

TWO JOHN WESTS

JOHN WEST OF SOLON, IA (1796-1861)

JOHN WEST OF MINERVA, NY (1796-?)

by

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Rev. August 2023

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PART I

TWO JOHN WESTS

John West of Solon IA = John West of Minerva NY

?

True or False?

SHORT VERSION:

John West (1796-1861) was born in New York and died in Solon, IA.

John West (1796-?) lived in Minerva, New York until after 1820.

John West of Minerva may have accompanied his siblings and cousins to Western New York in the 1820-1830s.

John West of Solon may have settled in Ohio before 1830.¹ About 1838 he joined a migration to Iowa Territory² and in 1840 platted the village of Solon, IA.

Theory: John West of Minerva may have married, had children and migrated to Solon, IA—and thus became John West of Solon.

Or did he?

The proof?

Unfortunately no convincing sources were found--except for a couple of DNA matches to possible descendants of brothers Ebenezer West, Jr. and John West, Sr. *of Minerva.* (See ***DNA, Part V.***) The name “Orson Childs” offers an area of further investigation. (See ***Chiles, Appendix D.***)

¹ Settled in the “Connecticut Western Reserve”, an area originally reserved for those from Connecticut but later available to the public.

² Settled in the Blackhawk Purchase, an area settled by treaty with Sac and Fox nations.

LONGER VERSION:

John West [Jr] of Minerva--born in Granville, Washington Co., New York (or possibly as a 'Yorker' in Vershire, Vermont.)³

In my theory, John had only to *believe* he was born in New York.^{4,5}

John's father, John West, Sr. and grandfather, Ebenezer West, Sr., moved to the region of Minerva (Shroon Lake), New York about 1804. John West Sr.'s youngest son, Francis, was born there in 1804.⁶ The Wests were founding members of the Minerva Baptist Church.⁷

John West, Jr. made a name for himself by participating in a legal dispute described in the Minerva Baptist Church records of 1817.⁸ He would have been about 21 years old at that time. He may be accounted for in his father's household in the 1820 census.⁹ No record has yet been found that John West Jr. married in Minerva.

Then John Jr. disappears from the record.

There was a great westward migration of Yorkers from Vermont and upstate New York to Chautauqua County, NY, in the 1830's as described in the town history of Minerva¹⁰ as well as a history of Chautauqua County.¹¹ Several of John's siblings and cousins resettled there according to the 1835 New York State census.¹² New York property records suggest that ***John may have accompanied them.***

³ Mabel Jones, "John West [Sr.]," "The West Family: Notes taken from the clerk's records of the Minerva Baptist Church," typescript, "Minerva.pdf", Minerva Historical Society, nd, p. 67. (Provided by "Anne" at 23andMe, 2020). See Appendix A – discussion of the work Mabel Jones.

⁴ The 1850 U.S. population schedule for the U.S. census of Johnson Co., IA, enumerates John West of Big Grove as born in New York.

⁵ Before the Revolution many New Yorkers held Royal (British) grants to land within what is now Vermont. Vermont declared itself a Republic in 1777 during the Revolution. For nearly 15 years New York and Vermont fought for control of the grant land. In March 1791 Vermont won and became a state. From then on a "Yorker" became a person who stubbornly claimed New York residency even though living on land that had become Vermont. John West, Sr. and his family may have been Yorkers. His eldest son William was born in Vershire, VT in 1790 and son Jesse in 1792. Son John, Jr. was born in 1796/7 either in Vershire, VT or Granville, NY.

⁶ Francis West, first child born in Minerva which was founded in 1804. (*French's Gazetteer 1860 as quoted in "Mabel Jones: John West" manuscript. Op. cit.*)

⁷ "The George Soule Family, Generations V and VI," *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, Vol. 3., ed. Anne Borden Harding, Hist. General, Soc. Mayflower Descendants, 1980. Patriarch of the family was Ebenezer West, Sr. (sons William, Nathan, Joseph, John, Ebenezer, Jr.)

⁸ "History of the Minerva Baptist Church 1807-1957," typescript, Minerva Historical Society, ND.

⁹ 1820 U.S. Census, Essex County, NY, Minerva, p. 436.

¹⁰ *Minerva, a History of a Town in Essex County, NY*, Minerva Historical Soc. NY, 1967, p. 32

¹¹ Andrew W. Young, *History of Chautauqua County*, 1875.

¹² 1835 New York State Census, French Creek, Clymer, Chautauqua Co., NY

*An earlier westward migration to Niagara Co., NY, included John's uncle Ebenezer West Jr. and his sons*¹³ *In addition John's uncle, Joseph (twin of his father John, Sr.) may have been the first "West" to buy property in Niagara County. A Joseph West purchased land between 1802 and 1818 in the region of Niagara County known as the "Mile Reserve" from which the town of Niagara Falls evolved. (See **Joseph West, son of Ebenezer West, in Part III and Appendix C**)*

John West [Jr.] of Minerva may have married during the 1820's, but no proof of marriage has been found in New York or Ohio.¹⁴

Some Minerva West descendants have said John West, Jr. migrated to Ohio.^{15, 16}

So who was John West of Solon, Iowa? This John West left many records in Solon: *several state and U.S. census records; one ME Church record; several records of civil proceedings; a cemetery record and an estate file.*

He probably had married a woman from Vermont named Clarissa.¹⁷ He had at least two children both born in New York: *a daughter "Julia Ann West" born December 23, 1823*¹⁸ *and a son "Orson Childs West" born October 1827.*¹⁹

Did John name his son, "Orson Childs West," for a relative of his wife, Clarissa?²⁰ One man named "Orson Childs" is of particular interest. **(See Appendix E.)**

By 1838 John had come with his wife and children—and probably a few relatives—to settle at the Iowa frontier in Big Grove Township, Johnson County, IA. It was part of the Blackhawk purchase.

¹³ Excepting Ebenezer's son Ezra who had joined the migration of Minerva Wests to Chautauqua County.

¹⁴ Perhaps he married a girl named "Clarissa Leonard" who had been baptized in the Minerva Baptist Church. John's brother, William C., married her sister Betsy Leonard and his cousin Ezra B. (son of Ebenezer 3rd) married her sister Sophia Leonard.

¹⁵ Mabel Jones, "*John West*", *op. cit.* .p.13.

¹⁶ *Minerva*, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

¹⁷ 1850 U.S. Census, Johnson Co., IA, Big Grove Twp. The 1850 Census does not show marital status. Clarissa appears immediately below John in his household which usually implies 'spouse.' However census takers interview whomever 'answers the door,' and sometimes get the wrong answer. (This is from personal experience as late as 2000 when I was myself a census taker.) It is possible that "Clarissa" was not the mother of John's children, Orson Childs West or Julia Ann West. Until a marriage record for John and Clarissa is found—or baptismal records for the children-- I cannot be certain.

¹⁸ Julia's birthdate is calculated from her gravestone. Her birthplace from the 1850 U.S. Census, Johnson Co., IA, Big Grove Twp, household of her husband A. W. Blaine.

¹⁹ Orson's birthdate and place are from U.S. Census 1900, 12th Census, California, NARA Microfilm T623 Napa Co., Roll 95, Vol.20 ED 96, Napa Twp., Sheet 5, line 126, June 1. Enumerated with Albert E. Hatt, 739 Main Street Napa City : Orson C. West, 72, Farmer, **b. Oct 1827 NY, f b. NY, m b. [VT]**. His middle name is from the mortuary Record of his death in San Francisco, 1901. Record dated April 9, 1901, Age 73 y 5 mos , Rancher b. NY

²⁰ "Childs," is a name found living not far from John West, Sr. (*of Minerva*) in Vershire, VT in 1800. An "Orson Childs" is shown several lines above Ebenezer West in the 1830 census for Niagara, Niagara Co., NY. See Appendix E.

THREE JOHN WESTS ?????

A man named "John West" resided in Portage County, Ohio in 1830.

***Was he the link
between
John West of Minerva and John West of Solon***

?

My theory is based partly on dna and partly on ***"preponderance of evidence."***²¹

So far the evidence includes census data and migration patterns based on Solon local histories and post-revolutionary histories of Ohio and western New York. Marriage and migration evidence provided clues to surnames to be investigated. In this case (so far) the names include ***Childs, Leonard, Mc Cune, Adams, Parks, Lyon, Stiles and Calkins.*** The important places (besides Minerva and Solon) include ***Niagara and Chautauqua Counties, NY and Portage and Summit Counties, OH.***

The pivotal location for "John West" of Portage, is ***Coventry Township, Portage County, Ohio, 1830.***

A John West had settled in Portage Co., OH by 1830. I believe that ***John West of Portage*** is the same man as ***John West of Solon*** and possibly also ***John West of Minerva.*** ***Of course, he may be neither.***

²¹ This is a term used by a genealogist when unable to prove the existence or heritage of a subject. It is similar to the term "circumstantial evidence" used in criminal law.

Part II

MUCH LONGER VERSION

DETAILS

—Author seeks input

Send any relevant information to the email in footer below

1. John West of Solon --Details

John West, my great- great grandfather really did exist. He's in our family bible.

From the time he helped settle the town of Solon, Iowa, about 1840, he left identifying records for himself and two known children. There may have been other children who left no records. The origins of his family are unknown. This is his family group sheet. *(Red items are speculation)*

John West

birth date: 1796-7²²
birth place: New York¹⁰
married: 1820-1823)²³
death: 4 Aug 1861, Solon, IA²⁴



father: unknown
mother: unknown

Spouse 1: Clarissa (Chiles?, Leonard?)²⁵
birth date: 1801²⁶
birth place: Vermont²⁷
death: (Solon, IA, 1850-1853)²⁸

father: unknown
mother: unknown

Spouse 2: Hannah Hill

Married: Solon, IA: 17 June 1853²⁹



Children with Clarissa:

Julia Ann West:

Born approx. 23 Dec 1823, New York³⁰
Married Archibald W. Blaine, March 1839, Solon, IA³¹
Died 19 Oct 1852³²

Orson Childs West:³³

Born approx. Oct. 1827³⁴
Married Catherine Griffith about 1850-1851,³⁵
Died 8 April 1901, San Francisco³⁶



Possibly others

Children with Hannah:

None

²² 1850 U.S. Census, Big Grove Twp., Johnson Co. IA, NARA microfilm M432, Roll 208, p. 180, line 12, household 3

¹⁰ 1860 U.S. Census, Newport, Twp., Johnson Co. IA, NARA microfilm M 653, 2d filming, Roll 327, p. 541, household 365

²³ Based on birth of daughter, Julia in 1823

²⁴ Sandtown Cemetery, Hills, Johnson County, IA. Find-a-grave (FAG) Memorial # 32742976.

²⁵ *Is it possible that Clarissa is not John's first wife nor the mother of his children?*

²⁶ 1850 Census Big Grove, op. cit.

²⁷ 1850 Census Big Grove, op. cit.

²⁸ Clarissa is shown in the 1850 Johnson Co., IA census in the household of John West. John West remarried in 1854.

²⁹ *Marriages of Johnson Co. IA, 1839-1910* (MJCI), John West to Hannah Hill, Bk 3, p. 1421 May 1854

³⁰ Birth calculated from tombstone [FAG] and from 1850 census

³¹ Johnson County, IA marriage record for Archibald W. Blain to Julianne West, March 1839

³² Oakland Cemetery, Solon IA, Find-a-grave (FAG) Memorials # 20646022, 20646010, Julia [West] Blaine and Archibald Worley Blaine.

³³ Photo supplied by email from 'Betty' at hortonhwy60@aol.com. It shows Orson West in San Francisco. Refers to him as Orson Childs West

³⁴ 1900 U.S. Census,, California, op. cit.

³⁵ No marriage record found. Date estimated from 1850 census and birth records of the children of Orson and Catherine Griffith West.

³⁶ Book P, Mortuary Records, City of San Francisco, 1901; obituary in *San Francisco Call*, 9 April 1901.

John of Solon is said to have married in New York before 1822. (His daughter, Julia, was born in 1823 and his son, Orson, in 1827.) Given the dates of birth of his children—both in New York—***John of Solon*** was probably in New York in the 1820's until late 1827.

The **1840 U.S. Census for Big Grove Township, Johnson Co., IA** shows ***John West*** with a large family -- possibly two families in one household. It also shows that John West possibly had other children born 1822-1836³⁷

It shows twelve people in John's household:³⁸

1 male < 5 (b. after 1835--possible son)

1 male >5 and < 10 (b. between 1830 and 1835--possible son)

2 males > 10 and < 15 (b. between 1825 and 1830 – [Orson and one other](#))

3 males > 20 and <30 (b. between 1810 and 1820 --probably not his sons) (? A.B. Blain b. 1814)

1 male >40 and < 50 (b. between 1790 and 1800—[John](#))

1 male > 60 and < 70 (b. between 1770 and 1780--possible father of Clarissa or other elderly male)

1 female > 10 and < 15 (b. between 1825 and 1830--possible daughter.)

1 female > 20 and < 30 (b. between 1810 and 1820)(probably not John's daughter, Julia b. abt 1823)

1 female > 30 and < 40 (b. between 1800 and 1810) Clarissa

The persons not yet accounted for in John's family are:

3 males > 20 and <30 (b. between 1810 and 1820) Related to Clarissa? Related to John? or unrelated

1 male > 60 and < 70 (b. between 1770 and 1780) Clarissa's father? Related to John? or unrelated

1 female > 20 and < 30 (b. between 1810 and 1820) Related to Clarissa? Related to John? or unrelated

The **1844 Iowa State Census, Big Grove Township, Johnson Co.**, shows John West's household to contain "7 souls."³⁹ That is 5 people less than in 1840. Shows that 5 persons shown in 1840 probably were not John's children and moved out of the household by 1844.

Group migration to Solon, IA

According to a history of Johnson County, IA, a group living in northeastern Ohio in the 1830s migrated to Johnson Co., IA about 1837/8. It included Moses Adams as well as Fanny and Cotton Pratt and ***John and Charles McCune of Portage/Summit Co. OH.***

Did John West of Portage, who lived in Portage Co. OH in 1830, meet the McCunes and join the migration? The Wests and Mc Cunes of Solon became prominent in the cattle business in Johnson Co.

