

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.

September, 1938.

"Know Your Kindred Better"

Vol. V, No. 18.

BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK, IDEAL FOR WESTCOTT CELEBRATION.

Past-President V. Stukely Westcott of Rhode Island, reports our member, Thomas H. Handy, Sr., as saying that "a better place could not be found than Bronxville for the family celebration in 1939, and the Hotel Gramatan is the best ever". He adds that "we are anticipating great things for '39". The interest and enthusiasm is shared by many others who have expressed their views. This of course, refers to the place selected for the Third Biennial Commemorative Celebration of the Society to be held next June 22 (evening dinner only), 23 and 24. The hotel, quite English in its architecture and atmosphere, stands on what was originally known as "Sunset Hill" where Chief Gramatan held his council fires. In 1640, this Indian chief sold the hill and adjacent land to white settlers, so it is nearly due for a tercentenary celebration of its own. The management of the hotel has two post-card pictures--one showing the street annex with the hotel aloft on the hill behind it; the other the main entrance which is reached by a winding road not too steep for Westcott cars to climb. The main entrance is directly across the street from the railroad station, and the lounge of the hotel is reached from this entrance by a battery of elevators or "lifts", as our forefathers called them. Bronxville is only 29 minutes from New York with trains every half hour. By changing cars at the Grand Central Station in New York, one may be whisked out to the 1939 World Fair grounds in ten minutes, or from this station you can reach any part of the city in twenty minutes or less. Ye Scribe and his family had dinner at the Hotel Gramatan on July 11th. It was fine, and so was the service. The room rates are reasonable and the rooms are comfortable. Each of the three dinners of the Celebration will cost \$1.75, which includes all gratuities, souvenir menu card, table decorations, etc. While in Bronxville, Ye Scribe motored through some of the residential sections and found there beautiful homes on rolling lands landscaped with large shade trees and shrubbery. Just a few miles away, is Mt. Vernon, White Plains, and other places for which Westchester County is far-famed. Come and visit with your cousins next June and see this section so richly endowed by Nature.

SEVEN

WESTCOTT REUNIONS

With one family gathering in June and six in August, the past Summer has witnessed more than four hundred Westcotts in full swing seeking, finding and enjoying the companionship of their kinspeople. Our National President and National Historian were present at the reunion in Pennsylvania, the three in New York and the one in Vermont. They report what seems to them, interest in the family activities to be greatly on the increase. The "usual fine Westcott weather", slightly heated, prevailed at all seven gatherings, the first of which was that of Rhode Island Chapter, No. 2, held at "The Breezes", the beautiful home of our members Mr. and Mrs.* Thomas H. Handy and *Thomas, Jr., and *Susan, at Manville, R. I., on Saturday, June 18. Forty-four responded to roll-call. Miss Susan Westcott Handy was elected President; William C. Driver, Vice-President; George Westcott, Treasurer; Ralph Dexter, Historian.

Then came the reunions in August, the first being an inauguration of family get-togethers in north-eastern Pennsylvania, held on Aug. 6th at the Idlewild park and lake of Girden M. Westcott near South Gibson in the old Abington territory, which section first received a Westcott when it was a wilderness in the year 1800. There are now upwards of 150 families of the clan living in the section. Fifty persons registered, and they organized "Ye Olde Abington Association of Stukely Westcott Descendants" with Girden M. Westcott, President (they omit the middle "t" in

Pennsylvania); William Wescott, Vice-President; Elsie Jane Weaver of 89 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, Secretary; Mrs. Margaret Wescott, Treasurer, and Earl L. Wescott, Historian. Annual dues of 25¢ were decided upon and it was voted to meet again next year at the same place. The many courtesies extended by Host Girden M. Wescott and Mrs. Wescott were greatly enjoyed.

The next gathering of the family was on the following day, Aug. 7th, when the Madison County Association held its 27th annual reunion at the home of William "Lin" Westcott (here the middle "t" is used) at Norwich, N. Y. This Association has long perpetuated the memory of the pioneer ancestor, Oliver Westcott, who settled near West Eaton, Madison County, about 1799. Forty-four were present. It was voted to hold the reunion next year at a lake nr. West Eaton. *Pauline Westcott Waterman (Mrs. Frank E.) was re-elected President; Leva Westcott Brown (Mrs. Fay) of Eaton, N. Y., Secretary; Dora Westcott Campbell (Mrs. Edward), Treasurer. The hospitality of Host "Lin" Westcott and Mrs. Westcott was one of the outstanding enjoyments of the reunion.

