returned which had been Standing as a division fence for near thirty Years Last before said Vote of Council was Passed.

John LeValley

[All of the above are in the handwriting of various public officials--except the last item, which is in the handwriting of John LeValley.]

DEED OF SIXTY ACRES FROM PETER TO JOHN

Know all men before whom these presents shall come that I Peter LeValley of Warwick in the County of Providence, in the Colony of Rhode Island in New England &c. Yeoman, Sendeth Greeting. Know Ye, that I Peter LeValley for and in Consideration of the love and good affection I bear to my Son John LeValley, of the Town and Colony aforesaid Yeoman. Do by these presents fairly give, grant Enfeoffe make and pass over from me my heirs Executors and Adminstrs. unto my said Son John LeValley, his heirs Executors Adminstrs. and Assigns, a certain tract or parcel of land Situate lying and being within the Jurisdiction of the sd. Warwick in the County and Colony aforesaid, and is in that part of said Warwick purchase called the Seven men's land, & being in the fork of Pawtuxet River, and is part of that farm which I Bought of George Pigot. No. one, as by the plan. Bounded Easterly on the Wuncheconet farms or highway, and Northerly by Nortick farms, Southerly by lands of Job Greene, and to extend as far Westerly as to make Sixty acres. The said Peter LeValley do give & pass over to my said Son John LeValley his heirs Exectrs. Adminstrs. & Assigns, with and Singular Privileges profits & appurtenances & Commodities to the said land belonging or in any wise appertaining. I do freely give grant Enfeoffe make and pass over from me my heirs Exacutors & Admstrs. unto my said son John LeValley his heirs Executrs. Admstrs. and Assigns:--To have and to hold forever as an absolute Indefeasable state of inheritance in fee Simple: without any Condition Reservation or Restriction whatsoever, Clearly & truly Exonerated acquitted and discharged, and my Son John LeValley Invested and possessed of the above Demised premises, and every part and parcel thereof. Moreover my Said Son John LeValley by these presents his heirs Executors Admstrs. and Assigns, Shall be forever hereafter Warrentized, Saved and kept harmless of and from all & all manner of Challenges, Claims or Demands to the above demised premises, or any part thereof under what pretense forever. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this Tenth day of January in the 14th year of his Majestie's Reign George the Second King of Great Britain &c.

Signed Sealed & Delivered in the presence of

James Greene
Desire Greene

his
Peter P LeValley
mark

Recorded in Warwick Records, in Sixth book of land Evidences page 321. LeValley family member has a handwritten copy. I have a photostatic copy of that.

LEASE BY JOHN TO JOHN JR., WILLIAM, AND JOSIAH 7/24/1786

This Indenter Lease made the twenty-fourth day of July 1786 Witnesseth That I John LeValley of Warwick in the County of Kent and State of Rhodisland yeoman---- Have Rented for the term of five years from the first day of April one thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Eight to John LeValley Jr. and William LeValley both of Warwick and Josiah LeValley of Coventry all of the County and State aforesaid yeoman all the farm in Said Warwick on which I now reside that I hold by lese from my Sons John LeValley Jr. and Peleg LeValley except three quarters of an acre which I reserve for green lause-----

The Said John LeValley Jr., William LeValley and Josiah LeValley are to do all the Labour on Said Farm and are to deliver to the Said John LeValley one half part of all the produce thay raise on Said Farm in the Fall of each of the Five years The Said John LeValley to pay half the taxes and the John LeValley Jr., William LeValley and Josiah LeValley to pay the other half.

and the Said John, William and Josiah are not to Commit no Waste of timber or any other thing and are to delever up said Farm to the Said John LeValley at the expiration of the Five years from the First day of april A.D. 1788 in as good order as they recivd it Which is to be on the First day of april A.D. 1788 In Witness whereof we the Said parties have Set our hands and affored our Seals the day and year above Written

Signd Seald and Deliverd in

present of
Charles Holden
Charles Holden Jun.
Thomas Rice Jun.
Josephus Rice

John LeValley
John LeValley Jun.
Josiah LeValley
William LeValley

[It is in the handwriting of William LeValley, who signed.]

REASSIGNMENT OF LEASE BY JOHN JR.

I the Subscriber John LeValley Juner Doth make over his Part of one Leas that his father give to Sd. John LeValley Juner and Josiah LeValley and William LeValley for five years and the Sd. Peter LeValley to manag Sd. Part in the Same maner as the Sd. John LeValley Wold Due and to Retorn the Parts of Purduse in the Fol of the year Wen fit for market to the Sd. John LeValley seanur and I the Sd. John LeValley Jun. Doth Sine this Enstremet mad this 20 dy of march AD. 1788

I the Sd. John LeValley Juner Doth Pomes to Pay for the feting up Sd Beling If the Sd. Peter LeValley Doth anny thing to Sd. Belding

John LeValley Jun.

[The crude handwriting and spelling probably belong to Bethia, wife of John Jr. John Jr.

signed.]

RELEASE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN BY JOHN JR.

To all People to whom these presents Shall Come Greeting Know Ye that I John LeValley Jun. of Warwick in the County of Kent & State of Rhode Island for and in Consideration of the Sum of Ninety pounds Lawfull Mony to me in hand before the ensealing hereof well and truly paid by Peter LeValley Senior of the Town County & State aforstd Yeoman the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and am therewith fully satisfied Contented and paid Have Remised Released & for ever Quit Claimed and by these presents do for myself heirs Executors and admistrators Remise Release and forever Quit Clame unto the Said Peter LeValley Senior his heirs and assigns forever all my right Title Interest Calme or demand That I now have or Ever Can have in Said land That my onred Farther John LeValley Give to me & my brother Peleg LeValley by Deed of Guift Situate lying & being in Warwick aforesaid or elsewhere

To have and to hold the Said Remised Released and Quit Claimed premises with the appurtencenen unto him the Said Peter LeValley Senior and to his heirs and assigns forever and I Elibeth LeValley wife of the Said John LeValley Jun. for the Consideration aforesaid do by these presents freely & willingly give yeild up & surrender unto him the Said Peter LeValley Senior his heires and assigns forever all my Right of dower & power of thurds of in unto the aforesaid Quit Claimed premises In Witness whereof we the Said John LeValley Jun. and Elibith LeValley have here unto Set our hands & Seals the Eighteenth day of March Anno Domini one thusand Eight hundred and Eighty Eight. Signed Sealed & delivered in

presence of-----

Thomas Rice Jun.

William LeValley

John LeValley Jun.

Bethiah LeValley

{All of the above signed.}

SALE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN TO PETER SR.