The **1830 U.S. Census for Coventry Township, Portage County, Ohio** shows the household of John West:

2 males < 5 (b. after 1825) [Orson](#) and one other

1 male 20-30 (b. 1800-1810) Unknown – could be younger brother of John or Clarissa

1 male 30-40 (b. 1790-1800) [John](#)

2 females > 5 and < 10 (b. 1820-1825) [Julia Ann](#)

1 female >20 < 30 (b. 1800-1810) [Clarissa](#)

It is worthwhile to compare the **1840 U.S. Census of Johnson County, IA** for ***John West [of Solon]*** to the **1830 U.S. Census** for ***John West of Portage***.

The above matches the 1840 household for John in Johnson Co. IA--with the addition of daughter *Julia still living in household because she was not yet married in 1830*. It does not contain the 2 males born after 1830.

³⁷ The 1840 census for Johnson County, IA shows a large household headed by John West. It may contain children who left home before the 1850 census. One or more males may have joined the California Gold Rush in 1849. (Son, Orson, later went to San Francisco in the 1850s. See portrait inscribed "Orson West, San Francisco, Cal." on previous page.)

³⁸ 1840 U.S. Census, Big Grove Twp., Johnson Co. IA, NARA microfilm M704, Roll 101.

³⁹ 1844 State Census, Iowa Johnson Co., Big Grove Township, transcription, p. 10, line 5, LDS film #1728630

2. John West [Jr.] of Minerva--Details

John West, Jr. appears in local histories of Minerva, New York, with his father, John West Sr. John West, Sr. was the son of Ebenezer West, Sr. of Newport, Rhode Island, Vershire, VT and Minerva, NY.

John West, Jr., subject of this report—is referred to as [John West of Minerva](#). He was supposedly born in Granville, Washington Co., NY.⁴⁰ **He moved with his father, John West, Sr., to Shroon Lake, NY between 1801 and 1804.** His mother Betsey (Miller) West died there sometime after 1807.

John West, Sr. and family were enumerated in the **1810 census of Essex County, Shroon Lake.**

John West, Sr. is shown also in the **1820 U.S. Census of Essex Co. NY, Minerva.** The household contains an adult woman, John's apparent 2nd wife, as well as a young male child under 10 and an adult son aged between 18 and 25. This supports the claim that John West, Sr. remarried after his wife Betsy died and had a son by his second wife.

The question remains: who was the male aged 18-26 in his household? It could be either Francis (age 18) youngest son (by Betsy), or our subject, **John West, Jr.** (age 24). (See census data in following pages.)

Which one do you think? I prefer to think it was Francis still living at home and that our subject, John West, Jr. had already left Minerva to go west.

The following church record establishes that John West, Sr. of Minerva, had a son, John West, Jr.

Minerva Baptist Church:

The History of the Minerva Baptist Church records the presence of the family of John West, Sr in Shroon/Minerva.⁴¹ *The typescript by Mabel Jones provides further details.*⁴²

The Baptist Church records show the sons of John West, Sr. as members between 1804 and 1832. One key record dated August 1817 details a dispute involving both John West Sr. and John West Jr. A transcript at the Minerva Historical Society states (verbatim):

*“Aug 2., 1817 – Met at Nathan West’s and he was moderator. **John West** brought the following complaint against Phoebe Tallman: Phoebe Tallman, the wife of Abner Tallman, has reported that **John West Jr.** has taken false oath in a case between Abner Tallman and William West, and that **John West his father and William C. West his brother** did hire the said **John West, Jr.** to do the same. And as the said Phebe is guilty of spreading this report and others that are fals I think it my duty to inform the church of her slanderous conduct in order that the church if they will put a stop to her destroying the carrecters of her fellow creaturs. This I enter as a complaint against said Phebe Tallman to the church to which she belongs.”*

Summarizing this transcript it is apparent that John West Jr. is drawn into the dispute between John West, Sr. and the Talmans. (John West Sr. was 50 years old by this time. His son John Jr. would have been about 20-21 and was a **legal party** to this dispute.)⁴³

⁴⁰ See Appendix A: a discussion of the 1800 U.S. Census, Vershire, Orange Co., VT and Granville, Washington Co., NY.

⁴¹ *History of the Minerva Baptist Church, op. cit.* A transcript of the typescript is available online at the LDS Family Search website.

⁴² The Minerva town historian, Mabel Jones, wrote a report on John West, Sr. and John West, Jr on file at the Minerva Historical Society. She refers to family sources claiming “John West” fought in the War of 1812 and received bounty land in Ohio. *I believe she was mistaken.* (See Appendix A, Mabel Jones).

⁴³ *History of the Minerva Baptist Church, op. cit.* mention the following baptisms from 1828-1831:

West: Spencer, Ezra, Sophia (Leonard), Jesse, Rhoda, Hannah, Lenox, Benoni, Leander, Ithamar.
Leonards: Rosella, Joanna, Clarissa.

John West [Jr.] of Minerva

Census of Essex County, NY 1820, Minerva (p. 346)

John West [Sr.]--males:

1 < 10 [a son by 2d marr aft 1810?]

0 [10- 15] [missing: Francis West b. >1804, age < 15]

0 [16-18]

1 [16-25] **John West Jr. b. 1796/7, age 23-24 or Francis West b. 1804? age 16**⁴⁴

0 [26-44]

1 45 + [John West Sr. b. 1766/7]

--females

0 < 10

1 [10-15] Sarah

0 [16-25]

1 [26-44] 2nd wife

[45 +]

John West Jr. may be the male age 16-25 shown in the 1820 Minerva census in his father's household. Alternatively it might be John's brother, **Francis West**, also aged 18-25. It seems likely that John West, Jr. did not remain long in Minerva—or Essex County. The 1830 census for Minerva, next page, shows a John West of the correct age.⁴⁵

Census of Essex County, NY 1830, Minerva (p.276)

John West, Sr shown as age 70 or over – no other males in household

Jesse West, shown as age 30-39—with one male under 5.

William Carr West, (eldest son of John West, Sr.) shown as age 40-49, with 2 male children and one male of 20-29.

Notice the absence of other members of the family of John West, Sr. The absence of John West, Jr. in this census suggests he already had migrated west before 1830. Ebenezer West, Jr and his sons appear also to have migrated west--to Niagara Co., NY.

Collateral Evidence in local histories:

The Minerva town history claims that residents joined a collective westward migration about 1832 to Chautauqua, Co., NY. The *History of Minerva, NY* names Jesse, son of John West, Sr. and his cousins Spencer West and Ezra Bliss West as migrants to Clymer and French Creek in Chautauqua County. The 1835 New York State Census as well as histories of Chautauqua County confirm such migration. The town of Gerry was originally named "Vermont" due to the migration of "Vermonters." Minerva itself had been originally settled by many from Addison County, Vermont. Some of these then moved on from Minerva to the original Vermonter settlement in Chautauqua County. *The History of the Minerva Baptist Church* also mentions the migration of members of the West family to French Creek and Clymer in Chautauqua in 1832. The migration of some Wests of Minerva may have started before 1820 but most began **after 1832**. Some Wests migrated further **west to Minnesota** much later.

Although several men named John West lived in Chautauqua County at this time, none appear to be John West of Minerva.⁴⁶ It is however possible that he invested in land in that county.

⁴⁴ **Had John West, Jr. already left Minerva by 1820?**

⁴⁵ John West, Sr. is in the 1850 U.S. Census and the 1855 NY State Census living in **Chestertown**, Warren County, NY (adjacent to Essex County).

⁴⁶ It is conceivable that John went to Chautauqua and met a man named Jehiel Parks in Ellery. The relationship between John West of Solon and a "Jehiel/Jehial Parks" is discussed in Appendix E

Part III

ANCESTORS & DESCENDANTS OF: EBENEZER WEST OF RHODE ISLAND

The many gaps in the life of John West [Jr.] of Minerva may be answered by examining the descendants of Ebenezer West, born in 1738 in Rhode Island and died 21 Aug 1847.⁴⁷ Most of Ebenezer's family migrated north to Washington Co., NY and Vershire, VT after the Revolution.

Traditional ancestral claims:

Published articles in journals such as *Mayflower Descendant* show this Ebenezer West, Sr. as a direct descendant of **George Soule, indentured servant to Edward Winslow, a passenger on the Mayflower and prominent member of Plymouth Colony.**⁴⁸

This is the proposed lineage from George Soule to Ebenezer West and his sons:

*George Soule -> had a daughter **Susannah Soule***

*Suzannah married **Francis West***

*Susannah and Francis had a son, **William West***

William West** married **Jane Tanner

*William and Jane had a son, **Ebenezer West**, born 1732, Newport, RI*

Ebenezer West** m1. **Waite Carr

Ebenezer and Waite had 5 sons b. RI:

William, Nathan, Joseph, John, Ebenezer, Jr. (see next page)

Ebenezer Jr** m. **Jane Bliss

Ebenezer and Jane had 3 or more children:

***Ebenezer 3rd, Ezra Bliss, Ira, Itha J. and others**⁴⁹*

The westward migration of Ebenezer West Sr's descendants is central to this report.

⁴⁷ Parshall Family History, p. 392 as posted at Family Search for Ebenezer West of Rhode Island b. 1738.

⁴⁸ *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, Vol. 3, "Family: George Soule," Ed. Anne Borden Harding, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1980, pp. 303-304. See also <https://thmayflowersociety.org/passenger-profile/passenger-profiles/the-soule-family/> and <http://mayflowerhistory.com/winslow-edward>.

⁴⁹ Some unverified family group sheets show Ebenezer 3rd also had sons James and Matthew and that he married also Mercy Yates.

Sons of Ebenezer West, Sr.—and their migration west

William

Warren b. 1798

Hannah b. 1803 m. Wimmett ([to Naples, Ontario Co. NY](#))⁵⁰

William J. b. 1800 ([probably to Naples](#))

Nathan (1763-1851) m. Martha Titus

Lenox b. 1790

Anson b. 1795 ([to Sherman, Chautauqua Co. NY](#))⁵¹ ([See Appendix C.](#))

1 Joseph (twin b. 1766) m1. Ruth Munson; m2. Sally Spelk ([See “1” following](#))

Ithamar b. 1786 (do not confuse with cousin, Itha J., b. 1804 to Ebenezer Jr. below) Son Joseph b. 1794

Spencer b. 1799 ([to French Creek, Chautauqua Co. NY 1835](#))⁵² ([See Appendix C.](#))

2 John [Sr] (twin b. 1766) m1. Elizabeth Miller; m2. Mary Spink.⁵³ ([See “2” following](#))

William Carr b. 1790 ([to Minnesota](#))⁵⁴

Jesse b. 1792 ([to French Creek, Chautauqua Co. NY 1835.](#))²⁵ His children born there.

Sarah b. 1795 (lived with her uncle Joseph West).

Married Ira Wade and went to [Clymer, Chautauqua 1832, then French Creek.](#)⁵⁵

John (Jr.) b. 1796/7 ([our subject—maybe went to Chautauqua Co. NY/Portage Co. OH](#))⁵⁶

Francis [D.] b. > 1804 ([to Niagara, Niagara Co., NY by 1830](#))⁵⁷ ([Also to Clymer—see Appendix C](#))

3 Ebenezer Jr. (b. 1768) m. Jane Bliss) ([See “3” following](#))

Ebenezer 3rd b. 1790 ([to Niagara, Niagara Co., NY by 1830](#)) ([See Appendix C.](#))

Ezra Bliss b. 1789 ([to Clymer/French Creek, Chautauqua Co. NY 1835](#))²⁵ ([See Appendix C.](#))

Ira born 1799 (d. 1885) ([to Niagara by 1830](#)) ([See Appendix C.](#))

Itha J. born 1804 (d. 1879) ([to Niagara by 1830](#)) ([See Appendix C.](#))

Other claims⁵⁸

“1”, “2”, “3” above are discussed further in following pages.

There is no record when John West Jr. (subject of this report) left Minerva. He could have gone with Ebenezer to Niagara or to Chautauqua with brothers and cousins. It is possible John West Jr. met a man named Jehiel Parks in Ellery, Chautauqua Co. NY and later migrated together to Iowa. Both names are found in the early records of Johnson Co. Iowa. The relationship between [John West of Solon](#) and a “[Jehiel/Jehial Parks](#)” is discussed in [Appendix B, C and E.](#)⁵⁹

The Wests of Minerva produced many offspring after the Revolution. As was true for most large families in those days, the younger generation moved west to acquire land in the expanding frontier. The Wests of Minerva were no different. No attempt was made to trace the migrations of *all* the cousins into the Northwest Territory over the decades between 1820 and 1840.

⁵⁰ Revo. War Pension Application of Lucy West, widow of William West, Sr. of Minerva, names her daughter Hannah Wimmett of Naples, Ontario Co., NY. Pension S14418.

⁵¹ *Minerva, A History of a town in Essex Co., NY*, p. 32, History of Minerva Baptist Church.pdf, *op. cit.* p. 14. See also land docs, App D.

⁵² NY State Census, 1835, French Creek, Chautauqua County, *op cit*

⁵³ See “Spink” in land records, Appendix C.

⁵⁴ William Carr—see ‘John West’ in History of Minerva Baptist Church.pdf, *op. cit.* p. 14.

⁵⁵ Sarah, *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ 1830 Census, Portage Co., OH

⁵⁷ Joseph and John West—twins—born 1766

⁵⁸ [James born 1807—doubtful; no source]; [Matthew born 1807—different family] ([went to Scipio, Cayuga Co. NY?](#)) (d. 1900)

⁵⁹ A Jehiel Parks had a farm of 150 ac. Pt lot 42_Township 3_Range 12 Holland Land Co contract dated 30 Jan 1810. A Polly Pratt had 60 ac pt lot 45 T 6 R 11 dated 8 Mar 1819. See also Charles and Samuel Pratt in 1820 Minerva census.

