

# THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

Issued Quarterly--March, June, September, December--noting activities of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants; mailed free to members, to non-members, 25¢ yearly. Secretary: Mrs. Adelbert N. Potter, 25 Fifth Av., N.Y. City.

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March, 1942

"Know Your Kindred Better"

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The format of "The Westcott Family Quarterly" has been changed a little by the omission of the marginal captions or headings. It is hoped the change will be acceptable to its several hundred readers. If you like the old style better, drop us a line, won't you?

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This issue of "The Quarterly" is accompanied by two pages of the "Westcott Genealogical Bulletin." The Society has been highly commended by libraries, genealogical and historical societies and some owners of the Westcott genealogies, for the continuance of family research and furnishing the results in these quarterly bulletins. "It is an appreciated innovation in family history," writes one society, "and worthy adoption by other family associations."

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Only routine business was transacted by the Directors in annual meeting on Jan. 10th. Miss Rachel C. Wilkins extended an invitation from the Vermont Chapter to hold the Fifth Biennial Celebration of the Society at Poultney, Vt., in 1943. The invitation was much appreciated, but due to the present troubled condition of the country and the uncertainty of the future, it could be accepted only tentatively. The report of the Secretary showed that twenty-one new members were received during 1941, giving a total of more than 200 descendant members. The report of the Treasurer showed the Society had a bank balance of \$90.70. The following Directors were present: Dr. F. Howard Westcott, Dr. Allan F. Westcott, Joseph R. Westcott, William G. Westcott, Pliny K. Westcott, Roscoe L. Whitman, Mrs. Adelbert N. Potter and the Misses Ethel Clarke and Rachel C. Wilkins.

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Miss Ethel Clarke, who has been the efficient Secretary of this Society since its inception in 1934, has resigned, effective Jan. 10, 1942. With eight years of faithful service to her credit, she is entitled to a well-earned rest, and the thanks of every member of the Society for her ever-loyal and enthusiastic attention to her duties as Secretary are extended to her.

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In accordance with the provision made in the "Articles of Organization", President F. Howard Westcott has appointed another charter member, Mrs. Adelbert Niles Potter, 25 Fifth Avenue, New York City, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Clarke. The years of business experience of Mrs. Potter especially qualifies her to capably fill the position, and no doubt, all of our members will give her the fullest support and wish her luck. Mrs. Robert Zimmerman has been appointed Recording Secretary.

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The ninth annual dinner of the Greater New York Chapter at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on January 10th, was greatly enjoyed. Due to the near-zero weather, ice and snow, only thirty-seven were present, among them Mr.\* and Mrs. Edgar E. Greene of Palisade, N. J., Mrs. Clarence H. Westcott and daughter, Miss Elizabeth May Westcott of East Orange, N. J., and William Gardner Westcott of Scranton, Pa., who were present for the first time. The guest speaker was the Hon. William M. Beard, who, with Mrs. Beard, came from Westfield, N. J. He made an interesting and timely talk on the American Constitution. Past-President Allan F. Westcott, who, with Mrs. Westcott, were present from Annapolis, Md., read a copy of a letter written a long time ago, by a Miss Mary Westcott, describing her visit in the household of President

Washington at Mt. Vernon. President F. Howard Westcott reported to the gathering some of the action taken by the Directors at their meeting in the afternoon. The tables, forming a "V" (for Victory), were attractively and appropriately decorated, and much credit and thanks are due the retiring Secretary, Miss Ruth M. Havey, for their arrangement. The following officers for the ensuing year were elected: Roscoe L. Whitman, President; Miss Florence Earll Clarke, Vice-President, and Mrs. Chester W. DeMond, Secretary-Treasurer, 24 Soundview Circle, White Plains, N. Y. An outdoor box-luncheon gathering of the Chapter sometime in the Spring may be arranged.

During the days of planning for the dinner in New York, suggestions were received that in the future, the dinner be held later in the year; perhaps late in March or in April. As the dinners are usually attended by some who come from a distance, the question of changing the month might be of interest to many of our National Members. If YOU are interested, please mail your suggestion to Chapter Secretary, Mrs. Chester W. DeMond, 24 Soundview Circle, White Plains, N. Y. Having already had the dinner for 1942, the next dinner of course, would not be due until 1943.

Our members will undoubtedly be in full accord with the action of our Directors in contributing \$25.00 of the funds of the Society to the American Red Cross. The Treasurer's check was mailed to Washington, D. C., on Jan. 15th. This represents 12 cents of the 1941 dues of each member.

Since the issue of "The Quarterly" for December, the following new members have been enrolled in the Society:

- 285 Miss Helen J. Williams, Streator, Ill.
- 286 \*Mrs. Warren B. Simons, Berlin, N. Y. \*Indicates the descendant.
- 287 Mr. and \*Mrs. Robert Zimmerman, N. Y. City.
- 288 Mr. and \*Mrs. Arthur S. Kyne, No. Hollywood, Calif.
- Al6 Mr. and \*Mrs. Harry B. Houghton, Washington, D. C.