The third of the August gatherings was that of the Northern New York Chapter, No. 4, held Aug. 9th near Sacket Harbor, N. Y., at Westcott Beach, the popular rendezvous of hundreds of northern New Yorkers and which is owned and operated by our members, *George H. Westcott and Mrs. Westcott. Eleven new members were received. Upward of 70 people were present. There was a "half-hour period" for the children when they engaged in various games. It being the birthday of George H., he was presented by the retiring President, *John F. Westcott, on behalf of the Chapter, with a handsome hand-painted Westcott Coat-of-Arms, framed, while Mrs. Westcott was remembered with a memory book. *Angie Fralick Waugh (Mrs. Harry L.) was elected President; *Thomas B. Steel, Vice-President; *Lulu Westcott Burgen (Mrs. Frederick L.) of Hastings, Oswego Co., N. Y., secretary-treasurer (re-elected). The new President appointed Mary Fralick Mullin (Mrs. Dennis J.) as Historian, and the following for the executive committee: *Frank N. Westcott, chairman; *John F. Westcott, *Grace Beardsley Turner (Mrs. Raymond C.), *George H. Westcott, Dorothy Pearl Westcott Coon (Mrs. Floyd L.), *Frances Fralick Taylor (Mrs. William E.) and Mrs. Beatrice White. It was voted to hold the 1939 reunion also at Westcott Beach. Success at these northern New York gatherings is always assured because of the wonderful hospitality of George H. and Mrs. Westcott. Westcotts of northern New York descend in greatest number, from Gardiner Westcott, who settled near Camp's Mills closeby Sacket Harbor, in 1805, but there are also many descending from Oliver, Preserved, Johnson, David (of Ephraim) and Stukely (of Stukely of Cheshire, Mass.). They were all in Jefferson, Oswego and St. Lawrence counties between 1825-50.

The fourth August gathering of the clan was that of the Milford Tp. Chapter, No. 1, on Aug. 13th, at Fairy Springs park on Otsego Lake, N. Y., across from where the field-day of the National Celebration was held in 1937. Twenty-five were present. The committee having in charge the endowment fund for the perpetual care of the cemetery at Milford Center, reported that enough money was now earning interest in the Wilber bank at Oneonta to provide care for the cemetery next year, and as the Chapter in the future would have less need to draw from its treasury for this care, it was voted to reduce the annual dues from \$2.00 to \$1.00. It was also voted to hold the reunion in 1939 at Wilber Park in Oneonta on a Sunday in August later to be decided upon. It was in this park that the first suggestion for the formation of a National Society was made in 1933. (The Society was formed on the following Jan. 13, 1934.) The following officers were elected: Ray C. Rose, President; Harvey L. Westcott, Vice-President; *Jeannette Sands Westcott Cook (Mrs. Carlton J.) of 15 Brookfield Road, Binghamton, N. Y., secretary-treasurer. The members of this Chapter are chiefly descendants of Benjamin, James and Reuben Westcott who settled in the section between 1794 and 1815.

The fifth gathering in August was held by the Vermont Chapter, No. 5, at

Idlowild Park on St. Catherine Lake on Aug. 14th, when and where 111 of the "faithful" carried off the banner for attendance. Guitar and vocal numbers by children of *Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jay added materially to the enjoyment of the day. The following officers were chosen: *H. Phillips Wescott, President; *Leon D. Baker, Vice-President; *Frank Jay, R. D., Poultney, Vt., Secretary; and *Nathan H. Wilkins, Treasurer--all re-elected. In addition to descendants of Nicholas and Abigail Wescott, who were in Clarendon, Rutland Co., Vt., before 1781, there were also present descendants of George and Johnson Wescott of Clarendon (before 1781) and of Stukely Westcott of Cheshire, Mass., by 1777. Much credit is due our national member *Rachel C. Wilkins of North Hoosick, N. Y., for the enthusiasm with which she has helped to organize this Chapter and gather the genealogical data and history of the family. This Chapter will assemble again next year at the same place; date to be announced later.

On the same day the Vermont Chapter was "reunionizing", out near Bangor, Mich., on the shores of VanAuken Lake, another group of Westcotts was assembled in annual conclave. Odd enough, the Michigan Westcotts descend also from a Vermonter--James Westcott, who was in Clarendon, Vt., about 1775 and 1777, served with his brother-in-law Capt. Abraham Salisbury in fighting off the British. His son William moved to Savannah, N. Y., where was born William, Jr., who settled in Michigan. There were 97 present, thereby running their Vermont cousins a close second. Floyd Westcott was elected President; LeRoy Westcott, Vice President, and Mrs. Hazel Westcott Conklin of Hartford, Mich., Secretary-Treasurer. Our member, Dr. Leo E. Westcott, was present. He writes: "We are going to get a Chapter before long. You see!"

IN MEMORIAM

In the recent passing of Haydn Bolcher Westcott at his home in Ridgefield Park, N. J., the Society has lost another of its charter members. He was one of those who in August, 1933, attended a Westcott reunion at Oneonta, N. Y., where the first move was made to form a National Society and was treasurer of the organizing committee. He was born at Richford, Tioga County, N.Y., Oct. 24, 1864, and m-1891, Jennie M. Yapple of Richford. The sympathy of the Society is extended to his widow, to his dau., Mrs. John E. Michon and his son Matthew M., also to his sister Mrs. Marjorie M. Westcott Wright and her son Westcott Wright.

