

Papers Found (continued from Page 1)

Rosalie was born in 1912 in Indianapolis, Indiana as Rosalie M. McKinney, daughter of Harley McKinney and Frances Alexander. Frances was the daughter of Newton Alexander and Adeline Lucretia West, and Adeline was the daughter of Henry D. West and Lucretia Capron. For most of the West descendants of this newsletter, that makes her a second cousin, probably once, twice, or thrice removed.

Because she and my grandfather Harry A. West share a common great-grandfather (Henry D.), they were second cousins, and I was her second cousin twice removed.

Rosalie was a well-educated and accomplished woman. She graduated in 1933 from the University of Michigan, where she met her future husband, Hugh Jackson, and was married in 1933. We're not yet sure what happened between then and the 1980s, but by 1985 she was living in Overland Park, Kansas with Hugh, and they both lived the remainder of their years there. Rosalie was very active in many organizations and societies, and by all accounts a terrific person. Hugh passed away in 1995, and Rosalie in early 2000. They had no children.

Rosalie's Binders

On June 6, 2003 I visited her estate attorney's office in Overland Park, Kansas and brought back with me the following materials:

Three-ring binders containing genealogy charts, copies of sources, and other historical information. The binders were labeled as follows:

Alexander
Alexander Misc.
Capron
Crampton/Capron
Descendants of Banfield Capron-Attleborough, Mass.
Descendants of Banfield Capron, Sr.
Field
Field Crampton & Capron (two binders)
Field Crampton & Capron,
 One labeled "Rosalie's copy"
 One labeled "Additional copy"
Field Index
Field Crampton and Capron, Mass, Conn, and Vermont
James Alexander
Newton Alexander
McKinney (one of several copies we found)
Robinson
West (included original West family bible pages)

Each of these binders covered all the genealogy related to particular family lines, and contained many other family names. A number of them contained over 300 pages.

Photos, including one of Betsey Capron (1784-1863)

Miscellaneous genealogy-related papers

Several published booklets with genealogical information

Everyone is welcome to view these materials firsthand or have copies. Please let us know.

Old Family Photos Discovered

Among the items from Rosalie's estate we found a large number of photos. Many were typical photos of family and friends from Rosalie's life. Others dated to the mid to late 1800s, and unfortunately most of these were not labeled. However, I found and returned with a few photos that were clearly part of the West ancestry: a photo of Betsey Capron (1784-1863) (Fig. 2) and a photo labeled Carrie West & Husband (Fig 3), whom we believe was a daughter of Henry D. West and Lucretia Capron named Caroline.

After going through Rosalie's binders of genealogy information once I returned from Kansas City with we discovered a photocopied page of six photos that Rosalie had labeled as Hathaway and Capron family members (Fig. 4). Included on this

page were pictures of two of my great-great-great-great-grandparents, a second photo of Betsy Cramton and George Capron (1778-1861). The Hathaways shown are connected to the Caprons by Adeline (lower left) who married Lemuel Hathaway.

We're trying to make arrangements to search the photos in Kansas City to locate the originals and possibly other photos of the same people. A sizable collection of old photos, including tiny "penny-photos" and a tintype, were all in a single package labeled Alexander, Rosalie's maiden name. I originally thought that these photos were primarily of Alexander family members, but I now believe that most were related to Rosalie's entire maternal line including the West, Capron, Cramton, and related family lines. Hopefully we'll be able to find some unique photos. I'm hoping to find one of Henry D. West and Lucretia Capron, for whom we have no photos whatsoever.



