

This issue is mailed to YOU, a known descendant of Stukely Westcott, and your attention is cordially invited to the various family activities.

# THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

Issued Quarterly--March, June, September and December--noting activities of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants, and mailed to members free; to non-members, 25¢ yearly. Secretary: Miss Ethel Clarke, 603 W. 139th St., N.Y.C.

June, 1936.

"Know Your Kindred Better"

Number 9.

## MEMORIALS

### ENDURE ONLY TEMPORARILY

As it is now decided that the second biennial commemorative celebration, marking the 302nd anniversary of the coming to America of our mutual emigrant ancestor, Stukely Westcott, will be held in August of 1937 at Cooperstown on the shores of beautiful Lake Otsego, N.Y., a conspicuous fact is presented which furnishes something of a parallel to the effort the family has and is making to perpetuate its history. The grave of the famous scout Leatherstocking, is hidden away in a lonely little burial ground at Fly Creek, close by Cooperstown, and were it not for "The Leatherstocking Tales" bequeathed to millions of readers throughout the World by James Fenimore Cooper, the quaint ways and words of the famed scout and the mound where lies his mortal remains, would have been forgotten long ago. People think of the cozy little State of Rhode Island most frequently as having been founded by Roger Williams; infrequently do they consider that twelve other hardy, courageous, determined men were equally responsible with Williams for the little settlement on the headwaters of the Narragansett which was to have such a tremendously important influence in shaping civilization in the new country. Stukely Westcott was not the least of these thirteen stalwart pioneers. We would not attempt to detract from the memory of Williams and of his achievements, but in extolling his benefactions let it be said in fairness to all, that others joined him when they were sorely needed and helped make the achievements possible. Therefore, when credit is given Williams, let credit be given also to the other twelve men. As we look back and contemplate the man Stukely Westcott; now that we know something of his achievements, his contribution to the young settlement, we marvel that so little was known of him a few short years back. To the credit of this old-stock family, its history has been recorded and safeguarded for the present and the future generations. While lonely graves may disappear and be forgotten and memorials endure only temporarily, it will be written and filed in the historical archives of public institutions, that men and women lived and passed their heritage on to younger generations. We cannot leave everlasting monuments and memorials by which they can be identified, but a written record of them can be preserved for all time. Such records are the real makers of history. -- The Editor.

## THE OLD FAMILY BIBLE

I was much interested in an article on the family Bible published recently in the Providence Evening Bulletin. The writer on starting an inquiry, obtained some rather interesting facts. He states that the family Bible used to occupy the place of honor on the marble-topped table in the parlor, and in it was recorded such events as births, marriages and deaths, but now it is up in the attic or elsewhere, and no entries have been made in it since grandfather or possibly father put them in. The marble-topped table has given away to the bridge table, and if you wanted to get a Bible of that type you might find one in a second-hand shop as they do not make them anymore. The Rhode Island Historical Society has the largest collection in the State, some 75, among them the Bible which Stukely Westcott brought with him

*R.I. West*

from England. This Bible was printed long before anyone thought of blank leaves for records, and so the back fly-leaf was used. The text of the Bible is in Old English type, and is difficult reading for us. We hear it said today that Protestantism is bankrupt, and in some countries religion is not tolerated. Let us as descendants of that sturdy pioneer, stand firmly by the principles for which he was willing to incur many discomforts and sacrifices, self-exile, and ex-communication rather than a principle. "In God We Trust" is still stamped on our coins. How many consider today that statement of any moment in their lives, as well as any interest in the Bible which our ancestors cherished, and read daily for help and guidance! "Lord God of Hosts be with us yet, lest we forget--lest we forget!" -- V. Stukely Westcott, President of the Society.

RI  
West

NEIGHBORS  
OF THE  
LONG AGO

The record of one's family lineage often reveal the genealogy of notable forebears. This may be traced through one's surname, or through a lateral line, or both, and may lead to the discovery of one or more ancestors among the hardy pioneers of the 17th century. Thus, Stukely Westcott was neighbor, ten miles away, of George Wightman, the American progenitor of this particular family. In 1670, Robert Westcott, son of Stukely, became a next-farm neighbor to George Wightman. And in later years, the grandson of George Wightman married a granddaughter of Robert Westcott. Every person has two sets of grandparents, living or deceased, linking one to four names. In the beginning of our history it was a simple matter to trace to these four families, but as time goes on and generations multiply, lateral lines increase. To be able to trace one side of the family three or four generations is an accomplishment sometimes. To trace one's lineage ten generations, or over 300 years, is an achievement. These records are important from the standpoint of history and psychology to future generations. How can they be preserved? How better can the neighboring kinship of Stukely Westcott and George Wightman be perpetuated through the succeeding years than through such an organization as the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants, through which the past is linked to the present in a history and record of our early family ancestors and their descendants; a society whose purpose is to gather up the fragments of family tradition and record them; to foster a spirit of family pride in the achievements of our forebears; and to bring us into knowledge of and companionship with our kindred. An ancestral line of 300 years in America, such as the Westcott line, is a valuable heritage to pass to our posterity. -- Hazel G. Wightman, member 176.

