

Family Group Sheet

2.0 ORSON CHILES WEST & CATHERINE GRIFFITH

Husband: Orson Chiles West ^(A1)

b. October 1827, New York ^(C1, B14, D11)

m. Catherine Griffith abt 1851 ^{1 (D14-15)}

d. 8 April 1901, San Francisco, CA ^(B14, B17, B18)

bur. Laurel Hill Cem., San Francisco (removed to Cypress Lawn, San Bruno, CA)²

Husband's Father: John West

Husband's Mother: Clarissa _____

Wife: Catherine Griffith ^(B7, D14-15)

b. abt. 1827 OH ^(D14-15)

d. abt 1879, Quincy IL ^(B10, B15)

Wife's Father: James Griffith

Wife's Mother: Elizabeth Hall

Children:³

1. James Griffith

b. 23 December 1851, Missouri ^(B7)

m.1: 9 Oct 1873, Kansas City; m2. : abt. 1888 [Carson City, NV]⁴

d. 27 September 1942, Napa State Hospital, Napa, CA ^(B7) Buried at Pythian Home Cemetery, Sonoma Co., CA

sp. 1 Lavinia Carrol^(B1a)

sp. 2 Marie A. McDowd, (dau of Michael J. McDowd b. Ire and Catherine Brennan, b. Ireland.) ^(B8, C3, C6, C10)

b. 16 June 1858, Canada ^(B8)

d. 23 May 1933, Pythian Home, ^(B8) Buried at Pythian Home Cemetery, Sonoma Co., CA

(Children: none known)^(D6)

2. Alfred Lynn

b. 1857, Quincy, Adams Co., IL ^(G1)

m. _____, divorced bef. 1880 ^(D5, D13)

d. 2 January 1929, Willows, Glenn Co., CA ^(B3)

(Children: none known)

3. Albert

b. 1857, Adams Co., IL ^{5 (D15)}

d. died. in childhood ^{6 (B20)}

4. Pleasant Morris

b. 1860, Missouri^{7 (D13-15)}

m. 9 Oct 1882, Sedalia, Pettis Co. MO ^(A4, B4)

d. 1885^(B21, A4)

sp. Henrietta Emeline Pattison (dau of John Wesley Pattison [1830-1878] b. CT and Henrietta Redinour b. CT)

b. 9 Oct 1862, Sidney IA ^(H1) -She married 2 John Barton Jones.

Two daughters died in infancy. ^(H1)

5. Charles Orson (See 1.0 Charles West & Ella Calhoun)

b. 29 September 1862, Quincy IL ^(A1)

m. 8 October 1889, Kansas City, MO ^(A1, B3)

d. 16 June 1932, Kansas City, MO ^(A1, B4, B11)

sp. Ella Beaver Calhoun ^(A1, D12) (See 3.0 Samuel V. Calhoun & Verlinda Dawson)

[continued next page]

¹ No marriage record has been found but it probably took place between late 1850 and early 1851. (The 1850 Census lists both Orson and Catherine as single. Their eldest son was born in December 1851.) Marriage indexes for the following were searched: Jackson, Bates, Cass and Vernon Counties MO; Wyandotte County, KS; Adams, Knox, Lee, and Henry Counties, IL and Johnson County IA.

² Orson fell to his death down elevator shaft, Phelan Building, San Francisco. He was with his son, Alfred, who lived in San Francisco. Orson's residence was Napa City.

³ The gap between James and Alfred/Albert suggests Orson might have gone to the gold rush between 1851 and 1857--or infants died.

⁴ James West stated on the 1910 census that he had been married 22 years. That implies he married in 1888 at which time he lived in Carson City, (Ormsby Co.) NV. No marriage for James was found among the Ormsby County Clerk's records. He may have married previously as well. A Kansas City record shows a marriage for James West and Lavinia Carrol, recorded 9 Dec 1873, Jackson Co. Marriages 1868-1878, trans. by Twylia Brand, Jackson County Genealogical Society.

⁵ 1860 Census, Jackson, Co., MO shows Alfred and Albert born in 1857. If not census error, Albert was twin of Alfred but died before 1870.

⁶ Albert does not appear in the 1870 Census with the family in Quincy, nor in any other records.

⁷ The death of Pleasant West, was reported in email correspondence from Betty_hortonhwy69@aol.com. ^(A4)

6. Cora E

- b. 12 February 1865, Quincy, IL.^[B5]
- m. 26 September 1898, Santa Cruz, CA^[B1b]
- d. 9 August 1946, Napa County, CA ^[B5]
- sp Melvin Beardsley (b. 1835, CT ^[D7], d. 15 May 1915, Chico, Butte County, CA)^[B9, B19]
(Children: none known)^[C7]

7. Opal Rachel

- b. Oct 1867, IL ^[D9]
- m. 7 June 1906, San Jose, Santa Clara Co., CA ^[B2, D1, D4]
- d. 13 Jan 1934, Portland, OR ^[B11]
- sp Harry Edwin Colley (b. abt 1866, England, d. 23 Nov 1925, Portland, OR) ^[B12]
(Children: none)

Orson West and Catherine Griffith may have met in Big Grove Township, Johnson County, which is located in the eastern tier of Iowa. They each came with their parents to this region, Orson about 1838 at age 11. Orson's father, John West, platted the town of "Solon" about 1840 but did not record title to any of the town land. Johnson County land sales were sold out of the Iowa City Land Office after the U.S. Treaty of 1832 which acquired the lands of the Sac and Fox Indians as a result of the Blackhawk War.

Both Orson and Catherine acquired deeds to farm land in Johnson County about 1850. Orson and Catherine disposed of their land and eventually moved to Illinois or Missouri. Between 1850 and 1860 Orson acquired \$3,000 in assets while Catherine's father and brother acquired \$47,000 between them. This did not come from any known inheritance. It seems likely that Orson, his father-in-law and brother-in-law went together to the California gold rush and made a substantial strike.⁸ The only known photo of Orson (shown in Part IA) is inscribed "San Francisco, CA." The photo shows him as a young man.

