

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.

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"Know Your Kindred Better"

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TOURING

FAMILY

Ye Scribe with Mrs. Whitman and their grandson, Edmund Whitman Morris, experienced the utmost enjoyment from a visit they made in June to gatherings of Westcotts at Jackson, Mich., and McDonald, Mich., and Chicago, Ill., also at Washington, D. C. Out where the sun goes down late, it is evident that the Westcott family spirit never goes down, but is eternally rampant! In "the distant times, the ancient ways, the sturdy men of old", as gleaned from the story of the

Westcott ancestral family, interest was keen with those present at the several gatherings. Likewise, much interest was evinced in the movement of the National Society of the family to perpetuate and promote pride in family achievement. At Jackson and McDonald, the gatherings represented two groups of the Southern Michigan Chapter, No. 6, of which National President Leo E. Westcott is also Chapter President. He presided at the two meetings, June 12 and 13. The gatherings at Chicago and Washington are described elsewhere. Ye Scribe was introduced at Jackson by William Olney Westcott with a poem, here presented, which he wrote for the occasion. The poem was again used at McDonald, President Westcott reading it, and again in Chicago where it was read by Chapter President Minita Westcott Trainor. These Michigan gatherings were basket-luncheon affairs and again proved the superiority of the Westcott cooking wherever it is found. Mrs. Helen Westcott Murdick of Benton Harbor, added much to the success of the meeting at McDonald by accompanying the singing at the piano.

If you change your address, please notify the National Secretary.

"Out of Britain's bloody struggle
To sustain some ancient creed,
With the 'headsman' doing justice
While the righteous watched the deed ---
Came some men with soul unconquered,
Loath to sanction in God's name
The divinity of Tyrants,
Whether Papal or profane!

And among them was one Westcott ---
Stukely Westcott, and well born ---
But, thank God, he knew injustice,
And he viewed it with real scorn;
Scorn expressed in deep conviction
That free choice in one's God
Is the zenith of all freedoms --
First to break the Tyrant's rod.

In a land beyond the ocean
With no tyrants scourge to fear,
These bold men, self-exiled,
Landed, free at last with conscience clear.
And among them, Stukely Westcott
Wrought no evil, shame or sham.
History makes him great-grandfather
To our own dear Uncle Sam!

But here my feeble pen must rest;
I'll gladly clear the way,
For one among us has great news
Of grandsire Stukely's day!
A chieftain from the eastern branch
Of Stukely Westcott's clan
Will bring you tidings of our Sire---
Meet Roscoe L. Whitman."

CAN WE

MATCH OUR

ANCESTORS?

"I have been calling my ancestors up from my blood and bones into the spotlight of my consciousness -- up where I can look them in the eye, shake hands, renew acquaintance. I need them. * * They come up before me, the faces I have seen only in the old family albums, with the stories I have heard about them. And some are only names without faces, because there were few photographs then. * * My ancestors really aren't dead. They are down in my blood and bones, all of them. My prairie grandmother, and that red-faced farmer, and the

Swede, and that cantankerous old hoss-swapping country editor. If they all pull together -- and I believe they can -- they could turn out a sample of Americanism I could offer my country with my head away up here! Our ancestors had the stuff! It's still in us." -- Leonard Hinton in "This Week Magazine." July 28, 1940

CHICAGOLAND

CHAPTER

SELECT OFFICERS "The Chicagoland Westcotts gathered at the La Salle Hotel on Saturday evening, June 15, 1940, for a dinner-meeting. Mrs. Minita Westcott Trainor acting as toastmistress. After singing 'Faith of Our Fathers', we sat down to enjoy a delightful dinner and fine fellowship, being especially favored by having with us our National President, Dr. Leo E. Westcott of Kalamazoo, Mich, and Mrs. Westcott, and National Registrar Roscoe L. Whitman with Mrs. Whitman from New Jersey, with their grandson, Edmund Whitman Morris, who had just graduated from Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio. Following the dinner, President Westcott brought us a brief message calling to mind our rich heritage of ancestry. Mr. Whitman also gave a delightful talk, telling, as only he can, interesting bits of Westcott history. Miss Mabel Richardson, accompanied by Miss Lila Barnes, gave two groups of songs. After the program, Mrs. Trainor, who has been serving so efficiently as Executive Secretary of our Chicagoland group and has secured for us a charter so that we are now Chapter No. 7 of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants, asked Mr. Whitman 'since he lived farthest away' to preside while we attended to the serious business of organization. Briefly, we decided on quarterly meetings (dates to be fixed later), at least two to be social events in members' homes: dues at 50¢ a year; the following officers to be elected: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and, to serve with them, a Board of Directors to consist of four members. The following officers were then elected: President, Mrs. Minita Westcott Trainor, Chicago; Vice-President, Mrs. Louise Westcott Krause, Chicago; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Mary Ella Stafford, 8123 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago. The Board of Directors will consist of the Officers and the following Directors: Frank E. Westcott, Gary, Ind., Mrs. Myrtle Lull, Chicago, Miss Hazel Wightman, Des Moines, Ia., and Dr. Randall Livingston Westcott, Evanston, Ill. After singing 'Bold Stukely Westcott' and voting Mrs. Trainor a hearty 'thank you' for her splendid work in bringing us together, we adjourned until our October meeting, with the feeling that we were indeed 'real Americans' and proud not only of our ancestry, but of our fellow kinsmen." --Mary Ella Stafford, Secretary-Treasurer.