SOCIAL AND  
PERSONAL  
MENTION

Two delightful social events in April -- one of the 2nd when our member, 54, and National Vice-President, Dr. F. Howard Westcott, showed in his office in New York City, moving pictures taken by him of the early stages of the Tercentenary Celebration, and another on the 19th, when our member, 145, and National Recording-Secretary, Dorothy Westcott DeMond, recognized our English heritage by serving tea at her home in White Plains, N. Y., as a farewell before taking up her new residence in St. Louis, Mo. \* \* Our member, 143, James Hobart Westcott, has gone west from White Plains to reside with his daughter, Mrs. DeMond (145 above) and her husband. \* \* Our member, 17, and National Secretary, Ethel G. Clarke, has resumed her busy duties after being ill. \* \* Our member, 142, Mina Westcott Kynett, is again in England, and is to visit some of the ancient Westcott landmarks. \* \* Our member, 4, Jeannette Sands Westcott, will be married this coming Autumn to Carlton J. Cook. Her father, J. Roger Westcott, is President of Chapter No. 1, S.S.W.D. \* \* Our member 8, Dorothy Whitman Morris, was m(2)-Nov. 7th, 1935, to Adelbert Niles Potter, whose emigrant ancestor was a contemporary of Stukely Westcott in Warwick. \* \* Our member, 24, William Dyer Merriam, was m(2)-Nov. 11, 1935, to Carolyn Reynolds. \* \* Our member 11, and National Treasurer, Dr. Niles Westcott, was confined to his home by illness

in April. \* \* Our member, 167, Inez Snyder Stansfield, was in her old home-city, Washington, in April. \* \* Our member, 170, Annie Myra Hazard of Mississippi, writes: "I am so eager to be with you all and know my kin, at Cooperstown next year." \* \* Our member, 41, Mrs. Edgar Hilt Wescott of Nebraska, is visiting her daughter, our member 43, Helen Wescott Murdick, in New Jersey. (NOTE -- Items for this department are solicited from the members. -- Editor.)

YES, "WHY  
NOT STUKELY  
WESTCOTT"?

The astute legislature of Massachusetts, remiss in its duties and courtesies for three hundred years, has recently as a "gesture" to Rhode Island which is observing this year the tercentenary anniversary of its settlement, "forgiven" Roger Williams, but Stukely Westcott, together with Ezekiel Holliman, Thomas Olney, John Throckmorton, Richard Waterman and others, still remain "banished." Massachusetts should ask forgiveness; not offer it. It seems time for Massachusetts to erase from its statutes for all time, its ancient obnoxious laws and start life anew. Our poetess member, 31, Theodora Bates Cogswell, whom, it will be recalled, contributed so admirably to the success of the celebration a year ago with the poem, "Westcott, the Exile," suggests this thought in the accompanying poem:

Roger Williams grieves no more,  
Exiled from the lands that lay  
Bordering Massachusetts Bay;  
Roger Williams is forgiven --  
All his former errors shriven.  
General Court and Governor --  
Eagerly as these of yore  
Drove him forth -- have called him back.  
Him alone! But list! Good lack!  
Whispers rise from many a tomb  
Of followers who shared his doom.  
Hark! they're murmuring: "Why not we --  
Whose only crime was proved to be  
Sharing our pastor's 'heresy'?"

Stukely Westcott's dust is stirred  
By that swiftly speeding word.  
Hear his sigh, toward Salem cast,  
"Would my banishment were past!"