Figure 2.a - Betsey Capron (nee Cramton) (1784-1863)

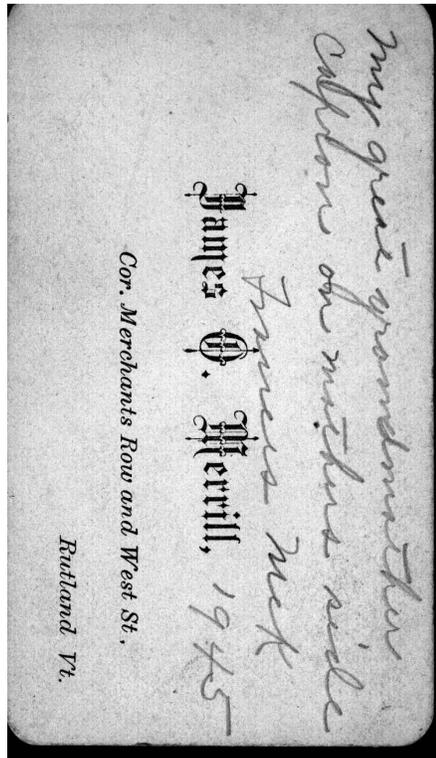


Figure 2.b - Reverse side



Figure 3 - Caroline West (1852-1887) and George Gragen

Figure 4 - Photocopied page of original Capron / Hathaway photographs that was found with Rosalie Jackson's genealogy research..



A Mystery Solved (continued from Page 1)

none of my relatives knew anything about such a family bible.

We worked on many other parts of the West family history in Indianapolis, but we were stuck when it came to learning more about Cramton's parents Henry D. West and Lucretia Capron. We knew from both family stories and collaborating census records that Henry was originally born in Kentucky about 1798 and Lucretia in Vermont, but that is where the trail stopped for several years. We simply couldn't make any credible connection between them and any earlier records.

Mary and I traveled to Indiana and found more information on the Wests there, and even located the cemetery where Henry and Lucretia were interred and found their clearly marked headstones. None of the information we found directed us to a specific county or city in Kentucky or Vermont where we could search in more detail, nor did they indicate the names of their parents.

Continued searches of census and other Indiana records available to us through libraries here in Cleveland came up empty. Mary eventually decided to pay a genealogy researcher in Indiana to conduct a search for information in the Johnson County, Indiana historical society on the Wests. It was cheaper than making the trip ourselves, plus it was done by someone very familiar with the resources available there.

What we received back was a tremendous breakthrough in our understanding of the West family history. The researcher had found a letter and a collection of papers submitted to the historical society's library in 1984. It included copies of charts and family group sheets of West families compiled by Rosalie M. Jackson. In her letter she asked about any research or information about several West families and their descendants, and concluded as follows:

If there are any other queries re West or Keene, I would like to get in touch with them.

Thank you,

Rosalie M. Jackson
9613 Beverly
Overland Park, Kansas 66207

We quickly identified a direct link from our research to the work Rosalie had completed and showed on her charts. What was astonishing, however, is that her charts didn't stop at Henry D. West, but continued back for another three generations. She also had detailed information on many of the families, and nearly complete information for three generations back on Lucretia Capron's ancestors.

Rosalie also listed in her documentation something vital to genealogy research: her sources of information. Included in her sources were various census records, but also previously published works such as Letta Brock Stone's *West Family Register* from 1928. We went to the Western Reserve Historical Society in

Cleveland and located the census records, and we eventually borrowed through interlibrary loan many of the published works she cited. But one source listed on her charts stood out: "West Family Bible in possession of Rosalie M. Jackson." We couldn't wait to try to contact her.

Family bible records are highly valued by genealogists. Events are often recorded at the time they occurred by the people who were directly involved in them, making them among the most accurate and trusted sources of information. Unlike formal records that list certain information to the exclusion of others, bible records may contain all kinds of unexpected information, although they can be incomplete. Unfortunately, bibles are not stored in any central repository like records are, and are easily lost or forgotten.

So we set out to find Rosalie. Although her address information was 15 years old, we at least had a good place to start looking. We were soon disappointed to learn that someone else lived at her current address, and we could find no other listing for her under either hers or her husband's name anywhere in Kansas or Missouri. We even tried to look nationwide to no avail.

Finally, Mary went back to Rosalie's old address and looked up the phone numbers of some of the people living on her street. She was eventually referred to Phyllis, who had been living on Beverly for years. Phyllis knew Rosalie well, but told us that Rosalie had just passed away the year before. Rosalie's husband Hugh passed away in 1995. Phyllis also told us that Rosalie had no children, and also had no living nieces or nephews she knew of. However, she gave us the name of Rosalie's estate attorney, David Alig, who might be able to help.

