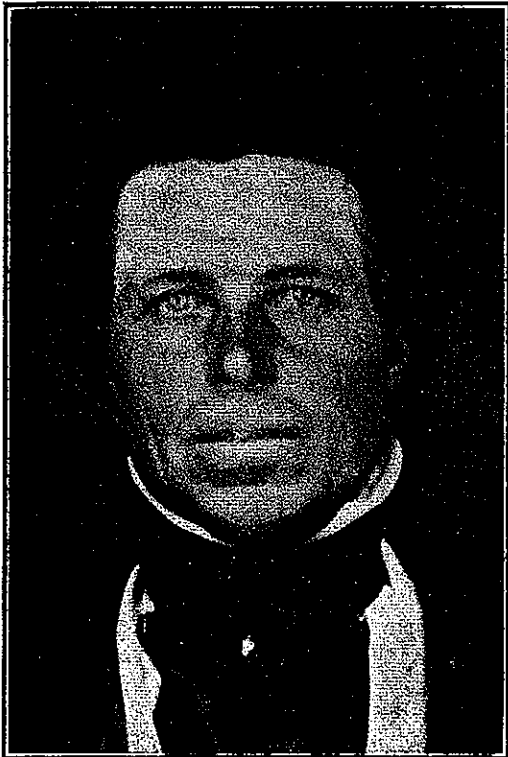


JAMES WEST

Henry West, a native of Ireland, with his wife emigrated to the United States before the Revolution. They came to Canada about 1810 and settled in the Johnstown District.

Their eldest son, James, was born in Dublin in 1801. He qualified as a Deputy Provincial Surveyor in Upper Canada on September 27th, 1825. His address for twenty-four years afterwards is not now known with exactness, but it is probable that he lived in the Township of Mountain before his marriage, until about 1855, when he moved to Morrisburg. About 1860 he returned to Mountain where he had a beautiful farm. He also lived at Winchester Springs and at Morrisburg a second time. He went to Yarker about six months before his death, but he had given up practice some years before this.



He made several subdivisions and important surveys

in the Town of Prescott, in Cardinal, in Morrisburg and in many other places.

No Surveyor was better known in Eastern Ontario during his lifetime than James West.

His field book notes were kept methodically and his draughtsmanship was neatly done. In his notes and documents occur many sage remarks on contemporary affairs. An amusing account is given of the "Second Battle of the Windmill." He was called upon to survey a boundary line between two owners near the historic Windmill. The parties interested, became involved in a pugilistic encounter in which the children and wives took part and Mr. West acted as referee.

West made the following surveys for the Provincial Government:—

Completion of survey of South Gower—1830.
 Line 3rd and 4th Concessions, Edwardsburg—1830.
 Part of Township of Augusta—1834.
 Completion of survey of Oxford—1834.
 Part of Township of Mountain—1834.

James West was one of the prominent men in Dundas County during the political troubles before and after the Rebellion of 1837-38. He was a conservative in politics.

From a letter to Mr. West over the signature of the Governor-General it would appear that Mr. West had a vision of a Transcontinental Railway many years before the question was given serious consideration. It is possible that his letter served as an inspiration to some of the statesmen of the time. The reply of the Governor-General is as follows:—

Secretary's Office

Montreal, 10th April, 1849.

"Sir,—I have the honor by command of the Governor-General, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th, ult., and accompanying Document on the subject of the Construction of a Rail Road from Halifax, on the Atlantic Ocean to opposite Vancouver's Island, on the Pacific, and to inform you that the subject will receive His Excellency's attention.

"I have the honor to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"J. Leslie,

Secy.

"James West, Esq.,

"Prescott, C.W."

He made a re-survey of the old Government Town Plot at Johnstown. His brothers-in-law, John S. Brown, P.L.S. and David R. Brown, P.L.S., served their apprenticeship with Mr. West.

Mr. George L. Brown, O.L.S., of Morrisburg, has contributed the following interesting paragraph respecting Mr. West:—

"With reference to the biographical sketch of James West, I don't know that I can give any additional information as I was a boy about 12 years of age when I first came in contact with Mr. West. At that time he had retired from active work and lived on Main Street, Morrisburg. As his residence

adjoined that in which my father lived, I became well acquainted with him and have spent many pleasant half hours with him, listening to his stories and anecdotes.

"What impressed me at the time was his knowledge of the history of Dundas County and of the early inhabitants. Of course, I was just a boy at the time and remember now little that he then told me.

"He was an enthusiastic fisherman, and I remember his accompanying a party of five or six of us on a fishing trip across the St. Lawrence River at Morrisburg.

"I can see him yet as he from time to time, when he was too old to practise, coming out on the street with his Gunter's chain and pins, casting his chain and going through the operations of an imaginary survey.

"I remember his attachment to a fine black spaniel dog he had, and his calling the dog, Curly by name, to be fed at a certain hour daily."

James West married Catherine Browne in 1833. They had the following children:—

1. James H., born March 4th, 1846, died at Vermilion, Alberta, July 29th, 1913.

2. Carleton West (died in Honolulu).

3. Augusta, married Fred Shibley, of Yarker. She died many years ago in California.

4. Ada, married Dr. Miller, New York State, now dead.

5. Elizabeth, married Allison, now dead.

6. Mildred, died when young.

James H. West, resided at Yarker, Ont., for many years and there his father, James West, died on November 15th, 1880. His wife, Catherine Brown, died on January 25th, 1885. Both were buried at Yarker.

James H., afterward removed to Vermilion, Alberta, with his family. He died there on July 29th, 1913.

LeRoy H. West, of Vancouver, born 1885, and Carleton E. West, born 1888, are the surviving children of James H. West.

We are indebted to Mr. LeRoy H. West for the loan of the tintype from which the portrait has been made.