Know all men by these presents that We Richard G. LeValley, and Holden LeValley and Christopher LeValley all of the town of Telarenee (?) in the County of Oneida, State of New York, and Hannah LeValley of the Town of Weston in said County and Louisville H. Thomas and Mary his wife of the Town of Gorham County of Ontario in the State aforesaid, for and Consideration of the Sum of Six Hundred Dollars to us in hand paid by Peter LeValley of Warwick in the County of Kent and State of Rhode Island &c. the Receipt whereof We whereby Acknowlege, have Remised Released and forever Quit Claimed and do by these presents remise release and forever Quit Claim Unto the said Peter LeValley his heirs and assigns forever. That is to say the said Holden LeValley, Christopher LeValley, Hannah LeValley, Louisville H. Thomas & Mary his wife by and

through a Power of Attorney Duly Executed and annexed to these presents given to the said Richard G. LeValley --- all our Right title Interest property Claim and Demand of what Ever Name or Nature that we now have ever had or ought of Right to have in or unto the Real Estate of John LeValley Late of Warwick Deceased, and also all Claim and Demands whatsoever we may have ought of Right to have against the Said Peter LeValley in Consequence of any Written agreement which the said Pater at any time heretofore may have given our honoured father John LeValley Jr. Late of Hancock County of Berkeshire State of Massachusetts Deceased--which we may Claim as heirs at Law of said John LeValley Jr. Deceased.

To have and to hold the Same together with all the privileges and appurtenances thereinto belonging to him the said Peter LeValley his heirs and assigns forever. In Witness whereof I the said Richard G. LeValley have hereunto Set my hand and Seal at Warwick the 25 day of Feby. A.D. one thousand Eight Hundred and Nine in my own Right and as Attorney to the aforesaid Holden, Christopher, Hannah, Louisville and Mary. Signed Sealed & Delivered in presence of

Bowen Arnold
Charles Brayton

Richard G. LeValley

[LeValley family member has copies of all these deeds, and the original of the last one. I have photocopies of each.]

A-3

PETER LEVALLEY SR.

bap. Oct. 13, 1728 St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Marblehead, MA
m. May 11, 1755 Mary Haynes (dau. Josiah, b. 12/19/1734 Warwick RI, d. 7/24/1805 in
71st yr.) at Warwick RI
d. March 28, 1818 Warwick RI, in 88th yr.
bur. Peter LeValley cem. Phenix RI with wife and descendants

census:

1774 Warwick--2 m 16+ [Peter & Josiah], 2 m 0-16 [should be 3], 2 f 16+ [Mary &
Elizabeth], 3 f 0-16 [Margaret, Ruth, Anna]

1777 Warwick--age 16-50 and able

1782 Warwick--1 m 50+ [Peter], 1 f 22-50 [Mary], 2 m 22-50 [Josiah & William], 1 f 16-22
[should be 2]. 2 f 0-16 [should be 3], 1 m 0-16 [who?]

1790 Warwick--3 m [Peter, Thomas, Stephen], 5 f [Mary, Anna, Catherine, Mary & who?]

1800 Warwick--couple, 1 f 26-45 [Anna], 2 f 16-26 [Catherine & Mary]

1810 Warwick--Peter, 3 f 26-45 [Anna, Catherine, Mary], 1 f 10-16 [probably his
granddaughter Amanda in the wrong column]

military:

8/8/1763 Ensign--Lee Valley Spencer has the commission, signed by Governor Stephen
Hopkins. I have a copy.

In 1777 his son William substituted for him in the RI militia. There is no evidence that
Peter served in the revolution. The official marker on his grave probably belongs
on the grave of Peter Jr.

Though he was the third and final Peter of his direct line, he was called Peter Sr. to
distinguish him from his younger cousin Peter. During his grandfather's lifetime, he had
been known as Peter Jr. His younger cousin Peter was born shortly after the grandfather
died. Then this Peter became Peter Sr.

The 1730 birthdate on his tombstone is wrong. One reading of his tombstone says b.
1830, d. Dec. 28, 1818.

He was raised by the Yabsley family. He could not read or write--though he could sign
his name. The LeValleys thought this was a disgrace.

Settled in Valley of Pawtuxet 1757.

Contradictory record: age 89 in 1818.

RI Archives:

3//1765 Listed among signers of petitions against dividing Warwick.

Feb. 1801 Listed among signers of a petition for a fish route to be constructed around

several dams so the fish could get upstream and the signers could go fishing.

History of Warwick, Rhode Island (1875):

Peter LeValley gradually added to his domain by inheritance and purchase until he became a large land holder. His farm embraced a tract of several hundred acres in extent, reaching as far at least as the pleasant residence of Henry L. Greene, Esq. in that direction, and winding around southerly and westerly so as to embrace the grounds now known as the Greenwood Cemetery. At his death about the year 1820, his estate was divided among his children. His son Thomas, when the turnpike was built, erected the house on the opposite side of the road, now occupied by John LeValley; Josiah and William, Ruth who married Samuel Baker, of Natick Hill; Catherine, who died unmarried; Margaret, who married Judge Henry Remington, and Mary, the mother of the eccentric Amanda, were his children.

Documents possessed by LeValley family member:

- 3/28/1755--Michael signed a note for 118 pounds and ten shillings due Nov. 1 to Peter Sr. (then called Jr.). John witnessed.
- 6/25/1756--Peter sold land (all?) given him in grandfather Peter's will to Michael for 600 pounds.
- 3/5/1757 Job Greene sold 50 acres in Coventry to Peter for £1260. It bordered Michael on the south.
- 4/30/1761 Job Greene sold an adjoining 25 acres (on the north) to Peter for £1100.
- 11/15/1769 Elizabeth Lee Jr. sold Peter land in Marblehead for 15 pounds. Peter Bubier and William Bubier witnessed.
- 3/18/1788--John Jr. and Bethiah sold their half-interest in the estate of John to Peter Sr. for 90 pounds.
- 3/20/1788--John Jr. assigned to Peter Sr. his share of a five-year lease with William and Josiah of John's land.
- 6/20/1778--Several Greenes sold Peter 30 acres.
- 1/27/1785--Peter Jr, son of Michael and his wife Catherine sold all their land left them by Michael to Peter Sr. for \$440. Recorded in Warwick land records book 11, p. 444.
- 1/7/1786--John Nichols sold land to Peter for 60 pounds.
- 1791--Peter signed many promissory notes.
- 11/8/1791--Peter sold Lee property in Marblehead to Richard Martin.
- 2/2/1793--Benjamin A. sold all the land he inherited from Michael to Peter--(probably Peter Sr, since the land abuts with John's)
- 9/24/1799--Mary sold all land from her father Michael to Peter for \$250.
- 10/12/1799--Caleb sold the land inherited from Michael to Peter for \$250.
- 2/25/1809--Children of John Jr. sold estate of John to Peter Sr. for an additional \$600.
- Oct. 1813--Thomas Cruff signed a note for \$3.50 to Peter for 7 barrels of cider. Debt paid after Peter died.