1. Joseph West of Hartford, Washington Co. NY (1766-1847)

Joseph West was born about 1766/7 in Litchfield, Connecticut and died 22 August 1847 at age 81 years.⁶⁰ Joseph migrated to Hartford, Washington County, New York by 1793.

He married first Ruth Munson.

They had the following children:

Huldah b. 24 September 1784

Ithamar b. 1 September 1786

John Munson b. 1 June 1789.

Lydia P. b. 1 October 1791

Joseph [Jr] b. 21 September 1794

Calvin b. 29 October 1796

Spencer b. 21 May 1799

Lyman b. 11 August 1805

Joseph married second, Sally Felch.

They had the following children:

Chester F., b. 30 March 1807

Sydney C. b. 24 May 1811

Samuel F. b. 10 August 1816

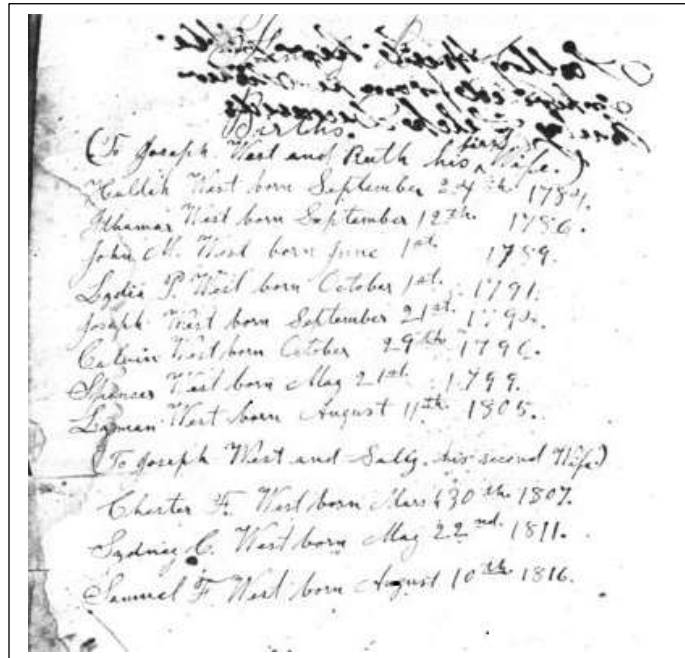


Image of bible records of the Joseph West Family
from the Bible records of Sally Felch.⁶¹

⁶⁰ *Mayflower Descendant*, op. cit. p. 303.

⁶¹ Litchfield CT Historical Society at Family Search post for Joseph West (from Minerva New York History.)

Ancestors: Ebenezer West of Rhode Island

After the Revolutionary War Joseph settled in Hartford, Washington County, NY. It is likely many of his children were born there. Some of his brothers settled in nearby Vershire, Vermont and later removed to Essex County, New York about the beginning of the 19th century. They settled at Minerva, Essex County, New York.

It was at that time that Betsy Miller, the first wife of his brother, John West Sr, died. John sent their daughter, Sarah, to live with Joseph in Washington County. During her time with her uncle Joseph, Sarah met and married "**Ira Wade.**" Joseph later removed to Minerva as well.

Ira and Sarah West Wade among the first to migrate west to Chautauqua Co. New York about 1833. Several of the Minerva Wests also went to Chautauqua County including Francis D. West, son of Joseph's twin brother John. Many settled in "Clymer" which was located in far southwestern Chautauqua County near the Pennsylvania border. (See French Creek and Clymer in Property Records, Appendix C_and Census Records, Appendix B.)

Land and census records suggest that Joseph's son Spencer also migrated to Chautauqua County.

Joseph himself may have migrated west to Niagara County—or at least purchased land there.

No record was found to show that Joseph West actually settled in Chautauqua County. However, a Joseph West purchased land from the Holland Land Company in western New York as early as 1809. The name "Joseph West" appears in land records of Niagara County in 1803, 1808 and 1818. In 1820 Joseph West sold his land in the "Mile Reserve" to Nathaniel Leonard. The 1809 deed record refers to Joseph as "of Niagara" implying he actually lived in the county. It is possible he went west to acquire land as investment for the family and then returned to Minerva⁶²

Much of the land purchases by the Minerva Wests are recorded in the transactions of the Holland Land Company--a major owner (speculator) of lands in western New York. (See Appendix C)⁶³

⁶² In 1809 Joseph would have been 43 years old. His son Joseph Jr. would have only been only 15—not old enough to sign a legal contract to purchase property. There are no other known men named 'Joseph' among the descendants of Ebenezer West. Therefore the "Joseph West" who acquired property in Niagara County in 1809 remains a mystery. Adding to the mystery is the sale of property in the same Mile Reserve tract in 1820 from Joseph West to Nathaniel Leonard. There are several connections by marriage between the Wests and Leonards of Minerva County.

⁶³ The purchases may indicate interactions between the sons of John West (1766-1855), Joseph West (1766-1847) and Ebenezer west (1738-18-). Although these property acquisitions do not necessarily establish family connections between the grantors and grantees, they may imply a close family or business relationship.

2. John West [Sr.] of Minerva, Essex Co. NY (1766-1747)

John West Sr. was born 1766/7 in Connecticut

He married first, Elizabeth (Betsy) Miller

John and Elizabeth (Betsy) had 4 sons:

William Carr West, born 1790, Vershire, VT (dna donor line) m. **Betsy Leonard**

Jesse West, born 1792, Vershire VT

Sarah West, born 1795 Granville? (m. **Ira Wade**)

John West Jr, born 1796/7, Vershire, VT or Granville, NY⁶⁴ (subject of this report)

Francis West, born after 1804, Minerva, NY⁶⁵ First child born in Essex County.

(aka Francis D. West in Chautauqua Co., NY—see Appendix C)

Elizabeth (Betsy) Miller West died after 1804.⁶⁶

He married second, Mary Spink⁶⁷

The children of second marriage not yet included in this report.

John may have died in Warren Co. after 1855. His last known record was the NY State Census of 1855. He may have migrated west after 1855 and died elsewhere. No record has been found to clarify his death.

He is the father of John West, Jr. **the proposed subject of this report as described in Part II, (2).**

⁶⁴ John West, Jr. is found in the 1817 records of the Minerva Baptist Church as party to dispute between his father and a family named 'Talman.' This implies that he was of legal age between 18 and 20 and therefore born between 1795 and 1797.

⁶⁵ *French's Gazeteer 1860 as quoted in "Mabel Jones: John West" manuscript. Op. cit.)*

⁶⁶ It is disputed whether Francis was the last child of Betsy or first child of Mary.

⁶⁷ It should be noted that the name "Spink" was found in property records in Chautauqua Co., NY in the early 1800s.

3. Ebenezer West, Jr. of Rhode Island 1768 - 1847

(DNA evidence implies that Ebenezer West, Jr. is the uncle of **John West [Jr.] of Minerva** the subject of this report. The following collateral evidence supplements the DNA evidence. See also Ezra B. West)

Ebenezer West Jr. was born 1768 in RI (died in Michigan in 1847)

m1. Jane Bliss, 1790

They had the following children:

Ebenezer West^{3rd} b. 12 Oct 1790 (or 25 Nov 1793) Vershire, VT

Ezra Bliss West born 1792, Vershire, VT

Ira West b. 1799 (d. 1885) (FAG, Rev Ira of Lewiston)

Itha West b. 1804 (d. 1879)

m 2 Mercy Yates (date unknown –Unsupported gedcom files)

They had these children according to unproven online sources:

[James b. 1807]

[Matthew b. 1807]

[Sally Sharp b. 1811 – d. 1888]

Other improbable children appear in various online, unsourced, family trees:⁶⁸

Some of the above information came from the *History of Minerva, Essex Co., NY.*

Specifics from the *History of Minerva, NY* p4 (Questioned items are italicized in red.)

“Ebenezer West, Jr. probably served in the Revolutionary War as a private in Capt. Hall’s Company under Col. Holden in the expedition against Newport in 1779. He acquired land in Vershire, Orange Co. VT in 1782. He married his wife Jane [Bliss] in Vermont. He had migrated to Minerva, Essex Co. NY by 1805. He was a member of Minerva Baptist Church by 1807. “

References to the children (see above) taken shown in Church records:

Ebenezer West III b. 25 Nov 1793, [or 12 Oct 1790]..Member Minerva Baptist Church 1807

Ezra Bliss West b. 1792 Vershire VT, m. Sophia Leonard in Minerva 11 Aug 1815

Ezra and Sophia had these children:

Daughters born in Minerva: Elizabeth West, 1816, Jane West 1819.

Son, Isaac, possibly born in Manlius, Onondaga Co. NY, 1822; [speculative]⁶⁹

Child born in Minerva: Azariah, 1825

Ezra Bliss West went to Clymer, Chautauqua Co. NY **1831**. (see 1840 census)

Ira West b. 1799 (d. 1885) aka Rev. Ira West of Lewiston⁷⁰

Itha West b. 1804 (d. 1879) went to Clymer, Chautauqua Co. NY 1831 [Incorrect.]⁷¹

Itha J West in Niagara 1830 and 1850 census for Wilson, Niagara Co. where he is also buried.⁷²

Nieces/Nephews: Other cousins settled at French Creek circa 1832 (near Clymer or taken from Clymer)

Some went later to Minnesota and S. Dakota.

DNA suggests that Ezra Bliss West, son of Ebenezer West 3rd left descendants which are probably my contemporary cousins. However, no known connections between recent families have been found. (It is generally shown through church and census data that Ezra Bliss West was likely the nephew of John West, Sr of Minerva.)

⁶⁸ Elsey b. abt. 1824 and Bennet b.1828

⁶⁹ No evidence that the family went to Onondaga County. Other Wests were known to have lived in Onondaga Co. at that time.

⁷⁰ FAG Memorial 195801923, Ira West (8 Sep 1799-24 Dec 1885) 1st Presbyterian Cem., Lewiston, Niagara Co. NY.

⁷¹ Confusion here. This might be Ithamar West, son of Joseph. Some of Joseph’s children went to Clymer and French Creek

⁷² FAG Memorial #65203313, Itha J. West, Budd Cem. Cambria, Niagara Co. NY.

Migration West: Ebenezer and his father still resided in Essex County (Schroon Lake) in 1810.

U.S. Census:

Census of Essex County, NY 1810, Schroon (later Minerva)

The Minerva Church History states that after the 1810 census, “we have no further record of Ebenezer and Jane.”⁷³ This must be an error for Ebenezer is also shown in the 1820 census for Minerva (See below).

Census of Essex County, NY, 1820, Minerva (Ebenezer and son)

This image shows the younger Ebenezer first. He is listed as “West, Ebenezer 3rd” head of household with 2males < 10 and Ebenezer 3rd himself age 26-44. Three lines below is his father, “West, Ebenezer” (our Ebenezer Jr.) listed head of household aged over 45. No other males.⁷⁴

The later westward migration of Ebenezer West, Jr and his son Ebenezer West 3rd is not discussed in other Minerva sources cited so far. (See previous page about confusion over various references to “Ebenezer” by name).

Compare the 1820 and 1830 census of Minerva. (All Wests)

Census of Essex County, NY 1820:-

On left -Original image with edits in *magenta*.

On right -- Notes and interpretation by author:

West,
 Ebenezer 3rd + wife age 26-44; 2 m < 10, 1 f < 10; + 1 f >45 [missing in 1830]
 Warren + wife age 26-44; 1 f <10 [missing in 1830]
 Anson + wife age 26-44; 1 f <10
 Nathan + wife > 45
 Ebenezer + wife > 45 [missing in 1830]
 John + wife > 45; m 16-25; f < 16
 William C. 26-44; f 16-25, 1 m < 10, 2 f < 10
 Lenox + wife age 26-44; 1 m < 10, 2 f < 10
 William + wife > 45; 1 m < 10, 1 m < 16, 1 m < 26, 1 f < 26 [missing 1830]
 Ithamar + wife 26-44; 2 m <10, 1 m < 16, 1 f < 16
 Ezra B. 26-44, wife 16-25, 2 f < 10

Ancestors: Ebenezer West of Rhode Island

1830 U.S. Census, Minerva

NAME HEAD OF FAMILY	Males													Females												
	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-99						
Nathan West	2	1																								
Nathan West																										
Nathan West																										
Nathan West																										
Nathan West																										
Nathan West																										
Nathan West																										
Nathan West																										
Nathan West																										

Anson West (son of Nathan)
 Nathan West (son of Ebenezer)

Jesse West (not shown in 1820)
 John West
 William C. West
 Lenox West

The 1830 U.S. Census reveals that Ebenezer and sons had left Minerva.⁷⁵

Where did they go?

They migrated to Niagara County in far western New York.

Niagara County bordered Chautauqua County as the westernmost counties of New York. It also bordered Canada. The region was on the major immigrant routes to the Northwest Territory—which at that time included the future State of Ohio and in particular the lands known as the Connecticut Western Reserve in northern Ohio.

The further migration of Ebenezer and his family to western New York in the 1830s is discussed in Census records, **Appendix B** and Land records in **Appendix C**.

⁷⁵ Niagara County also encompassed what would later become Erie County.

Part IV

MISSING LINK: JOHN WEST OF PORTAGE

A connection between

John West Jr of Minerva and John West of Solon ?

A possible link: After the birth of his son, Orson, it is speculated John West of Solon left New York and settled in Portage Co. OH.

A John West of appropriate age and family appears in the 1830 census for Portage County, Ohio. I believe he was the future John West of Solon. John West lived in Coventry Township. He could conceivably be John West of Minerva and/or John West of Solon.