Since Orson later became a stock dealer, it is possible he learned the trade from some of the first stock raisers of Solon, Iowa.⁹ Orson and Catherine moved frequently between Missouri and Illinois. This movement might be attributed to the Civil War. Missouri was a Union state with strong Confederate sympathies. Kansas City and the region of southern Missouri became a dangerous place. Kansas Jayhawker abolitionists fought Missouri Bushwacker Confederates in the border between Kansas and Missouri. Illinois was a Union state and would have been relatively safe. Quincy, was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Based on the place of birth of each child as indicated in the census, and upon subsequent residence as shown in city directories, the following approximates the family's movement:

1840-1850	Before marriage they reside in Solon, IA. (F1]
1851 (late)	Reside in MO when first son is born ^[B7] Orson photographed in San Francisco approx. between March 1851 and 1857 (See photo in Part IA, p. 17).
1857	Reside in Quincy, IL when twins are born. ^[B3, G1] In 1858, Catherine's sister, Rachel, is said to have married Pleasant Morris Harlan in Quincy, IL in 1859
1860	Reside in Kansas City at time of 1860 census (D15]
1862-1870	Reside in Quincy (births of youngest son and 2 daughters) ^[A1, D14] .
1874	Reside in Chicago according to letter Catherine (Kate) writes to friend Henrietta Pattison in Quincy. Henrietta is mother of Hettie Emilene Pattison who married Kate's son, Pleasant Morris West ^[A4] Catherine dies in Chicago or Quincy and is presumed buried in Quincy
1879-1881	Orson and his children reside in Kansas City according to city directories and 1880 census ^[D13] James marries for the first time in 1873 to Lavina Carroll.
1882-1890	Alfred goes to Chicago, Louisville etc. ^[G1] James goes to Carson City NV and becomes active in the Knights of Pythias Order ^[E1, F2] Alfred joins him for awhile and then goes to San Francisco where he works in the insurance business. Charles meets Ella in Kansas City or Rich Hill. ^[A1, A2]

⁸ See "Early Settlers of Solon, Iowa," Part I-D.

⁹ Ibid..

- 1891-1896 Charles and Ella marry and go to Denver and then Texas. ^(A1, A2, G22-24) Daughters Cora and Opal go with Orson to California--Orson to Napa, ^(D11) Opal to Redwood City, ^(D9) and Cora to Santa Cruz where she marries oil man, Melvyn Beardsley. ^(B1) James marries and leaves Nevada to join Orson in Napa. ^(D3, D10, D11, G2, G3)
- 1900 and later Charles returns to Kansas City from Texas by 1901 ^(A1, D12). Cora and Melvyn then go to Santa Barbara ^(D4). When Orson dies in 1901 ^(B14), Cora and Opal are living in Oakland ^(C1, D8). Opal marries Harry Edwin Colley in 1906 in San Jose. Opal thereafter goes by her middle name "Rachel." Melvyn Beardsley dies a few years later in Chico. ^(B9, B15) In their advanced age Cora, along with James and his wife, Marie, live at the Pythian Home in Santa Rosa. ^(B5, B7, B8) Alfred spends his last days in Glenn County, CA. Opal Rachel and her husband Harry Edwin Colley move to Portland where he dies in 1925. She is committed to the Multnomah County Farm where she dies in 1934. ^(B3, G1)

It is somewhat unusual to find that of Orson's six children, only Charles bore him any grandchildren. Four of his adult children had no known offspring and three spent their final days as inmates in mental hospitals suffering from old age dementia--probably alzheimer's disease.

Sources

ORSON CHILES WEST & CATHERINE GRIFFITH

A. Private, unpublished family records:

1. Bible: *1886 Pictorial Family Bible, Parallel Column Edition, King James and Revised Edition* [with concordance, illustrated histories, aids to study] compiled from writings of Dr. William Smith, Dean Milman, Rev. John Kitto D.D., Drs. Von Ewald and Michelson.
Presented to Ella Calhoun West from Charles O. West, Dec. 25, 1890, Denver Colorado. Contains handwritten birth, death and marriage records as follows; transcriptions in one hand, 1835 to 1901, entries in various hands, 1912 to 1963. Final entry by Marilou West Ficklin, for death of Alfred Lynn West 1993.
2. Autograph Albums of Ella Calhoun:
[Album 1, starts Christmas 1879, last entry 19 Feb 1882. Lists various schools, possibly where Ella Calhoun taught]:
Elkart School, Sumner, Sumner Co. KS , 1880-1881
Independence School, Wellington (Sumner Co. KS), 1881
North Muddy School, Rich Hill (Bates Co., MO), 1881-1882
Willow Branch School, Arthur, Vernon Co. MO, 1884
Also family entries:
"cousin" Ollie Robinson Rich Hill, MO 19 March 1880
T.T. Robinson, Wellington, KS
"sister" Carrie, Wellington, KS, 4 April 1880
Mention of travel on the "LL&G" ["Lawrence, ___ and Galveston Railroad]
[Album 2, earliest entry 6 July 1880 Wellington KS, last entry 1896. Many entries "at home", Rich Hill, MO 1881-1884; cluster of entries 1888-9, Wellington, KS.] Key family entries:
"sister" [in-law] Opal R. West, Sugarloaf, CO, 22 June 1896
"Charles" [future husband?] Rich Hill, MO, 25 February 1886
"sister" Mary, 4 Sept. 1881
"sister" Rosebud at "Brodie,s" Rich Hill 18 Feb. 1882; at home 19 March 1881
"S.V.", [father] 12 Sept 1881
James Beauregard Neptune [future husband of sister Eva Jane Calhoun]
Reference to family migration: 1871 classmate, (Burgess) El Paso [IL] and 1887 Wellington, KS
3. Personal letters to Alfred Lynn West, son of Charles O. West. Letters from Charles O. West, Marjorie (West) Kruse, and Frederick V. West.
4. Letter from Catherine (Kate) West dated February 1874 from 433 S. HalstedSt., Chicago to Mrs. H. Pattison mentioning living conditions in Chicago. Henrietta Pattison's daughter, Hettie Emilene Pattison later married Pleasant Morris West, son of Orson and Catherine West. Pleasant Morris apparently went by the name "Morris". Letter also mentions son, "Alfred." Transcript and scanned image of the letter was sent via email from "Betty" at hortonhwy69@aol.com, August 2011. It was accompanied by photo of Orson West taken in San Francisco and photos of his daughters, Cora and Opal as children. (Transcript attached hereto. Photos are shown in section 1A.

