

# **Ancestors of Robert Charles West**

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## Introduction

This report is based on family history research into the WEST ancestors of Robert Charles West. Research has been carried out by Helen Osborn Research Limited in the period October 2004 – February 2005.

A pedigree chart is enclosed with this report. This gives each person in the ancestral line a number and shows the direct ancestors of a person: parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on.

Information in this report comes from birth and marriage certificates and census returns as well as the parish registers of Clayton, East Sussex. Copies of the certificates and census returns are attached at the back of this report. In addition some family information was provided by Mr. Robert Charles West which provided the starting point for the research. The aim of the research was to trace the West line.

The WEST family has been traced back to the Sussex village of Clayton in the eighteenth-century. Clayton lies directly north of Brighton and is in modern day East Sussex. The most distant ancestor traced during this research was William West, an agricultural laborer, who was living in Clayton with his wife Sarah from at least 1787. Although their marriage has not been traced (it was not in Clayton) it is probably safe to assume that it occurred in 1785 or 86. The couple had at least ten children - eight boys and two girls – all baptized in Clayton in the period 1787 – 1809. A burial for William West was found in Clayton in 1818 and this stated his age at death as 56, making his probable year of birth 1762.

William and Sarah's seventh child had the unusual name of Beneager and was christened in Clayton on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1806. He married Mary Ann Waller on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1831 also in Clayton. Beneager and Ann did not have many children baptized in Clayton, only Harriet on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1832 and James on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1834.

James West was a shepherd and married Jane Waller in 1864 in Keymer, Sussex. They had at least four children, the eldest of whom, James William West was born on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1865 in Hassocks, Clayton, Sussex. He married Clara Freeman on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1886 in Crowhurst, Sussex. At the time of his marriage James William was employed as an agricultural laborer in Crowhurst but by 1891 was working as a milkman in Falmer, Sussex.

The West family in Clayton in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is very large and it looks as though West ancestors were in this area of Sussex for many generations.

It was not until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that the family moved away from Sussex, into the suburbs of London. James William and Clara's son, Charles Henry William West, was born at 1 Bute Cottages, Kent Road, West Wickham, in Beckenham, Kent on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1899.

# Ancestors of Robert Charles West, Generation by Generation

## First Generation

**Robert Charles West**, son of **Keith Raymond West** and **Janet Hazel Carter**, was born on 10 Jun 1973.

## Second Generation (Parents)

**Keith Raymond West**, son of **Raymond Charles West** and **Dafny Gladys Smith**, was born on 11 Nov 1949.

Keith married **Janet Hazel Carter**.

**Janet Hazel Carter**, daughter of **Sidney Carter** and **Violet Hazel West**, was born on 28 Feb 1946.

## Third Generation (Grandparents)

**Raymond Charles West**, son of **Charles Henry William West** and **Daisy Isabelle Bedborough**, was born on 10 Apr 1928.

Raymond married **Dafny Gladys Smith** on 3 Apr 1948 in All Saints Church, Carshalton, Surrey.

**Dafny Gladys Smith**, daughter of **Walter James Smith** and **Gladys Edith Crawford**, was born on 18 Nov 1928.

**Sidney Carter**, son of **Abraham Carter** and **Ellen Board**, was born on 2 Jul 1918 and died on 22 Dec 1980 at age 62.

Sidney married **Violet Hazel West**.

**Violet Hazel West**, daughter of **Charles Henry William West** and **Daisy Isabelle Bedborough**, was born on 18 Oct 1921.

## Fourth Generation (Great-Grandparents)

**Charles Henry William West**, son of **James William West** and **Clara Freeman**, was born on 14 May 1899 at 1 Bute Cottages, Kent Road, West Wickham and died on 7 Jan 1963 at age 63.

On his marriage certificate of 1919 Charles Henry William West gives his occupation as a Sheet Metal Worker. He is the first member of the West line not to have been employed in agriculture.