In 1768 he was apparently at Warwick. Christopher Beaubier's letter to John seems to be asking John to send Peter to Marblehead, where his half-sister Elizabeth Lee was willing to trade him the land in the Yabsley-Lee estate for clear ownership of their Mother's end of the divided house.

7/30/1795 Samuel Sewell of Boston wrote him about selling his land in Marblehead to him and Robert Hooper. Several children later practiced their handwriting on the letter: signatures of Polly LeValley and Burton Baker--also names of Catherine and Anna. Peter LeValley Spencer has the letter.

The United States Chronicle 12/7/1786:

Peter, yeoman of Warwick, paid in full Nathaniel Arnold for a note in hand on Oct. 30

LeValley family member has a fragment of a note for \$212 plus interest which he apparently owed Amy. This is probably in payment for her land. Polly witnessed.

Marblehead MA land records:

1/6/1770 Peter and Mary sold the "East half of the mansion house of our late grandfather John Yabsley" for £15 to Elizabeth Lee Jr., a single woman [his half sister].

5/7/1798 Peter (appeared at Marblehead) and Mary (signed with an X at Warwick RI) sold land at Marblehead for \$280 to Robert Hooper. The legal description mentions the 14' passage to Frog Lane.

Additional Warwick RI land records:

3/7/1801--He bought land from his cousin Almy [Amy] which she had inherited from her father Michael for \$200. Polly [his daughter Mary] witnessed.

Coventry RI land records:

6/25/1756 Peter sold Michael 30 acres inherited from his grandfather's homestead farm for £600, It was bordered on the north and east by Michael's land. He signed. Mary made an X, though her name is not mentioned.

3/5/1757 Peter bought from Job Greene 50 acres partly in Coventry and partly in Warwick for £50. It bordered Michael on the east.

More land records:

1794 Peter and wife Mary sold to Josiah for £15 five acres in Coventry bordering Josiah which they had bought from Nathan Greene

12/8/1794 Peter witnessed sale of land in Warwick by John Jr. to William, and of same land on same day by William to Josiah.

His bookplate reads:

Peter LeValley.
his Book
Coventry, Novr 6 AD 1798

Between his first and last names is a small design or possibly coat of arms: a heart crossed by two stalks of grain with a trident at the base of each. LeValley family member has the original. I have a copy.

Antiques still preserved in the Spenser family include:

highboy--the "high chest of draws" worth \$3.20*

round maple table*

old maple table--in the possession of Donald Spenser*
old chest*
coffee mill*
hitchcock chairs
looking glass
2 guns (percussion)
andirons
chest
candlesticks, etc.
*quite certainly the same ones listed in his inventory.

4/2/1818 The Commercial Advertiser listed his death, but mistakenly gave his age as 19, rather than 89. Five days later, the New York Spectator repeated that error.

Warwick probate records:

1752 Mary Haynes inherited part of the estate of her grandfather Anthony Low at Warwick.

4/25/1818 Inventory of estate of Peter Sr. --totals \$1132.89 in property (Personal only)

6/13/1820 Thomas collected \$1050 which people owed the estate of Peter Sr. and paid \$470.86 to Peter's creditors.

Ruth Baker is his only heir listed in the Warwick index of heirs (often incomplete).

His tombstone is a twentieth-century replacement of the broken original. These lines were recorded from the original one:

This modest stone whatere vain

_____n.

May truly say, we mourn our
honest man.

A cemetery transcriber noted that the original stone had carving of an urn and a willow.

The 1996 transcriber could not find Mary's stone.

The cemetery is on Card Street, Phenix Hill, across from the original house.

Warrant for the arrest of Peter LeValley Sr.:

Kent to wit: To the Sheriff his Deputy or to Either of the Town Serjents or
Constables in the County of Kent Greeting--

You are hereby in the Name of the Governor and Company of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence plantation Required to arrest the body of Peter Levalley of Warwick in the
County of Kent in the State of Rhode Island &c:

yeoman-----

(If he may be found in your presents) and for want of his Body To attach his Good and
Chattles and him or them in Safe Custody keep untill he Give Sufficient Bond to answer
the Complaint of Josiah Potter of Coventry in Said County of Kent yeoman--at Justices
Court to be held in Said Coventry according to Law at the Dwilling house of Francis
Brayton Innholder on fryday the Twenty fifth Day of March at one of the Clock in the after
noon in an action of the Case for that he the Said Peter Levalley at Said Coventry on the
fifteenth Day of Apriel AD 1774 in Consideration that the Plaintiff would permit and Suffer
him the Said peter Levalley To Improve prossess use occupy and Enjoy a certain Tract or
parcell of Land Lying Situate and being incld. Coventry (which Said Land the Plantieff
then held by Lease Parole under John Greene of Said Coventry forgemaster Containing
25 acors no more nor no Less) for and During the Term of one full year then next after the
Said fifteenth Day of the Same apriel did then and their on himself assume and to the
Plantiiff faithfully Promise that he would pay to the plantieff for the Same Emprovement
prossession use occupation and Enjoyment the full Sum of four Pounds Ten Shillings
Lawfull Silver money and also that he would not Commit or Suffer any wast on the
premisses but that, he would Peaceably and Queiatly Deliver up the Premises to the
plantieff at the Expiration of said Terme in Good order with out any waste or Destruction
whatever and the Plantieff avers that he the Said Peter Did improve use occupy Prossess
and Enjoy the Permeses aforesaid from and after the Said fifteenth Day of Apriel AD 1774
for and During the full Term of one year Viz untill the fifteenth Day of Apriel AD 1775--and
that there is Due to the plantieff for the Same Improvement use occupation possession
and Enjoyment the Sum of four pounds ten Shillings Lawfull Silver money and also that he
the Said Peter Did Commit waste on the Premisses and Destroyed and carryed away from
the premisses wood Bark and Timber of the Value of one pound Ten Shillings Lawfull
Silver money all which by Evidence in Court to be produced Will fully appear the which
Sum though often Requested the Defendant hath hutherto Refused and Still Doth Refuse
to pay Which is to the Damage of the plantieff (as he Saith) Six pounds Silver Lawfull
money and hereupon he Brings his Suit &c. Hereof Fail not but True Return make with
your Doings Thereon Given under my hand and Seal at Coventry afforesaid the Eleventh
Day of March in the Ninth year of American Independence AD 1785--

Isaac Johnson just peace

(LeValley family member has this warrant.)