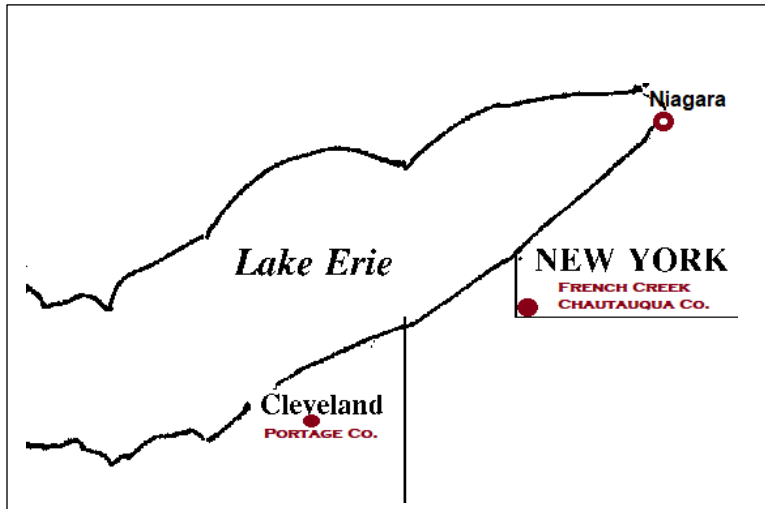
1830 U.S. Census, Portage County, OH.

Name of County, City, Ward, Town, Township, Precinct, Hamlet, or District.	NAMES HEADS OF FAMILIES.	MALES															FEMALES																																
		Under five years of age	Of five and under ten	Of ten and under fifteen	Of fifteen and under twenty	Of twenty and under twenty five	Of twenty five and under thirty	Of thirty and under thirty five	Of thirty five and under forty	Of forty and under forty five	Of forty five and under fifty	Of fifty and under fifty five	Of fifty five and under sixty	Of sixty and under sixty five	Of sixty five and under seventy	Of seventy and over	Under five years of age	Of five and under ten	Of ten and under fifteen	Of fifteen and under twenty	Of twenty and under twenty five	Of twenty five and under thirty	Of thirty and under thirty five	Of thirty five and under forty	Of forty and under forty five	Of forty five and under fifty	Of fifty and under fifty five	Of fifty five and under sixty	Of sixty and over																				
	Country township Portage Co. signed A.A.																																																
	<i>West John</i>		2					1	1																																								

My research into John West of Portage and his relationship to John West of Solon is detailed in Appendix C.

Here are images representing the region of French Creek in Chautauqua County, New York in relation to Portage County in northeastern Ohio. The siblings and cousins of John West of Minerva went to French Creek in the mid 1830’s. A John

West had settled in Coventry Township in Portage County by the time of the 1830 U.S. Census. The distance between the two places is about 150 miles.



That *John of Portage* is the same man as *John of Solon* seems believable. His relationship to others in Solon as described in Appendix C enhances the case.

That *John of Portage* is the same man as *John of Minerva*—not so much.⁷⁶

Sooo-- I put my hypothesis aside pending more substantial evidence.

⁷⁶ It is very possible that John of Minerva stayed in Essex County. There is a John of similar age found in the U.S. Census for 1830 Essex (town) and 1840 Willsboro (50-60 miles north of Minerva.) If this is *John of Minerva* my search took me down the wrong path.

West DNA

Part V

DNA--

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

DNA—THE ONLINE GENEALOGY KIND

I tested my DNA at Ancestry in 2016. Spitting in a tube was the easy part. Finding ancestors using DNA was just as time-consuming and frustrating as old-fashioned genealogical research. Years went by and there still were no answers.

Then one day while looking at possible matches at Ancestry DNA I found a distant match with someone who claimed to descend from *William Carr West*. Ancestry indicated we might share a 3rd or 4th great grandfather. That of course was what I was looking for. Then I found a second match at Ancestry DNA with a person who claimed descent from *Ebenezer West, Jr. the brother of John West, Sr.*

Using *GedMatch* I found a third match on the same West line. *Gedcom* files had been posted for each of these. I compared each to my hypothetical ancestral line and each fit significantly.

I still was not sure whether to *rely* on the DNA findings.

Then my daughter gave me a *23andMe* test kit for Mother's Day. (Whose daughter does that?) Of course I spit into another tube and joined 23andMe.⁷⁷ The website offers a forum. I posted a question about whether a "20.5 cM match over 1 segment" was significant to indicate two DNA donors shared a 2nd or 3rd great grandfather?⁷⁸ I got quite a few responses. I did not understand half of them. But I got the idea that the answer was 'Yes'—*maybe*. ***It seemed significant to me!***

Therefore, I have included three DNA results in the next pages.⁷⁹

⁷⁷ 23andMe has 'forums.' (I'd almost forgotten the term. In the olden days I lived on free genealogy forums such as 'GenForum.' All the old free forums have been bought out by Ancestry and are no longer free.) I put out my question to the '23 and Me' Forum and got several replies from members who seemed like they knew a lot more about DNA than I did. 23andMe opened many avenues of research—none of which helped me find ancestors of my John West. But it certainly gave me a new insight on family research. All this time I was looking for distant ancestors. Another game was at play: living cousins who were the result of unknown marriages, hidden relationships—and much darker stories.

⁷⁸ Through 23andMe I discovered a new half-first cousin. My father's father had a secret son none in my family knew about. For years I believed that my own male 'West' line died out when my father died in 1993. Twenty years of research proved that none of the grandsons of *John of Solon* left any surviving males named 'West'—except for my father and one uncle—both long dead without sons. Suddenly I had more cousins than I could have dreamed of. There seemed to be at least two males who survive to this day. All I have to do is convince one of them to take a Y-DNA test. (That won't be easy. They are complete strangers.) [Update as of August 7, 2021: I still have no response.]

⁷⁹ The emails and names are withheld for their privacy. I have tried many times to communicate personally with each of them.

Two matches found at Ancestry and Gedmatch.

1. My match to a descendant of **William Carr West**, older brother of *John West of Minerva*
See pp. 25.
2. My match to a descendant of **Ezra Bliss West**, first cousin of *John West of Minerva*
See p. 27.

Match to William Carr West – GedMatch

GEDmatch® Autosomal One-to-one Comparison - V1.0

Software Version Jun 18 2020 02:35:33

[Here](#) is a link to a useful YouTube video on using the One to One DNA comparison tool.

Individual marker indications:

Base Pairs with Full Match	Green
Base Pairs with Half Match	Yellow
Match with Phased data	Purple
Base Pairs with No Match	Red

Validity of segments:

Significant	Blue
Large gap between adjacent SNPs	Orange
No Match	Black

Comparing Kit A835635 (*sierragrannie) [Migration - F2 - A] and H275364 (Caran Ebert) [Migration - F2 - H]

Minimum segment threshold size to be included in total = 700 SNPs
 Minimum segment cM to be included in total = 7.0 cM
 Mismatch-bunching Limit will be adjusted dynamically to 60 percent of the segment threshold size for any given segment.

Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
7	151,678,416	159,119,486	20.5	1,845

Chr 7

Image size reduction: 1/37

Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
18	2,459,365	6,540,394	15.3	1,318

Chr 18

Image size reduction: 1/19

Largest segment = 20.5 cM

Total Half-Match segments (HIR) = 35.8 cM (0.998 Pct)
 Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 4.3

2 shared segments found for this comparison.

613952 SNPs used for this comparison.

55.740 Pct SNPs are full identical

Comparison took 0.299 seconds.
 CPU time used: 0.076 cpu seconds.

Ver: Jun 18 2020 02:35:33

The above is a GedMatch graphical presentation of results of comparing the DNA as follows:

My GedMatch kit A635835 compared to kit H275364. (Names withheld for privacy)

The Gedcom file associated with this kit is shown on the next page.

It shows ancestry back to William Carr West.

Match to William Carr West -- GedMatch -- continued

Descendants Outline Chart

```

1 William C West (b. 19 Aug 1790, Vermont, USA)
. + Betsey (b. 21 Nov 1794)
. . 2 John West (b. 21 May 1829)
. . 2 Thomas West (b. 16 May 1827)
. . 2 Sophia West (b. 01 Feb 1824)
. . 2 Samuel West (b. 20 Jul 1821)
. . 2 Alic West (b. 25 Aug 1819)
. . 2 Roana West (b. 09 Jul 1817)
. . 2 Second Son West (b. 10 Apr 1816)
. . 2 Leander L West (b. 10 Aug 1814)
. + HIDDEN HIDDEN
. . 2 HIDDEN HIDDEN
. . 2 HIDDEN HIDDEN
. . 2 HIDDEN HIDDEN
. . 2 HIDDEN HIDDEN
. . 2 HIDDEN HIDDEN
. . 2 Martha Jane West (b. 12 Jan 1839, Johnsbury, Warren, New York, USA, d. 11 Jun 1921, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, USA)
. . . + Joel Dennis Chamberlain (b. 29 Nov 1828, Poultney, Rutland, Vermont, USA, d. 27 Apr 1891, St Charles, Winona, Minnesota, USA)
. . . . 3 Addie Dell Chamberlain (b. 07 Jun 1861, Chestertown, Warren, New York, USA, d. 07 Oct 1941, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, Califo
. . . . . + John A Coulson (b. 16 Apr 1852, South Carlton, Lincolnshire, England, d. 29 Mar 1922, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California
. . . . . 4 Jean Doris Coulson (b. 09 Sep 1903, Petaluma, Sonoma, California, USA, d. 22 May 1989, Hayward, Alameda, California, U
. . . . . + Edgar Henry Ebert (b. 19 Oct 1901, Merrill, Lincoln, Wisconsin, USA, d. 30 Jan 1942, Agnews, Santa Clara, Santa Clar
. . . . . 5 HIDDEN HIDDEN
. . . . . 5 Kenneth Edgar Ebert (b. 15 Feb 1930, Modesto, Stanislaus, California, USA, d. 09 Jan 2011, El Dorado Hills, El Dor
. . . . . + HIDDEN HIDDEN (b. HIDDEN, HIDDEN)
. . . . . 6 HIDDEN HIDDEN (b. HIDDEN)
. . . . . 6 Glenn Kenneth Ebert (b. 06 Jun 1959, Hayward, Alameda, California, USA, d. 13 Aug 2014, El Dorado Hills, El Do
. . . . . 5 HIDDEN HIDDEN (b. HIDDEN, HIDDEN)
. . . . . 5 Donald Roy Ebert (b. 19 Feb 1924, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, USA, d. 05 May 2003, Las Vegas, Clark, Nevad
. . . . . + Sarahlou June Hawes (b. 19 Jun 1927, Mount Pleasant, Isabella, Michigan, USA, d. 26 Nov 2014, Las Vegas, Clark,
. . . . . 6 (H275364) HIDDEN HIDDEN (b. HIDDEN, HIDDEN)
. . . . . + HIDDEN HIDDEN (b. HIDDEN, HIDDEN)
. . . . . 7 HIDDEN HIDDEN (b. HIDDEN, HIDDEN)
. . . . . 7 HIDDEN HIDDEN (b. HIDDEN, HIDDEN)
    
```

Portion of Gedcom file (1110451 P 60)
associated with DNA kit H275364.

DNA donor is identified by the symbol at generation 6.

William C West was the brother of my theoretical
2d great grandfather.

(My generation would be 5 on this chart)

Match to William Carr West -- Ancestry

You and majusasu 

MA

Predicted relationship: 4th-6th Cousin


Shared DNA: 26 cM across 1 segments
Longest Segment: 27 cM

This is a close relative to the donor above. Both descended from William Carr West.

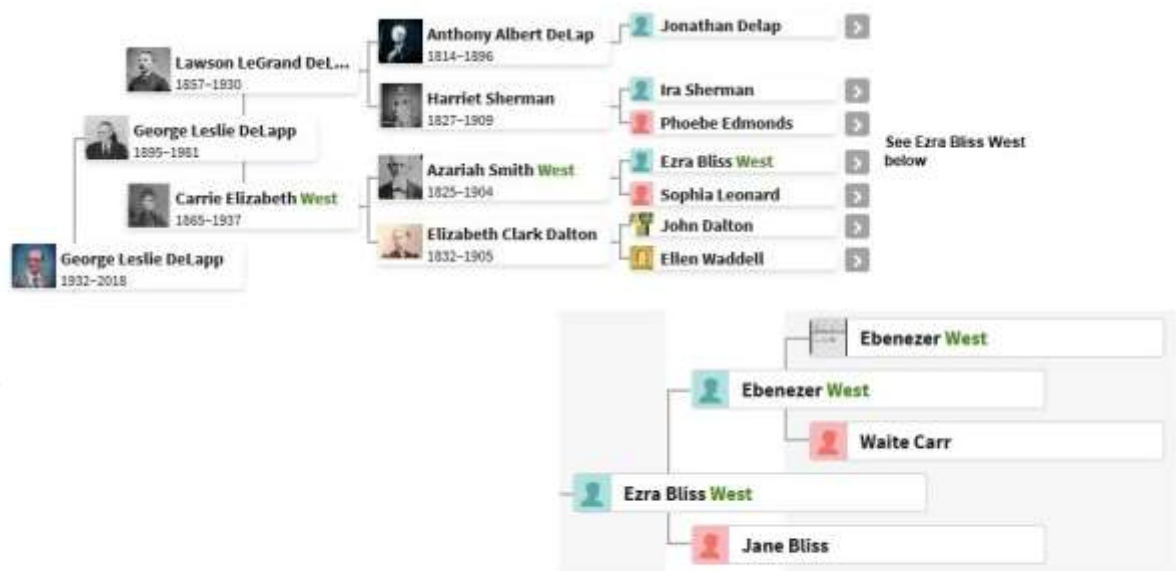


Match to Ezra Bliss West -- Ancestry

G.D.'s Linked Tree

You and G.D. 
G.D.'s test is managed by: MarjorieDeLapp

Predicted relationship: 4th-6th Cousin
Shared DNA: 42 cM across 2 segments
Longest Segment: 35 cM

