

## Chapter 44

# Additional Details about Joseph West and Jane Owen, My Fifth-Great Grandparents

[12 January 2020]

### Introduction

On a fairly regular basis (i.e., daily), I check the Ancestry.com website for new DNA matches. I primarily am interested in finding DNA matches with individuals on Ancestry.com where the software on this website has identified our common ancestors.

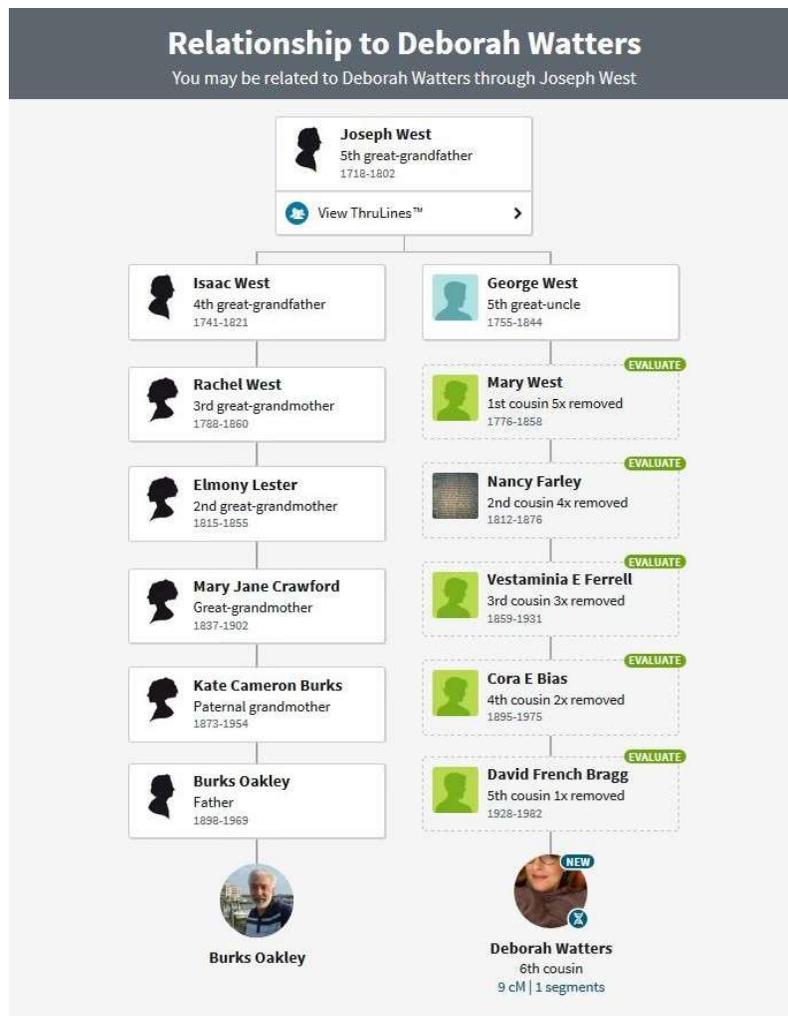
In early January 2020, I found a new DNA match with a woman named Deborah Watters, and the software suggested that we have a common ancestor:

The screenshot shows the 'Burks Oakley's DNA Matches' page on Ancestry.com. At the top, there are tabs for 'List' and 'Map'. Below that, there are filter buttons for 'Unviewed' and 'Common ancestors', along with search and sort options. The main content area is titled 'Last 7 days' and features a match for Deborah Watters. The match is identified as a '5th-8th Cousin' with a shared DNA of 9 cM across 1 segment. It also indicates that there are 186 other people with this match and that they share a common ancestor.

We have a small DNA match of 9 cM, and based on the size of this match, we could be 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> cousins. The software suggested that our common ancestors are Joseph West (1718-1802) and his wife Jane Owen (1720-1791):

This screenshot shows the relationship path for Deborah Watters. It starts with the question 'How are you and Deborah Watters related?' followed by the heading 'Common Ancestors'. The text explains that according to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and Deborah Watters. It then states 'Deborah Watters could be your 6th cousin through:' and lists two common ancestors: Joseph West (5th great-grandfather, 1718-1802) and Jane Owen (5th great-grandmother, 1720-1791). Each ancestor has a 'View Relationship' link.