In an invitation mailed to all known descendants in the area to join the Chapter, Secretary Stafford said: "In these turbulent and hectic days, it gives one a sense of pride and uplift to know that our own ancestors had such a part in establishing these very ideals of freedom and true democracy that we are trying so hard to uphold, and there is much of personal satisfaction in these meetings of common kinship."

RHODE ISLAND

CHAPTER

MEETS

"Annual Spring meeting of Rhode Island Chapter, held Saturday afternoon, June 15, at the home of President Susan Westcott Handy at Manville, was another very enjoyable occasion. The following resolution was read and adopted and copies ordered sent to Mrs. V. Stukely Westcott and family and filed with the National Society: "Whereas, Almighty God in His Infinite Wisdom, has called from our family, our beloved leader, V. Stukely Westcott, be it therefore resolved that in his death, the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants, has lost one of its most valued members--one who worked unsparingly for the up-building of the association. Be it further resolved that the members of the Rhode Island Chapter extend our sympathy to his wife and family and that we carry on, as he did, that we may 'know our kindred better', and, like him, so live to be ready when the call comes to be united with the family gathering on the 'Other Side'. A copy of these resolutions to be sent to the family and to the National Society.

RHODE ISLAND
CHAPTER MEETS
(Cont.)

The foregoing resolution was signed by William M. Westcott, Dr. Niles Westcott, Susan W. Handy, President. President Handy reported upon the progress, as stated in a letter from Gov. Vanderbilt, that is now being made to improve the grave in Newport, R.I. of Gov. Benedict Arnold, whose wife was Damaris, daughter of Stukely Westcott. Much of this progress was brought about through a letter by the late V. Stukely Westcott to Gov. Vanderbilt. Officers for two years were elected as follows: William M. Westcott, President; Edwin Westcott, Vice-President; George P. Westcott, Treasurer; Miss Leone P. Cargill, Secretary; Ralph W. Dexter, Historian. The new President created two committees: One to arrange the Fall meeting, including Leslie P. Westcott, chairman; Norman Westcott and Mrs. Byron O. Dexter; the other a membership committee comprising Ralph Dexter, chairman; George P. Westcott and Miss Leone P. Cargill. After the business meeting, the members enjoyed a pleasant afternoon with a basket supper, coffee being served by the hostess." --Miss Leone P. Cargill, Secretary.

DOWN AT THE
NATION'S
CAPITOL

Through the ever-efficient efforts of Ruth Westcott Johnson (Mrs. Aaron G.) of Washington, D.C., a group of the Westcott family assembled in the National Capitol on Tuesday evening, June 25, to meet National Registrar and Mrs. Whitman and their grandson. Following an enjoyable dinner, the evening was pleasantly passed in family reminiscencing. The suggestion was made that a Chapter of the National Society be formed in Washington and is being considered.

CHAPTER NO. 1
BECOMES
CENTRAL N. Y.
CHAPTER

At the eighth annual reunion of Milford Twp. Chapter, No. 1, held at Oneonta, N. Y., Sunday, Aug. 11th, its name was changed to the Central N. Y. Chapter. Heretofore, its membership has been confined to descendants of the three brothers who settled in the town of Milford at the close of the 18th century. Money was voted for re-decorating part of the old Baptist Church at Milford Center, where the pioneers worshipped, and \$40. was voted to the endowment fund of the old cemetery at the same place, Harvey L. Westcott of Unadilla, was re-elected President; Morris B. Townsend of Oneonta, was re-elected Vice-President, and Hazel Westcott Finigan (Mrs. William S.) of 26 Spruce Street, Oneonta, was elected Secretary-Treasurer. The reunion in 1941 will be held at Oneonta in August, the date depending on the date of the National Celebration at Alexandria Bay.