PRESIDENT  
WESTCOTT  
PETITIONS  
RHODE ISLAND

On the closing day of the family celebration a year ago, a pilgrimage was made to the graves in Newport, R. I., of Governor Arnold and his wife, Damaris, eldest daughter of Stukely Westcott. A most unhappy discovery followed. There in a small backyard of a frame house on Pelham Street, which is a part of the old Arnold family burial ground, headstones were found, NOT of Governor and Damaris Arnold but of their son Benedict, and his wife, Sarah Mumford. These two headstones are being "cherished" by the people of Newport and the State of Rhode Island as those of the First Governor and his First Lady of Rhode Island. It is said that some nineteen years ago, the headstones in this backyard were so thick there was no room for planting, so they were buried, but the two stones "supposed" to mark the graves of the Governor and his wife, were permitted to remain flat on the ground. A fraternal order has erected a building adjoining this backyard, also on the site of the old burial ground. Title to these properties seem to be in doubt, and in the near future, it is hoped, either the State of Rhode Island, the City of Newport, or the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants, will do something about it. President Westcott has made an initial step which may be the means of stirring the authorities to give recognition to the situation and possibly take some action. He has caused a petition to be circulated among people bearing the name Arnold, and expects to present it soon to Governor Greene of Rhode Island. The petition is addressed "To the Governor of Rhode Island and the Mayor of the City of Newport," and reads: "Greetings: It being known that Governor Arnold, first Governor of Rhode Island under the Royal Charter, 1663, who died in 1678, and his widow, Damaris Westcott Arnold, the First Lady of the Colony, died soon following, and are buried in Newport "in a lot three rods square, forever dedicated (by Arnold) as a family burial plot," and that in June, 1935, their graves

were in a condition of long neglect in the rear yard of a small frame dwelling on Pelham Street, Newport, the great State of Rhode Island and the City of Newport are respectfully and prayerfully petitioned to make suitable provision for perpetual care and preservation of these graves that they may forever not be forgotten."

"MEMBER-  
GET-A-  
MEMBER"  
CAMPAIGN

The campaign inaugurated in March to increase the membership of the Society, has been more successful than is indicated by the number of new members here named. Divers applications are in process of making. A hearty welcome is extended to the following new members:

		<u>Secured by</u>
176 Miss Hazel G. Wightman	Des Moines, Ia.	Roscoe L. Whitman
177 Mrs. Olivia Gifford Hanson	Cobleskill, N.Y.	Jessie W. Davenport
178 Mr. & Mrs.* Fred'k Knapp Jones	New York City.	Ethel G. Clarke

COMING  
REUNIONS

For more than a quarter of a century, descendants of Oliver Westcott, who, about 1800, settled at West Eaton, Madison County, N. Y., have held reunions each year. The one this year will be held on Sunday, June 28th, at the home of Hervey Westcott on the road leading from West Eaton to Erieville. Several members of the National Society, including the Historian, hope to be present. Mrs. Cora W. Blair, Erieville, is President, and Mrs. Fay Brown, Eaton, is Secretary-Treasurer.

Rhode Island Chapter, No. 2, will hold its third annual reunion on Saturday, June 27th, in Dean Parkway, nr. Providence.

Milford Township, N. Y., Chapter, No. 1, will have a special picnic at Gilbert's Lake on Saturday, August 8th, at which time plans for the entertainment of the National Society at Cooperstown next year, will be discussed.

Northern New York Chapter, No. 4, is to meet for its third annual reunion on Monday, Aug. 10th, at Westcott Beach, near Sacket Harbor, N. Y.

Greater New York Chapter, No. 3, will hold its fourth annual dinner in New York City on Saturday evening, Jan. 9th, 1937.

NOTES IN  
PASSING

\$40.65 has been contributed to the deficit of the celebration last year. This is past the half-way mark; \$36.50 more is needed. Make your check payable to Dr. Niles Westcott, Treasurer, and mail to the Secretary, Miss Ethel Clarke, 603 West 139th Street, N. Y. City. \* \* LEST YOU FORGET: DOES YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD READ: "1936"? \* \* Elisha Stephen Arnold, 6 Helen St., Plattsburg, N. Y., our Associate Member, has compiled and published "The Arnold Memorial." 311 pages; price, \$5.00 post-paid. Order from him. \* \* The Westcott Genealogy 1932, with 435 closely printed pages, Coat of Arms in colors, illustrations and maps. Price, \$10.00 post-paid. Order from the Secretary, who can also furnish the Coat of Arms in colors, 35 cents. \* \* While the Society cordially invites every Westcott Descendant, regardless of surname, to become a member, it urges regardless of such membership, that ALL descendants of the family file a detailed record of their immediate family. The Historian of the Society, Roscoe L. Whitman, 109 Dudley Ave., West, Westfield, New Jersey, will gladly assist any descendant in doing this. Many descendants have expressed regret that their family record did not appear in the Genealogy of 1932. Such regret, it is hoped, will be avoided when the Book of Appendices is published. \* \* Knowledge of one's ancestry is not snobbery, but an attribute of self-respect and a contributing factor in American civilization. \* \* The President of our Society is to represent "Stukely Westcott" in a pageant at the old First Baptist Church, Providence, June 4th. \* \* George Stukely was at Windsor, Ct., 1640. \* \* Next "Quarterly," Sept., 1936. \* \* It's your paper -- write for it! \* \* "Get a Member." \* \* "August, 1937", it's your date to keep!