B. Vital Records:

Birth Certificates, baptismal records:

None found.

Marriage Certificates, licenses:

- 1a. James Griffith West to Miss Lavinia Carrol, 9 Oct 1873, married at Kansas City , at the residence of Dr. Evans. Witnesses Dr. Evans and Kate C. Evans. Rector A. Batte of Grace Church of Kansas City presided. Recorded, 9 Dec 1873, Jackson County.¹⁰ *Marriages of Jackson Soutny 1872-1879*, Vol 7, p. 137
- 1b. Cora West to Melvin Beardsley, Santa Cruz, California 26 September 1898. Santa Cruz County Marriage Book 9, p. 14. Groom M.W. Beardsley, age 50, of Connecticut; bride Cora E. West, 34, Illinois. Both residents of city of Santa Cruz. J.B. Orr officiating, First Congregational Church. (Abstract of marriage record, viewed at Santa Cruz County Recorder.)
2. Opal West to Edwin Colley, Index to Marriages, Santa Clara County, 1846-1919, California State Archives, Microfilm 1420198. Opal Rachel West to Harry Edwin Colley, 7 June 1906, records of the San Jose Historical Museum.

¹⁰ No divorce has been found. It may have been annulled. James states on the census of 1910 that he was married only once [to Marie McDowd]. A death record for Lavinia Carroll, a 90- year old widow, was registered in 1936, St. Louis.

3. Charles O. West, Jackson Co. MO to Miss Ella B. Calhoun, Jackson Co. MO, 7 Oct 1889, marriage license recorded in Jackson, Co. MO.
4. Pleasant Morris West to Henrietta (Hettie) Emeline Pattison, marriage announcement in *People's Tribune*, Sedalia, Pettis Co., MO, 11 Oct 1882. Marriage performed 9 Oct 1882 recorded in Missouri Marriage Records 1805-2002.

Death Certificates:

3. Alfred Lynn West, California State Death Index, age 74, 2 January 1929, Willows, Glenn Co. CA, State Certificate #29-7443. Obituary, burial and Glenn County death certificate under investigation. (Not to be confused with Alfred Lynn West, son of Charles O. West, who died in Seattle in 1993.)
4. Charles O. West, Missouri State Death Certificate, Register 2412, Jackson Co., Kansas City, 16 June 1932, at age 69. Information given by wife, Mary West (second wife). Cause of death acute endocarditis, gastroenteritis, chronic neuritis. Residence 4714 Harrison, Kansas City. Burial, Mt. Washington Cemetery.
5. Cora Elizabeth (West) Beardsley, Napa County Death Certificate, Registrar No. 340, died at Imola, CA, Napa State Hospital, described as Female, white, widow of Melvin W. Beardsley. She died 9 August 1946 at age 81 yrs, 5 mos., 27 days. Born 12 Feb. 1865 in Illinois. Usual occupation housewife, industry Ir business Sales Lady. Mother not given. , father not given. Information from commitment papers, Napa State Hospital [not available--privacy].
6. Ella B. (Calhoun) West, Missouri State Death Certificate, Register 3691, file 39183, 1 December 1912, Jackson Co., Kansas City. Age at death, 50; cause of death chronic interstitial nephritis. Residence 3201 E. 26th St. Burial at Mt. Washington.
7. James Griffith West, Napa County, CA, Death Certificate, #281. Died 27 September 1942 at age 90 at Napa State Hospital, Napa CA; usual residence Pathean Home, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, CA. Cause of death chronic myocarditis and senile psychosis presbyophrenia. "Removal to Santa Rosa," Hampton & Eggen Funeral Directors. Information on certificate taken from commitment papers, Napa State Hospital, now unavailable due to legal privacy issues.
8. Marie (McDowd) West, Sonoma County, CA, Death Certificate 1933000363, Register 33-030542 (Vol. 9, p. 726). Died 23 May 1933; spouse James G. West, died at, Pythian Home, Sonoma County [Kenwood on Rte 112]. Born in Canada, June 16, 1858, age at death 74 yrs, 11 mo. 7 days. Father Michael J. McDowd born Ireland; ;mother Catherine Brennan, born Ireland. Lived in district six years; in California 25 years. Informant: California Pythian Home. Burial at Pythian Home Cemetery. Cause of death: chronic valvular heart disease since 1910. State death certificate #30542.
9. Melvin Beardsley, California State Death Index, age 76, d. 15 May 1915, Butte County, state certificate #14098, no County certificate.
10. "Mrs West", Kansas City Death Records, Bk.A, West, Mrs. 22 Feb 1875. (See burial below.)
11. Opal Rachel West, Portland, Multnomah County, OR Death Certificate #121. Oregon Death Index 1903-1998. Died 13 Jan 1934. (Last residence, inmate at Multnomah County Farm.
12. Harry Edwin Colley, Portland, Multnomah County OR Death Certificate # 2983. Oregon Death Index 1903-1998. Died 23 Nov 1925.