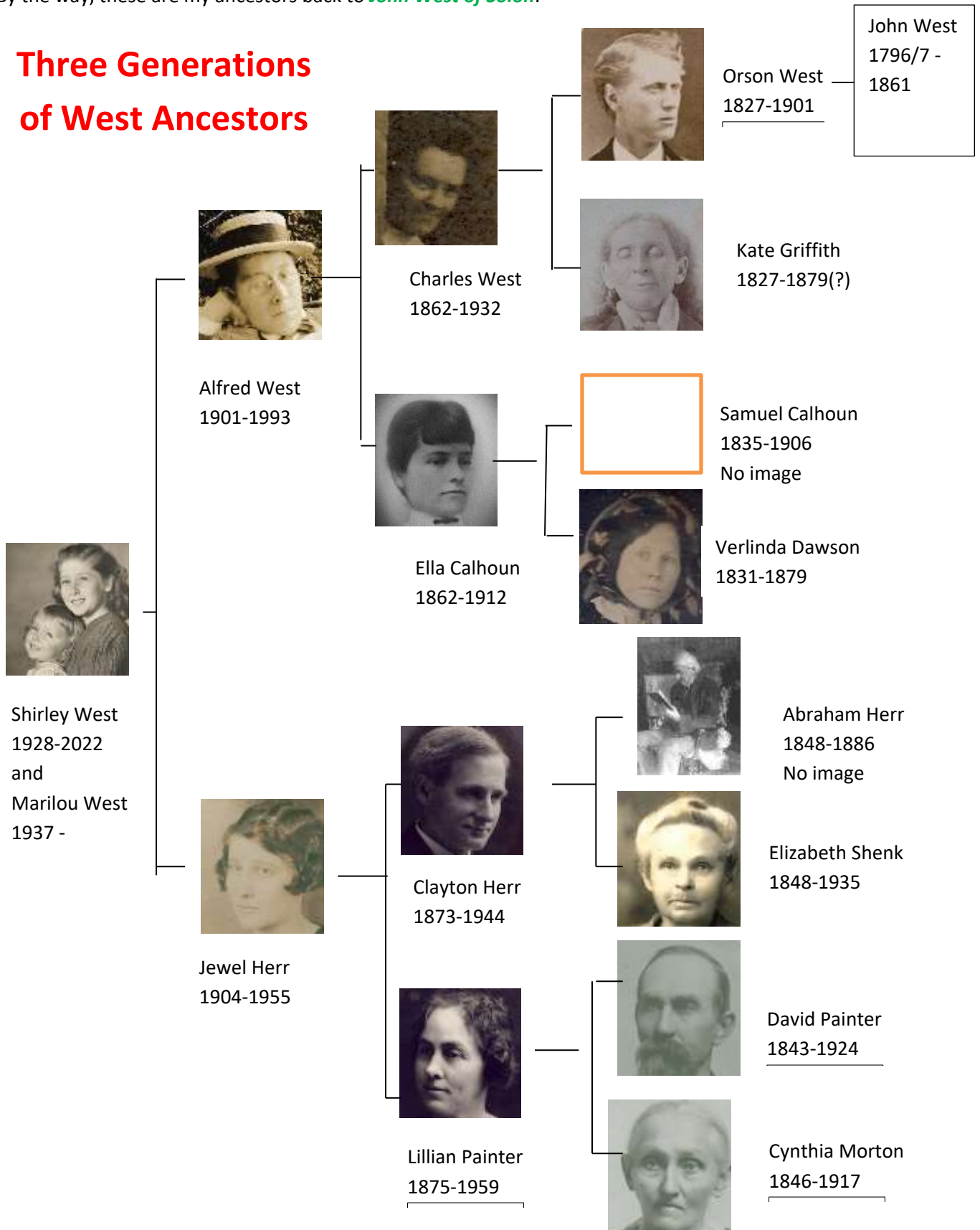


The tree shows G.D. (George Leslie DeLapp, 1832-2018) as the root. His parents are George Leslie DeLapp (1805-1981) and Carrie Elizabeth West (1865-1937). George Leslie DeLapp (1805-1981) has children Lawson LeGrand DeLapp (1857-1930) and Anthony Albert DeLap (1814-1896). Lawson LeGrand DeLapp (1857-1930) has children George Leslie DeLapp (1885-1981) and Harriet Sherman (1827-1909). George Leslie DeLapp (1885-1981) has children George Leslie DeLapp (1832-2018) and Carrie Elizabeth West (1865-1937). Anthony Albert DeLap (1814-1896) has children Jonathan Delap, Ira Sherman, Phoebe Edmonds, Azariah Smith West (1825-1904), Elizabeth Clark Dalton (1832-1905), and Ellen Waddell. Azariah Smith West (1825-1904) has children Ezra Bliss West and Sophia Leonard. Elizabeth Clark Dalton (1832-1905) has children John Dalton and Ellen Waddell. A note next to Ezra Bliss West says "See Ezra Bliss West below".

Ezra Bliss West (1825-1904) is highlighted in green. His parents are Ebenezer West and Waite Carr. Ebenezer West has children Ebenezer West and Ezra Bliss West. Waite Carr has children Ezra Bliss West and Jane Bliss.

By the way, these are my ancestors back to *John West of Solon*.

Three Generations of West Ancestors



APPENDICES

A - E

APPENDIX A

WEST CHRONOLOGY BY MABEL JONES and Challenges to her sources and conclusions

Before 1790:

John West [Sr.] came with parents to Vershire, VT where he married Betsy Miller.⁸⁰

“We do know that John’s first wife was Betsy Miller and that they were married in Vermont [<1790].”

About 1796/7:

John West [Sr.] and wife Betsy Miller may have removed to Granville, Washington Co., NY.⁸¹ Mabel Jones states:

“It was probably only a few years after this marriage that John and Betsy moved to Granville, N.Y. The records of that town show cattle brands for John West in **1797.**” (*Ed: Not true. See details below*)

After 1800:

John West [Sr.] and wife Betsy removed to Minerva/Shroon Lake, Essex Co., NY. Mabel Jones states:

“John [West, Sr.] came to Minerva with the rest of the family **about 1800...** the first child born in Minerva was [his son] Francis West and the first death was that of [his wife] Betsy West [after **1807** when she was baptized at Baptist Church].”

Details:⁸²

Disputed claims about the birth of [John West of Minerva](#) (John, Jr., son of John West, Sr.):

No primary record of the birth or baptism of John West, Jr. has been found. His two older brothers were born in Vershire, VT. John West, Jr. could have been born in Vershire, or as Mabel Jones states, in Granville, Washington Co., NY.

The 1800 U.S. Census for Granville, NY does not show a suitable record for John and Betsy. However a John West does appear in the 1800 census for Vershire although not a good match.

Census records for John West, Sr. in 1800 are inconclusive.

⁸⁰ Mabel Jones, “John West [Sr.]” “The West Family: Notes taken from the clerk’s records of the Minerva Baptist Church,” typescript, “Minerva.pdf”, Minerva Historical Society, nd, p. 67. (Provided by “Anne” at 23andMe, 2020)

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

Appendix A: Minerva (Mabel Jones)

According to Mabel Jones' theory, John West, Sr. was living in Granville, Washington Co., NY. In 1800.

There is only one John West listed in the 1800 census for Granville,⁸³ and he belongs to the well-documented family of Prince West that had come to Granville in the 1790's from Lee, MA. (These were descendants of Francis West of Duxbury and not related to the ancestors of subject John West, Sr.)⁸⁴

Granville, Washington Co., NY 1800 Census:

John West: 1 m < 10; 1 m 26-45. 4 f < 10; 1 f 26-45.

This matches John G. West, son of Prince West.

The census shows a group of Wests, all related to Prince West, on the same page. (Prince and sons Christopher, Heman, John and son-in-law, Caleb.)

NAME of Person	FREE WHITE MALES					FREE WHITE FEMALES					SLAVES	
	10 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP	10 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP			
John West	1											

The 1800 Census record of John West of Vershire, VT contains a record of "John West" but it does not fit our subject family. It shows only 1 male < 10 instead of 3. It shows 5 females total under age 16 whereas our subject John West Sr. had only one known daughter, Sarah, and she would have been living in the household of John's brother, Joseph.⁸⁵

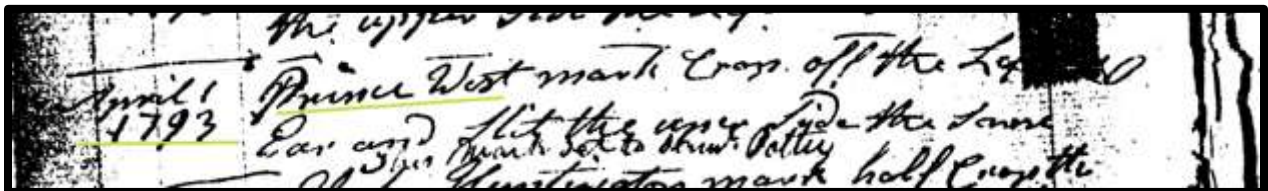
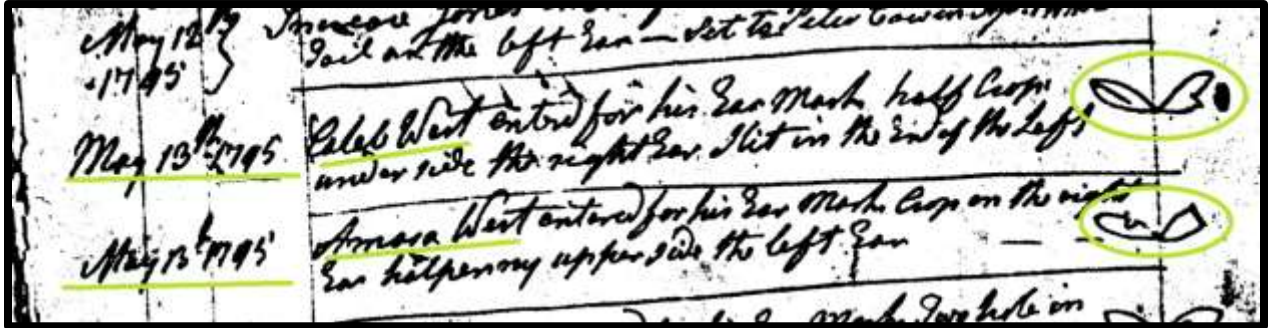
NAME	10 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP	10 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP	16 & UP
John West	1								

Image from Vershire, Orange Co., VT 1800 Census:¹
West, John: 1 m < 10; 1 m 26-45. 4 f < 10; 2 f < 16, 1 f 26-45

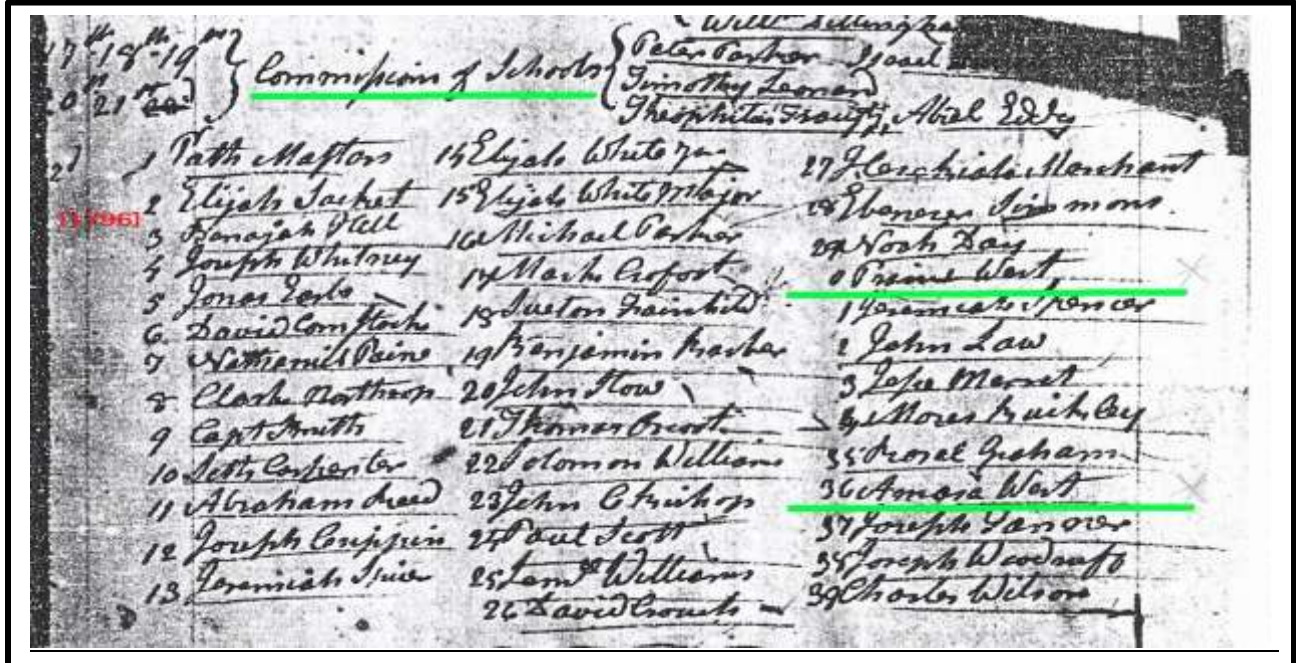
Note the household of Samuel Childs 9 lines above John. It contains a female under 10. One theory is that John Jr. married Clarissa Childs born abt 1801, VT.

⁸³ 1800 U.S. Census, Granville, Washington Co. NY, NARA M32, Roll 26, p. 279, 4 August 1800.
⁸⁴ Marilou West Ficklin, "West of Tolland, CT and Lee, MA," 2017, see "Lt. John West," following. also see: <http://www.westerly-journeys.com/genealogy/TollandWests.html>
⁸⁵ 1800 U.S. Census, Vershire, Orange Co. VT, NARA M32, Roll 51, P. 605, 4 August 1800.

Mabel Jones cites a cattle brand registered by a John West in 1797 as proof that John West, Sr. settled in Granville about 1796/7.⁸⁶ However this earmark was undoubtedly that of a different "John West"-- John West son of Prince West of an entirely different family.⁸⁷ Prince, Amasa and Caleb West also registered earmarks as shown below:⁸⁸



Additional Granville records show the members of the Prince West family serving in various roles in the town.



⁸⁶ Registered Earmarks of Granville; <http://www.washington.nygenweb.net/earmarks.htm>.