INVENTORY OF PETER LEVALLEY SR.

An Inventory of the Personal Estate of Peter Levalley Late of Warwick, Decd., taken and Appraised upon oath by us the Subscribers Duly appointed for that purpose on the 4 day of April by the Honorable Court of Probate for said Town of Warwick In the County of Kent--

[Basement]

VIZ. 1½ Hogshead of Cider & 4 bbls. of do. 16 Dol., 1 Dry Cask 1 Dollar 17.--
 150 lbs. Pork at 14/100 (21 Doller), 5 lb. Cheese 12 ct. (60) 21.60
 30 Bushels Potatoes at 20 ct. (6.--), Vinegar & bbl. 66 ct. 6.66
 old Cask & Tubs In Seller 50 ct., 3 old flower Bbls. 210 lb. (30) .80 46.06

(Small barn]

2 Turkeys (2 Dollar), 8 Dunghill fowls (166), 16 Sheep 2 Dollars (32),
 1 Chees kit [tub] 20 ct. 35.86
 6 Bushels Corn 84 ct. (5 dollar), 1 Iron Ficttle [mold] 2.50, Warping
 bar [for weaving?] 25 ct. 7.75
 1 pair Bellerings [?] & Wedges (33ct.), 1 Stubsithe (20 ct.). 1 Salt Box
 & Salt 33 .86 44.47

[Living room]

1 Grindstone 1 Dollar, 100 feet Boas [?] 75 ct., 1 pounding Barrel 25 2.--
 1 Cowhide 2 Dollars, 1 Silver Watch 13 Dollars, 1 Warming pan 1 Dollar 16.--
 1 Great Chair 25 ct., 1 pair fire dogs 75 ct., 2 Gimblets [drills] 6
 1 Testament 25 ct 1.31
 Window Curtains 16 ct., 6 Case bottles @ 10 ct. (60), 1 Earthean Pot 6 .82 20.13
 1 Bedstead & Cord Underbed, upperbed Bolster, 2 pillows, 2 Sheets & Covered 18.
 I Maple Desk 8 Dollars, 1 Large bible 250, ½ Dozen Large Silver Spoons
 marked (ML) 12 Dollars, ½ Doz. tea do. marked do. 225 24.75
 2 Decanters 1 Dollar, 14 old Earthean plates 50 ct., 5 tumblers 40 cct.
 1 pepper Caster & 5 Wine Glasses 33 ct., 9 Cups & Saucers 50 ct. .83
 1 towel 12 Cents. 1 table Cloth 1 Dollar, 2 Sheets 175 2.87
 3 old piller Cases 36, 1 old Cubboard 150, 1 Coffee pot 10 1.96 32.31

[Master bedroom]

1 Bedsted & Cord, 2 Featherbeds Underbed, 2 pillows, 2 Sheets, 1 Blanket
 & Covered 28.--
 1 high Maple Case of Draws 350, 1 Coffeemill & tin funnel 75 4.50
 2 Large pewter platters 140, 9 pewter plates 2 Dollars 3.40
 2 Iron Candlesticks (12), 1 Vinegar Cruit 10, 2 pewter Basons 1 Dollar 1.22
 1 tin Cullender 40, 1 tin pan & Bake pan 15, 3 White Earthean plats 42 .97
 6 Earthean plates 24, 2 old Coffee pots 25, 4 Common knives & forks &
 2 Spoons 33 .82
 1 Sugar box 14, 1 old Copper teakettle 75, 1 tea Canister 6, 1 old
 Case 5 1.-- 39.91

[Kitchen]

1 old pair Dogs [fire dogs] 25, 1 pair Large Shove [Shovel] & Tongs 50,
 1 flatiron 25 1.
 1 Large Iron pot & 1 Small Do. 1 Dollar, 1 Tea Kittle 1 Dollar, 1 Iron
 Skillet 25 2.25
 1 Small Brass kittle 75, 1 Large Do. 6 Dollars, 1 old bake Kittle
 1 Dollar 7.75
 1 Iron Bason 25. 4 milkpans 50, 12 lb. fat & tub 2 Dollars, I Butter
 tub 12 2.87
 20 lb. Beef & Barrel 150, 28 lb. flour & Barrel 2 Dollars. 1 milk pan 12 3.62
 1 Lanthorn [lantern] 25, 1 Breadtrough 33, 1 old piggin [dipper] & 6 Quarts
 Salt 20 .70
 2 Small Cheesfats [cheese vats] 10, 1 old Cubboard 50, 3 Baskets 50,
 1 Waterpail 12 1.22
 1 hoe 50, 9 old Chairs 2 Dollars, 1 Square Maple table 1 Dollar, 1 Do.

150		5.00	24.49
[Girls' upstairs bedroom]			
1 Round Maple table 2 Dollars, 1 Looking Glass 50, 1 Slate 17		2.67	
1 Side upperleather 150, 1 pair Small Stylyards [scales] 1 Dollar		2.50	
1 Bedsted., Cord Underbed, upperbed Bolster, 2 pillows, 2 Sheets, Blanket & Coverled		12.	
2 Blankets, 1 Beadstead 7 Dollars, 1 Chest 75 Cts.		7.75	
[Boys' upstairs bedroom]			
1 old Loom 2 Dollars, 3 old Sleighs & Harnesses 3 Dol.		5.--	
2 old Wolling [wooling] Wheels, 1 Lining [linen] Do. and Reel 2 Dollars		2.	
1 old Maple table 33, 1 old tub 25, 3 Blankets 2 Dollars		2.78	34.70
Amt. Brot over			260.07
[Large barn--1st aree]			
1 old Chest 75, 1 old bbl., 2 old tubs, 1 old Behive 95		1.70	
2 old Cords 1 Dollar, 1 Lot of Wool 33, 1 Quillwheel & Swifts [Wool and linen tools] 50		i.83	
1 Gridiron 75, 1 hayrake 16, 1 old Gide Cow 35 Dollars		35.91	
1 young Gide Cow 28 Dollars, 1 half of Stack oats & hay 5 Dollars		33.	72.44
[Large barn--2nd area]			
1 half hay in Barn 6 Dollars, 2 old hay folks [forks] 40		6.40	
Cyder Tapirons 75, 1 Dry Cask 50, 1 Lawbook 150		2.75	
1 Log Chain, 1 Draft Do., 1 Small Iron bar 5 Dollars		5.--	
1 Book 50, 1 half of Crosscut Saw, 2 Dollars, Sundary old Cooper tools 150		3.50	
72 lbs. hams at 14/100 10.88, 15 lb. Chucks at 8 120, half Swamp hay in stack 2 Dol.			13.28
2 Shares in the Cappital Stock of the Coventry & Cranston Turnpike Company at 25 Dollars		50.	80.93
[Elsewhere]			
17 Small Sawmill Loggs 4 Dollars, 423 Chesnut Rails 16 Dollars		20.--	
13 Small Rail Cuts 150, Bank bills 39 Dollars, In Specie 26 Dollars		66.50	
Elisha Harris Note & Interest		138.34	
Nathan Potter's Note & Interest		34.63	
Samuel Baker Note & Interest		17.02	
Jonathan Ellis Note & Interest		197.95	
Daniel Baker Note & Interest		201.14	
Caleb Atwood's Note & Interest		17.75	
Roger Williams M. Company Note & Interest		19.99	
Lippitt M. Company Note & Interest		6.13	442.96

