

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.

December, 1936.

"Know Your Kindred Better"

Vol. III, No. 11.

WORLD-FAMED COOPERSTOWN AWAITS YOU:

Made world-famous by the Leatherstocking tales of James Fenimore Cooper, the novelist, and replete with historical landmarks, Cooperstown is alluring and well worth-while as a rendezvous for a "breathing spell" and a good time. With its beautifully shaded avenues situated at the foot of picturesque Lake Otsego 1,250 feet above sea level, it fairly breathes happiness and contentment. The tercentenary celebration last year naturally belonged where the Family Founder settled three centuries ago -- Rhode Island -- but as his descendants treked westward two centuries later, it seems fitting that those living today should follow in the same direction in further honoring and perpetuating his memory. Otsego County in which Cooperstown is located is one of the numerous "Westcott homelands" which in the years immediately following the Revolution, succeeded the homeland in Rhode Island. To those who have joined in the family activities during the last six years and have helped keep the fires burning brightly, the Society's motto, "Know Your Kindred Better", as it has worked out, has afforded pleasure and been an inspiration. Cooperstown will heartily welcome all members of the Society and all other descendants of Stukely Westcott who will be present next Summer at this second celebration of the family. It should be a red-letter occasion, the story of which will be handed down through future generations.--Editor.

MAIL THIS POST-CARD "BALLOT"

Slight differences in the wishes of members as to the dates desired on which to hold the Family Celebration at Cooperstown next Summer, have developed. Some favor the dates already suggested--Thursday, Aug. 5 (dinner only), Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Aug. 8 (tour only). Others favor the program as tentatively planned, but prefer that the dates be pushed forward one week--Thursday, July 29, to Sunday, Aug. 1. That dates may be selected which are favored by the majority of the members, a post-card "ballot" is enclosed with this Quarterly. Won't YOU PLEASE fill out the card and mail it promptly? The result will be announced at a meeting of the General Executive Committee on Jan. 9th, and in the Quarterly for March.

Notice of the fourth annual dinner of the Greater New York Chapter appears in this issue. Please send in your reservations promptly.

WESTCOTTS

AT LAKE
ST. CATHERINE (sic) Sixty-eight of the posterity of Nicholas and Phebe Wescott who reside in or near Poultney and Bennington, Vt., and Hoosick Falls, N. Y., assembled on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Comes' Point on Lake St. Catherine, Vt., for a picnic, social time and to get acquainted, as many of the group had never before met. At the business meeting it was decided to organize and the name "Descendants of Nicholas and Phebe (Hines) Wescott" was selected. Officers as follows were elected: President, Phillips Wescott, E. Poultney Vt.; Vice-President, L. D. Baker, N. Hoosick, N. Y.; Secretary, Frank Baker, Bennington, Vt.; Treasurer, Nathan H. Wilkins, Hoosick Falls, N. Y. The first project which the newly organized society will engage in, is the erection of suitable headstones at the graves of the ancestors of the members, neither of which had ever been marked. Nicholas Wescott is buried at Rupert, Vt., and his wife, Phebe Hines Wescott, in the old Walloomac Cemetery opposite the Bennington Battlefield in the town of Hoosick, N. Y. The markers are to be erected before Memorial Day, 1937. The gathering was

saddened because of the death of Mrs. Martha Wheeler of Whitehall, N. Y., one of the older members of the family who would have reached her 84th birthday on this coming Christmas Day. It is hoped that next year may see a much larger gathering of descendants than attended this year. Several of the members are planning on attending the coming biennial celebration of the Society at Cooperstown next Summer. All who were present felt that our first annual reunion was a great success. The second annual reunion will be held at the same place on the Sunday next following Labor Day, 1937.--Rachel C. Wilkins (Our member, 185).

NOTE-- Marking of the graves of the ancestors of the members of this Society is deserving of the warmest commendation. The vice-president and treasurer of this Society are also members of the National Society. It is hoped it may form a Chapter in 1937.--Editor.

NOTICES

OF DUES HEREWITH

Your notice of 1937 dues will accompany this issue, provided you haven't attended to this little matter already. As you know, dues are payable in each succeeding January. The notices are being mailed at this time to save postage and work next month. A year ago the Society lost three members by death, one by resignation and eight were taken from the rolls because of non-payment of dues. It is regrettable that two more members have passed away this year and that there is also a small number who must be taken from the rolls unless they remit dues for 1936 and 1937 by January 31st next. The Board of Directors will pass upon delinquent members at their meeting January 9th. If you have overlooked this and find that your notice is for two years, won't you please send your check to the Secretary and have it payable to Dr. Niles Westcott, Treasurer? It is unpleasant to insert this notice in the Quarterly, but every member will recognize that there are family expenses which must be paid. The Society can succeed only to the extent it has the support of its members.

PRESIDENT

WESTCOTT IS HOST

The R. I. Chapter, No. 2, had a successful meeting at my home Saturday evening, October 24th, 41 being present. During the meeting I brought out the fact that the National Society went to some expense as well as giving a lot of time to interest Arnold descendants in the disgraceful condition of the Gov. Arnold cemetery in Newport, without obtaining any results. On this account, in my opinion, the R. I. Chapter should make an effort to interest some of the State or City officials in this important matter. A good deal of interest was shown in the matter. A member who is a very active D. A. R. Regent agreed to contact a D. A. R. member in Newport, who is well up in such things. We hope from this effort to report progress. A greater interest and a large enrollment in the National Society was recommended. Hunting and wild animal life films were shown, after which a good social and get-together time was held, during which a light lunch was served. A larger gathering is anticipated for the June meeting. --V. Stukely Westcott, (Our President).