⁸⁷ Prince West, ancestors and descendants are documented in my work "The Wests of Tolland CT and Lee MA" online at <https://www.westerly-journeys.com>.

⁸⁸ These were copied by the author at the Washington County, NY Recorder's Office in 2007

War of 1812

The household of John West shown in the U.S. Census for Granville contains a male aged 10 or under. This may be Lt. John West. The records of Lt. John West show that he was in no way related to the Wests of Vershire or Minerva. The family history for Lt. John West is on the ***next page***.

Finally Mabel Jones is quoted as saying "John West, Jr." who had served in the War of 1812, later lived in York, Sandusky Co., OH in 1830.⁸⁹ ***John West who lived in York, Ohio is NOT the same person as our subject.***

John West of York, Sandusky Co., OH was the son of David West of Hillsdale, New York.

The Revolutionary pension application of David West of Hillsdale, NY and the pension application of his widow, Hannah Batherick West, refer to their wills which state that their son, John West, lived in York, [Sandusky Co) Ohio.⁹⁰ David's Revolutionary War Pension File includes family Bible pages showing John West, born 1796, as their son. The West line of David West (of Hillsdale) and his wife Hannah are ***not connected in any way to the line of John West of Minerva***. A lengthy published genealogy is attached to the Revolutionary Pension File of David West.

⁸⁹ "The Minerva Baptist Church," op. cit. p. 13,

⁹⁰ Widow's Pension Application File of Hannah West : #W16464, NARA Microfilm 804, Roll 2534. Photocopied from LDS Microfilm 97253, 14 Sept 2004 (Revolutionary War Pension File of David West.)

Lt. John West of Granville

This is the documented genealogy of Lt. John West. His maternal grandfather was Prince West of Tolland, CT and Lee, MA

Prince West was born in 1735 in Tolland CT. He settled in Lee, MA after Revolution and in the 1790s went to Granville, Washington Co., NY. He and his family remained there about ten years and then migrated to Otsego Co., NY after 1810.⁹¹

His children were:

1. John G. West, b. 1770 Lee MA. (Came in 1790s to Granville, Washington Co. NY and then went to Cayuga Co. NY 1810.)

He appears in the U.S. Census 1800 for Washington County, Granville: 4 daughters, 1 son all under 10 (Hannah b. 1794, Esther b. 1796, Eliza and Pamela b. 1797, Nehemiah b. 1800)

2. Christopher , b. 1774)

3. Amos ?

4. **Bathsheba who married Caleb West** (son of Prince's brother Oliver, b. 1764), They had children:⁹²

1. Caleb b. 1788

2. **John b. 1791 (son of Caleb) aka Lt. John West d. 1823, bur Hill Cem. Honey Hill Road South Granville, Wash. Co. NY. John served Capt. Day in Col. Adam's regt org at Whitehill South Granville and then to Battle of Plattsburg 1812 . Hist of Wash. Co. NY 1737-1838 (Philadelphia: Everts & Ensign, 1878. P. 220). He married Lucy _____**

They had children:

son Prince Chas 1814-1814

dau Lucy 1815

3. Daniel b. 1794

⁹¹ West of Tolland and Lee, op. cit. p. 15

⁹² West of Tolland and Lee, op. cit. p. 25

Appendix A: Minerva (Mabel Jones)

Mabel Jones claims that Ezra Bliss West had a son named "Isaac" born in 1822 in Manlius, Onondaga Co., NY and that his son Azariah was born in Minerva in 1825.⁹³ This implies the family moved west to Manlius before or during 1822 and returned to Minerva before or during 1825. Her claim seems invalid.

THE QUESTION: Did the wife of Ebenezer 3rd give birth to a child in Manlius and name him, "Isaac," a name not common in this subject ancestral line?

Mabel Jones was incorrect. Ebenezer West 3rd and his father are both enumerated in the 1820 census as residing in Minerva on August 6 1820. *If* they went to Manlius, it was after August 6. The 1820 census for Manlius (below) shows the household of an "Ebenezer West" which does not match the household of our Ebenezer 3rd.

1820 Onondaga: Ebenezer West as head of household shows 2 males under 10, 1 male 16-18, 2 males 16-25, and 1 male over 45.

Males		Females	
<10	16-18	>45	<10
2	1	2	1

There may be some private family records that prove the migration to Manlius—and the existence of "Isaac." I would like to see it.

⁹³ *Ibid.*

APPENDIX B

CENSUS RECORDS SHOWING WEST MIGRATIONS to Niagara and Chautauqua Counties New York

U.S. Census for 1830, Niagara County, New York, Niagara (town)

Ebenezer West 3rd lived near a man named "Orson Childs" in the town of Niagara in Niagara County.)⁹⁴

NAME HEADS OF FAMILIES.	FREE WHITE PERSONS, (EXCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.)																			
	MALES										FEMALES									
	Under 5 years of age	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	Under 5 years of age	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50
Orson Childs																				
Orson Childs																				
Ira West																				
Francis D. West																				
Itha J. West																				
John J. West																				
William Merchant																				
Elijah Smith																				
Edmund Wood																				
Edwin Cook																				
Wesley Smith																				
George Good																				
Carroll Good																				
Ebenezer West, Jr																				
Ebenezer West																				
Charles West																				

Note: Itha J. West (above) is often transcribed as "John J. West". Since there are many other records for Itha J. West in Niagara County in this time period, I believe that "Itha" is the correct interpretation.

⁹⁴ See also Orson Childs b Ct abt 1805 in Niagara, Niagara Co. NY and Stephen Childs b abt 1766 CT same place with a Julia b. abt 1815.

Extracted data from 1840-1850 census:

U.S. Census for 1840, Wilson, Niagara Co. NY, p. 14

John West Male <40 (b. 1801)⁹⁵ (Is this actually Itha West?)

Age groups header for 1840 census extracted below

<5 <10 <15 <20 <30 <40 <50 <60 <70 <5 <10 <15 <20 <30 <40 <50 <60

U.S. Census for 1840, Niagara, Niagara Co., NY

Orson Childs	1	2	0	1	1	1				1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
William H. Childs	1	1	1	0	0	1				1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0
John Lyons ⁹⁶																	

U.S. Census for 1840 Clymer, Chautauqua Co. NY

Ezra B. West	0	0	2	1	0	0	1			1	2	1	0	1	0	1	0
--------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

U.S. Census for 1840 Washtenaw, Michigan

Eben ^r West [Jr]	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0		0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
William H. Childs																	

Note: both William H. Childs and Ebenezer West, Jr emigrated from Niagara Co. NY to Washtenaw Co. MI.

U.S. Census for 1850 Wilson, Niagara, Niagara Co., NY

Itha J. West age 46 [b. 1803-4] NY

Orson Childs age 45 [b. 1804-1806] CT

Stephen Childs age 84 [b. 1766]

Julia Childs age 35 [b. 1815] NY

⁹⁵ Is this Itha West? (See 1830 and 1850 census, Niagara County, NY)

⁹⁶ Is this John Lyons of Solon, IA, brother of Mary Lyons of the ME Church?

APPENDIX C

PROPERTY RECORDS SHOWING WEST MIGRATIONS to Niagara and Chautauqua Counties New York

“Joseph West” is named in some of the earliest land transactions in Niagara County. He appears in transactions dated 1809 and 1814. In 1820 he sold the same approximate land to a Nathaniel Leonard. (See “Holland Land Company” following.) Therefore Joseph West must have been at least 21 years old in 1809 when he is referred to as Joseph West “of Niagara.”⁹⁷ There is no proof that this “Joseph” was a member of the Minerva West family. However the surname “Leonard” suggests it. (Several members of the Minerva West family married women named “Leonard”)⁹⁸

Note also that Joseph had taken Sarah his niece into his own family. Sarah and her husband, Ira Wade, migrated to Clymer, Chautauqua County in the 1830’s. This may suggest his relationship to the Wests who migrated to Clymer.

Furthermore, a “Francis D.” and “John West” are both found in the land records of Clymer at that time.

Other relationships suggested by land records:

The land acquired by Joseph in Niagara County was located in the same tract as that of Orson Childs. Both had land in the “Mile Reserve,”--Joseph in lots 15, 32, 33 and 45, and Orson Childs in lot 37. Sons of Ebenezer and possible sons of John Sr. (John and Francis D.) all acquired land in Township 13, Range 9, in Niagara County.

Joseph’s son Spencer migrated to French Creek in Chautauqua County—adjacent to and perhaps originally part of, Clymer.⁹⁹

⁹⁷ Genealogical records of Ebenezer’s sons and grandsons named ‘Joseph West’ do not reveal any “Joseph West” of appropriate age to have made above purchases. Men from other West families could have made the purchases but the purchases of other descendants of Ebenezer in the same location suggest that Joseph West of Niagara was the first to go west and buy land, but then later returned to Essex County.

⁹⁸ Marriages between the Wests and Leonards of Minerva: William Carr West (brother of John Jr) m. Betsy Leonard; Ezra Bliss West (cousin of John Jr) married Sophia Leonard, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Leonard. (Note: a “Clarissa Leonard” is found among baptisms in the Minerva Baptist Church in the 1820s. It is tempting to think she might be the wife of subject John West, Jr whose 1850 census record shows the presumed wife, “Clarissa”.

⁹⁹ Ebenezer West, son Joseph and grandson, Spencer in Parshall Family history, History of Allegheny Valley, p. 392. As posted at Family Search.

Niagara County – Property transactions of “West” 1809-1814**Property Records from Niagara County, NY Clerk (Lockport, NY) except where noted.**

Note “Mile Reserve”= “Niagara Tract”)

Date	Grantee	Grantor	Bk – Page	Location	Notes
1809	West, Joseph		A-8	Lot 15	Mile Reserve ¹⁰⁰
1820	Leonard , Nathaniel	Joseph West	A-79	Lot 45	Mile Reserve
1814	West, Joseph		A-392	Lots 32, 33	Mile Reserve

Chautauqua County – Property transactions of “West” 1836-1839**Property Records from Chautauqua County, NY Clerk (Mayville, NY)**

Date	Grantee	Grantor	Bk – Page	Location	Notes
1836	Wade, Ira (husband of Sarah West)		74-294	L22T1R15	Fr. Creek
1837	West, Spencer and Ezra Morgan	Willink (Holland Land Co.)	22-561	L13T1R15	\$196.41 (Son of Joseph)
1837	West, John	Betsy Williamson	23-44	L60T1R14	Clymer
1838	West, Anson	Willink (Holland Land Co.)	24-307	L53T2R14	Sherman (son of Nathan West)
1839	West, Spencer w. Ezra Morgan et all	Willink (Holland Land Co.)	24-425	L13T1R15	French Creek
1848	West, Francis D.	Willink (Holland Land Co.)	30-482	L60T1R14	Clymer

Holland Land Company Property Records – “West” 1831-1833

Date	Grantee	Document class and number	Property Description	Location
7 Dec 1831	West, Francis D.	D 509-105	L4T14R9	Niagara (Niagara)
22 Jan 1833	West, Francis D.	O 511-109 Original	L17T1R14	Clymer (Chautauqua)
22 Jan 1833	West, Francis D.	O 511-119 Original	L17T1R14	Clymer (Chautauqua)

¹⁰⁰ See also Erie Co. Deeds, Book 1, p. 343 Dec 1808: Lot 15 on ea side of Niagara River to Joseph West of Niagara County from John Gansevoort of Niagara County. Also Erie Co. Deed Book, 3-11, to Joseph West from Willink (Holland Land Co.) 8 Nov 1813m kits 32 abd 33 T15R9.

The following diagrams show the locations of various “West” properties.

Notice that the name “Childs” appears frequently. (There may be a relationship between the Childs and West families in Niagara County. See Appendix D.)

Niagara County

Township and Range Diagram
 showing relative locations Property Ownership
 and names of towns

	Range 9	Range 8	Range 7	Range 6
Township 15	<i>Joseph West 1813</i>	Wilson	Wilson <i>Itha J. West Ira West Ebenezer West 1831</i>	
Township 14	Lewiston <i>Francis D. West 1831t</i>	Lewiston Cambria <i>Aaron Childs</i>	Cambria Lockport	Lockport
Township 13	Niagara [Falls] <i>Ebenezer West Jr.</i>			

Chautauqua County

Township and Range Diagram
 showing relative locations Property Ownership
 and names of towns

	Range 15	Range 14	Range 13	Range 12	Range 11	Range 10
Township 6					<i>Childs</i>	
Township 5				<i>Childs</i>		
Township 4						
Township 3					<i>Childs</i>	
Township 2		Sherman <i>Anson West</i>		Ellery		
Township 1	French Creek <i>Ezra West</i> <i>Spencer West</i>	Clymer <i>John West</i> <i>Francis D. West</i> <i>1833</i> <i>Ira Wade</i>		Busti <i>Childs</i>		

Appendix D

CHILDS

The Childs family of Niagara County, New York

Aaron Childs seems to be an early member of the Childs family who settled and purchased land in Niagara County. He had two sons, William H. (nicknamed the "preacher") and another son (nicknamed the "sinner"). Aaron settled in the town of Lewiston. His house on the hill (Main Street) was the only mansion of the section. He later removed to Niagara Falls and was a prominent land owner-speculator. He was the first highway Commissioner and organized the first Presbyterian Church at Lewiston. The church records mention Aaron, Ward, and Martha. **Ira West** was a deacon of this church suggesting a possible relationship between the Childs and Wests of Niagara County. (See "Library Research" and "Maps" on following pages.) Aaron Childs eventually migrated to Washtenaw Co., MI where he died in 1882.^{101 102}

William H. Childs was also a prominent land developer in Niagara County in the tract called (railroad) "Suspension Bridge" two miles below the falls of the Niagara River.

See the property records following. Also refer to Appendix C for the diagrams showing location of Childs and West properties in Niagara and Chautauqua Counties.

¹⁰¹ FAG Memorial 23342271: Aaron Childs 6 Dec 1806 – 26 Mar 1882, bur Willis Cem., Washtenaw Co. MI.