\$1132.89

Edmund Burke

Warwick April 25th 1818

Dutee Arnold

James E. Remington

At a Court of Probate Holden in and for the Town of Warwick on the 25th day of April AD 1818--

Personally Appeard Thomas Levally Administrator on the estate of Peter Levally late of Warwick Deceased and made oath that he had Shown and Set forth all the personal Estate of said Deceased that had Come to his hand possession or knowledge and that if he Shall hereafter be possessed of any thing further he will give it in to this Court to be of Record. Whereupon the Court Decreed that this Same be accepted and Recorded.

Witness C. Brayton T. Clk.

A-4

ELIZABETH "Libby" (MANCHESTER)

b. 1756 Coventry RI

m. March 28, 1779 Gideon Manchester (s. Matthew of North Kingstown, b. 9/15/1755, d. 4/2/1835 in 80th year) at Warwick or Washington, North Kingstown

d. Apr. 7, 1812 in 56th year

bur. Peter LeValley Cem. Phenix with parents, husband, and many descendants

In the original house at West Warwick is a cloth bookmark, on which is finely cross-stitched:

Her teacher from Libby

When this you see remember me.

It was apparently intended as a gift, but never given. There is a note attached in the handwriting of Matilda Spencer's daughter-in-law (who left the house about 1900) that this needlework was done by LeValley women about 150 years earlier. If that dating is right, this must be Elizabeth (Manchester)'s work--even though she had left home before her parents actually moved into the house.

1821 Ten Manchester heirs of their grandfather Peter LeValley sold land in Warwick to Josiah LeValley. William Baker witnessed.

Gideon had a twin brother Joseph. Their father was Deputy Governor of Rhode Island at one time. Gideon was in the Revolutionary War, and later served as:

1781-84 ensign of militia

1785-91 lieutenant

3 sons and 6 daughters. The Snow ms. only lists 2 sons and 3 daughters. IGI happens to list 5 of her daughters. Cyrus Manchester, who had land dealings with the LeValleys, was her son.

A-119

ANNA "Nancy" LEVALLEY

b. 1766

never m.

d. July 31, 1825 in 60th yr.

bur. Peter LeValley Cem., Warwick RI with parents and sisters

census:

1790 Warwick RI--living with parents and family

1800 Warwick RI--living with parents and two sisters

1810 Warwick RI--living with father, two sisters, and niece Amanda

1820 Warwick RI--head of household with two sisters and niece

Coventry RI land records:

1821 Nancy sold land in Coventry to Elizabeth, Charlotte, Henry, Mary, Robert, and Thomas (heirs of Josiah) for \$500. It bordered the land of Elizabeth Manchester and Josiah, both deceased. Mary witnessed.

Documents possessed, by LeValley family member:

10/3/1820--signed receipt for small amounts administered by Thomas from Peter's estate.

5/21/1821--Henry and Margaret Remington sold land to Nancy (Anna) for \$500. Land bordered that of Mary and estate of Peter. Amanda witnessed.

8/27/1824--Her will left everything to her sisters Catherine and Mary. Signed with an X. Probated 9/12/1825.

It must have been obvious that she was dying. For she wrote a will in favor of both her sisters the same day Catherine wrote a will in favor of Mary alone.

A-132

CATHERINE LEVALLEY

b. 1775

never m.

d. Nov. 29, 1829 Warwick RI age 54

bur. Peter LeValley Cem., Warwick

Death notice spelled her name with a K, but she signed her name with a C. According to her obituary, "She was a very industrious and prudent person; and by a life of uniform rectitude and piety, secured the respect and esteem of all who knew her."

Warwick RI land records:

5/20/1821 Stephen and Anna sold land from the estate of Peter to Catherine for \$500.

This was the portion containing the house. Thomas witnessed. LeValley family member has a copy.

1821 Catherine, single, sold land in Warwick from the estate of Peter to Stephen for \$500. It bordered land of Thomas and the heirs of Josiah on the north. She signed. Thomas witnessed.

Document possessed by LeValley family member:

10/3/1820 signed receipt for small amounts administered by Thomas from Peter's estate.

Warwick RI probate records:

8/27/1824 Will of Anna left everything to sisters Catherine and Mary. Probated

9/12/1825. LeValley family member has a copy.

8/27/1824 Catherine's will left everything to her sister Mary.

A-133

MARY "Polly" LEVALLEY

b. 1780

never m. but had 1 dau.

d. March 16, 1861 age 80

bur. Peter LeValley Cem., Warwick with parents, sisters and dau.

census:

1790 Warwick RI--living with parents and family

1800 Warwick RI--living with parents and two sisters

1810 Warwick RI--living with father, two sisters, and daughter

1820 Warwick RI--living with two sisters and daughter

1830 Warwick RI--Mary 50-60, dau. 20-30

1840 Warwick RI--Mary 60-70, dau. 30-40

As a girl, she was apparently called Polly to distinguish her from her mother. Her daughter saved a few scraps of paper with the signature Polly LeValley. LeValley family member has them now:

As a young woman, she showed an independent streak--raising a daughter without benefit of marriage, apparently owning land while her father yet lived, and exercising her right to vote a century before most women could. She raised her daughter to be even more independent.

Documents possessed by LeValley family member:

Polly and her sisters practiced their signatures on the back of a 1795 letter to her father.

1801 Polly witnessed an I.O.U. from her father to Amy.

1812 note on the back of RI Republican Convention proxy: "Mary Levalley, freeholder in the Town of Warwick Therefore has an unquestionable right to proxy for general officers."

10/3/1820 Mary signed a receipt for a small amount administered by Thomas from Peter's estate.

