

# THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

ROSCOE L. WHITMAN, EDITOR

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

June, 1945

"Know Your Kindred Better"

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1945 CELEBRATION WILL NOT BE HELD--Due to the fact that the Celebration of the Westcott family will NOT be held this year (see announcement by President Westcott), this June number of "The Quarterly" is being mailed early in May so that members of the Society can complete plans for their Summer vacations. The next number will be the issue for September.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT WESTCOTT--"Due to the unsettled conditions and the continued activity in our present struggle for democracy, the bi-ennial reunion of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants will be postponed from the scheduled date of June, 1945 until the first year that travelling conditions and hotel accommodations will permit us to have another gathering. Because of the unhappy circumstance, I hope that every individual Chapter will try to spur their activities on to keep the interest of the Society at its present high level. The real backbone of the Society is not the annual or semi-annual reunions but is really the spirit of the individual members and the individual Chapters which make up the Society. Wherever possible, I would suggest that some local meetings, even of small groups, should be held and that we should continue to keep in mind the ideals for which the Society was created, particularly to support the defense of the country and to help in the conservation of the Constitution and to know and enjoy the companionship of our kindred better. I hope that when our next reunion does occur, it will be held in Providence, R. I., in place of the present cancelled Celebration." --F. Howard Westcott, M. D., President.

WEDDING BELLS--Miss Rachel C. Wilkins (A-387), Historian of the S.S.W.D., was married on Thursday, March 22nd, 1945, to Wells S. Baker of Buskirk, N. Y., where they will make their home. Our members wish her and her husband the fullest measure of happiness. Those who desire to write to Mrs. Baker can do so by addressing her at RFD #1, Buskirk, N. Y.

WESTCOTTS 70 YEARS AGO--Wert Westcott (G-304) of Minnesota, and Monroe Westcott (G-301) of up-State New York, were own cousins and fond of each other. Both were born in Otsego County, N.Y., in the 1830s. Monroe remained close to his homeland throughout his life, but Wert removed with his parents to Minnesota in 1857. There he became a farmer. In the early 1870s, Monroe visited his cousin Wert in Minnesota. Now, let Wert's daughter, Susan Easter Westcott Mabie (Mrs. Harry S., G-306), member of the S.S.W.D. and residing in Bay Village, O., tell of an incident that happened while Monroe was visiting Wert on the latter's farm, as it was related to her. "I have been thinking of Monroe Westcott," Mrs. Mabie writes. "He visited us in the early 1870s at our pioneer farm home. It was harvest time and the wheat was being stacked. Visiting my father in the field, he (Monroe) was invited to ride on the big load of sheaves to the stack. As the hired man removed the first sheaf, he uncovered a big rattlesnake and gently tossed it to the ground, but Monroe was so terrified he gave one wild leap and landed directly on the coiled reptile. The innards of the snake splattered all over the finely groomed Monroe. 'Wert Westcott', he exclaimed, 'if you want to live in this God-forsaken country you can, but me for New York State.' The horses had to be unhitched from the rack and the work held up to take him to the stage but not until after his clothes had been well scrubbed. Cousin Monroe and his cousin Luzerne and uncle Otis, were held in the greatest esteem by my father and grandfather." (NOTE--It seems odd that Monroe was disturbed so much by a

snake in Minnesota when on "Dutch Hill" (near Milford, N. Y.), where he was born, rattlesnakes were common as field-mice.)

IN MEMORIAM--Penelope Shield Westcott Jamison (Mrs. Thomas Worth, Jr.), charter member, died at Baltimore, Md., Dec. 1, 1944. The sympathy of the Society is extended to Mr. Jamison and their daughter Penelope and son Thomas, Jr. \* \* Dr. Merton Louis Ford, husband of charter member, Susan Morris Ford, died at Pasadena, Calif., Mar. 10, 1945; bur. at Oneonta, N. Y. Dr. and Mrs. Ford passed their winters at Pasadena and summers in their native home, Oneonta. The sympathy of the Society is extended to the widow. \* \* George Henry Westcott, charter member of the S.S.W.D., d-March 26, 1945, bur. Sackett Harbor, N. Y. He will be affectionately remembered by many as the owner of "Westcott Beach" where Westcott family reunions were held annually. The sympathy of the society is extended to the widow.

INCIDENTS IN WESTCOTT LIFE--Stephen Arnold Douglas, 1813-1861 (G-133) desc. in VIII generation from Gov. Benedict and Damaris (Westcott) Arnold of R. I. In 1860, he was the unsuccessful candidate for the Presidency of the United States, receiving 12 electoral votes while Abraham Lincoln received 180.

Matthew Calbrath Perry, 1795-1858 (G-133), desc. in VIII generation from Gov. Benedict and Damaris (Westcott) Arnold of R. I. He was commander of the expedition sent by the U. S. Government to open intercourse with Japan in 1854-5. Unfortunately, he succeeded.