Burial and Cemetery:

13. Alfred Lynn West (son of Charles O. West) buried Alta Mesa Cemetery, Palo Alto, Santa Clara Co., CA, 1993, with wife Jewel Kathryn (Herr) West who died 20 February 1955.
14. Charles and Ella Calhoun West buried at Mt. Washington Cemetery, Winner Road at Brookside, Independence, MO, Bridger Gardens 1, Bl. 4, Lot 686, interments 3347 and 14336. Inscription: "Mother Ella B. West 1862-1912, Father Chas. O. West 1862-1932." Burial and lot purchased by Lena West aka Lena Leota Harris, wife of their son, Frederick V. West. Since Fred and Leota did not marry until October 14, 1913, it appears that the plot was purchased a year after Ella's death.
15. Catherine Griffith, believed buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Sec. 132, south half Bl. 11. According to *Quincy Woodland Cemetery, 1846-1900*, Vol 4 (Quincy: Great River Genealogical Society, June 1992) Orson West was among original lot owners of the cemetery when the district formed in 1879. The plot is now occupied by a stone for Harriet Wood Shinn) No burial record has been found for Catherine but it is possible that her death prompted Orson to buy the cemetery lot and the stone and burial record have been lost. Inspection of the plot in 2002 did not reveal the potential lot where Catherine might be buried. No later definitive record has been found; however the death of a Mrs West in Kansas City in 1875 is shown above under Death Records. Orson is listed in a Kansas City Directory for 1879, so it is not clear that he was in Quincy, IL in 1879 to purchase a cemetery plot.

16. Melvyn Beardsley's grave in Butte Co., CA has not been found. However Chico Cemetery contains a possible collateral record for Julius O. Beardslee, b. 11 Sept 1814, New Milford CT, d. 29 Mar 1879, buried Sec. 4, Bl. B lot 338, grave 8. Missionary to Jamaica B.W.I. 35 years. [Brotherhood of Woodmen International?]. Also Tryphena Mae Beardslee, d. 15 June 1963 at age 63 [b. 1900].
- 17a. Orson Chiles West died 7 April 1901 enroute to emergency hospital. San Francisco Mortuary record gives age at death as 73 years, five months; occupation Rancher. Death was from elevator accident—dislocated neck, compound fracture of right knee etc. Burial at Laurel Hill Cemetery by Porter and White Undertakers. Recorded in Book P, Mortuary Records, City of San Francisco, 1901. Archived on microfilm at San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street. In 1940 the cemetery was sold to a developer, the coffins disinterred and the remains transferred to Cypress Lawn in Colma, San Mateo County. They were reburied in a mass grave without individual monuments. “Unclaimed headstones and monuments were turned over to the City and County Department of Public Works, which hauled them away in its own trucks for use in making sea-walls at Aquatic Park, and at the municipal yacht harbor.” (Source: William A. Proctor, “Location, Regulation, and Removal of Cemeteries in the City and County of San Francisco“ (Department of City Planning City and County of San Francisco, 1950)
- 17b. James G. West and wife Marie McDowd West are buried at Pythian Home Cemetery, Kenwood, Sonoma Co. CA. (Source: Find-a-Grave online—from Pythian Home records.)

Obituaries:

18. Orson C. West , "Fatally Mangled by an Elevator," *San Francisco Call*, 9 Apr 1901, loose clipping found in Ella Calhoun West Bible; see also *Napa Daily Journal*, 10 April 1901, 3:1 (abstract of microfilm, Napa Public Library). Orson West death due to accidental fall down elevator shaft while visiting at Phelan Building, with son, Alfred.
19. Melvin Beardsley, *Oroville Daily Register*, 17 May 1915 (transcript of microfilm, U.C. Periodical Room, Berkeley). "Melvin W. Beardsley, pioneer oil man of California and prominent businessman of San Francisco died at his home yesterday morning after an illness of several months duration." (See also Chico Cemetery: Julius O. Beardslee, b. 11 Sept 1814, [New Milford CT] d. 29 March 1879, "Missionary to Jamaica B.W.I. 35 years", Sec. 4, B; B/. ;pt 338. Gr 8
20. Albert West:(Twin of Alfred West) Last record: Missouri 1860 census.
21. Pleasant Morris West: oral history of Hettie Emilene Pattison, wife of Pleasant Morris West.

C. Court Records--Probate

1. Orson C. West Estate file #P1014, Napa County, CA, Died intestate. Petition filed by Alfred West. Attorney, H.C. Symonds and E.C. Chapman, Mills Building, Bush and Montgomery, 7th floor, Room 43-5. Bond posted by Alfred L. West, D.S. Kyser, Henry Brown. Distribution: gold watch, \$75; Investment Certificate in Realty Syndicate of San Francisco #2584; other items \$100. Heirs: James G West, 49 of Napa; Alfred L. West, 44 of San Francisco; Charles O. West, 35, of Kansas City; Cora E. Beardsley, 32, of Oakland; Opal R. West, 30, of Oakland. Papers viewed at Hall of Records, Napa County, Napa, CA. Legal Notice *Napa Daily Journal* 23 April 1902:3:2

D. Census

U.S. 1930 15th Census, Oregon, Multnomah County, Troutdale, Ed 26-241, SD 3, Sh 1B, taken 8 April 1930.
[viewed online at Ancestry.com]

1. Rachel Colley, inmate Multnomah County Farm, age 63, b. IL, father b. NY, mother b. IA [sic]
[See Charles O. West, Section 1.0 Sources, Census]

U.S. 1920, 14th Census, California, NARA Microfilm T625

[viewed at Sutro Library, 9/29/1998]

2. Glenn County, Roll 93, Vol 14, ED 42, Willows, Sheet17,line 60, no street given, *Enumerated with Lloyd M.Titus:*
Alfred L. West, 62, b. IL
3. Napa County, Roll 122, Vol. 71. ED 46, Sheet3, line 51, no street given:
James G. West, 68, b. MO
Marie A., [51] b. CAN
4. Alameda County, Oakland, ED 94 viewed on Ancestry.com.

Harry Colley, 53, b. ENG (imm. 1888, occ. gardener), wife, Rachel, age 52, b. IL, father b. NY, mother b. IA [sic], no children.