Warwick RI land records:

7/24/1799 Polly witnessed the sale of land to her father by her cousin Mary (daughter of Michael).

3/7/1801 Polly witnessed the sale of land to her father by her cousin Almy (or Amy).

1818 Mary witnessed the sale by Peter of land in Warwick for \$15 to Thomas.

1821 Mary witnessed sale of land In Coventry by Nancy to heirs of Josiah.

1837 Mary et. al. sold land In Warwick to Thomas.

1840 Mary et. al. bought mortgage on Warwick land from William Spencer.

1846 Mary, John and many others sold land to the Town of Warwick.

1848 Mary sold land In Warwick to W.B. Spencer.

1857 Mary sold land in Warwick to M.A. Phillips. \$1000 for farm and house and

buildings. Borders Thomas on south, heirs of Thomas on east. Charles Phillips witnessed.

1871 Mary sold land In Coventry to Mary A. Phillips (recording of earlier deed?).

Warwick probate records:

8/27/1824 Anna's will left everything to sisters Catherine and Mary. Probated 9/12/1825. LeValley family member has a copy.

8/27/1824 Catherine's will left everything to her sister Mary.

4/15/1861 Her dau. Mary A. Phillips appointed administrator of her estate.

A-134

Mary AMANDA (MERRILL) (PHILLIPS)

b. 1805 Warwick RI

m. (1) Nov. 2, 1840 William B. Merrill (s. William G., b. 1798, d. 3/22/1867, bur. Greene-Anthony Lot, West Warwick with 3rd wife). He had m. (1) 10/9/1825 her cousin Catherine Manchester (daughter of Elizabeth LeValley, b. 1796, d. 9/11/1833) at Warwick. He and Amanda must have divorced, because he m. (3) 11/15/1847 Paulina G. Albro (b. 1812, d. 2/14/1863) at Warwick.

(2) May 1845 Dr. A. E. Phillips (s. Stephen and Alice)
d. April 2, 1875 in her 70th yr.
bur. Peter LeValley Cem., Warwick

census:

1810 Warwick RI--with grandfather, mother, 2 aunts

1820 Warwick RI--with mother & 2 aunts. Nancy (Anna) head of household

1830 Warwick RI--with mother (next door to uncles)

1840 Warwick RI--with mother

1850 Warwick RI--William B. Merrill 52 carpenter, Delila G. 38 [should be Paulina], John C. 2, Rhoda Table 68

1865 Warwick RI--Mary A. Phillips 58

The History of Warwick, Rhode Island, published in the year of her death, referred to her as "the eccentric Amanda."

She first married at age 35. The names are recorded as Mary A. daughter of Mary, and William B. Morrell. The marriage must have been brief. Her relatives have no knowledge of it. She was using her maiden name five years later when she met her second husband. She and Dr. Phillips (perhaps a professor rather than a medical doctor) reportedly married after a three-day courtship at Cambridge MA. That marriage soured within a few months, though she continued to use the Phillips name the rest of her life.

The 1850 Warwick census shows that William B. Merrill and his third wife had a two-year-old son.

A Stephen and Alice Phillips appear in the 1850 Providence RI census. If these are indeed her in-laws, she was the same age as her mother-in-law, and her husband would have been much younger.

Lee Valley Spencer has a sampler she made. He donated to the Nathaniel Greene National Historic Site a quilt she made from flax grown on the original farm.

In the possession of LeValley family member:

Two amazing arithmetic exercise books in Amanda's beautiful handwriting, 1818 and 1819-20

A painting of her

A tintype of two women--one of whom looks like her

Reference to land in Coventry Amanda sold John 1/13/1874--sale recorded in Book 29 p. 94 Land Records of Coventry

2/21/1874 Amanda sold Matilda land in Coventry for \$1.

8/16/1861--Her first-cousin-once-removed Anna LeValley wrote in her journal, [On Wednesday] Freddy came after Aunt Susan to go up to Amanda's for she was very sick of the cholramorbus [?! She [Susan] went but came home that night and said that they had got Amanda up to Johns so that she could come home but she had promised to go the next day; she went, but as Mrs. Branch had come, and Amanda was so much better she did not stay long.

8/20/1861--Aunt Susan went up to Amanda's again that day [Saturday] she was very comfortable although not able to sit up She proposed to come and board with us of all the helpless ones she is the last one that I want.

2/14/1866 Her second cousin Lucinda Snow wrote in her diary:

Mary [Amanda] LeValley and Betsy Manchester spent the day with me, and of pictures of old maids tha[t] I have seen, she [Amanda] is the best representation of one.

Warwick RI land records:

1821 Mary Amanda witnessed purchase of land in Warwick by Nancy from Henry Remington and wife. LeValley family member has a copy.

1857 Mary sold land in Warwick to M.A. Phillips. \$1000 for farm and house and buildings. Borders Thomas on south, heirs of Thomas on east. Charles Phillips witnessed.

1871 Mary A. Phillips bought land in Coventry from Mary (recording earlier deed?)

1874 M.A. Phillips sold land at Warwick to Frederick H.

" M.A. Phillips sold 9 or 10 acres in Coventry to Frederick H. for \$1. Elisha Lamphere witnessed.

" Fred H. sold life estate at Warwick to M.A. Phillips.

" M.A. Phillips sold land in Warwick to John.

1874-75 Mary Phillips one of the buyers of land in Coventry from Frederick H.

Warwick probate records:

4/15/1861 She was appointed administrator of her mother's estate.

If Dr. Phillips was buried in RI--and that is by no means certain--he would have to be the Dr. Aaron Phillips (b. c.1808, d. 6/24/1877) buried in the Payne-Phillips-Sayles Lot at Burrillville RI.

LOVE LETTERS TO AMANDA

E. Spencer Merrill 8/10/1832--He asks her to begin corresponding. Mentions their childhood friendship and that he is now free of military service but remaining in Savannah, Georgia.

A.E. Phillips 5/10/1845--addressed to miss Mary A. Levalley:

Providence May 10 45

My dear Amanda

The shades of night have once more cast their mantle from around us which brings an hour for calm and sweet meditations. The golden sun has sunk behind the western hills and the silvery moon is rolling forth upon its majestic orb casting its genial and hallowed ray around and upon the spacious earth. The Planet, the twinkling stars and the tinged clouds alike surround it giving fresh beauty to its magnificent and unrivaled splendor. The whole firmaments seemed decked with bright and glowing beauty the grandeur of which forcibly reminds me of that glorious afternoon in which it was my good fortune to enjoy your agreeable society in a pleasant . . . when all nature was hushed in universal stillness even the roar of the carriage wheels was but faintly heard. It is now in this hour of solitude that my mind delight's to wander back upon that day and forcibly call to memory many pleasing incidents especially those in which you are so agreeably and intimately associated.

