

# THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

Issued Quarterly--March, June, September and December--outlining activities of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants, and mailed to members free; to non-members, 25¢ annually. The Secretary: Miss Ethel Clarke, 603 W139th St New York City.

---

December, 1935.

"Know Your Kindred Better"

Number 7.

---

NOTICE Members of the Society will find notices accompanying this "Quarterly", that dues for 1936 are payable in January. Your prompt response will help to keep the finances of the Society in good condition. Kindly make checks payable to Dr. Niles Westcott, Treasurer, and mail to the Secretary, Miss Clarke. (Address as above.)

INTEREST THE  
YOUNG IN  
OUR SOCIETY

It is a fine thing to attend gatherings, conventions, etc. From the speakers we get fresh inspirations, and the determination to keep our cause going. Then too, the association with other members of the group and the new friendships made, are always worth while. We return home feeling that the trip was well worth the time and expense. This was all especially true of our Westcott Tercentenary, and much more so as we traveled over the historic ground of our ancestor, and lived again the hardships and trials of his time, as well as the successes and the wisdom of the man settling the many problems which he encountered. He left a godly heritage and lived fearlessly. Now we too are living in uncertain times and are confronted with the same problems of life in our present complicated civilization. It is true, there are no wily Indians to waylay us, or difficult land boundaries and religious questions to settle, but it still takes a lot of energy to make a living. Racketeers abound, thieves are more than the equal of the Indians, our Constitution is in danger, values on everything are uncertain, besides there are wars and rumors of wars, as well as strikes and lockouts. But from my observations at the general gatherings, the Westcotts are still carrying on with the same spirit and determination of our worthy ancestor. \* \* Now as to the future, there are many old landmarks which should be preserved. I was especially disturbed to have our visitors to Rhode Island see the disgraceful way in which the graves of Gov. Arnold and his wife, Damaris Westcott, are abandoned in the backyard of a dwelling house in Newport. Many historical things are left in this way all over the country, and it would be well for us to try to have them preserved for posterity. Our present mixed population cares little for the things that have made this country, and the politicians care less. Let us try and do what we can in this direction. WE SHOULD INTEREST THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN OUR HISTORY AND SOCIETY, as well as aim to get all descendants of Stukely Westcott to join with us, thus making our Society one of the strongest in the country. Family ties are worth preserving, and there is much of interest for all of us, both in our National Society as well as in our local Chapters. Let us all work together for the welfare of our Society, and in doing so we shall Know Our Kindred Better.--V. Stukely Westcott, National President.

---

WESTCOTT  
MEMORIAL

In the south aisle of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, among other memorials to England's distinguished soldiers and seamen, stands a monument to Captain George Blagdon Westcott (1745-1798), who died while in command of one of Admiral Nelson's ships at the great sea battle of the Nile. Many years ago, when the writer came unexpectedly upon this memorial, he felt a thrill of pride in the family name, and also a vague curiosity as to the possible kinship between this British sailor and our own ancestors who came overseas a century before. Thanks to the present rekindling of interest in our family history, this curiosity may at last be partly satisfied. From the researches of our able historian we know definitely the county (Somerset) and the town (Yeovil) from which

Stukely Westcott came. At the same time we may note that Captain Westcott's middle name was Blagdon, which is the name of a hamlet in Somerset, not twenty miles north of Yeovil, and that his family lived at Honiton, a village on the Otter River an equal distance westward. Surely, then, the Captain was of the same Somerset Westcotts from whom our own family is derived. British biographies state that George Westcott was the son of a baker at Honiton, entered the Navy as master's mate, and rose by merit to post-captain and one of Nelson's "band of brothers". Admiral Nelson visited the family in 1801. "At Honiton", he writes, "I visited Captain Westcott's mother -- poor thing, except for the bounty of the Government and Lloyd's, in very low circumstances. The brother is a tailor, but had they been chimney-sweepers it was my duty to show them respect." Nelson presented to the Captain's widow his own medal awarded for the victory of the Nile. In America today we shall perhaps think less of the humble beginnings of this sailor hero and more of the fact that he rose by his own abilities and died worthily in his country's cause. -- Dr. Allan F. Westcott, Past National President.

AYE! AYE!

COUSINS,  
COME TO  
DINNER!