U.S. 1910, 13th Census, California, NARA Microfilm T653

[viewed at Sacramento, CA State Library., 8/27/1998]

5. Glenn County, Roll 77, Vol. 25, ED 31, Sheet 13A, Twp 14, Willows W2, Sheet 13A, Dwelling/Household 165/169, Tehama Street, Enumerated as lodger with proprietor of lodging house, J. Isadore Proulx, Tehama St. Willows, May12, 1910.
Alfred L. West, 52, Real Estate Office; b. IL; [widowed or divorced, illegible]; father b. NY; mother b. US.
6. Lake County, Roll 78, Vol. 28. Supr Dist2, ED 39, Twp 4, Lakeport, dw.116, hh 114 , Apr 22, 1910
James G. West, 59, b. MO, f. b. [IN], m b. OH, married once--for 22 years
Marie M., 47, b. Can (Eng), f b IRE, m. b. IRE, no children living or dead
7. Santa Barbara Co., Roll 104, Santa Barbara Township 2, Ward 6, Supr. Dist. 8., ED 173, Sheet 2b, 121 Moravilla Avenue [?], April 19, 1910,
Melvyn Beardsley, white, head, male, age 70, married [2 times?], last marriage for 12 years, no children, b. CT, father b. CT, mother b. CT, business oil operator, works from home
Cora E. Beardsley, white, wife, female, age 45, married once for 12 years, no children living or dead, b. in Illinois, father b.[VT], mother b. [??]
8. [See Charles West Sources Sec. 1.0]

U.S. 1900, 12th Census, California, NARA Microfilm T623

[viewed at Sacramento, CA State Library., 8/27/1998]

9. San Mateo Co., Roll 109, Vol.38 ED 38, Twp 2, Sheet 3, line57, Enumerated with John J. Killalee
Opal West, 32, Domestic Servant b. Oct 1867, IL, f. b. [VT], m. b. [OH]
10. Napa Co., Roll 95, Vol.20 ED 91, Napa Twp., Salvador Prect. Sheet 5, line 92, June 1,1900
James G. West, 46, Farmer b. Apr 185[4,], MO, f. b. NY, m. b. [NY]
Marie M., 45, b. June 185[9], CAN (Eng)
11. 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]

U.S. 1900, 12th Census, Missouri, NARA Microfilm T623

[viewed at Salt Lake City, LDS FHL, 4 October 2001]

12. Jackson Co., Roll 862, Vol. 43, ED 49, Kaw Twp., Sheet 7, line 86, 3005 Terrace St.
Charles O. West, head, 37, b. Sept 1862, IL, father b. NY, mother b. OH; married 11 years
Ella B., wife, 37, b. Oct 1862, mother of 3, 2 living
Frederick V, son, 9, b. Nov 1890, CO
Marjorie, dau., 4, b. March 1896, CO

U.S. 1880 Census, Missouri, NARA Microfilm, T9

[Viewed at Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence Missouri, 5 May 2002]

13. Jackson Co., Roll, 692, Vol 16, Kansas City Ward 1, Sup Dist 6, Ed. 1, p. 18, East Levee, dwelling 117, household 127
O.C. West, white male, 52, merchant, b. OH [sic], father b. OH m. b. _____¹¹
A.L. white male 22, divorced, clerk b. IL, father b OH mother b. OH
P.M., white male 20, son, clerk b. MO father and mother as above
C.O. white male, 18, son clerk, b. IL "
C.E. white female, 15, dau, b. IL "
O.R. white female 12, dau. b. IL "

U.S. Census 1870, Illinois, NARA microfilm M 593, (LDSRoll#0545686)

[Viewed at National Archives, San Bruno, CA September 1982]

14. Adams Co., Roll 186, Quincy, Ward 2 , p. 36, dwelling 253, household 270 .
Orson C. West, head, 43, b. NY, stock dealer, \$3500, 2500
Catherine, wife, 43, b. OH
James, son, 18, b. MO, bookkeeper
Alfred, son, 13, b. IL

¹¹ Note that Catherine is no longer in household.

Pleasant, son, 11, b. MO
Charlie, son, 8, b. IL
Cora, dau, 5, b. IL
Opal, dau, 3, b. IL

U. S. Census 1860, 2nd filming, Missouri, NARA microfilm M653, Roll 625, (LDS#0017205)

[viewed at Salt Lake City, LDS FHL 3 October 2001]

15. Jackson Co., Kansas City, Div. 35, Vol. 11, p. 89, line 17, dwelling 737, household 785, 15 June 1860
O.C. West, 38, clerk, b. NY, \$3000
Catherine, 33, housekeeping, 33, b. OH
James, 8, b. MO
Albert, 3, b. IL
Alfred, 3, b. IL
Pleasant M., 7 mo., b. MO

U. S. Census 1850, Iowa, Johnson County

(See John West Family Group Sheet)

E. Voter Records:

1. James G. West, Carson City, NV
25 Apr 1888, age 36, b. MO, res: Robinson and Elizabeth, reg # 337
24 Apr 1889, age[38?] b. MO, res: "New old ?, Ward 2", reg # 317
22 Mar 1890, age 38, b. MO, res: Sophia and B?, reg # 91
15 Apr 1891, age 39, b. MO, res: Ormsby and Sophia, reg # 243
26 Aug 1892, age 40, b. MO, res: Caroline and Washington, reg # 504
16 Apr 1894, age 42, b. MO, res: btw Washington and Clay in Phillips Division, reg # 110
2. Alfred Lincoln [sic] West, Carson City, NV
19 Sept 1887, age 35, b. IL, res: Valley and King, Ward 1, reg # 670