There are many pleasing incidences connected with our brief acquaintance which renders it doubly impressive and the recollections of which time and circumstances never can eradicate them from my memory.

But Amanda you may be surprised at receiving this from one with whom you have so short an acquaintance! But there are seasons in life when affection seems to break away from its ordinary restraints and like a river swollen by a freshed overflows. but I do myself great injustice by suppressing my feelings. Although our acquaintance is brief, my heart is warm and sincerely beets for you.

What a strange peice of mechanism is the human heart. What a revulsion of feeling has been excited in mine by the anticipation of possessing the bright creature of my imagination. Yes to toil for, to gaze on, and to administer to every want. I have now arrived at an age when the foolish baubles of the world please me not when more substantial things engross my thoughts such as business and one on whome I can pace a pure and holy affection, to devote myself to the wishes and happiness of her who would fill my constant thoughts. But why indulge in this revire your heart may beet for annother but if not give me but . . . word and say their is a hope for me. you will never find

One whose soul will be more
It store of happiness to borrow,
In all thy woes to bear a par . . .
In all thy pleasures to attend t . . .
And feel that never from his . . .

(A mouse ate
this corner.)

Can aught that happens rend . . .

Ever since I saw you my heart . . .
to one who must become the arbitress of . . .
happiness or eternal misery.

N.B. Please give kindest
regards to your Mother and let
me hear from you. Should the weather
prove unfavourable Thursday you may
expect me the first pleasant day.

I remain yours,

P.

I am dear Amanda affectionately
yours A.E. Phillips

Dr. P. 6/25/1845--He misses her.

Dr. Saturday Morning (after marriage, before split)--He is clearing himself from debt and borrowing \$1000 before he accepts her money.

Dr. P. 7/22/1845--He longs for her and promises to come in a few days.

Dr. 8/5/1845--(addressed to Mrs. Dr. A.E. Phillips):

Providence Aug 5, 45

Mrs. Amanda

I received your communication this morning, but was exceedingly surprised at the conclusion at which you and your mother arrived at. I have always considered you as my friend and while I entertained this folly idea my friendship for you was unbounded. When I looked upon you as a woman formed to make my life happy my admiration equalled my friendship. And when fate permitted me to behold you in the tender light of betrothed wife my soaring love left the humble passion at a distance. You must be aware that my constant aim has been to promote the happiness of you and your mother and to establish myself so as when old age crept upon the person of your only relative on earth, when those limbs which has always moved for you should be paralyzed by infirmities and even when she has finished her course here and is consigned to the bosom of her Mother Earth then for you to have one on whom you could look for friendship and comfort.

But alas for our feeble calculations you have by this this act severed the silken tie which I have fervently prayed that naught but death could sever. And for a few paltry dollars broke harmony which I hoped would always remain. It is not the moeny but the principle which I am contending for.

You have still my wishes for your solitary life and even love. I will not attempt to

deceive either myself or you in disavowing but still with a firm assurance I declare that prudence outweighs all respect and love, that a wife one whom has sworn to love, respect and obey should be so insensible to that which concerns the happiness of her husband and herself, and now as I am confident you have the means of assisting me & will not I declare from this date I have not the slightest desire to be regarded by you in any respect than one who wishes you will let not affected resentment, contempt or levity oppose that serenity which I wish to enjoy. I will not for a moment suppress my feelings but frankly admit that I love thee still but pride and a wounded feeling blasted hope's has instigated me to the dicission. for your sake have I not severed a tye of friendship which was keen for me to do have I not done every thing which I was competent of performing, but enough of this you understand it unless you conclude to assist me as I proposed you accompany your money if you wish I am determind to never see you again however keen the anguish may be to me your ingratitude is the Cause

And now I entreat you for your own sake and for mine when we shall be far assunder that upon every important occassion you will call your serious judgement to direct you. So now we part forever. Heaven bless you may you meet with one who will be more kind and affectionate. than I have been And one who is willing to live under the yoke of ingratitude.

I shall leave Providence for parts unknown in two or three days soon as I pack my goods. if you have any reply to offer I will receive it

but be reminded you are the Cause of this And it is not to late to yet be happy.

Unhappily

Dr.

A.E. Phillips Aug. 1845--(addressed to Miss Amandy M. Levalley):

Providence Aug /45

Amanda

I received you letter this morning And as this is the last you will probably hare frome me I will say you have no cause to reproach me for your conduct is the the cause that I have been dissatisfied owing to your close intimacy with Taft as I have seen you several times under suspicious circumstances but I thought I would overlook that and when I found you had no desire to promote my happiness my feelings of love were turned to contenssion.

You say you shall come & see my father I wish you would I have acquainted him with all the circumstance & he would laugh to see you. You will find poor consolation with him I can assure you. You may expose your foolishness as much as you please without getting any satisfaction You have refused to assist me together with other things and have deceived me wonderfully You said prior to our marriage that you had money & would assist me and wanted me to go into business an that you were willing to go any where with me. You have deceived me. And my friends know this and wish they could see you they would give you a piece of their minds. So come in with your letters-- You come in to my father ha! ha! ha! I wish you would-- I hope you will before I go away.

Did not your mother Say she would assist me to \$1000. did she do it no. then she feels very unhappy because i won't stay out there and be made a fool of by you

Amanda I should always used you well and it would have been pleasure for me to have toiled for you if you had acted the part of a lady

So dont trouble me with any more of those letters as they will not be answered.
And dont expose your ignorance by saying again your were deceived

All the letters I have written
I have manuscript copy's and were written
in company of a gentleman So come in/

I am Madam
A.E. Phillips

Stephen and Alice Phillips ___/18/1845--Their son the Dr. never had another wife,
regardless of what gossips say.

A.E. Phillips 9/14/1845:

New Bedford Set. 14.45

Mrs. Amanda

Notwithstanding what has past my feelings are as keen for you as ever.

Since I left you I have met with friends. Yes! with friends those who know me best and notwithstanding all pregiudices they have furnished my friend Taft and myself with goods to the amount four thousands dollars with which we are doing business at New Bedford and are not dependent on you or anyone for assistane.