IN MEMORIUM. Our charter member Anson Francis Beardsley of Oswego, N. Y., died September 5th, 1941 (A-252). He was one of our older members, but always keenly interested in the family activities. -- Our charter member, Harris Lee Cooke of Cooperstown, N. Y., passed away December 10th (G-266). He appointed the committee which Jan. 13th, 1934, organized this Society. --Frances Clark Morris (Mrs. Clarence Sextus\*) of Milford, N. Y., died December 20th, (G-298). She was chairman of the entertainment committees at the Westcott reunions in 1931 and 1933 when initial steps were taken in organizing this Society. --Randall Westcott of Jerome, Mich., died December 17th (A-405). He was deeply interested in the Michigan Chapter, of which he was a Vice-President. --Our member, Flora Ellen Westcott, of Norwich, N. Y., died January 2nd (A-159). She was a Westcott in her own right and widow of James Herbert Westcott. --Daniel Clark Lewis of Millville, N. J., passed away last September 24 (A-142). He had been an interested Associate Member of this Society since 1935. --The sympathy of the Society is extended to the members of all the families of the deceased.

Until recently, the only known members of the Westcott family to come to America were Stukely Westcott and his nephews, Richard, William and Daniel, and his sister, Rebecca (Cooke, A-393), all first settling in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The nephew William, was thought to have been a merchant mariner, leaving Wethersfield, Conn., where he is recorded in 1636 (A-394), and appearing in Westmoreland County, Virginia, in or before 1683, the year of or shortly following his death (A-400).

*edge than Stukely*

It has been thought this William became the progenitor of a considerable family in Virginia. At the time of his death, he had a married daughter, Mary, and possibly a son, John, born in 1659. However, professional genealogists employed by our member Miss Mary Wescott of Durham, N.C. (A-401) and a recently enrolled member, Miss Elizabeth May Wescott of East Orange, N. J., have found, among many Wescott records in Virginia, one of a Margaret Foote Wescott, widow of Anthony Wescott, with daughter Agnis and probably son Giles, mentioned in the will of Johan Foote dated Dec. 27, 1647. William Westcott, the nephew of Stukely Westcott, was not born before 1613, and therefore, could not have been the father of Anthony Wescott, who, deceased in 1647, had married and had a daughter and probably a son. Therefore, it may be assumed Anthony was born probably in England not later than 1620, some seven years after the birth of William Wescott. As no record has been found of Anthony in New England, it appears likely he emigrated directly to Virginia and that from him descends at least some of the Wescott family in and from the South. George Wescott, known as the wealthy "coppersmith of Philadelphia", was probably one of them. His family, according to family tradition, were "tories or Loyalists, as they called themselves", and this is indicative of his nativity. He was witness to a will in 1744. Mary and Elizabeth Wescott, mentioned in the old letter describing their experience as guests at Mt. Vernon in the household of President and Martha Washington (which letter was read by Dr. Allan F. Westcott at the family dinner last January in New York), were daughters of George Wescott. His son was Robert Wescott to whom Washington presented a sword for service following the Revolution. This Robert was the great-grandfather of our members, Miss Elizabeth May Wescott of East Orange, N.J., and Albert Lothridge Wescott of Leonia, N. J.--and so it is found that the Westcotts of New England were not the only Westcotts (or Wescotts, as the Virginians spelled the name) in America in the early 17th century.

Miss Susan Westcott Handy and National Chaplain William Mar Westcott of the committee whose members annually place a wreath at the tablet at Warwick, R. I., memorializing the memory of our Family Founder, performed their duty on January 12th, anniversary of his death, in spite of the severe weather at the time. Miss Handy read an appropriate poem and prayer was offered by Chaplain Westcott.

One of our charter members, Edmund Whitman Morris, was inducted into the army on January 22nd. With victory accomplished, it is hoped to see him back soon at the family table. "The Quarterly" would like to know of any other member or members who are now with the colors.

Either or the two Westcott genealogy of 1932 or the Book of Appendices of 1939 may be purchased long as the existing supply lasts. To avoid disappointment later, you are urged to mail your order NOW to the National Secretary.

Dr. Allan F. Westcott, one of our Past-Presidents, passed the evening of one of the holidays with his cousins in Chicago. He reports a jolly time in the photographic studio of our member, Miss Mary Ella Stafford, Secretary of Chicagoland Chapter.

National Chaplain William Mar Westcott has removed from Apponaug, R. I., to 31 Prince St., East Greenwich, R. I. Success to him in his new position.

Our fore-bears won victory; so we must win--and we will!