The couple were my fifth-great grandparents. I then viewed our relationship as calculated by the software on the website:



Based on this chart, Deborah and I are 6<sup>th</sup> cousins. I should note that my line to Joseph West and his wife Jane Owen goes back through Elmony Lester, who was a “brick wall” before I started my research using DNA. The term “brick wall” means that I did not know anything about her ancestors. But with creative approaches to using DNA, I was indeed able to discover her pedigree. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/9A-LesterGenealogy.pdf>

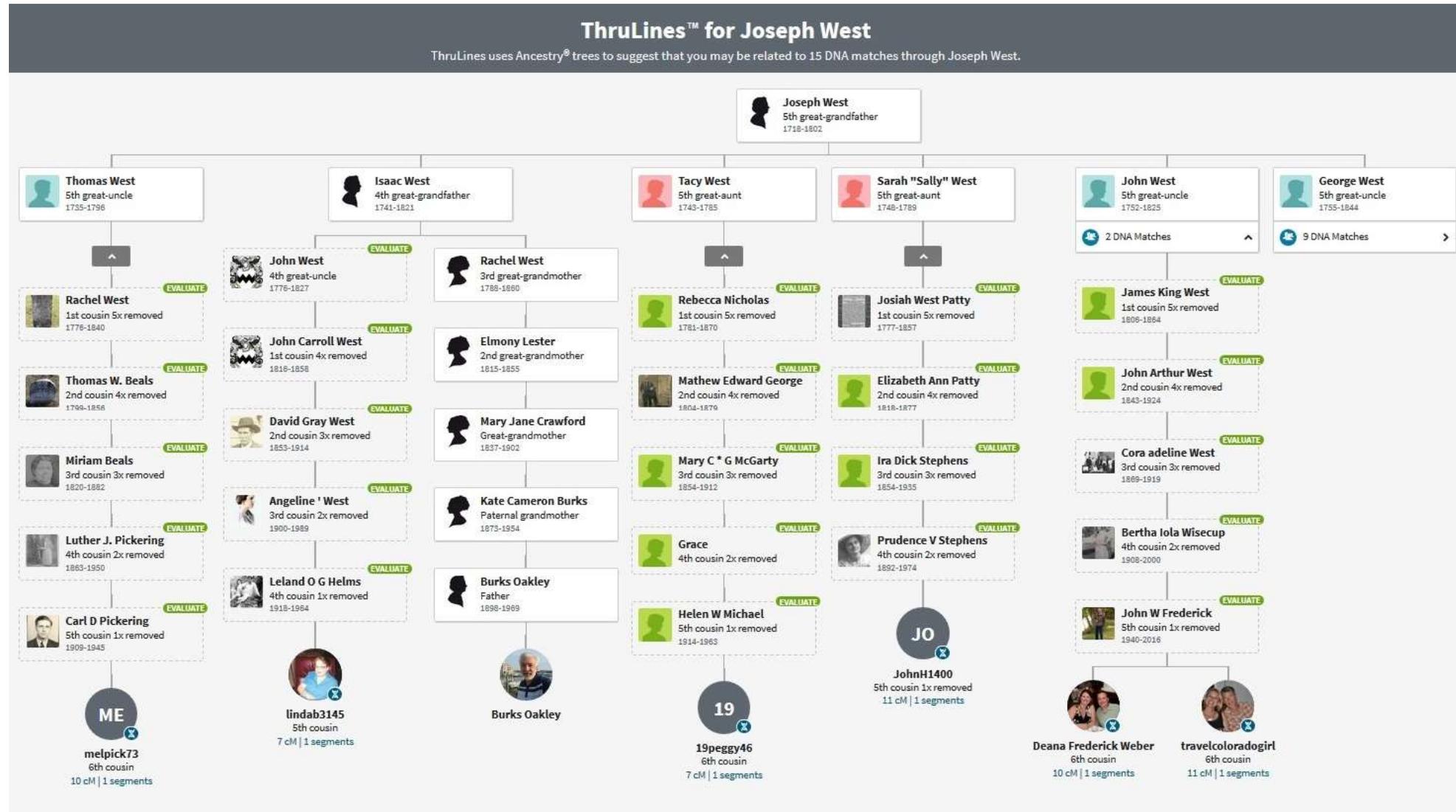
<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/9B-ElmonyLester-revisited.pdf>

Finding my DNA match with Deborah Watters prompted me to go back and look at all my DNA matches with descendants of Joseph West and his wife Jane Owen. These matches are presented in charts that Ancestry.com has termed ThruLines™. Clicking on these icons brings up the ThruLines™:

