

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 Ave., N.Y. City.

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"Know Your Kindred Better"

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YOUR ANCESTORS--(Epoch 1.)--Fragments of history may often be pieced together and illuminating genealogical facts revealed. There is no known record of a Westcott (or Wescote, as the name was originally spelled) in England earlier than Ferbert de Wescote who was born at Exeter, Devonshire (in the early kingdom of Wessex) in 1164, and as far as is known, there is no definite record of the origin of the name. It has been generally accepted by antiquarians that the Wescote family is of Saxon origin. This indicates that the family flourished in England long before the coming of the Conqueror (1066). This Saxon nativity is verified further by the fact that the family lived in southwest England where the inhabitants were subdued by the Anglo, Saxon and Jute tribes of Germanic people. The Saxons were a small tribe of the Germanic race in the 2nd century, A. D. The word Saxon is supposed by some to have been derived from "Sakaisuna", sons of Salio or Scythians, and by others from "saks", a flint knife or short sword. They were chiefly seafaring people. In the middle of the 5th century, Saxon tribes took possession of the coast land of modern Normandy. In the 5th and 6th centuries, the Saxons, Angles and Jutes, three nations of the Saxon confederation which was effected during the 4th century, passed over from their territory in and near the Cimbric (Danish) peninsula to Britain, subdued and over-spread the country inhabited by the Picts and Scots after the fall of the Roman Empire (476), establishing themselves as its permanent inhabitants. Wessex was one of the eight kingdoms founded by them. These kingdoms in the 9th century (about 827), were united in one kingdom, called Anglia, or England (Engla-land) by King Egbert of Wessex. The Saxons rose to lordship of Wessex and began the history of England. That it was from these Saxon people in Wessex that the Wescote family sprang is logical to suppose. The family name indicates it. In early times, family names were frequently derived from local titles, trades or occupations, as, for examples, John who lived near a well, became John Wells; Thomas, a carpenter by trade, became Thomas Carpenter; Richard, who lived at or near the west gate to a manor, became Richard Westgate, and so on. The name Wescote or Westcott, no doubt, was derived from "Wes" as in WESsex or West Saxony where the family lived (at least early in the 12th century) and "cote", meaning a cottage or enclosure, and thus was called "Wescote".

DINNER AS USUAL AT NEW YORK IN JANUARY--The tenth annual dinner and meeting of the Greater N. Y. Chapter will be held in N. Y. City on Saturday evening, Jan. 9, 1943. Directors of the National Society will meet in the afternoon. "The Quarterly" for December will give further information.

IN MEMORIAM--News was recently received of the death on Jan. 11th, 1941, at her home in Cambridge, Mass., of Alice Stafford Budlong (A-133), wife of George Milbank Hersey, and a charter member of S.S.W.D. and the R. I. Chapter. The sympathy of the Society is extended to her husband and family. * * Samuel Driver, husband of our charter member, Helen Jane Westcott Driver (A-347) of Fairfield, Conn., died in Bridgeport, Conn., hospital, June 5, 1942. He was general agent of railway express for more than 30 years; noted swimmer, having swum from Fairfield to Long Island many times. It was his custom to take a swim on New Year's day. He was 32d degree Mason. He was also interested in boxing. The sympathy of the Society is extended to his widow and family. * * Mabel Brown Wood (Mrs. George C.) of West Warwick, R. I. (A-234), charter member S.S.W.D. and R. I. Chapter, died July 27, 1942. Sympathy of the Society is extended to her husband. * * Clarence Sextus Morris (G-298) died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Harold S. Smith, in Oneonta, N. Y., Aug. 2nd. He was member S.S.W.D. and charter member Central N. Y. Chapter. Death of his wife, Frances Clark Morris, Dec. 20, 1941, was reported B-3/42. Sympathy of the Society is extended to his children.

