

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 1847.¹ 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.**²

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

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

Susannah 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 others³

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

¹ Parshall Family History, p. 392 as posted at Family Search for Ebenezer West of Rhode Island b. 1738.

² *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://thamayflowersociety.org/passenger-profile/passenger-profiles/the-soule-family/> and <http://mayflowerhistory.com/winslow-edward>.

³ 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 Waite Carr—and their migration west

William

Warren b. 1798

Hannah b. 1803 m. Wimmett ([to Naples, Ontario Co. NY](#))⁴

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

Nathan (1763-1851) m. Martha Titus

Lenox b. 1790

Anson b. 1795 ([to Sherman, Chautauqua Co. NY](#))⁵ ([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](#))⁶ ([See Appendix C.](#))

2 John [Sr] (twin b. 1766) m1. Elizabeth Miller; m2. Mary Spink.⁷ ([See “2” following](#))

William Carr b. 1790 ([to Minnesota](#))⁸

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.](#)⁹

John (Jr.) b. 1796/7 ([our subject—maybe went to Chautauqua Co. NY/Portage Co. OH](#))¹⁰

Francis [D.] b. > 1804 ([to Niagara, Niagara Co., NY by 1830](#))¹¹ ([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 claims¹²

“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.](#)¹³

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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ *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.

⁶ NY State Census, 1835, French Creek, Chautauqua County, *op cit*

⁷ See “Spink” in land records, Appendix C.

⁸ William Carr—see ‘John West’ in History of Minerva Baptist Church.pdf, *op. cit.* p. 14.

⁹ Sarah, *Ibid.*

¹⁰ 1830 Census, Portage Co., OH

¹¹ Joseph and John West—twins—born 1766

¹² [James born 1807—doubtful; no source]; [Matthew born 1807—different family]([went to Scipio, Cayuga Co. NY?](#)) (d. 1900)

¹³ 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.¹⁴ 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

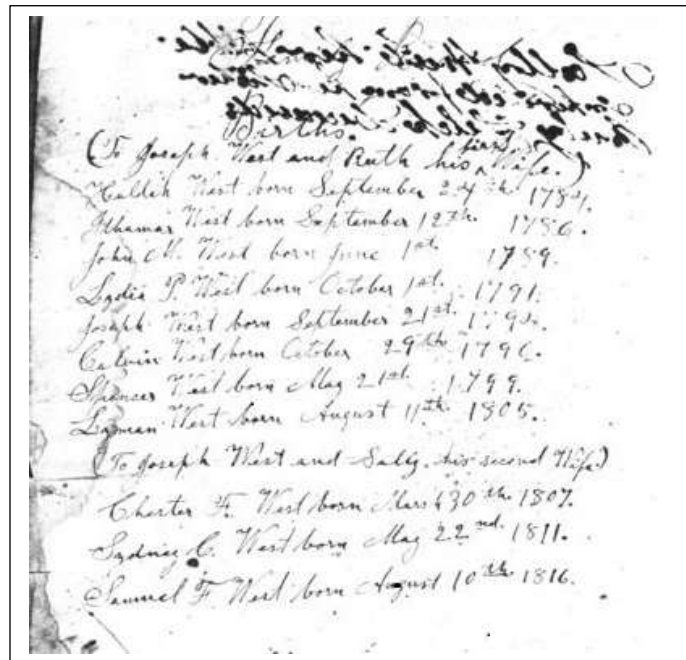


Image of bible records of the Joseph West Family
from the Bible records of Sally Felch.¹⁵

¹⁴ *Mayflower Descendant*, op. cit. p. 303.

¹⁵ 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 Minerva¹⁶

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)¹⁷

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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, NY¹⁸ (subject of this report)

Francis West, born after 1804, Minerva, NY¹⁹ First child born in Essex County.

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

Elizabeth (Betsy) Miller West died after 1804.²⁰

He married second, Mary Spink²¹

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).**

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ *French's Gazeteer 1860 as quoted in "Mabel Jones: John West" manuscript. Op. cit.)*

²⁰ It is disputed whether Francis was the last child of Betsy or first child of Mary.

²¹ 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:²²

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]²³

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 Lewiston²⁴

Itha West b. 1804 (d. 1879) went to Clymer, Chautauqua Co. NY 1831 [Incorrect.]²⁵

Itha J West in Niagara 1830 and 1850 census for Wilson, Niagara Co. where he is also buried.²⁶

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.)

²²Elsey b. abt. 1824 and Bennet b.1828

²³No evidence that the family went to Onondaga County. Other Wests were known to have lived in Onondaga Co. at that time.

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

²⁵Confusion here. This might be Ithamar West, son of Joseph. Some of Joseph’s children went to Clymer and French Creek

²⁶FAG 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)

Name	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	
Ebenezer West	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nathan West	40	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
John West	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
John Selce	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sihanna West	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The Minerva Church History states that after the 1810 census, “we have no further record of Ebenezer and Jane.”²⁷ 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)

Name	Males			Females		
	<10	26-44	>45	<10	16-25	26-44
West Ebenezer 3 rd	2	1	0	0	0	0
Other Wests	0	0	1	0	0	0
West Ebenezer	0	0	1	0	0	0

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.²⁸

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:

Name	Males						Females					
	<10	16-18	20	25-45	45	>45	<10	16-25	26-45	45	>45	
West Ebenezer 3 rd	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West Warren	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West Anson	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West Nathan	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
West Ebenezer	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
West John	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William C.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West Lenox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

*Note that "Minerva" is written in the margin. Error: Census at Ancestry.com contains an error. It incorrectly transcribes this image as "Morish". Despite numerous complaints it remains uncorrected as of September 2020.

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

Ancestors: Ebenezer West of Rhode Island

1830 U.S. Census, Minerva

NAME HEAD OF FAMILY	Males														Females													
	Under 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64	65 to 69	70 to 74	75 to 79	80 to 84	85 to 89	90 to 94	95 to 99	100							
<i>Nathan West</i>																												
<i>Anson West</i>	2	1																										
<i>Nathan West</i>																												
<i>Bartholomew West</i>	1	1																										
<i>Jesse West</i>																												
<i>John West</i>	1																											
<i>William C. West</i>																												
<i>Lenox West</i>																												

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.²⁹

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**.

²⁹ Niagara County also encompassed what would later become Erie County.

Ancestors: Ebenezer West of Rhode Island