We spoke to Mr. Alig, and he confirmed what Phyllis had said. Rosalie's husband Hugh had a half brother living in Michigan who had a son, but she had no descendants nor other close relatives. We told him about how we learned about Rosalie, and asked about the West family bible we knew was in her possession at one time. He told us that she bequeathed her estate to her church, and that an estate sale dispersed most of her belongings. However, he said received a fairly significant amount of paperwork, photos, and other materials left over from her estate, but had not yet had a chance to review them and decide what to do with them. He did not see any bibles in with the materials, but told us he would contact us once he could review them further.

Meanwhile, we began to speculate on what Rosalie might have done with her genealogy research. We only had a few copies of a few sheets of her papers. What more did she have? Usually such materials are entrusted to a grandchild or a niece or nephew two generations down who expresses an interest in genealogy. Rosalie had no one we knew of to send her work to.

On a later trip to the Johnson County Historical Society in Indiana we located Rosalie's papers, plus found more of her charts we hadn't received earlier. We made inquiries at both the Johnson County and Indiana state historical societies, libraries, and archives, but could not find anyone with a West family bible for our family line. We contacted other libraries in Overland Park and Kansas City,

Missouri, plus Maryland, Kentucky, Virginia, and Vermont

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and some national libraries. We found some people who knew her, and one person even said she attended the estate sale, but did not notice any bibles being sold. We eventually obtained a copy of Rosalie's obituary from Carrie Kirk at the Johnson County, Kansas Genealogical Society and Library, providing additional clues:

Rosalie Ann McKinney Jackson, 87, Leawood, KS, passed away Saturday, March 4, 2000, at her home. ... In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Christ Episcopal Church Foundation or the Marian Smith-Rosalie Jackson Scholarship Fund, c/o Alpha Chi Foundation, 5939 Castle Creek Parkway North Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46250. Rosalie was born October 6, 1912, in Indianapolis, IN. She was a 1933 graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in Sociology and Psychology and a 1969 graduate of New York University with a Library Science degree, and a member of Christ Episcopal Church. Mrs. Jackson was involved in many community activities which included the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority-National Officer, Theta Chapter-Arbor, MI, MUMU Chapter-Kansas City, MO, PEO Chapter GI Kansas-President of Chapter and reciprocity, St. Michael and All Angles Altar Guild, and Daughters of the King, The American Red Cross-Johnson County Board, Chairwoman of Gray Ladies, President of the Overland Park Garden Club, Tomahawk Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), President of Henry Champion Chapter DAR, Colonial Dames of 17th Century-Missouri Chapter, Dolly Payne Madison Chapter-War of 1812, President of Kansas Chapter Dames of the Court of Honor, Society of the Founders of Hartford, CT, Women Descendants of Ancient Artillery Co. Board of Crippled Children's Nursery School, Chairwoman of the Board of Children's Rehabilitation Unit, K.U. Medical Center, and Gray Lady at K.U. Medical Center. Rosalie was preceded in death by her husband, Hugh B. Jackson in 1995. She is survived by many caring and loving friends and "adopted grandchildren."

We sent an E-mail the Tomahawk chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who referred us to the national librarian. They mailed us some of the original papers Rosalie had sent them in support of her application to the DAR but were not needed, since Rosalie gained membership into the DAR based on other family lines. Again we gained new information about the West family history and new sources of information to investigate, but still did not find anything else concerning the whereabouts of Rosalie's research.

In May 2003 we received a letter from Rosalie's estate attorney, David Alig, mentioning our prior requests for information about Rosalie's papers and materials in his possession, and offered to

make them available to us to review. We eagerly accepted his offer, and I soon scheduled a day-long visit to his office.

I found about four three-foot stacks of boxes and drawers filled with photos, folders, binders, and papers. I previously imagined that these materials would mostly contain leftover financial documents and other mundane records. I had hoped to find some clue that would lead us to her work. But it soon became clear that the drawers and boxes were anything but mundane.