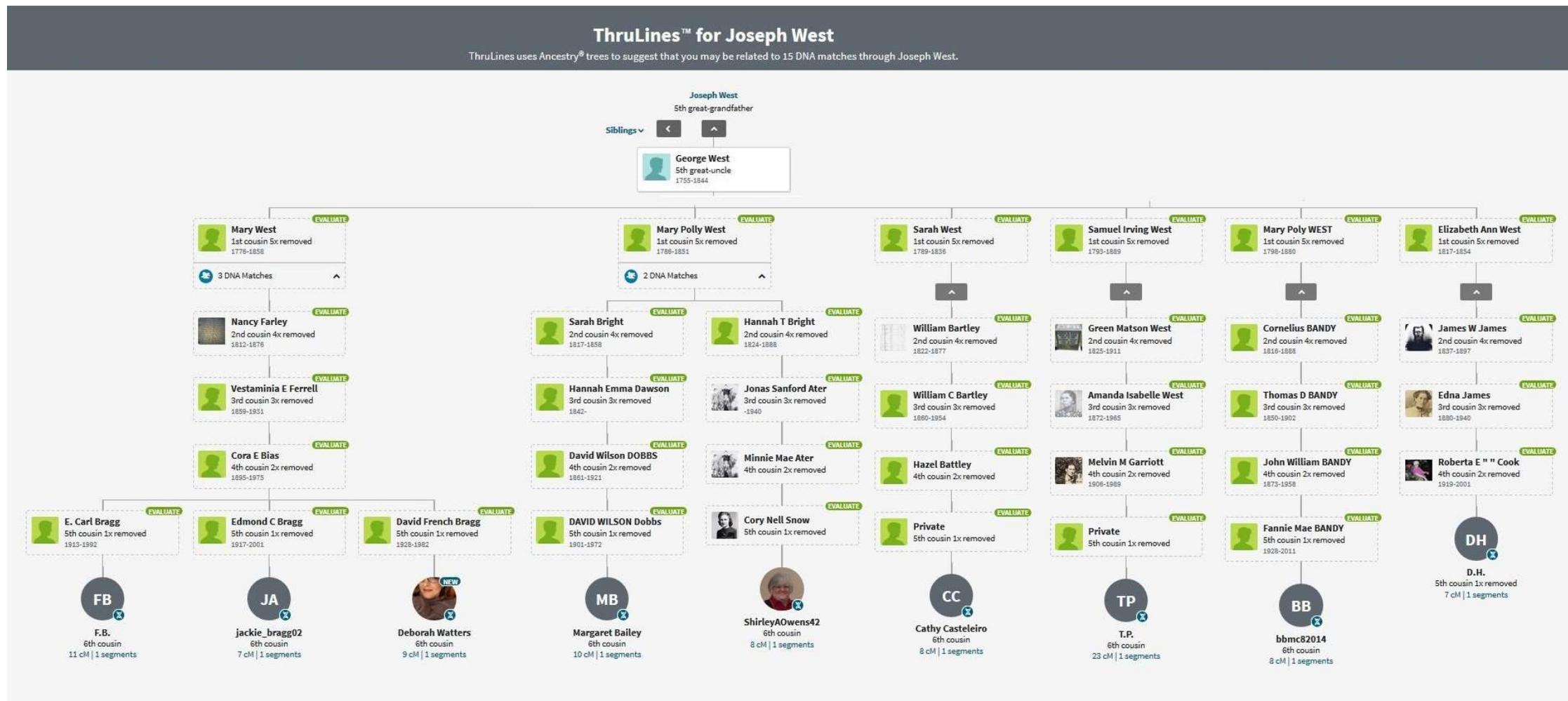


# ThruLines™ for Joseph West

Here is my overall ThruLines™ for Joseph West:



According to the chart on the previous page, I have DNA matches with fifteen descendants of Joseph West. Six of them are shown in that chart. The other nine matches come from Joseph West's son George West (1755-1844), who appears at the right-side of that chart. His descendants with whom I have DNA matches are shown here:

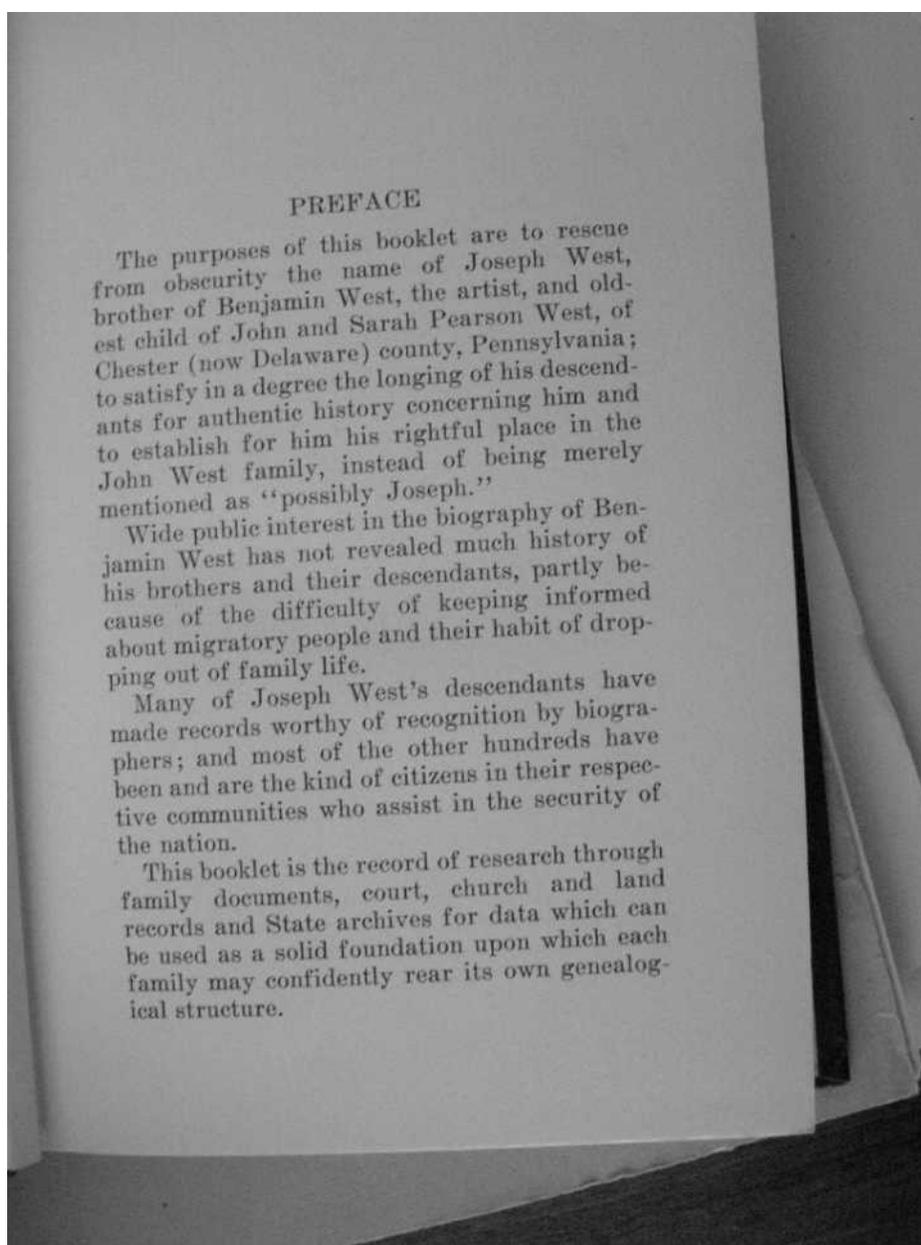


These nine DNA matches include Deborah Watters (nee Bragg) and two of her first cousins on the Bragg side of her family (*F.B.* and *jackie\_bragg02*).

Having fifteen DNA matches with descendants of Joseph West is strong support of my line going back to him through Elmony Lester. I should add here that the ThruLines™ for Joseph West's wife Jane Owen is exactly the same as the ThruLines™ for Joseph West presented on the previous two pages.

### ***More About Joseph West and Jane Owen***

As I was searching for information about Joseph West on the Ancestry.com website, I found this photo of a page in a book about Joseph West<sup>1</sup>:



I did a Google search using part of the text on this page, and I found that the book was entitled "Joseph West and Jane Owen" and was written by Celeste Terrell Barnhill in 1930. I was amazed to find that a copy of this book from the University of Wisconsin Library had been digitized by the Hathi Trust and is available online. Since the University of Illinois is a partner of the Hathi Trust, I was able to login to the Hathi Trust website with my U of I credentials and download a PDF of the complete 105-page book.

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/005774771>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/48052859/person/20061050812/media/a64e9112-db93-4a7f-a6f4-29e07fb579af?\\_phsrc=qRX1452&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/48052859/person/20061050812/media/a64e9112-db93-4a7f-a6f4-29e07fb579af?_phsrc=qRX1452&_phstart=successSource)

Here is the title page:

# JOSEPH WEST AND JANE OWEN

Celeste Terrell Barnhill



Here is the Preface:

## PREFACE

The purposes of this booklet are to rescue from obscurity the name of Joseph West, brother of Benjamin West, the artist, and oldest child of John and Sarah Pearson West, of Chester (now Delaware) county, Pennsylvania; to satisfy in a degree the longing of his descendants for authentic history concerning him and to establish for him his rightful place in the John West family, instead of being merely mentioned as "possibly Joseph."