¹⁰² Ebenezer West Jr. also migrated from Niagara County NY. to Washtenaw Co., MI where he was enumerated in the 1840 census.

Orson Childs of Niagara Co. NY

Orson Childs was probably related to Aaron Childs – although not the son of Aaron. Orson was instrumental in the development of the “Mile Tract,” and “Suspension Bridge.” Its relation to Niagara Falls (incorporated 1848) is documented in *The Life and Times of Suspension Bridge Village*,¹⁰³ which states,

...“the land north of [village of Niagara Falls] was all farmland and in 1845 there were only two houses there, the farmhouses of Elihu P. Graves and Orson Childs ...”

In the 1830 U.S. Census for Niagara Co., NY, “Orson Childs” is shown on the same page as Ebenezer West -- three lines above. This might suggest they were neighbors.

Why did it matter?

? WESTS OF MINERVA NY = WESTS OF SOLON IA ?

John West of Solon named his son “Orson Childs West.”

Was there some relationship between Ebenezer West and Orson Childs?^{104,105}

¹⁰³ Daniel L. Davis, *The Life and Times of Suspension Bridge Village*, 2nd Ed. , p. 8. (Mentions Gad Pierce Tavern and Orson Childs).

¹⁰⁴ See property documentation in Appendix C re Jonathon Childs and Joseph West, in “Mile Reserve,” Niagara Co., NY)

¹⁰⁵ There were several other men named “Orson Childs” in neighboring Allegheny County, NY. *None of them fit within the time frame of “Orson Childs West,” and furthermore, no connection was found to a family named “West.”*

Appendix D: Childs

U.S. Census for 1830, Niagara County, New York, Niagara (Show previously at Appendix B Westward Migration, Census.

(Shows that Ebenezer West 3rd lived relatively near a man named "Orson Childs" in the town of Niagara in Niagara County.)¹⁰⁶

214
(N^o 2)
415

SCHEDULE of the whole number of Persons within the Division allotted to

FREE WHITE PERSONS, (NOT-LEGGED HEADS OF FAMILIES.)

NAME OR HEADS OF FAMILIES.	MALES														FEMALES									
	Under five years of age	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80	80 to 85	85 to 90	90 to 95	95 to 100				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)				
Orson Childs																								
Book Miller																								
Joseph Jones																								
John Alucoat																								
John West																								
James D. West																								
Mary Phillips																								
John J. West																								
William Merchant																								
Elijah Smith																								
Edmond Thwin																								
Edwin Cook																								
Clayton Smith																								
George Good																								
David Todd																								
Ebenezer West Jr.																								
Ebenezer West																								

Orson Childs
Ira West
Francis D. West
Itha J. West

¹⁰⁶ See also Orson Childs b CT abt 1805, in Niagara, Niagara Co. NY. Also Stephen Childs b abt 1766 CT and Julia b. abt 1815.

LDS Record: Orson Childs born 1805, m Fairfield, Franklin Co. VT, son of Stephen Childs b. 24 Apr 1769, Woodstock, Windham, CT. Rootsweb ID 13364.216, Tree 151249.

Appendix D: Childs

West and Childs Selected Census Abstracts 1820-1840

1820 Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY

	M	<10	<15	<18	<25	<45	>45	F	<10	<15	<25	<45	>45
Aaron Childs	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Stephen Childs	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	0

Note also grave of Ira West in Lewiston:

Rev. Ira West (8 Sep 1799- 24 Dec 1885) [Son of Ebenezer West, Jr.] bur. **Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY**¹⁰⁷

1820 Protection, Erie Co, NY

Stephen Childs, son of Henry Childs of VT.

1830 Niagara, Niagara Co. NY:

	M	<5	<10	<15	<20	<30	<40	<50	<60	<70	F	<5	<10	<15	<20	<30	<40	<50	<60
Ebenezer Jr. [3 rd]	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ebenezer [Jr.]	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Itha J. West	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Francis D. West	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	¹⁰⁸
Ira	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Orson Childs	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Aaron Childs	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Stephen Childs	0	0	1	0	0	3/2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3/2	0	0	1	0

1840 Niagara, Niagara Co., NY?

Orson Childs	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
William H. Childs	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
John Lyons ¹⁰⁹																			

1840 Wilson, Niagara, Niagara Co. NY, p. 14

John West Male <40 (b. 1801)

1840 Washtenaw, Michigan¹¹⁰: M <5 <10 <15 <20 <30 <40 <50 <60 F <5 <10 <15 <20 <30 <40 <50 <60

Ebenezer West [Jr]		0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
--------------------	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1840 Clymer, Chautauqua Co. NY

Ezra B. West		0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
--------------	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1850 Wilson, Niagara, Niagara Co., NY

Itha J. West age 46 [b. 1803-4] NY [son of Ebenezer West 3rd]¹¹¹

1850 Niagara, Niagara Co. NY:

Childs Orson	age	45	born CT [1805]
Sarah		38	born NY
Arron E.		18	born NY [1832]
Walter		16	born NY
Miron		15	born NY
Celestine	10		born NY
Childs Stephen		84	born CT [1766]
Lolly		74	born CT
Julia		35	born NY
Benjamin T.		32	born NY – Tavern Keeper

¹⁰⁷ Find-a-Grave Memorial # 195801923, 1st Presb. Cem, Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY

¹⁰⁸ Is this Francis the youngest son (b. abt 1804) of John West Sr. and Betsy Miller?

¹⁰⁹ Is this John Lyons of Solon, IA, brother of Mary Lyons of the ME Church?

¹¹⁰ This may not be our Ebenezer West, Jr from Essex. Notice Ebenezer West 3rd not shown in this census.

¹¹¹ Grave of Itha J. West: 14 April 1804-28 Oct 1879, Budd Cem., Cambria, Niagara Co., NY. FAG Memorial # 65203313

Niagara County Deed Records for “Childs”

Property Records from Niagara County, NY Clerk (Lockport, NY) except where noted.

Red indicates a Holland Land Company record.

Note “Mile Reserve”= “Niagara Tract”)

Date	Grantee	Grantor	Bk – Page	Location	Notes
1803	Childs, Aaron	Holland Land Co. Original land entry	O-488-86	Lot 62 T14R8	Cambria 29 Dec 1803
1823	Childs, Jonathon	Comstock	1-234	Main St	See Joseph West
1823	Childs, Aaron	Willnicks (Hol. Land Co)	1-237	Lot 61	101 ac
1835	Childs, Aaron	A. Childs	14-98	Lot 36 T14R8	“Mile Reserve”
1835	Childs, Aaron	“The People of Nia....”	17-246	Lot 37	“Mile Reserve”
1853	Childs, Orrin E.	Orson Childs	53-469	Lot 37	“Mile Reserve”
1853	Childs, Orson	Stewart Tomlinson	58-280	Lot 37	“Mile Reserve”
???	Childs, Orson	Babcock	127-239	Lot 37	“Mile Reserve”
1817		Childs, Aaron & Lucy	A-89	S61T14R8 Ridge Rd.	Edge of Tuscaroras Res.,
“		“	A-102	61 Ridge Rd.	
“		“	1-401	S62T14R861 Ridge Rd	Lewiston; Holl. Land Co.
1827	Childs, Aaron	Holland Land Co.	S 505-113	L62T14R8	Cambria
1827		Childs, Jonathon of Rochester & wife Sophia	3-61	Pt Lot 12 TR14R6	Village Lot , Lockport
1833	Richabaugh	Childs, Orson	7-551	Lot 12 T13R9	
1836	J.M. McKay	Childs, Orson , Town of Niagara	17-246	Lot 37	“Mile Reserve” 153 ac. ea side Niagara R.
1840		Childs, Orson	28-76	Lot 15 T13R9	East of Mil. Rd.
1840		Childs, Wm. H.	27-487	Lot 20 T13R9	
“		Childs, Wm. H.	35-418	Lot 37	“Mile Reserve”
1853		Childs, Orson	53-469	Lot 37	“Mile Reserve”
“		“	51-604	Suspension Bridge	Ea bank Niagara R.
“		“ w/ W. Griffith	56-590	Lot 18 T13R4	Town of Niagara
1871	Childs, Orson	George Babcock	127-239	Farm Lot 37 ea side Niagara R.	Quit Claim. ¹¹²
1871	Childs, Orson w/ wife Sarah	George Babcock	127-241	“	“

¹¹² Quitclaim Babcock to Orson Childs. p. 239 29 Nov 1871, Fort Dodge, IA. Recorded 1-8-1881. Farm Lot 37 ea side Niagara R called Niagara Tract or “Mile Reserve” on North River Niagara-Lewiston Rd. – same 2 ac to Orson Childs Bk 31, p. 613, 1838. See also p. 241 North River tract Part 2, Lot 33, purchased 4 Jan 1836, 153 ac. 6 lots from Niagara Falls. See 51:604—ea bank Niag. Riv, pub rd. Niagara Falls to Lockport. Mentions suspension bridge. Illegible.

Library Research: Local histories etc. Childs – Niagara

Lewiston Public Library

“Lewiston: Crown Jewel of the Niagara” Margaret S. Laurie 6-2-2001

Cambria 1808 created from Genesee Co. 1808/ Lewison created from Cambria 1817.

1st highway Commissioner: **Aaron Childs**

Lockport created 1824

Erie Canal constructed 1817

Holland Land Purchase advertised at 4 cents/ac

Niagara Suspension Bridge – 2 tiers. (Harriet Tubman legend: brought 300 slave runaways to bridge for escape to Canada)

Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Niagara Co. Ny (Gresham Pub. Co. 1892)

p. 109 Suspension Bridge Village -> as Niagara City inc 8 Jun 1865 on Niagara River 2 miles below falls. 1845 E.P. Graves and **Orson Childs**. At the time only 2 farmhouses existed.

Railroad suspension bridge 2 miles below falls

Presbyterian Church at Lewiston organized by **Aaron Childs** (see also **Ira West deacon of Presbyterian Church.**)

Aaron Childs, early Lewiston settler, removed to Niagara Falls. His two sons: “Deacon” and “Sinner”. **William [H.]** was the deacon. The sinner not named.

Aaron Childs house up the hill on **Main Street**. (see deeds) was the only mansion of the section.

Note Lockport 1823:

1st Presby Ch: **Childs: Aaron, Ward, Luch, Martha**

Residence of **W.H. Childs** at corner of Ontario and Walnut.

Niagara Falls Public Library, Local History Dept.

Daniel L. Davis, *The Life and Times of Suspension Bridge Village*, 2nd Ed. (privately published), p. 8 mentions Gad Pierce Tavern. Mentions Orson Childs.

News clipping, *Galaxys*, p. 4:6, 16 Jul 1836. Mentions Aaron Childs.

Niagara Falls Public Library, Local History Dept.

Childs Family folder:

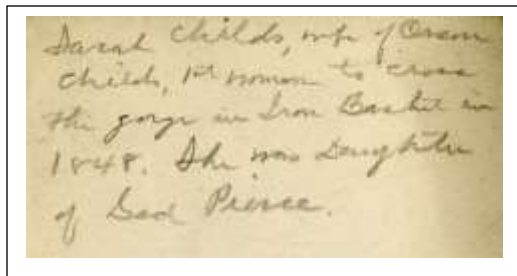
ORSON CHILDS (of Niagara Falls)

b. 10 Apr 1831 VT (source?)

m. Sarah Pierce -- dau of Gad Pierce (owner of Gad Pierce Tavern)¹¹³

Photo of Martha Childs, Niagara Falls Public Library:

Back of photo: "Sarah Childs wife of Orson Childs, first woman to cross the gorge in an iron basket in 1848. She was daughter of Gad Pierce. "



Orson quitclaimed land at Niagara (while residing in Iowa¹¹⁴)

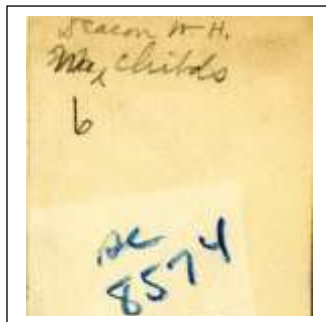
d. Milwaukee, WI. bur Foresthill Cem

Other Childs:

William H. Childs (son of Aaron)

Photo of W.H. Childs, Niagara Falls Public Library

Back of photo: "Deacon W.H. Childs"



¹¹³ Gad Pierce Tavern in Daniel L. Davis, *The Life and Times of Suspension Bridge Village*, 2nd Ed. , p. 8. , op . cit.

¹¹⁴ Quitclaim Babcock to Orson Childs. p. 239 29 Nov 1871, Fort Dodge, IA. Recorded 1-8-1881. Farm Lot 37 ea side Niagara R called Niagara Tract or "Mile Reserve" on North River Niagara-Lewiston Rd. – same 2 ac to Orson Childs Bk 31, p. 613, 1838. See also p. 241 North River tract Part 2, Lot 33, purchased 4 Jan 1836, 153 ac. 6 lots from Niagara Falls. See 51:604—ea bank Niag. Riv, pub rd. Niagara Falls to Lockport. Mentions suspension bridge. Illegible.

Appendix D: Childs

Appendix D: Childs

Some afterthoughts:

Genesee County Surrogate – INDEX (as viewed 2007)

Name	Date	Type	Register	Page	File	Other	Remarks
Aaron Childs	1841	estate	1	575	?	Surr Rec 2:412 MI	Relation to Orson Childs of Niagara?
John West	1832	estate	1	404	17	Will Bk 2-226	John West of Le Roy. Is this an alternative father to John West of Solon??

APPENDIX E

BIG GROVE PIONEERS

The first substantial records for *John West of Solon* are found in the *History of Solon*, the Territorial Census of 1838 for Iowa; U.S. Census of 1840 for Iowa, the Iowa State Census, 1844.

It seems likely that several founders of Solon came as a group from Eastern Ohio. They came to Big Grove Township about 1837. The town of Solon was platted in that township by John West in 1840.