We found her original genealogy research materials! After sorting through many photos and binders of information, I sorted out what became a substantial pile of genealogy research on her father's McKinney side. It turned out that he began researching his own family name starting in 1906. I then began finding thick three-ring binders labeled "Capron, Crampton, Field", then "The Descendants of Banfield Capron," and finally a binder labeled "West."

The West binder contained charts and family information sheets written out by hand, plus copies from books and records of her sources. But would any of this tell us the whereabouts of the West family bible? Earlier, while leafing through a McKinney binder, I found pages removed from a bible belonging to one of the McKinney families. So while leafing through the West binder, I came across the front page of a bible dating to 1845. Was this it!?

The West Family Bible it was. In fact, there appeared to be pages from a few different bibles, one dated 1845 and one 1814. In all, we found six pages with hand-written lists of births, marriages, and deaths. We also learned that one of them belonged to Henry D. West, the first West of our family line to settle in Indiana. Mr. Alig was very pleased that I had located these records in Rosalie's materials that were obviously very important to me. We both agreed that I would take responsibility for all the genealogical records directly relating to the West, Capron, Crampton, Field, and related families. I returned with three boxes of materials including the bible pages plus a few of the many photos.

After looking through the records in more detail at home, we also found a couple old pages of what appears to be a Capron family bible, plus a photocopy of six old photographs labeled as Capron family members, including two of my great-great-great-great grandparents. We are going to try to locate the original photos, which were otherwise unmarked, in the collection remaining in Mr. Alig's office.

Rosalie Jackson, as you can imagine just by reading her obituary, was an accomplished and involved woman. She made a lasting impression on everyone who knew her, who could only speak of what a fantastic person she was. We are deeply saddened that we never had a chance to meet her. We solved the mystery of the West family bible, but this story marks just the beginning of our efforts to preserve, extend, and disseminate the results of Rosalie's outstanding work. After seeing how much time she devoted to her genealogy research, I am sure she would have liked to know that the results of her efforts will continue to be shared and enjoyed by many other people in the future.

West Family Bible Records

The West Family Bible was evidently in poor shape by the time Rosalie obtained it. Most of the pages have their edges torn in various places, and some are held together with tape. Yet most of the writing has endured unspoiled. Figure 5 shows the title page from a bible dated to 1845. Unfortunately we can't seem to match the width and height of this page to any of the other bible pages. Still, Rosalie put it with the other West family bible pages, so we're fairly confident it was associated with the West family.

A handwritten page as shown in Figure 6 seems to be the oldest bible page we have. Although it appears that all the dates were written by the same person in one pass, the last date was 1806, so it was probably written not too long after that.

Figures 7, 8, 9, and 10 show the front and back sides of two bible pages that by their decoration were obviously from the same book. In Figures 7 and 10 we see that most of the records were written by the same person in the same style and ink, as was the first item in Figure 8. The last date written this way was Adeline's

birth year of 1856. The next date recorded was the marriage of Cramton West in March 1863, followed by others dated 1865, 1874, and so on. This dates the original writings between 1856 and 1863. However, in Figure 10 the death of Henry D. West listed as December 1863 is also in the same blue ink and neat style as the other records. So, it could be that shortly after Henry's death someone wrote down all the original records, and in the following months new bits of information were added by others at various times.

The second set of bible records shown in Figures 11-14 seem to be from an older bible than the pages shown in Figures 7-10. The dates go back to 1766 rather than 1798. In the right column of Figure 13 the grandchildren's births all seem to have been written at the same time, with the last date being 1815. Other records appear to have been added to the originals starting in about 1824 and ending in 1846.

Finally, Rosalie placed the front cover of the 1814 bible with a folded page with Capron records as shown in Figures 15-16. They were all written in the same hand.

Rosalie's West Family Research

We have just begun to look through the genealogy papers left behind by Rosalie Jackson. The most significant element of Rosalie's research was that she was able to link Henry D. West and Lucretia Capron back to other major family lines that have been well documented in various publications. For some time Mary and I had been stuck on these two. We knew about when they were born and from what state, but not who their parents were nor what county they came from.