Wide public interest in the biography of Benjamin West has not revealed much history of his brothers and their descendants, partly because of the difficulty of keeping informed about migratory people and their habit of dropping out of family life.

Many of Joseph West's descendants have made records worthy of recognition by biographers; and most of the other hundreds have been and are the kind of citizens in their respective communities who assist in the security of the nation.

This booklet is the record of research through family documents, court, church and land records and State archives for data which can be used as a solid foundation upon which each family may confidently rear its own genealogical structure.

Chapter One begins with a bang:

## CHAPTER I

### ANCESTRY OF JOSEPH WEST

“The Wests were ‘An Ancient Family of Knightly Rank’ connected by ties of marriage and descent with royal lineages and other families of peerage, and among the landed gentry of the oldest type throughout the Kingdom.”

The introduction traces Jane Owen’s family back to Alfred the Great, King of England, who lived from 849 to 899:

#### ROYAL DESCENT OF JOSEPH WEST’S FAMILY

- 1 Alfred the Great, King of England
- 2 Edward the Elder, King of England
- 3 Princess Edgiva, m. Henry Count de Vermandois
- 4 Hubert, Count de Vermandois Troyes
- 5 Lady Adele de Vermandois, m. Hugh Magnus of France
- 6 Lady Isobel de Vermandois, m. Robert, Earl of Mellent
- 7 Lady Mable de Bellemont, m. Wm. de Redvers de Vernon, 6th Earl Devon
- 8 Lady Joane de Vernon, m. Wm., Baron de Briwere by tenure and Lord of Torboy
- 9 Lady Margaret de Vernon, m. Baron de la Ferte

How about that! Who knew that looking into my DNA match with Deborah Watters would take me back to a King of England!!

#### ***Benjamin West***

The Preface of the book about Joseph West and Jane Owen mentions that one of Joseph’s younger brothers was the artist, Benjamin West (1738-1820). I Googled him and found his Wikipedia entry at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin\\_West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_West)

Indeed, Benjamin West was a famous painter; he painted historical scenes such as *The Death of Nelson*, *The Death of General Wolfe*, and *Benjamin Franklin Drawing Electricity from the Sky*.

Benjamin West was my fifth-great uncle, and unfortunately, I don’t have DNA matches with any of his descendants.

Here is *The Death of General Wolfe*:



The Death of General Wolfe is a 1770 painting by Benjamin West, commemorating the 1759 Battle of Quebec, where General James Wolfe died at the moment of victory. The painting contains vivid suggestions of martyrdom, and broke a standard rule of historical portraiture by featuring individuals who had not been present at the scene, dressed in modern instead of classical costumes. The painting has become one of the best-known images in English art.

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Death\\_of\\_General\\_Wolfe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Death_of_General_Wolfe)

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

Here is the painting *Benjamin Franklin Drawing Electricity from the Sky*, which dates to 1816:



Philadelphia Museum of Art.

## Appendix

One of the more complete listings for Joseph West and Jane Owen on the Ancestry.com website is in the West-Blackburn-March-McCoy family tree that is owned by Melissa Smith:<sup>2</sup>

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com profile for Joseph West Sr. The header includes the family tree name "West-Blackburn-March...", a search icon, and the user "melissa smith". The profile for Joseph West Sr. is displayed, including his birth date (6 JAN 1719) and death date (12 SEP 1802), and his location (Chadds Ford, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, United States of America). Below the profile, there are three tabs: "Actively Researching", "Common DNA Ancestor", and "Verified".

**Family**

Parents

- John West (1690-1776)
- Sarah Susannah Pearson (1697-1756)

**Spouse & Children**

- \* Jane Owen (1720-1791)
- Thomas West (1735-1796)
- Benjamin West Sr (Reknown Painter) (1738-1820)
- ISAAC WEST SR (1741-1821)
- Lacey West (1743-1744)
- Tacey West (1744-1772)
- Sarah West (1745-1788)
- George Henry West (1750-1824)
- Owen William West (1750-1828)
- Hannah WEST (1751-1835)
- John West (1753-1825)
- Joseph West II Jr. (1757-1845)
- James WEST (1759-1843)
- James West (1759-1760)
- Benjamin West (1762-1843)
- Jane West (1764-)

I didn't try to verify all this, but recall that I have DNA matches with descendants of six of their children.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/115456461/person/190192116607/facts>