It will be the privilege of the Greater New York Chapter, No. 3, to be host to the National Society at the third annual dinner-meeting on Saturday evening, January 11, 1936. The following committee is in charge, to any member of which your reservation may be sent: Miss Florence A. Westcott, chairman; Mrs. Chester W. DeMond, Mrs. William C. Sharpe, and myself. \* \* I am very happy to be able to report that since the installation of this Chapter last January, the membership has been increased by several very interesting and enthusiastic members of our family. This increase in Chapter membership also acts to make the National Society stronger because new chapter members now usually mean Westcotts who have not previously been associated with the Society. It is our aim to have at least double the present membership by the middle of next year and it is believed that one of the best ways of succeeding in reaching the goal is to enroll every member as a "membership committee of one" to get other Westcotts interested in the family activities. We should all strive to bring at least one to the January 11th dinner, where they can see for themselves that the Society is young in spirit and activities but old in its traditions and abounding in l'esprit de corps. \* \* Another excellent medium for making the Society larger and stronger is to see that the "Westcott Quarterly" is seen by every qualified Westcott at least once a year to remind them that we are still going ahead. Every member who knows of relatives or distant cousins, not yet on our membership roll, should make a point to pass the "Quarterly" on to them after he or she has completely read it. -- Dr. F. Howard Westcott, President of Greater New York Chapter, No. 3.

BIENNIAL

REUNIONS

TOO SLOW

When the Stukely Westcott Descendants' Association of Milford Township, Otsego County, N. Y., was formed in 1931, it was decided to hold a reunion in each odd year. Hence, in 1931, 1933 and 1935 members of the family gathered in the old township and enjoyed meeting each other and threshing over the old days. Since the National Society was formed and three of its four Chapters hold annual gatherings, we Milford-Westcotts begin to feel that we are missing much that our more distant cousins are enjoying by getting together every year. It is expected that the outcome will be that Chapter No. 1 will have annual gatherings or basket-picnics annually hereafter, beginning with the coming Summer. \* \* From its origin, our Chapter has taken a keen interest in caring for the cemetery at Milford Center, where are buried the three brothers, James, Benjamin and Reuben Westcott, and their sister, Dorcas (Fitch), all of whom were pioneers in this old township on the upper Susquehanna River. The Chapter has expended upward of \$500. during the last four years in re-setting of headstones, regrading and seeding the ground and keeping the grass cut. An endowment

of \$3,000 is being raised, the interest on which amount, it is believed, will assure perpetual care in the future. More than one-half of this amount has already been subscribed. It being a Westcott project, it will undoubtedly have a Westcott result -- Success! We take great pride in this achievement. \* \* Our Chapter hopes to be host to the National Society in 1937, when, if our invitation is accepted, it will hold its second biennial celebration in Cooperstown on picturesque Lake Otsego, N. Y., the immediate section in all directions of which has been a Westcott homeland for 140 years. -- Joseph R. Westcott, President Milford-Westcott Chapter, No. 1.

#### LOOKING

##### AHEAD

##### UP NORTH

On July 3, 1935, the up-north Westcotts held their second annual reunion and family tercentenary celebration, at Brewerton on Lake Onondaga, N. Y., with about forty present. After a very enjoyable dinner, we were favored with a pleasing informal talk by our National Historian, Roscoe L. Whitman. (Officers elected were named in the last "Quarterly".) Soon following this gathering, we received our charter from the National Society for Northern New York Chapter, No. 4. On September 8th, our Executive Committee, together with the officers, gathered at the home of Mrs. Grace Beardsley Turner in Oswego, where a pleasant social hour was passed and a bountiful repast enjoyed. At this gathering, Past National President Allan F. Westcott of Annapolis, Md., who is a native of northern New York, was present and joined in our discussions. It is our plan to hold our next reunion at Westcott Beach on Lake Ontario, owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Westcott, sometime during August 1936, the exact date to be announced later. It was here that our first reunion was held on August 27th, 1934. With the prospect of Westcott Beach and the old homestead, being purchased for a State Park and bathing beach, our Chapter plans to erect there some kind of a memorial to the memory of that branch of the family. Suggestions and help for this movement will be welcomed. Our Secretary, Mrs. Lulu Westcott Burgen of New Hastings, N. Y., and myself, are following up any leads we can get for new members for the National Society and our Chapter. Please note my change in address from Pulaski to North Syracuse, N. Y. -- John F. Westcott, President of Northern New York Chapter, No. 4.