Charles married **Daisy Isabelle Bedborough** on 8 Nov 1919 in the Register Office, Epsom, Surrey.

They were both married from 15 Gurney Road, Carshalton.

Children from this marriage were:

- i. **Violet Hazel West**
- ii. **Raymond Charles West**

**Daisy Isabelle Bedborough**, daughter of **William Henry Bedborough** and **Julia Ann Johnson**, was born on 24 Sep 1899 and died on 23 Jul 1980 at age 80.

**Walter James Smith** was born on 17 Mar 1895.

Walter married **Gladys Edith Crawford**.

**Gladys Edith Crawford** was born on 22 Jul 1905.

**Abraham Carter** was born in Apr 1878.

Abraham married **Ellen Board**.

**Ellen Board** was born on 31 Jan 1875.

### **Fifth Generation (Great Great-Grandparents)**

**James William West**, son of **James West** and **Jane Waller**, was born on 26 Aug 1865 in Hassocks, Clayton, Sussex and died in the period 1901 – 1919.

On the 1881 census James is working as an Agricultural laborer and living in Wivelsfield, Sussex. His occupation is again given as a laborer on his marriage certificate of 1886 but by the 1891 census he is working as a milkman in Falmer, Sussex. As a milkman James was unlikely to have been responsible for the delivery of the milk in the way of a modern milkman. It is much more likely that he was involved in the milking of the cows. This role is confirmed by the 1901 census which states his occupation as 'Cattleman on farm.' By this date the family had moved from Sussex to West Wickham in the district of Bromley in Kent.

James married **Clara Freeman** on 13 Oct 1886 in Crowhurst, Sussex. He was unable to sign his name on his marriage certificate although his wife Clara was.

In 1891, James and Clara had Clara's widowed father living with them in Lewes Road, Falmer, Sussex.

Children from this marriage were:

- i. **Mildred West**, born about 1887 in Crowhurst, Sussex.
- ii. **Frederick West**, born about 1889 in Crowhurst, Sussex.
- iii. **Sidney West**, born about 1896 in Falmer, Sussex.
- iv. **Victor West**, born about 1898 in West Wickham, Kent.
- v. **Charles Henry William West**

**Clara Freeman**, daughter of **Joseph Freeman** was born about 1868 in Battle, Sussex and died after 1901.

On the other side of the family, other Great Great-Grandparents known about are:

**William Henry Bedborough** died before 1919. (See Pedigree Chart: p.3, no.2.)

On his daughter's marriage certificate of this date she gives William's occupation as a Cabman and states that he is deceased at the time of her marriage.

William married **Julia Ann Johnson**.

The child from this marriage was:

- i. **Daisy Isabelle Bedborough**

**Julia Ann Johnson** was born about 1861. (See Pedigree Chart: p.3, no.3.)

### **Sixth Generation (3rd Great-Grandparents)**

**James West**, son of **Beneager West** and **Mary Ann Waller**, was born about 1834 in Clayton, Sussex and was christened in Clayton on 15 Jul 1834. He died after 1891.

On his son James William's birth certificate of 1865 James's occupation is given as a shepherd in Hassocks, Clayton, Sussex. He seemed to have remained a shepherd his whole life as this is given as his occupation on the 1881 census and on his son's marriage certificate of 1886. By the census of 1891 his occupation was that of retired shepherd and at this date the family are living in Piecombe, East Sussex. Ten years earlier in 1881 the family were living at the Great Oat Hall in Wivelsfield, Sussex, together with another family

James married **Jane Waller** on 9 Nov? (the certificate is unclear) 1864 in Keymer, Sussex.

Children from this marriage were:

- i. **James William West**
- ii. **Charles West**, born about 1869 in Keymer, Sussex.
- iii. **Alfred West**, born about 1874 in Keymer, Sussex and died after 1891.
- iv. **Albert West**, born about 1876 in Keymer, Sussex and died after 1891.