UNITED FAMILIES--The father of the husband of our member, Mrs. Harold Lewis Perdue (B-9-41) of Griswold, Ia., has two brothers who are the husbands of two of her sisters. This is keeping home fires burning.

RETIRED--After serving 24 years at the Armory in Oneonta, N. Y., Reuben H. Westcott (G-297) retired July 31. Charter member of S.S.W.D. He is a veteran of the Spanish-American War and World War I.

NEW MEMBERS--Two more States have been added to the roster of States in which members live--Oregon and West Virginia. The Secretary announces the new members as follows:

- 292 Mr. and Mrs.* Albert Miller, Multnomah, Ore.
- 293 Dr. and Mrs.* Perthas C. Chenoweth, Elkins, W. Va.
- 294 Mr. and Mrs.* Harold Lewis Perdue, Griswold, Ia.
- A-7 Dr. William L. LaVenture, St. Louis, Mo. (re-instated)

SUMMER REUNIONS--The rationing of tires and gasoline cut quite deeply into the attendance at the Chapter reunion the past Summer, but the indomitable Westcott spirit would not be subdued altogether as a number of the Chapters held their gatherings as usual.

CENTRAL N. Y. CHAPTER, No. 1--No reunion held.

R. I. CHAPTER, No. 2--The annual Summer meeting was held Saturday, June 20th, at "The Breezes", home of Miss Susan Westcott Hardy, Manville. The business meeting was called to order by President William M. Westcott (who is also Chaplain of the National Society). The treasurer, George P. Westcott, was unable to be present as he was expecting to be called as a candidate for officer-training. It was decided that officers be elected annually instead of every two years. The following officers were chosen: President, William M. Westcott; v-Pres., Edwin T. Westcott, and Sec'y-Treas., Miss Leone P. Cargill. The committee for the Fall meeting includes Miss Handy and Leslie P. Westcott. The Chapter was glad to welcome several new members, Mr. and Mrs. Alpheus S. Place and Miss Bertha W. Clark. Twenty-four were present. Following the business meeting, the members viewed the grounds and gardens which were in their prime, and played shuffle board, croquet and quoits. The members enjoyed another pleasant afternoon with a basket supper and coffee served by the hostess.--Leone Cargill, Secretary.

GREATER N. Y. CHAPTER, No. 3.--Twenty-one attended the Summer get-together at the home of the Chapter Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Westcott DeMond (Mrs. Chester W.), at White Plains on Saturday, June 13th. Among those present were Miss Helen J. Williams of Streater, Ill., who is living temporarily and perhaps, permanently, in New York City, and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie P. Westcott of Providence. It was decided to hold the mid-Winter dinner in N. Y. City as usual, the date being Saturday, Jan. 9th, 1943. A basket supper, supplemented by coffee and ice cream by the hostess, found appetites up to the usual Westcott standard. The weather was ideal and everyone had an enjoyable afternoon.

NORTHERN N.Y. CHAPTER, No. 4--Although but nine were present to participate in the annual reunion of the Chapter at Westcott Beach on Aug. 11th, the usual enjoyable afternoon was passed despite the many missing faces of yesteryears. The 1941-2 officers will carry on. The President, Mrs. Lulu Westcott Burgen, Hastings, Oswego. Co., N. Y., asks that "The Quarterly" request the members of the Chapter to write her expressing their ideas as what is best to do for another year--call a reunion for 1943 or suspend for the duration of the war or at least, as long as there is a shortage of gasoline and tires.

VERMONT CHAPTER, No. 5--The 1942 reunion of the Chapter was cancelled, but a "Junior" gathering may be held in September at Poultney.

SOUTHERN MICH. CHAPTER, No. 6.--No report received. (Aug. 21.)