F. Land Records:

1. Johnson County, Iowa, Deed Orson C. West of Johnson County, IA from Charles and Clarissa Gower of Piscatqua, ME, 16 April 1851 for sw 1/4 of sw 1/4 section 12, Twp 81 N R6W , Book 9, p 131.
2. Carson City, Ormsby County, NV, Recorder 885 Musser, Rm 1025, Carson City, NV.
James G. West to Thomas J. Jarrell, 30 December 1889, Deed (see below) \$1000, Book 25, p. 146.
NE 1/4 SE 1/4, Sec 3, Twp 15, Range 20 Ea, Mt Diablo Me
S 1/2 SE 1/4 Sec 3 Twp 15, Range 20 Ea, Mt Diablo Me
NW 1/4 N E1/4 Sec 10, Twp 15, Range 20 Ea, Mt Diablo Mer.
160 acres of contiguous parcels on north and south side of present U.S. 50 northeast of downtown Carson City. (See New Empire 7 1/2 min quad. USGS). No deed was found for James' original acquisition of this land. Study of original patents as shown online at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) web site, suggests that the parcel lay within a large grant to the Territory of Nevada. Nevada State Land Office sales should be further investigated. The parcel immediately adjacent on the west was owned by Henry Custer (shown at the BLM GLO site, NNVA 004646, 001960 and 001719). The possible relationship to Custers of Vernon County, MO should be investigated.
James G. West from Mrs. M.E. Rinckel, 18 June 1890, Deed to Lot in Block 20, Phillips Division on Washington Street, \$400, Book 25, P. 230.
James G. West to Mrs. Mary Hopper, 18 June 1890, Deed to same lot and block as above,\$500 , Book 25, p. 232.

G. Published Records

Biography:

1. Sketch of Alfred Lynn West (son of Orson)
Charles Davis McComish and Mrs. Rebecca T. Lambert, *History of Colusa and Glenn Counties*, Historical Record Company, Los Angeles, CA, 1918, **p. 838**.
Indicates Alfred traveled to Chicago, Louisville, Kentucky and Carson City before settling in San Francisco in 1901 and later in Willows, Glenn County.

Newspaper:

2. Orson C. West, Fractured leg, *Napa Republican*, 25 September 1896, 1:8 (photocopy Napa Public Library), mentions Orson lives on the Wakerly Place on Dry Creek Road.
3. J.G. West, Knights of Pythias, *Napa Daily Journal*, 1 September 1898, 3:1. J.G. West, Chancellor Commander of Carson City, Nevada, will relocate to Napa, renting Peterson place of 43 acres.

Local Directories

- 1848, *Quincy IL* J.S. Ware (for future research purposes only)
Christian West 3d bet Hampshire & Main
4. 1855-56, *Quincy, IL*, J.F. Everhart
O.C. West teamster ss VT bt 11 & 12
(see also Griffith horse farrier es 6th bt Hampshire & VT))
 5. 1857-58, *Quincy, IL* McEvoy & Beatty
Orson C. West, stock dealer, 98 Vermont
 6. 1865 *Kansas City*
James West, clerk
 7. 1868-9 *Quincy, IL* (Williams)
O.C. West, stock dealer. Vermont ss e6th
 8. 1869-70 *Quincy, IL*, Roots
Orson C. West, residence 608 Vermont;
 9. 1871-2 *Quincy, IL*, Llanagdon & Arntzen
Orson C. West, horse dealer 110 n 3rd, r 71 n 6th
James G. West, bookkeeper, 27 n 5th r 71 n 6th

[Mid Continent Public Library microfilms of directories 1861-81, KC 1879-81]

10b. 1866-7 *Kansas City*

Joseph West, clerk, res Pearl bet Market and Walnut

10c. 1870 *Kansas City*

James G. West, salesman, Central house

James Griffith, salesman, Central house

Mrs. Marie West, Cherry bt 6th and Independence¹²

11. 1871 *Kansas City*

A.J. Griffith, I Martin & Lewis, bds 1921 Grant

Mrs. M. Griffith, 609 Cherry¹³

C12. 1872 *Kansas City*

Marie West, widow of Joseph, 607 Cherry

13. 1873 *Kansas City*

John W. Griffith KPRR

J.G. West, bookkeeper, Keenan, res. Kaw Valley Hotel

14. 1879 *Kansas City*

Chas West, clerk Dogget & Smith 2d ne cor Locust

O.C. West r locust ne cor 2

P.M. West, inspector Bullene, Moores & Emery, r Locust ne cor 2d

15. 1880 *Kansas City*

Alfred West es Locust bt 1 & 2

Chas West clerk G Y Smith and Co., r Locust \Nelson West, laborer, 517 ;Locust¹⁴

Orson C. West, I. Spellman & Granger, 2d nr **Locust**

P. Morris [P.M] West, inspector at Bullene..., r **Locust** bt 1 & 2

16. 1881 *Kansas City*

D.A. Griffith, clerk G Y Smith (see Chas West)

James A. Griffith, clerk UPRR r. 1611 Washington

John W. Griffith, chief clerk UPRR r. 1630 Pennsylvania

¹² Note that Marie West, widow of Joseph West (Orson's brother?) and Mary Griffith, widow of Alfred Griffith, live on Cherry St. which is near Locust St where subject Wests live. It is possible these Griffiths and Wests are related. Research has not yet proven this to be true.

¹³ Investigate Marie West widow of Joseph West at 607 Cherry vs. Mrs. M. Griffith at 609 Cherry.

¹⁴ Note that Charles lives on Locust and works at GY Smith as does William Griffith (possibly Catherine's brother) and a "William West" (who is possibly related to the subject Wests).