"WESTCOTT" IN R. I.

If you have the right road map of Rhode Island, you will find the little hamlet of "Westcott" on it. It is on that part of the Wecochaconet purchase (1673) set off to Randall Holden and adjoining on the south was a 400-acre farm set off to Stukely Westcott. Randall's daughter Elizabeth m-John Rice. They had a son Thomas who m-Ann Low, and to them was born Holden Rice who m-Elizabeth Warren. Holden and Elizabeth had a son Anthony who m-Martha Cooke, and to them was born Sarah who m-Major John Westcott. Sarah died and John m(2)-Elizabeth, sister of Sarah. At the time of this second marriage (1825), John Westcott came to the Rice homestead to live and thereafter the locality was known as "Westcott". From this it may be seen that "Westcott" is not on land originally owned by Stukely Westcott.

Miss Jennie N. Westcott, our Member 57, is a descendant and now lives on the old homestead. She has in her possession a deed dated in 1763, selling the land by Thomas Rice to his son Holden. May more and more of these ancient records and landmarks be preserved.

 COME TO THE

NEW YORK Get to know your kindred better at the fourth annual reception
 DINNER and dinner of the Greater N. Y. Chapter, No. 3, S.S.W.D., to be held
 Saturday evening, January 9th, at the Hotel Lexington, Lexington Ave.
 and 48th St., New York City, where the previous gatherings have been so greatly en-
 joyed. It is not necessary that you be a member of the Chapter -- all Westcott
 descendants, regardless of present surname, are cordially invited! Reception,
 6 P. M. Dinner, 7 P. M. Dress informal. Tickets, \$2.00. Please send you reser-
 vations and your check to Miss Florence A. Westcott, 159 West 12th St., N.Y.C., so
 they may be received not later than Monday, Jan. 4th. Won't you come?

 OUR NEW
 MEMBERS Miss Ethel Clarke, our Secretary, announces the following mem-
 bers, enrolled since the September Quarterly was issued --

PRESENTED BY

186 Mr.* & Mrs. C. Sextus Morris	Milford, N. Y.	Roscoe L. Whitman
187 Dr. & Mrs. Leo E. Westcott	Kalamazoo, Mich.	Volunteered
188 Nathan H. Wilkins	Hoosick Falls, N.Y.	Rachel C. Wilkins
189 Mr.* & Mrs. Leon D. Baker	North Hoosick, N.Y.	Rachel C. Wilkins

BRIEFER
 MENTION

Our member, 177, Olivia Gifford Hanson, passed away at her home in Cobleskill, N. Y., October 26th last. She was born May 22, 1849, and was the oldest member of our Society. * * Our member, 4, Jeannette Sands Westcott, dau. Joseph Westcott, President of Chapter No. 1, and Carlton J. Cook, both of Binghamton, N. Y., were married Oct. 8th. Hearty congratulations! * * Susan Kline Whitman (Mrs. Roscoe L.) unveiled a tablet on Nov. 5th to the memory of her Revolutionary soldier great-grandfather William Kline and her grandfather, William, II, whose graves are on their old farm closeby Fort Johnson in the Mohawk Valley. * * It was William Lindsley Westcott ("Lin" to you, if you please) of Norwich, N. Y., and not his brother Norman O., who was elected President of the Madison County, N. Y., Westcotts. * * Helen Josephine Wightman (Evans), sister of our member, 176, Hazel G. Wightman of DesMoines, Iowa, was m-Aug. 25, 1936, to John Paltridge, a native of Barnstaple, Devon, Eng., who, when a boy, frequently visited "Wescote Lodge", the site of the ancient manor of the ancestral Westcott family. * * The General Committee of the 1937 Celebration will meet on Jan. 9th at 3:30 P. M., and the Directors of the Society at 5 P. M. * * The raising of mink for the market is a new vocation to the Westcott clan, but our member, 24, William Dyer Merriam, has recently so embarked at his mountain home near Mendon, Vt. * * Appendices to the Westcott Genealogy (1932) continue to increase in number; they in no way duplicate but are in addition to the records found in the Genealogy. * * Order now YOUR COPY of the Westcott Genealogy (1932); you'll later regret it if you don't! 435-page book, \$10.00. Order from the Secretary or the Historian. * * Don't forget the dinner, Jan. 9th! And mail your post-card vote promptly for your preferred dates for the 1937 Celebration! * * In and near Los Angeles, Calif., Chicago, Ill. and Scranton, Pa., live scores of Westcott descendants, but not one among them, so it seems, will get them together to "know their kindred better." Lists of descendants will be sent to anyone interested. * * The management of the Cooper Inn at Cooperstown, evidently expects a crowd at the Westcott Celebration next Summer, for an addition with fifteen rooms is being built. * * Some are proud to trace their ancestry back to a Revolutionary War soldier who never trouble themselves about preserving his grave. * * Town of Clarendon, Vt., in 1785, was the home of twelve Westcott families, but no known living descendants are there now.* * Have YOU obtained a new member for your Society?