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER, No. 7.--Twenty-nine were present at the annual meeting and reunion of the Chapter at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Randall Livingston Wescott at Evanston, Ill., Sunday, June 21st. (Dr. Wescott is First V. Pres. of the National Society; Mrs. Wescott is a descendant in her own right. Three new members were added to the roster; Dr. Mason Eaton Wescott, professor of Mathematics at Northwestern University; Mrs. Genevieve Leighton Ferguson of Morris, Ill., and Mrs. Daisy Stafford Isbester of Chicago. The following officers were elected: Dr. Randall L. Wescott, President; Mrs. Louise Westcott, V.-Pres.; Miss Claire Westcott, Sec'y.-Treas.; Miss Mary Ella Stafford, Historian; and Directors: Mrs. Minita Westcott Trainor and Mrs. Myrtle Westcott Lull, both of Chicago and Miss Hazel G. Wightman of Des Moines. After a short program, there were games on the grounds and in the Wescott game-room, and lots of fun.

ABINGTON (PA.) CHAPTER, No. 8--Twenty-two attended the Chapter reunion at Lake Idlewild, home of Mr. and Mrs. Girden M. Wescott, Union Dale, Pa., on Aug. 1st. Besides the host and hostess, the following were present: Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Wescott and daughters Barbara Jean and Janice and Mrs. Harry Howell of South Gibson; Mrs. Lewellyn Robinson and son Elwood of Buffalo, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Harris Zacharias and daughter Marion of Johnston City, N. Y.; Mrs. Hattie Wescott, Mr. and Mrs. William Wescott and sons Ronald and Wayne of Moscow, Pa. Officers were re-elected, Mrs. Harriet Zacharias being elected Historian. No deaths or births were reported. President William G. Westcott gave an interesting description of the Westcott family dinner in New York last January. The next reunion will be held at Lake Idlewild.

MADISON CO. ASS'N.--The thirty-first annual reunion of the Madison County (N.Y.) Westcott Association was held at the home of Harry Smith, West Eaton, N. Y., August 9th. Mrs. Irene Brown, Eaton, N. Y., is Secretary.

WEDDINGS--Dana Blanchard Westcott (G-291), son of members Mr. and Mrs. Coulman C. Westcott of Mechanicville, N. Y., and Miss Janet Marie, dau. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Schuyler Morse of Mechanicville, were m-June 10, 1942. * * Pauline Vera Westcott (A-181), member, and John Frank Clark of Baldwinsville, N. Y., were m-Baldwinsville, Aug. 1, 1942. * * Edmund Whitman Morris (G-290), member of Roselle, N. J., and Miss Frances Child, dau. of Harvey Allan And Celeste Angeline (Child) Rosenthal of Tiffin, O., were m-New York City, Aug. 20, 1942.

WITH THE COLORS--Merritt S. Craft (G-274), son of member Mrs. Ida R. Westcott Craft of Birmingham, Ala., and Milwaukee, Wis., is now with the aerial coast patrol at Tampa, Fla. * * Edmund Whitman Morris (G-290), member of Roselle, N. J., in officer-training at Fort Monmouth, N. J., was commissioned second lieut. Aug. 13th and assigned to 560th Signal Battalion at Drew Field (nr. Tampa), Fla. Lt. Morris is son of National Secretary, Mrs. Adelbert N. Potter. * * Elmo Hudson Reed (A-384) son of members Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Reed of E. Poultney, Vt., is with Co. E, 349th Inf., 88th Division, at Camp Coubert, Okla.

OUR FLAG--The armorial bearings of Gen. George Washington indicates quite definitely that the mullets and bars were reproduced in the Stars and Stripes of the National Flag, adopted June 14, 1777, while the emblem of the Republic bears a strong resemblance to the Washington eagle crest. The design has been ascribed by some to John Adams, but regardless by whom it was conceived, it is a grand old flag and may it wave ever!

NOTES--If it has so happend that YOU have not paid your 1942 dues to the Society, please do so NOW. * * Yes, the Society has a few more copies of the Westcott genealogies of 1932 and 1939 for sale. Order yours now, **if you have family data not yet published, please mail it to the Historian. * * And so soon, 'till December.