117 PRESENT AT
VERMONT
REUNION

Again, Vermont Chapter carries away the banner for the largest attendance. National Historian Rachel C. Wilkins sends the following account: "The 5th annual reunion of Vermont Chapter, No. 5, was held on Sunday, August 18th. While the attendance was not quite equal that of last year, a goodly crowd of Wes(t)cott kindred were present, numbering 109 with eight guests present. A picnic lunch was enjoyed at noon. At the business meeting officers were re-elected as follows: President, Harold W. Westcott; V.-P., Leon D. Baker; Secretary, Mrs. H. Phillips Westcott of East Poultney, Vt.; Treasurer, Nathan H. Wilkins. It was decided to hold the reunion next year at the same place, the date to be decided by the officers after the date for the National Celebration at Alexandria Bay is learned so that they will not conflict. An interesting program of banjo music, songs and readings was presented, Franklin Reed accompanying his singing on a banjo; Mrs. Hudson Reed and Miss Sadie Reed rendering "Saving in Vermont" and "Me and Ma Going to New York", and songs were sung by the assembled families. After the conclusion of the program, many enjoyed bathing, boating and a trip around Lake St. Catherine on the 'Water Wagon'."

SOUTHERN MICH.

CHAPTER
REUNION

Southern Michigan Chapter, No. 6, held its annual reunion at Jackson, Aug. 25th, with fifty present. Officers chosen: President, William O. Westcott; 1st V-P., Martin Westcott; 2nd V-P., Homer Rexford; Sec'y-Treas., Mrs. Shirley Post of Kalamazoo; Ass't Sec'y, Mrs. Bertha Young of North Adams; Directors: Mrs. Pearl Miller, Leroy Westcott and Mrs. Peters. Much interest was evinced in the family history and several talked of attending the National Celebration in 1941. August 30, 1941, was decided upon for the next reunion to be held at Johnson Park, Grand Rapids.

PRIZES AT
PA. SOCIETY
REUNION

"Girden Wescott opened the third annual meeting of the Abington, Pa., Society of Westcotts on Saturday, Aug. 10th, those present singing "America". Following the reading of minutes of the 1939 meeting, these officers were chosen: President, William Gardner Westcott; V-P., Harold Westcott; Sec'y, Mrs. Leila Westcott; Treas., William H. Westcott; Historian, Miss Ella M. Billings. Mr. Whitman spoke of the family histories, the Abington descendants, his recent visits to Chapters in the West, the National Celebration at Alexandria Bay, N. Y., in 1941 and the desirability of the Society becoming a Chapter of the National Society. Saturday, Aug. 9th, was selected for the reunion in 1941. Mr. Williams, a Westcott from nr. Nicholson, gave a short talk. Mrs. Weaver suggested that eventually we purchase a family history for our Historian and also that the National dues of the President be paid by the Society. Prizes were awarded: To the youngest, Wayne Westcott; Oldest Woman, Mrs. Coons; Oldest Man, Truman G. Westcott; Largest Family, Harold Westcott. Social time and swimming were enjoyed."--Miss Elsie Jane Weaver, retiring sec'y.

OUR NEW
MEMBERS

National Secretary, Ethel Clarke, announces the following new members, to whom hearty greetings are extended:
262 Mr. and Mrs. William G. Westcott, Scranton, Pa.
263 Mr. and Mrs. Girden M. Wescott, Union Dale, Pa.

THE NEXT
MEETINGS

Chicagoland Chapter will meet this Fall; date to be announced. Rhode Island Chapter "expects", as announced, to have a basket supper meeting on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 19th, at Oaklawn, home of Dr. and Mrs. Niles Westcott, near Cranston. The hostess will furnish coffee. On Saturday evening, Jan. 11th, 1941, the Greater New York Chapter will hold its annual dinner.

NOTES IN
PASSING

Former member Phebe E. Wilber (A-343) d-June 23, 1940. * * Dorothy Emma, dau. of member Mrs. Herbert Ira Arnold, Washington, D. C. (A-118), married Aug. 10, 1940, Harry Blackmore Whittington. Congratulations! * * Nat'l Pres. Leo E. Westcott has appointed Leslie P. Westcott, R. I., Director, and William M. Westcott, R. I., member Memorial Tablet Committee in place of the late V. Stukely Westcott. * * Is your bill for 1940 dues paid? * * Westcott Genealogy, Vol. I, \$10., Vol. II, \$10. -- both \$17.50.

THE "QUARTERLY" ANNOUNCES THAT WORD HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED REGARDING DATE OF THE NATIONAL CELEBRATION IN 1941. THE TENTATIVE DATE IS FIXED FOR AUGUST 5TH.