**Jane Waller**, daughter of **Henry Waller**, was born about 1848 in Clayton, Sussex and died after 1891.

Jane's first marriage was to a man of the name of **Crowhurst** in about 1862.

The child from this marriage was:

- i. **Mary Crowhurst**, born about 1862 in Keymer, Sussex.

Jane next married **James West**.

**Joseph Freeman** was born about 1832 and died after 1891. (See Pedigree Chart: p.2, no.6)

On his daughter's marriage certificate of 1886 his occupation is given as a Laborer but when he was living with James William and Clara West in Falmer, Sussex on the 1891 census his occupation is given as milkman, like his son-in-law James William West at the same date.

Joseph's child was **Clara Freeman**.

### **Seventh Generation (4th Great-Grandparents)**

**Beneager West**, son of **William West** and **Sarah**, was christened on 20 Jul 1806 in Clayton, Sussex.

Beneager married **Mary Ann Waller** on 12 Oct 1831 in Clayton, Sussex.

Children from this marriage were:

- i. **Harriett West**, christened on 15 Jan 1832 in Clayton, Sussex.
- ii. **James West**

At the time of James's christening Beneager and Ann are recorded in the Parish registers as living at Half Way House. (See Map of Clayton, above)

Given that, at this date, the West family seems to be firmly rooted in Clayton, Sussex it is possible that there is a family connection between **Mary Ann Waller** and **Jane Waller** (b. 1848 Clayton) and her father **Henry Waller**. (See Pedigree Chart: p.2, nos.9, 5 and 10) They may have been first or second cousins, although we have no reliable evidence to confirm a connection.

### **Eighth Generation (5th Great-Grandparents)**

**William West** was born around 1762 in Clayton, Sussex and was buried on 30 August 1818 in Clayton, Sussex.

William married **Sarah** about 1786.

Children from this marriage were:

- i. **Henry West**, christened on 9 Sep 1787 in Clayton, Sussex.
- ii. **William West**, christened on 19 Apr 1789 in Clayton, Sussex.
- iii. **James West**, christened on 11 Dec 1791 in Clayton, Sussex.
- iv. **John West**, christened on 16 Feb 1794 in Clayton, Sussex.
- v. **Richard West**, christened on 5 Jun 1796 in Clayton, Sussex.
- vi. **Robert West**, christened on 16 Dec 1798 in Clayton, Sussex.
- vii. **Elizabeth West**, christened on 28 Jun 1801 in Clayton, Sussex.
- viii. **Frances West**, christened on 4 Dec 1803 in Clayton, Sussex.
- ix. **Beneager West**
- x. **Henry West**, christened on 23 Apr 1809 in Clayton, Sussex.

### **Suggestions for Further Research**

To continue research into the history of the WEST line we suggest that firstly the marriage of William West and Sarah be searched for and then William's baptism. We also suggest that more detailed research into the Parish Chest records of Clayton and amongst local Quarter Sessions and Poor Law records would provide more background information about the West family in Clayton in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

It would also be possible to locate them on the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 census returns of the area which might provide further information about children and occupations. It would also be of use to locate the deaths and burial places of as many people as possible.

## Sources

1899 Birth certificate of Charles Henry West  
1865 Birth certificate of James William West

1919 Marriage certificate of Charles Henry West and Daisy Isabelle Bedborough.  
1886 Marriage certificate of James William West and Clara Freeman  
1864 Marriage certificate of James West and Jane Crowhurst

1901 Census of West Wickham, Bromley, Kent. RG13/690/11 p.14  
1891 Census of Piecombe, East Sussex. RG12/794/64 p.1  
1891 Census of Falmer, Sussex. RG12/801/41 p.12 and 42 p.13  
1881 Census of Wivelsfield, Sussex. RG11/1067/107 p.22

Michael J. Burchall, *Complete Transcripts of the Parish Registers of Clayton, Sussex*, (Brighton, 1976).

Copies of certificates and census returns are enclosed.