

THE HISTORY OF THE LUCIUS WEST AND RUTH B. TOWNSEND FAMILY

Lucius West was born approx. 3 Dec 1805, the seventh of nine known children in a family of 5 boys and 4 girls. His father, William West, had filed on lot 283 in Rensselaerville, Albany co., N.Y. in 1792 and it was here in a modest home, still standing, that Lucius was born. Currently we have no information about his mother. Lucius apparently farmed with his father, on the low rolling hills which they had cleared of forest, until about 1831 when at about age 25 he married Ruth Belinda Townsend who was about 20 and a neighbor, living about 2 miles to the northwest. The older brothers had moved west so Lucius' brother, Abner, and 2 years older, was next in line to receive the West family farm, so at or after the marriage the young couple took up residence on the wife's father's farm, and farmed with the wife's family. Ruth was the daughter of John Townsend Jr. who was born in Dutchess co. N.Y., and who came to Rensselaerville in about 1794 with his family, and Ruth Thorn, who was born in Nova Scotia of Samuel Thorn and Rebecca Barss.

About 20 years and 8 children later Lucius and family moved 1 mile west into Schoharie co., Broome town, N.Y., where Lucius had purchased 3 acres of land. Four years later in the 1855 census Lucius' occupation is given as Mason. Here 3 more children were born. Of their 11 children 9 grew to adulthood and 7 married and raised children. Martha Ann died as a teenager and Mary as a young child. In about 1862 Ruth's father, John Townsend Jr. died and her mother, Ruth Thorn came to live with the family until her death about 10 years later. Sometime after 1865 Lucius moved his family about 7 miles north to the village of Middleburgh, Schoharie co. where they were close by their eldest son, John William, who was a butcher. According to the Middleburgh Gazette Lucius died 7 May 1880 at age 74 of consumption. After his death Ruth remained at the family home with their youngest son, Harvey, until her death on 16 April 1891 at age 80. Burial services were by the Methodist minister at the home of her son, Squire Cook West. The burial site of Lucius and Ruth remains unknown.

The following is the birth dates and marriage partners of the above mentioned children:

John William b. 1 Nov 1832 m. Sophronia A _____
Ruth Cornelia b. 24 Nov 1834 m. Carr Sheldon
Martha Ann b. 24 May 1837 died young
*Nicholas N.T. b. 8 Dec 1838 m. Elizabeth D. Kruger
Othello b. abt. 1841 m. Anna L. Resue
Harry b. abt. 1844 m. Belinda Winans
Squire Cook b. 14 Apr 1847 m. Alice E. Cameron
Oscar A. b. abt. 1849 died unmarried
Jeanette A. b. abt 1852 m. name unknown
Mary b. abt. 1853 died as a child
Harvey L. b. 26 Aug 1856 died unmarried