

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL



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JOHN AND FRANCES WEST

John West was the son of Simon West, Citizen of London and Stationer and Elizabeth, nee Stare or Staire. He was baptized on 1st November 1641 at St Mary's, Twickenham, where the parish registers also show his father as the son of Edward West, a yeoman of Twickenham, and baptized on 13th November 1614. John West was apprenticed to John Parrey, a member of The Clothworkers Company for eight years on 14th September 1658, and became free of the company of servitude on 6th March 1665/6 (1666 New Style).

Frances West was born Frances Stakes, at an unknown place, perhaps in 1643. She is understood to have married as her first husband Robert Mickell, a scrivener whose burial as a victim of the Great Plague is noted on 25th September 1665 in the register of St Christopher-le-Stocks Church in the City of London. This is usually claimed as the first church rebuilt after the Great Fire in 1666, since it was completed in 1671.

John West married the widowed Mrs Frances Mickell by licence in the Church of ST Gregory by St Paul's on 21st February 1665/6 (1666 New Style) when still strictly an apprentice. They lived near Stocks Market, which was on the site of the present Mansion House.

John West was also a City of London scrivener, which would then mean a notary (a man publicly authorised to draw up or attest contracts or similar documents, and to discharge other duties of a formal character) or one who received money to place out at interest, and who supplied those wanted to raise money on security. Such a man was sometimes called a money scrivener and John West is believed to have been an eminent one, a financier as we would say today.

1723, Frances West gave properties in Ludgate Hill, Cannon Street and Walbrook, the latter being part of the site on which the Mansion House now stands, to a body of trustees to be used for specified charitable purposes after her death. On Frances West's death, however, the named body of trustees refused to accept the trust and in 1736 and 1754, decrees of the Court of Chancery gave effect to her alternative direction, that the Clothworker's Company should act as the trustee.

One of the charitable provisions of the trust was the payment of pensions to poor persons with preference for the kin of John and Frances West, and these pensions continue to be paid by the Clothworkers' Company from the West Relief in Need Charity which was established on 14th April 1978 under the most recent of a succession of Charity Commission Schemes which have governed the administration of the trust, once loosely known as The West Relation Trust. The Company maintain a book of family trees from which it is possible to trace back to John or Frances West, the relationship of existing pensioners and of new applicants who, when vacancies occur, are required to show that they are in need of financial assistance before the trustees can consider whether to appoint them to receive a pension.

A similar Charity under which the descendants of John and Frances West may benefit is administered by the Trustees of Christ's Hospital who keep important records at their offices in Horsham, West Sussex.

John & Frances West Family Pedigree

Jane Stare the Sister of Elizabeth Stare the Mother of John West

Jane Stare

Married Jasper Randall

Had Issue - John Randall

Married - Anstice

Had Issue - Jane Randall

Married - Chris Hopkins

Had Issue - Bridget Hopkins

Married - John Mundy

Had Issue - Henry Mundy

Married - Ann Noyes

Had Issue - Sarah Noyes

Married - John Coombs

Had Issue - Jane Coombs { Pedigree No 72 }

Married - Roger Smith

Had Issue - Sarah Smith { Pedigree No 72 A }

Married - John Hayter

Had Issue - Louisa Hayter

Married - William Chalk

Had Issue - Sophia Chalk { Pedigree No 1522 }

Had Issue - Annie Chalk { Pedigree No 1523 }

Married - George Alfred Bennett

Had Issue - Leslie Frank Bennett { Pedigree No 5402 }

Married - Laura Amy Hathchard

Had Issue - Frank Alfred Bennett

Had Issue - Douglas Gordon Bennett

Had Issue - Charles Victor Bennett

Had Issue - Walter George William Bennett { Pedigree No 9467 }

Married - Janice Lynnett macann { Pedigree no 9467 }

Had Issue - Terri Lee Anne Bennett { Pedigree No 9469 }

Had Issue - Kirk Todd Bennett { Pedigree No 9470 }

Had Issue - Troy Brent Bennett { Pedigree No 9468 }

Married - Kelly Ronowicz { Pedigree No 9468 }