Figure 17 shows how the West, Capron, Cramton, and Field lines are related and what some of the sources were. The West, Perry, Keene, Capron, Cramton, and Field family lines have all been well documented in various publications. However, most of these publications stopped at certain points and either did not pursue any further descendants or the authors could not locate any additional information.

For example, in Letta Brock Stone's *West Family Register* on page 171 she mentions that for Reason West (b. 1760) "we have no further record of him" other than his date of birth. She speculated that he may have gone to Kentucky or stayed in Maryland, but she could not confirm this information. Rosalie found Reason West on the 1800, 1820, and 1830 census in Franklin, Kentucky just as Letta suggested. His son Henry D. was born in 1798 in Kentucky but by 1838 was working as a carpenter in Franklin, Indiana where he married Lucretia Capron. We're still trying to determine how Rosalie made the connection between Reason and his son Henry. All the information we have fits together, but we don't yet have a convincing proof that these two are related such as a birth certificate or other record showing both their names and their relationship.

After finding the initial set of Rosalie's charts several years ago we learned several things:

- The ancestry of Henry D. West and Lucretia Capron has been extensively researched through the West, Capron, Cramton, and

Field family lines

- Most of these ancestors had been living in America since colonial times, and several participated in the Revolutionary War
- The Field ancestry includes many notable persons, including U.S. supreme court justice Stephen Johnson Field (1816-1899) and as our direct ancestor the astronomer John Field (1525-1587).
- Neri Cramton, a "bold and fearless soldier," served in the Revolutionary war with Col. Ethan Allen at the battle at Ticonderoga.

Here are some tidbits of information we've found since we've begun reviewing the information from Rosalie

- Marshall Field, who started the famous department store, is one of our cousins through our Field family line.
- The Field family was granted a coat of arms by Philip and Mary in 1558 to John Field in recognition of his achievements in astronomy.
- The Capron family has its own coat of arms, though we don't yet know its history.

- The Field genealogy "can be authentically traced back to William Field" in the parish of Bradford in England to 1480. Another source (Savage, *Genealogy and Family Histories of New England*) mentions that "the name is a very ancient one and can be traced back to the conquest of England by William the Norman." According to this account "Hubertus de la Feld was the first of the line that immigrated to England, and in 1069 was enrolled as owner of lands by gift of the conqueror." The French prefixes were dropped in the fourteenth century due to the wars in France.

- Descendants of Henry D. West and Lucretia Capron can count five ancestors involved in the American Revolutionary War: Benjamin Capron Sr. and Benjamin Capron Jr., Joseph Capron Jr., Neri Cramton, and David Field.



FIELD, CRAMPTON AND CAPRON ANCESTORS

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This genealogy was inspired by 'tales my mother told me' of her grandmother, Lucretia Capron, who was born in Tinmouth, Vermont; as a young woman of eighteen, she came to Johnson County, Indiana with her sister, Fanny, and brother-in-law, Eliphalet Kent, who eventually settled in Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana. They travelled by wagon, in which they carried few possessions, some of which I have in my home. At Pittsburgh they left the wagon and came by boat to Cincinnati, where they disembarked, continuing their journey on horseback to Franklin, Indiana. Lucretia taught school until her marriage in 1838 to Henry D. West, a carpenter. She bore ten children, three of whom died in 1857 during a diphtheria epidemic. In later years Lucretia broke her back in a fall and for the rest of her life was unable to stand erect. Following Henry's death in 1863 she married George W. L. Hazen, who died in 1881. As a widow, Lucretia lived with her daughter, Adeline Lucretia West Alexander on a Mauxferry Road farm southwest of Franklin. She assisted at the birth of twin granddaughters, Anna and Frances (my mother) and was their 'second mother' until her death in 1893. My father, Harley Jefferson McKinney and Aunt Anna Alexander began research on Lucretia's New England ancestry in 1906 and I have added to it. All three lines originated in England and settled in Massachusetts before moving to Connecticut and Vermont; there were many intermarriages. Most of the men participated in Colonial and Revolutionary wars. These sturdy pioneers left a proud heritage, which has been cherished through fourteen generations.

Copies of this introduction were found at the beginning of most of Rosalie's binders of genealogy research