Some settlers on the 1838 territorial census for Big Grove Township:

John E. Adams and sons **Moses** and **Eben M** came from Maine to Cleveland, OH in 1826.¹¹⁵

Fanny Pratt, school teacher. Settled in Cedar Township adjacent to Big Grove. One of the earliest deaths in the township was her husband, **Cotton Pratt**, who died in 1840 on section 36 and was originally buried on section 3—now the Fackler Cemetery.¹¹⁶

Jehiel Parks appears in the 1838 census. He may have first settled in Chautauqua Co. NY.¹¹⁷ A Jehiel Parks is shown as Lot 42 of Twp 3, Rge 12. He appears as resident of Ellery in the 1830 U.S. Census (p.322) and in both the 1825 and 1835 State Census of New York. There were probably more than one Jehiel/Jehial for in the U.S. Census for 1820 lists a Jehial Parks in Chautauqua County aged 26-44 with a male child under 10 years of age. The younger might be the same Jehiel Parks who had business dealings with *John West of Solon*?

(**John West** does not appear in Big Grove township until the 1840 census. However the Johnson County marriage record for his daughter **Julia West to A.W. Blaine** is dated 1839 implying John's family might have come with the 1838 wave of settlers.)

The cattle business and the gold rush provide clues to other family relationships.

The McCune brothers came to Solon in 1850 from Portage County, Ohio and were in the cattle business. John West's son, Orson, was also a cattle dealer from Portage Co, Ohio. **Did the Wests and McCunes meet in Ohio?**

Charles McCune and his brother, John, were **born in Jefferson County, New York to William and Sally McCune originally of Vermont.**¹¹⁸ John T. McCune was born in 1819 and Charles W. in 1824. The family removed to **Summit County, Ohio (formerly Portage)** in 1833 and to Johnson County, Iowa in 1850.¹¹⁹ Charles McCune had married in Portage County December 1, 1836.¹²⁰ Charles claims to have gone to the

¹¹⁵ Several Adams are memorialized at Find-A-Grave—all buried at Oakland Cemetery, Solon. Moses Adams, son of Enoch Adams, John Adams 1780-1840. See also Ebenezer Adams, 1838 Territorial Census, 1844 Iowa State Census, household of 3 souls, 1858 Petit Juror. **Moses Adams**, b. Oxford ME 1815, d. Solon 1899; 1848 Military service eligible males, 1830 Census Chautauqua, Ripley, 435, **E.M. Adams**, 1839 Signatory, Claims Association; **Louisa Adams m. John C. McGrew**.

¹¹⁶ Cotton "Tufts" Pratt is memorialized at Find-A-Grave showing burial at Oakland Cemetery, Solon.

¹¹⁷ **Jehiel Parks** and **John West**, Johnson County Second Judicial District Court, p. 99 May Term 1841; **I.C. Lasher vs. Jehiel Parks and John West**, p. 101 **A.H. Frisbee vs John West** 1 June 1841, p. 132 **Thomas Ford vs. John West**,

¹¹⁸ History of Johnson County, Iowa, *op. cit.*

¹¹⁹ Father, Thomas McCune, in 1820 census Jefferson County (020011)

¹²⁰ Charles Mc Cune m. Catharine Downey, *Ohio County Marriages 1774-1993*, posted at Ancestry.com

Appendix E: Big Grove

California gold rush in 1849.¹²¹ Many from Big Grove Township claim to have also gone to the gold rush. Orson West certainly went to San Francisco in the 1850s but perhaps mainly to market cattle in San Francisco Business District.

¹²¹ Pioneers of Johnson Co. IA who are known to have gone to the gold rush are described at < <http://www.westerly-journeys.com/BigGrove/goldrush.html>> One of these was Warren Stiles a charter member (with John) of the ME Church in Solon. He reportedly died in San Francisco in 1859/51.

Neighbors and family in T81N R6W.

The Wests' property:

See next page: *Official Johnson County Record pertaining to the property of John West*

Official description:

Seller? se 1/4 sw 1/4 sec 12 T81N R6W, Johnson County Recorder, West sold to Calkin, Deed Bk. 10, .146 sold to **Norman Calkin 1854.**

Seller? Moved to Newport and acquired s 1/2 ne 1/4 sw 1/4 sec 25, T80N R6W45

The Wests' Neighbors:

Norman Calkin/Calkins

b. 1811, Elizabethtown, Essex Co. NY, son of John Calkins and **Lucy Kellogg**; m. Mary Thompson 1832. Children born 1834 NY and 1837 IA. (Not in Johnson Co. in 1838 or 1840 census. [Could they be the extra family living with John West in the 1840 census?] **Norman** Calkins is in 1850 Big Grove census and listed as 1858 Petit Juror. He died in 1859 Solon, probate and guardianship on file Vol 3:217. Children, Elliott and *Minerva*. (Could it be a ref to *Minerva*, Essex Co. NY?) **Also sister Charlotte Calkins m. Jesse B. McGrew—related to the husband of John's daughter Julia.** Norman's father, Capt. John Calkins also came to Iowa. His mother, Lucy Kellogg Calkins died in Solon in 1847. His father lived in Newport, Johnson County, IA until after 1870 when he died in Washington County in 1874.

Jesse B. McGrew (in-law to John's daughter Julia West. Her husband was A.W. Blaine [b. 1815, PA.] **whose mother was a McGrew.**) Jesse m. "Sharlotty" Calkins (b. about 1828, NY) sister of Norman Calkin. Jesse was Charter member ME Church , as were John and Clarissa West. Other records: 1848 Military service eligible, 1839 Signatory, Claims Association, Grand Juror, 1840, October term, pp. 15, 23, 1838 Territorial Census, 1844 Iowa State census, household of 4 souls [J.B. McGrew], 1850 census.

The Wests and Blaines

Archibald Worley Blaine, m. John's daughter, **Julia Ann West**. (Most records refer to him as "A.W. Blaine). Some family records refer to him as "Worley." He was John's neighbor and bought land from John's son Orson.

Other references to John West in Local History

Index to History of Johnson County 1836-1882:

John West as supervisor of Road Dist. In 1841; John West and H.H. Kerr layed out the town of "Solon" Oct 25-27 1840. Also John West and wife, original members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Solon.

Appendix E: Big Grove

"History of Town of Solon," *Solon Reaper*, 28 July 1882, abstracted from *History of Johnson County, Iowa*, Iowa City 1883, rpt. (Unigraphic, Evansville IN, 1973):

"The founder of Solon, as far as information can be ascertained, is one John West, who it is said laid out the first town proper of Solon in the year 1840/42."

The ME Church of Big Grove Township:

Warren Spurrier and wife (son William was the first buried Oakland Cem)

William Cannon and wife Julia Pratt Cannon

Mrs. Fannie Pratt (widow of Cotton T. Pratt)

John West and wife

J.B. McGrew

Harvey Lyman and wife

Mrs. Eleanor Pryce

Mary Lyon

Official Johnson County Record pertaining to the property of John West

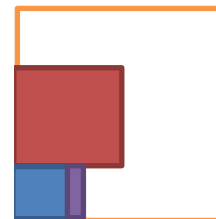
Original document for purchase of land in Sec 12, Twp 81 N, Rg 6 W

Johnson County, Iowa, Deed **Orson C. West** of Johnson County, IA from Charles and Clarissa Gower of Piscataqua, ME, 16 **April 1851** for sw 1/4 of sw 1/4 section 12, Twp 81 N R6W , Book 9, p 131.

Subsequent Title records¹²²

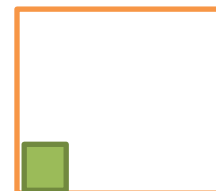
1. Orson West was owner of record of sw 1/4 of sw 1/4 **Sec 12, Twp 81N, R6W** (40 ac)
2. Quitclaim to John West from A.W. Blaine, 8 June 1853 for 28 acres east side **se 1/4 of sw 1/4 Sec 12, Twp 81N R6W**, Book 10, p. 146.
3. Deed from John and Hannah West to Norman Calkin, **7 July 1854** for 28 ac east side **se 1/4 of sw 1/4 Section 12 Twp 81N R6W**, Book 11, p. 237.
4. Deed to John West from Sally Kinman **29 Dec 1859** for s 1/2 ne 1/4 sw 1/4 Sec 25, **Twp 80 N, R6W** (Newport)

Blaine
West 1851
West to Blaine 1853



Big Grove Twp T81N R6W Sec. 12

West to Calkin 1854



¹²²These land records establish that Orson West owned property adjacent to property of John West and Hannah West and that therefore Orson's father, John , is probably the same John West who married Hannah. .

Appendix E: Big Grove

T81N R6W Secs 3 and 12

3 Fackler	2	1
10	11	12 Blaine, West and Calkins

Was John’s wife Clarissa buried at Fackler Cemetery?

From *History of Johnson County, Iowa*, Iowa City 1883, rpt. (Unigraphic, Evansville IN, 1973) p.700 :

“On section three there is what is called the Fackler’s Grove burying ground, containing about one acre. George Fackler was the first person buried there.” (died?) He came early but is not in list 1838.¹²³

1840 Census:

Fackler, Volentine	1793	PA
Elizabeth	1794	PA
Children	1824	OH
	1831	IA ??????

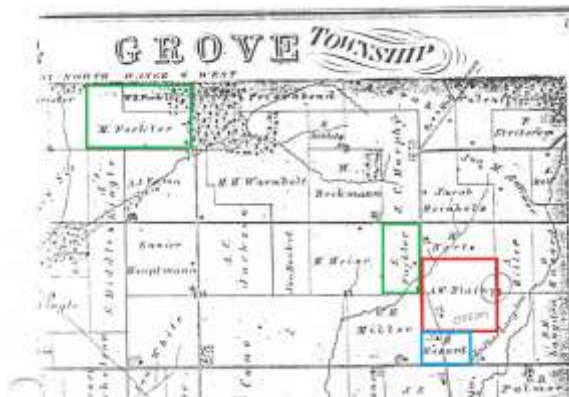
Deaths and burials at Sec 3 Facklers Grove

- Cotton “Tufts” Pratt d. 1840? Age 54 (reburied Oakland)
- John E. Adams d. 1840 age 59
- George Fackler d. < 1840?

Over the past ten or more years (as if 2020) a project to restore the Fackler Cemetery has uncovered much documentation about the people who lived near and were buried at the Fackler Cemetery.

The West property lies near the site of the Fackler Cemetery. Clarissa West’s burial has never been found. If she died at home around 1850-1852 the closest burial ground would have been Facklers. Add to that the fact that that fellow pioneers John Adams and Cotton Pratt were buried at Facklers. Is it reasonable to think that Clarissa lies somewhere in the newly commemorated Fackler’s Grove Cemetery?

The Fackler Cemetery in relationship to the West land is shown on an early township map.



¹²³ 1840 census: (Valentine Fackler 014000100 011100100--big family. Living with another family?)

Appendix E: Big Grove

Miscellaneous Records

Allegheny County, NY:

See Beers *Hist of Alleghany Co.,NY*: (See more)

West:

Alfred West p. 380, 637;
Anson West, p. 604,
Ira West, p. 9

Childs:

Alfred Childs p. 891
Orson Childs, p. 892

Other: Not researched re death of Orson Childs.

Note 1870 census Ft Dodge Ward 4, Webster IA. he states he was born in VT – age 65. Wife Sarah
Note 1860 census Kalamazoo, MI says born CT
Sept 5 1805 Fairfield, Franklin Co. VT no Clarissa shown in siblings
Died 22 Sept 1879 Milwaukee

Newspaper References:

Itha S. West

Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, 30 Nov 1869: Itha S. West, Postmaster.
Buffalo Morning Express, 6 Dec 1869, p. 4: Itha S. West, Postmaster, at Hickory Corners.

Orson Childs

Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, 23 Jul 1855: Lawsuit re. selling Whiskey
Huron Republican, Norwalk, OH, 23 Apr 1839; mention
Buffalo Courier, 24 Feb 1857, Lawsuit Hollister Bank of Buffalo v. Orson Childs, et al.
Reading Eagle. 16 Dec 1899, Orson Childs built International Hotel at Nigara Falls and first bridge to
Niagara. Married Sarah Pierce. She first to ride in a basket across the Falls.
They are buried at Forest Home Cem., Milwaukee, WI

Miscellaneous

Partial Bibliography

Mayflower Families through Five Generations, Vol. 3, General Society of Mayflower Descendants. 1980.

Minerva: A History of a Town in Essex County, New York, Minerva Historical Society, New York 1967

"The History of the Minerva Baptist Church, 1804-1957," typescript at LDS Family Search

Names and Places

No index included. If viewing online, use the 'find' function to search for names from this list in this PDF file.

Partial List of Names

Adams:

E.M.
Moses

Blaine: Archibald Worley

Bliss: Jane

Calkins:

Charlotte
John (Capt.)
Lucy Kellogg
Norman

Carr: Waite

Child/Childs:

Aaron
David
Henry
Orson
Samuel
Stephen
William H.

Leonard:

Betsy
Clarissa
Sophia

Mc Cune:

Charles
John

McGrew: Jesse B.

Miller: Betsy/Elizabeth

Parks: Jehiel/Jehial

Spink: Mary

Stiles: Warren

Tanner: Jane

West:

Anson
Azariah
Caleb
Clarissa
Ebenezer
Ezra Bliss
Francis
Francis D.

Ira (Rev)

Isaac

Itha J.

Ithamar

James

Jesse

John

Joseph

Julia Ann

Lenox

Matthew

Nathan

Orson

Prince

Sarah

Spencer

Warren

William

William Carr

Partial List of Places

Allegany Co., NY

Big Grove, Johnson Co., IA

Cambria, Niagara Co., NY

Clymer/French Creek, Chautauqua Co. NY

Genesee Co., NY

Granville, Washington Co., NY

Hartford, Washington Co., NY

Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY

Manlius, Onondaga Co., NY

Minerva/Shroon, Essex Co., NY

Newport, RI

Niagara, Niagara Co., NY

Portage/Summit Co., OH

Solon, Johnson Co., IA

Vershire, Orange Co., VT

Wilson, Niagara Co., NY

Names and Places