

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.^{1 2}

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.

¹ FAG Memorial 23342271: Aaron Childs 6 Dec 1806 – 26 Mar 1882, bur Willis Cem., Washtenaw Co. MI.

² 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*,³ 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?^{4,5}

³ Daniel L. Davis, *The Life and Times of Suspension Bridge Village*, 2nd Ed. , p. 8. (Mentions Gad Pierce Tavern and Orson Childs).

⁴ See property documentation in Appendix C re Jonathon Childs and Joseph West, in “Mile Reserve,” Niagara Co., NY)

⁵ 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.”*

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.)⁶

214
(N^o 4)
415

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

FREE WHITE PERSONS, (NOT-ALIVEN 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 40		40 to 50		50 to 60		60 to 70		70 to 80		80 to 90		
		(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	(Males)	
Orson Childs	1																							
Book Miller																								
Joseph Jones																								
John Hancock	1																							
Isa West	1																							
James D. West																								
Mary Phillips																								
Abel West	1																							
William Merchant																								
Elijah Smith	2																							
Edmund Howard																								
Edwin Cook	1																							
Clayton Smith	1																							
George Good	2																							
David Budd	1																							
Ebenezer West Jr	1																							
Ebenezer West					2																			

Orson Childs

Ira West

Francis D. West

Itha J. West

⁶ 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.

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](#) ⁷

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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Francis D. West	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 ⁸	0
Ira	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Orson Childs	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Aaron Childs	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Stephen Childs	0	0	1	0	3/2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3/2	0	0	1	0	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 ⁹																			

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

John West Male <40 (b. 1801)

1840 Washtenaw, Michigan ¹⁰ :	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	0	0	0	1	0

1840 Clymer, Chautauqua Co. NY

Ezra B. West		0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0		1	2	1	0	1	0	1	0
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1850 Wilson, Niagara, Niagara Co., NY

Itha J. West age 46 [b. 1803-4] NY [son of Ebenezer West 3rd]¹¹

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

⁷ Find-a-Grave Memorial # 195801923, 1st Presb. Cem, Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY

⁸ Is this Francis the youngest son (b. abt 1804) of John West Sr. and Betsy Miller?

⁹ Is this John Lyons of Solon, IA, brother of Mary Lyons of the ME Church?

¹⁰ This may not be our Ebenezer West, Jr from Essex. Notice Ebenezer West 3rd not shown in this census.

¹¹ 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. ¹²
1871	Childs, Orson w/ wife Sarah	George Babcock	127-241	“	“

¹² 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/ Lewiston 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 Cyclopaedia 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:

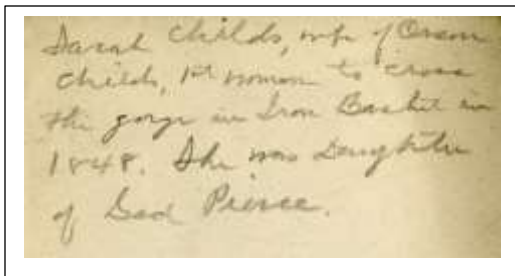
ORSON CHILDS (of Niagara Falls)

b. 10 Apr 1831 VT (source?)

m. Sarah Pierce -- dau of Gad Pierce (owner of Gad Pierce Tavern)¹³

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 Iowa¹⁴)

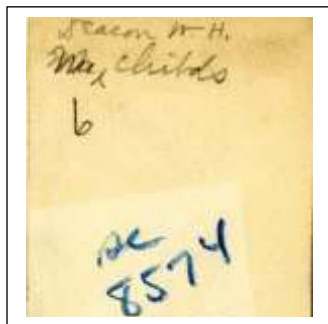
d. Milwaukee, WI. bur Foresthill Cem

Other Childs:

William H. Childs (son of Aaron)

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

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



¹³ Gad Pierce Tavern in Daniel L. Davis, *The Life and Times of Suspension Bridge Village, 2nd Ed.*, p. 8., *op. cit.*

¹⁴ 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.

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??