Robert U. Griffith¹⁵ "
Thomas A. Griffith "
William Griffith, clerk G.Y. Smith, res. 617 Locust
West : Orson C. and P. Morris West see 1880
George S. West bds 507 Locust

17. *1882 Kansas City, Hoye's*
Orson C. West, team[ster], residence Locust Street near corner of Second
James G. West, commercial travel [agent], H.C. Paulsen Co., 1144 Ind. Ave.
Charles West works for J.McCue, boards at 300 Main.
18. *1885 Kansas City*
James U. Griffith, Secty KC Paper Co, bds 407 w 13th (See I-D, Research)
Robert U. Griffith Clerk, UP RR 1216 Pennsylvania
Thomas A. Griffith, coal dealer 1216 Pennsylvania
No Wests shown
19. *1886 Kansas City*
Richard H. West d. 9 June 1886
William West laborer bds 208 Locust
Maria West, widow of Joseph r 537 Cherry¹⁶
Mary Griffith, widow of Alfred W. Griffith, r. rear 203 Cherry
Matthew W. Griffith, r rear 203 Cherry
James U. Griffith KC Paper, r 407 w 13th - (See I-D, Research).
Mary Griffith widow of William, r. 714 Broadway
Robert Griffith reporter Live Stock Record and farmer r 224 w 5th
William M. Griffith bds 119 w 5th
Robert N. Griffith chief clerk, supt. Office UPRR r. 1624 Pennsylvania
Thomas A. Griffith, coal dlr, 12 w 9th, r. 1216 Pennsylvania
20. *1889-1890 Kansas City*
Alfred M. Griffith, r. rear 203 Cherry¹⁷
William J. Griffith, Elevator Co.
Alfred L. West, clerk G. Bernheimer Bros. & Co., 613 e 13
Chas. O. West " Ollie, Bullene etc, r. 215 e 10th
21. *1890-91 Kansas City*
Alfred West see 1889-90
Charles [O] or [L] moved to Denver
Denver, Colorado, 1891 Chas O. West, expressman r 710 30th
J.G. West, clk GW Ingalls & Co. r 1125 15th
22. *1891, Denver, Colorado*
Chas O. West expressman r 710 30th
William Griffith, Pacific Express Co. r 707 14th
23. *1892, Denver, Colorado*
J.G. West clerk G.W. Ingalls & Co. r. 1125 15th
24. *1893, Denver, Colorado*
Charles O. West, bell boy, Hotel Broadway 1328 12th St.

H. Unpublished Sources

- 1 Family tree information from Betty hortonhwy69@aol.com¹⁸

¹⁵ The "U" in various Griffiths is believed to represent "Urban." James U. Griffith is probably related to Elizabeth Griffith West. He is the son of George and Mary Griffith (dec) of Hopewell Township, Muskingum County, OH. (See Joseph and Catherine Griffith in the next section.)

¹⁶ See Maria West 1880 U.S. Census Jackson Co., MO NARA T9:692, ED2, p. 13, Cherry St., wf 63 widow b NY, father b CT, mother b CT

¹⁷ See Alfred Griffith 1880 U.S. Census Jackson Co., MO NARA T9:692, ED 1, p. 20, East Levee Street (wm 40 b. IL, father b. IL, Mother b. IL; wife Mary 38 b. IL, father b. IL, Mother b. IL; children Erwin 24 b MO; Elizabeth 20, Ida 6 b. WI, Chas 8 b. WI, Geo 7 b. WI, John 4 b. MO.

¹⁸

Family Group Sheet

2.1 JOHN WEST & CLARISSA []

Husband: John West ^(D2)

b. abt 1797, New York ^(C2,C3,C5)

d. 4 Aug 1861, Newport, Johnson Co., IA ^(A1)

bur. Sandtown Cemetery, Hills, IA ^(G1)

m. 1 probably before 1826¹⁹

Husband's Father: (See I-D, Research)

Husband's Mother:

Wife: Clarissa _____²⁰

b. abt. 1801, VT ^(D2)

d. 1850-1853, Solon, Big Grove Twp, Johnson Co. IA²¹

bur.

Wife's Father:

Wife's Mother:

Children:

1. Orson C. West

b. 1827, New York ^(D2) (See 2.0 Orson West & Catherine Griffith)

m.

d.

sp. Catherine Griffith

(Children: 7. See Sec. 2.0)

2.+ probably others (See Part I-D, Research).²²

John West was a pioneer of Solon, Iowa. He was born in New York in 1797 according to census data. Research has not yet revealed his parents or specific birthplace. The same is true for Clarissa. They may have come to Solon as part of a group migration from New York. Possibly John or Clarissa's father was in the household. In that case, that parent may be among those listed as pioneers of Solon. Many such pioneers were known to have come from New York and Ohio. Histories mention that John and his wife were charter members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Solon.

Clarissa apparently died between 1850 and 1853 although neither her death nor burial record survived. John married Hannah Hill in 1853. It is not clear whether "Mr. and Mrs. West," charter members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, refers to John and Clarissa or John and Hannah. The church was probably established in the 1840s when Clarissa was still alive, but the structure was not built until 1855 at which time John was married to Hannah.

John is mentioned in histories of Johnson County as the partner of Hamilton H. Kerr. Together they hired Cyrus Sanders in October 1840 to lay out eighty acres of Big Grove Township for the town of Solon. Big Grove township was part of the Blackhawk purchase of 1832--land ceded to Johnson County from the Sac and Fox people. Johnson County formed in 1837. The first settlers came in 1838. John was appointed a director to cut a road from Solon to Iowa City in 1842.²³ John later acquired property in Newport Township north of Big Grove ^(D1-4) where he died in 1861.²⁴

¹⁹ No marriage record found. Son Orson was born in 1827. Assumed from 1850 U.S. Census for Johnson County, IA. The 1850 census does not specifically show relationships. John West m.2: Mrs. Hannah Hill, 17 June 1853 (she b. 16 July 1806 near Denton NC) (A2, C1,5, E1-2]

²⁰ The 1850 census shows Clarissa born in VT.

²¹ Death is deduced from the fact that Clarissa is shown in the 1850 census and that John married Hannah Hill in 1853. Clarissa's burial and grave have not been identified. All published cemetery data for Big Grove Township was examined., but records of the Suleh Cemeteries have not been published. She might have been buried at Suleh located in Sec. 11, Twp. 81, Rg. 6 near John's land in Sec. 12.