But if you want to come to New Bedford and live with me and will do that which every wife should do for her husband (you can come) I should be very glad to have you. I have made some calculation in haveing assistance . . . and know you will not disappoint me I want you to let me know when you will come so I can make preparations to board you. Taft sends his respects to you and your Mother

Respectfully Yours
A.E. Phillips

Henry R. Congdon (grandson of Margaret LeValley Remmington) 10/4/1845--He mentions her mother "Aunt Mary". He begs her not to repeat things he said regarding Mr. Phillips who is already angrily trying to avoid scandal. He offers to help her in her embarassing difficulty.

Dr. P. 11/22/1848 (three years later):

My dear Amanda

Having leisure I devote it in writing you although I fear I tire your patients by so often perusing my epistles but if you receive one half the pleasure in perusing as I do in writing you would never be tired. I presume you feel lonely at home even as I do while here And the only consolations I find is in writing you where I can pour out my Soul by this little instrument the pen It is unplesant even when surrounded by the many luxuris of a city to think we are separated from one who occupies our constant

thoughts and to feel there is one in this cold world whose truest happiness consists in making that of another's and to know we are separated even for a short time. I know Amanda your heart is warm and the red drops which encircle it flow for me. I well know your feelings and wishes, disposition--&c. all are ingenious, frank, good, confiding and every quality which constitutes a woman. but envy, malice, jealousy, misrepresentation and Calumny has been used by my enemies and your pretended friends to set your heart against me. and can I establish a confidence in you which you should have in me it would be the happiest day of my existence. my situation will soon be different business and strict attention will soon enable me to be in a position whereby I can contribute to your slightest wish only give me an opportunity to use my faculties to bring into rise and practice those ideas which have cost me much time and expense. then I shall be in a situation to travel with you or in fact contribute to every wish I look forward to that time as my halcyon days when we or myself will not be assailed by sneers and calumnies of an idle people. You sometimes complain of my being idle or as you say why don't you go into a store or work in some office. Amanda would you have your husband demean himself or like a common labourer work under pay when he has a profession which will bring tenfold the profit and elevate his social position class him with the learned of the day. and I am very sure it would be more congenial to your feelings to be and to see me in such a position for your station in society will of course be governed by mine.

Therefore I am governed by you for my future pastime and happiness and success it is in your power to make us both happy or me eternally miserable. Therefore consider well as I hope I am to be able to leave Boston soon to be with you.

I hope you enjoy good health for without that the pleasures of life are diminished. Also I hope Mother enjoys this great comfort and blessing of life affectionately remember me to her Please read this letter to her and all such as would give her pleasure And believe me Yours &c

Boston Nov 22. 48 8oCclock AM.

Dr. P.

P.S. It would afford me unbounded pleasure to hear from you at No 20. Washington St Salem Mass as I expect to go every day. also to the care of Dr Robinson

Prof. Benna Sweet 10/28/1861--He mentions his former marriage and his seeing Amanda to all of the dances. He wishes to attend another circus on her pasture. (Written on Civil war stationery). (Benoni Sweet was a local printer and tightrope walker.)

Prof. Benna Sweet 1/27/1862 (written on Civil War stationery)--He mentions that he sees John LeValley nearly every day, and that John has grown whiskers.

All of these letters are in the possession of LeValley family member.

A-114

MATILDA Malvina SPENCER

b. July 18, 1843 Warwick RI

m. Dec. 24, 1862 Harvey Loomis Spencer (s. Oren or Orin, b. 2/1/1828 Bristol RI, d. 3/14/1909, bur. Knotty Oak Cem. Coventry RI with his parents)

d. June 20, 1920 age 77

bur. Peter LeValley Cem., Warwick RI

census:

1860 Coventry RI--age 16, milliner, living with grandmother Hannah, aunt Elizabeth Manchester and Elizabeth's husband

1875 Warwick RI--age 31, living with husband and two daughters (b. CT and Coventry)

The RI cemetery index lists her death as Jan. 20.

9/6/1861 Her second cousin Anna wrote: "Fraidy morning was very pleasant and Aunt Susan went up to Joseph Manchesters [Matilda's aunt and uncle] to spend the day; she had a very pleasant time and Matilda came and brought her home. Whilst they were coming there came up a very heavy shower but as they were in a covered carriage they did not get wet."

The marriage record lists him as a teacher. He had been married once before. She was 19; he was 34. Harvey was mainly a stonemason. LeValley family member has pictures of him with his stone cutting tools.

The Narragansett Historical Register, Vol. VIII, No. 2, July, 1890, pp. 115 - 116:

Harvey L. Spencer has always followed the business of his father, viz; monumental stone cutting. He is now located just on the southern outskirts of Phenix Village, on the Levalley farm, where he is ready promptly to wait upon his customers.... Dea[con Orin] Spencer was a devoted Christian, a strong temperance advocate and in favor of all moral reforms. Every one of his four sons follow in his footsteps.

She lived Penniless and denied herself everything, saying "I want to leave all I have to my family, so that, if the world is hard to them they can come back to the farm and make a living." Quoted as her exact words.

Warwick RI land records:

1874-88 Matilda Spencer one of the buyers of land In Coventry from Frederick H.

1876 M.M. Spencer bought land in Warwick from Frederick H.

1878 M.M. Spencer bought land in Warwick from John et. al.

1880 H.L. Spencer and wife sold land In Warwick to Frederick H.

1885 Harvey & Matilda Spencer, John & Diana, Frederick & Abbie et. al. transferred land In Coventry by agreement to Horatio Angell et. al.

1886 Matilda Spencer bought land in Coventry from Diana. (See Spencer collection

below for details)

- ' Abbie M. sold land at Warwick to M.M. Spencer.
 - " Frederick H. sold land at Coventry to Harvey L. Spencer
- 1924 Matilda Spencer granted land to the LeValley Cemetery In Coventry by her will.

Documents possessed by LeValley family member:

12/24/1864 marriage certificate

2/21/1874 Amanda sold Matilda land in Coventry for \$1.

9/10/1878 John sold Matilda for \$1 some land in Coventry he had bought from Amanda
1/13/1874. The deed gave John use during his life. Diana did not sign the part
relinquishing her claim.

10/19/1886 Diana sold the same land to Matilda for \$325.

1886 Frederick H. sold land at Warwick to Matilda for \$1.

9/22/1902 William H. (which?) and other unrelated joint-owners sold Matilda land at
Coventry for \$1.

She and Harvey were buried in separate cemeteries with their parents. Her
grandchildren do not know where Harvey's first wife was buried--or even her name.
Contradiction: Lee Valley Spencer has given me Harvey's burial place as Knotty Oak
Cemetery in Coventry, and again as Pine Grove Cemetery in Coventry. Which is right?

Her will mentions 1 son, 1 daughter (deceased), and a stepdaughter Etta--who must have
been Harvey's daughter from his first marriage.