It is also regretfully announced that our charter member, Edward H. Castle of Williamstown, N. Y., passed away on Aug. 20, 1938, following an attack brought on by the heat. Mr. Castle attended the Celebration in 1935 and was present at several of the Chapter reunions at Sacket Harbor and Oneonta. He was born Aug. 4, 1863 at Oneida, N. Y. To his widow, nee Elizabeth Ann Brown, his three sons and three grandchildren, the sympathy of this Society is affectionately extended.

OUR NEW MEMBERS

National Secretary Ethel Clarke announces the enrollment of the following new members since the "Quarterly" for June was issued. The Society extends to them a most hearty welcome.

229 Mrs.* Edith Emily Higby Rey	Columbus, Ohio.
230 Mrs.* Celia Ruby Pearl Wert	Columbus, Ohio.
231 Lincoln Edward Wert	Columbus, Ohio.
232 Miss Nettie C. Drake	Portsmouth, N. H.
233 Mr.* & Mrs. Nelson H. Wescott	Glens Falls, N. Y.
A-7 Dr. William L. LaVenture	St. Louis, Mo.

**MORE ABOUT
THE BOOK OF
APPENDICES**

The National Secretary reports some 65 subscriptions to the proposed Book of Appendices. Decision relative to publishing is not warranted until the subscriptions have reached at least, 100; hence, as four months remain of 1938, records of births, marriages and deaths will be received for the manuscript up to December 31st. THE MANUSCRIPT WILL BE CLOSED ON THAT DATE whether the Appendices are to be published or not. Those who still plan to subscribe for one or more of the books should send their order to the National Secretary and thus help assure publication. The price of the book will be \$10.00--one-half payable when notice is received that the book will be printed (which will not be until after Jan. 15, 1939) and the balance when notified that the books are ready for delivery. Won't you help NOW to swell the number of subscriptions to an even one hundred?

**NOTES IN
PASSING**

In extending sympathy to the family of the late James Hobart Westcott, the name of his sister and our member, Mary Louise Westcott Krause (Mrs. Alfred R.) of Chicago, was inadvertently omitted. This is regretted, and it is hoped the sympathy of the Society will be accepted by her as no less sincere because of the omission. * * It's a daughter, Edith Harriett, born July 16, 1938, to our members, Mr. and Mrs. * John Thomas Wilde of Yonkers, N. Y. Congratulations and hearty good wishes! * * Some Westcotts are fast workers, for two suggestions and a "wish" for a place to hold the National Celebration in 1941 are already registered -- one is Boston and the other is either Philadelphia or Washington. Who is next? In the matter of where to hold the 1941 Celebration, a member writes: "I have always been sorry that I did not know of the reunion in Rhode Island in 1935. Had I known, I surely would have attended for I have long desired to visit the natal scenes in New England of my ancestors. I hope that some day -- and not too far off, for I am growing old -- another reunion may be held in Rhode Island." * * "Marcy Westcott", according to the program, has been appearing in "The Two Bouquets" (she being one of the bouquets) at the Windsor theatre in New York. She bears a good old Westcott Christian name, but it is not known whether it really belongs to her, for she won't answer inquiries. * * Lincoln Edward Wert, who with his mother Celia Ruby Higby (Mrs. John A. Wert) and his aunt, Edith Emily Higby (Mrs. Ernest Rey), all of Columbus, Ohio, and descendants of the pioneer Johnson Westcott of Clarendon, Vt., are among our new members, now holds the title of the youngest member of the Society. He was born Feb. 12, 1924. Among his other accomplishments, is that of being publisher of a neighborhood newspaper. Initiative and ambition deserves and will win reward. * * The drum-sticks used by Amos Westcott, 1761-1840, a young drummer-boy in the Revolution, are now in the possession of Miss Alice Ruth Westcott of Seneca Falls, N. Y. Our members, Pauline Browning Brooks, Mandan, N. Dak., Pauline Westcott Sharpe and Miss Florence A. Westcott, N. Y. City, descend from him. * * Next dinner in New York, Jan. 14, 1939. Further notice in the December "Quarterly". * * Won't YOU obtain a new member?

**MISS WILKINS
TO BE ASS'T
HISTORIAN**

Our member, Rachel C. Wilkins of 5 Rogers Avenue, Hoosick Falls, N. Y., a genealogist of long experience, has accepted the appointment of Assistant Historian. Miss Wilkins is now assisting the Historian in compiling records for the projected Book of Appendices and will so continue until this work is completed on December 31st next. Beginning with January 1st, 1939, she will carry on a "Family Register", in which all future births, deaths and marriages brought to her attention, will be recorded. In this way, the family record will be continued, and possibly at some future time, the data will be of value to someone who will be interested in compiling another book of appendices to the present family genealogies.