²² The Johnston County, IA census for 1840 shows several children and adults in John's household not accounted for in his immediate family as shown in the 1850 census. The presence of elderly male over 60 (b. before 1780) suggests that the father of John or Clarissa was living.--and would be among the most aged of the Solon pioneers. His identity has not been determined.

²³ Irvin Weber "Solon History" in History of Johnson County Iowa, series, *Iowa City Press Citizen*, , 24 September 1975, p. 2. See also Charles Ray Aurnber, *Leading Events in Johnson County History*, (Cedar Rapids: Western Historical Press, 1912), p. 164.

²⁴ See "Early Settlers of Solon Iowa," Marklou West Ficklin, January 2006.

Sources

JOHN WEST & CLARISSA []

A. Probate

1. John West Estate, Probate Records, Johnson Co., IA, Vol. 3, 1858-1863, Bk 3:351: Estate of John West deceased, Johnson County Court August 1866, est. opened 10 Aug 1861. Appt. James Hill administrator of estate. John West died intestate on or about 4 Aug 1861. James Hill gave bond. Appraisers Henry Felkner, A.C. Hinman and Serena Hill. P. 407 Hannah West formerly, Hannah Hill guardian of Louisa Hill. Records 56-53 from Court; p. 427 27 March 1862 administrators report by James Hill; p. 432 April Session. 1862. Files petition to sell real estate May 1 to pay debts; p. 436 petition to continue to 1st Mon in June; p. 493 Probate Records Johnson County 19 Dec 1862 sold real estate s1/2 se1/4 sw1/4 Sec 26 T81N R5W for \$35; p. 494 Petition of James Hill to convey real estate--20 acres.; p. 496 Louisa Hill guardianship 19 Dec 1862; Louisa now of age of majority . Asks discharge.
2. Hannah West Estate, Probate Records, Johnson Co., IA, Vol 8, p. 201 Report of Administrator of Hannah West 19 May 1875 to case on note GW Osborn, E. Yarborough, James Hill, Mary Morris, medical bills of Dr. Morris T. North[?], Dr. Adams, Rev. Hastings, 25 Jan 1872 Bk6:615, 1 Feb 1872 Bk 6:623 19 May 1875 Bk 8: 201
3. Index to Guardians, Johnson Co. IA
Hill, Joseph to Hannah Hill 20 May 1852, Bk 5:80
Hill, Josiah to Rachel E. Osborn 5 Aug 1869, Bk 3:407; 6:205

B. Vital and Cemetery

1. Marriages of Johnson Co. IA1839-1910
Solon: 17 June 1853 John West to Hannah Hill, Bk 3, p. 1421 May 1854
George Osborn to Rachel E. Hill, Bk 3, p. 22

C. Census

1. 1840 U.S. Census, Big Grove Twp., Johnson Co. IA, NARA microfilm M704, Roll 101.
John West [112030101 001011] (12 people)
This indicates 1 male under 5; 1 male 5-10, 2 males 10-15 (including Orson); 3 males 20-30; 1 male 40-50 (John) and 1 male 60-70 (possibly his father or Clarissa's); 1 female 30-40 (Clarissa) and one female 20-30, 1 female 10-15. This appears to contain two families.
1844 State Census, Iowa Johnson Co., Big Grove Township, transcription, p. 10, line 5, LDS film #1728630
John West household contains 7 souls (7 people--5 lss than 1840)
2. 1850 U.S. Census, Big Grove Twp., Johnson Co. IA, NARA microfilm M432, Roll 208, p. 180, line 12, household 3
John West, 53, b. NY, farmer, \$200 personal property
Clarissa 49, b. VT
Orsen, 22, b. NY
John Ollerman 14, b. OH
3. 1852 State Census for Johnson Co. IA:
John West still listed. [Vol. 2 of Iowa Census 1851-1859]
1854 State Census, Iowa Johnson Co., Big Grove Township, transcription, p. 3, line 12, LDS film #1022206
John West household contains 2 males and 3 females

[continued next page]

4. 1860 U.S. Census, Newport, Twp., Johnson Co. IA, NARA microfilm M 653, 2d filming, Roll 327, p. 541, household 365

John West 60, b. NY \$460 real estate, \$100 personal property²⁵
Hannah, 54, b. NC
Barbara 20, b. NC
Samuel Barble, 18, laborer
Louie Hill, 13
John Lucas, 20, Teamster
Emily Meacher 30

D. Land

Johnson County, Iowa²⁶

1. Orson West was owner of record of sw 1/4 of sw 1/4 **Sec 12, Twp 81N, R6W**. See Family Group Sheet for Orson West.)
2. Quitclaim to John West from A.W. Blain, 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)

E. 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.

"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."

F. Miscellaneous Court Records

Iowa District Court Records 1839-1841, Iowa State Historical Society Box 2

- p. 93 May term 1841 Grand Jury includes John West 2d Jud. Dist.
- p. 99 May Term 1841; I.C. Lasher vs. Jehiel Parks and John West to dismiss--plaintiff to recover costs. N.d.
- p. 101 A.H. Frisbee vs John West 1 June 1841 \$94.76 prom. Note + damages
- p. 132 cont. Thomas Ford vs. John West. Mentions Jehiel and Harrison Parks.

G. Undocumented Secondary Sources

1. Rootsweb World Connect, "The Eugene and Judith Whorton Henderson Family Tree"

Hannah Stout ID145909 and John West ID 129666: states that Hannah and John West are buried at Sandtown Cemetery, Liberty Twp, near Hills, IA. Burial records to confirm this have not yet been found.

²⁵ No death record found for John's first wife, Clarissa, but property deeds and probate records indicate that Hannah was John's second wife.

²⁶ These 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. Other Wests in Johnson County land transactions include: James L and Catherine West of N. Liberty, who owned land in Twp 80, R 6 in Secs 5, 17 and Twp 78, R 5, Sec 25. This is very near to John's land. According to 1860 census data these Wests were born in Ohio.