#### DOES IT PAY

##### TO REMEMBER

##### ANCESTORS?

It was a happy turn of events that made it possible for me to attend the Stukely Westcott Tercentenary Celebration. Having known only a few relatives, and have always longed for many, words cannot express the thrill I experienced when met at the South Station in Boston. I was escorted to a large orange-colored motor-bus and when I stepped inside I was greeted by the smiles and hand-clasps of a large company of people, none of whom I had ever seen before, and yet I experienced a deep sense of nearness to them all that no company of friends had ever given me. The bus was as brand-new as my companions; comfortable and up-to-date in every particular. Joining the party just in time for the delightful trip to Plymouth, I had dinner with my newly-found relatives at the Plymouth Rock Hotel. The next morning, the visit to the old Baptist Church in Providence, gave us a reverent regard for those who had erected it and worshiped in it. During all of the delightful trips taken, I was more and more impressed with the noble deeds and the fine attitudes of the Stukely Westcott family. Indeed, it is a joy for me to remember every one of you. By the time I had dined four times with the Westcotts, I began to know them quite well and the closing dinner at the Narragansett Hotel found me searching the places at the tables to discover if all were present. I have in my possession four delightful letters written to me by members of the group after I left Providence. I have re-read them and also re-read many of my notes concerning the celebration. In closing, I will quote Calvin Coolidge's words after he had visited the Pioneer's Village at Salem: "It would be wholesome to think more of these things. It would reduce complaint and increase contentment." --Frances J. Power, Member, of Oakland, California.

## CLOSING THE

FAMILY  
STUDY

The genealogical research of the general family, which has been in progress almost continuously since the Fall of 1930, will be concluded on this December 31st, 1935. However, family records bearing dates in 1935 or before, and not already compiled, will be received up to and inclusive of January 15th, 1936. The cooperation of every Westcott descendant is invited in this work that the history of the family may be extended as far as is possible. Hundreds of branching families have been added to the records for the book of appendices to the genealogy of 1932, but a great many more families remain unrecorded because information has not been made available. Many letters remain unanswered. Under the direction of E. Dwelly, esquire, of Hants, England, the research in that country is being carried forward in a desperate effort to determine beyond further questioning, the ancestry of Stukely Westcott. Whether this book of appendices can be published during the coming year, and thus creating another fitting memorial to our mutual ancestor to mark the 300th year of his coming to America, is a matter for further consideration. As the historian of the Society, I shall hope to continue the effort to trace the lineage of all member-descendants back to the Family Founder.--Roscoe L. Whitman, National Historian.

OUR NEW  
MEMBERS

The Secretary of the Society, Miss Ethel Clarke, announces the following new members, who have been enrolled since the "Family Quarterly" was issued last September:

169 Millett, Jr., Mr.\* and Mrs. Stephen C.  
170 Hazard, Miss Annie Myra  
171 MacInnes, Mr. and Mrs\* William J.

New York City  
Corinth, Miss.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

ANOTHER  
WESTCOTT  
HOMELAND

Cooperstown, where our big, national family has been invited to gather in 1937 for its second biennial celebration, is a delightful resort village at the foot of Lake Otsego, N. Y., regarded by many as second in beauty only to Lake George. It is reached from all directions over excellent roads. Judge William Cooper, owning vast tracts of land in the wilderness, founded Cooperstown in 1790, and his son, James Fenimore Cooper, the novelist, passed his life here. No less than seven different Westcott families, all with from six to thirteen children, settled within fifteen miles of Cooperstown between 1795 and 1830, and within fifty miles in Madison and Oneida counties, five other large Westcott families penetrated the forest to find homes between 1793 and 1800. It is the second Westcott homeland.

## NOTES

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society has been announced by the President, to be held in New York on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 11. \* \* The Northern New York Chapter, No. 4, is out with some snappy new letterheads. \* \* Member William Mar Westcott of Apponaug, R. I., is chairman of a committee to look after the memorial at Warwick. \* \* Past President Dr. Allan F. Westcott, a native of Alexandria Bay, N. Y., has been made Honorary President of Chapter No. 4. \* \* St. John's Church in Yeovil, Somerset, England, where our Family Founder was married in 1619, was endowed by Empress Maud in 1141-48. \* \* The Historian will forward, upon request, the following: Westcott Genealogy, 435 pages, \$10.00; Westcott Coat of Arms, 35¢; Celebration Souvenir Program, 6¢ (to cover postage). \* \* Now, as the final word for this edition of the "Quarterly", fill out the accompanying reservation blank, and do it early so you will be sure of a place at the tables at the third annual dinner of the Greater New York Chapter, to be held at the Hotel Lexington, in New York on Saturday evening, Jan. 11, 1936. The cost is only \$2.00.