#### OUR MEMBER HONOR ROLL

A-370 Lt.-Col. Carlton J. Cook, \*U.S. Army.  
 G-167 Major Chester W. Westcott, U.S. Army.  
 B12-41 Capt. Byron C. Bussey. \*U.S. Army.  
 G-296 Lieut. Verner U-Ramsing. \*U. S. Navy.  
 G-291 Lieut. Edmund S. Morris, Jr., Sig. A. W.  
 B3-45 Lieut. Richard N. Westcott, U. S. Army.  
 G-306 Lieut. Joseph Allen Mabie. U.S.M.M.  
 A-177 Sgt. Lincoln Edward Wert. U. S. Army.  
 A-147 Stanley M. Wescott. Spl. M., S.R.T.A.  
 A-365 Cpl. Arthur James Westcott, U. S. Army.  
 A-345 Pt. George Peck Westcott. U. S. Army.  
 A-345 Pt. Robert Williams Westcott. U. S. Army.  
 A-384 Pt. Paul Lewis. U.S.A.  
 B3-43 Dr. Perthas C. Chendweth. \*F. A. Obsn. Bn.  
 B9-44 Seaman Harry V. Asher. \*U.S. Army.  
 \*\* Dr. William L. LaVenture. U. S. Coast Guard  
 \* Consort Member. \*\* "Wescotts of Maine." B-3-45.

PLEASE NOTE--If you have corrections or additions for the Honor Roll, please notify the Secretary of the Society so that the list may be corrected in the next issue of "The Quarterly."

OUR NEW MEMBERS--National Secretary, Dorothy Potter, announces the following new members to whom a hearty welcome is extended:

322 Mr. and *Mrs. Russel Maurice Lawall, Oberlin, Ohio	Membership Dated: Feb., 1945
323 Miss Helen Kellogg Mabie, Bay Village, Ohio	Feb., 1945

HO! OFF TO BEYOND THE HUDSON--Stukely Westcott and his sister, Freelove, were born, reared and married in Rhode Island in the early 18th century. They were great-grandchildren of the first Stukely Westcott, emigrant. Stukely was the father of 13 children; Freelove the mother of 11 children. All but two or three of these 24 cousins lived to maturity, married and passed their wedded life in the horse-and-buggy days within a day's ride of each other in Rennselaer, Otsego, Chenango, Oneida, Oswego and Jefferson Counties in the central New York area. They were all settled in

their new homes in the wilderness by 1814, some early as 1791. This was the period of the first large migration from Rhode Island to the "new country beyond the Hudson" (river). Other branches of Westcotts left their homes in Rhode Island in the same period and settled in Herkimer, Montgomery, St. Lawrence and Wayne Counties and other localities of New York. By 1800, a large contingent of the kin had settled in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties in north-eastern Pennsylvania. It can be said without boasting that the Westcott clan has ever been in the foreground of vigorous American aggression and achievement.

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A RAIN-CHECK, PLEASE--The abandonment for this year of the family celebration in Rhode Island is not without regret by many, especially by those who so happily recall the gathering of ten years ago this month. We can't forget--we do not want to forget--the pageant at Salem, Mass., when the good people of that historic city contributed so much to the success of the event. The costumes of the people and the huts in "ye olde village" gave an illuminating understanding of the coming in 1635 and the life of Stukely Westcott and his family, during their earliest days in the trackless wilderness of the land of their adoption. Then the banquet that evening, followed next day, Saturday, by a motorcade to Concord, Arlington, Cambridge, Bunker Hill, Boston, Hingham (where Westcott landed in 1635), historic old Plymouth, and through old Marlboro to Providence. It was a glorious, never-to-be-forgotten two days. The participating descendants had something of that happy feeling of being "back home" when they awakened that Sunday morning in Providence--in the Providence Plantations and Colony of Rhode Island which Stukely Westcott, his close friends, Roger Williams and ten others, founded and begun the first settlement in America where religious tolerance, freedom of speech and the pursuit of happiness could be and was enjoyed without the tyranny that had driven them from England. While in Providence on that happy day, many of the old scenes and points of historic interest were visited, not the least of which was the first Baptist Church organized in America--the grand old edifice the society of which was founded by the pioneers, among them Stukely Westcott. We attended services there Sunday morning, listening to a sermon by the pastor which made us more proud of our heritage than ever before. Then, that afternoon, we motored to the site of Westcott's home in Old Warwick where a large bronze tablet was dedicated to his memory. On the return trip to Providence, we visited the farm home of Dr. Niles and Clara Westcott, which has been continuously in the families of his ancestors since before the year 1700, and then slowly wended our way past the old farm homes and the graves of Westcott's five grandsons (sons of Jeremiah), Stukely, Josiah, Samuel, William and Benjamin. Thus, the four-day celebration ended, although some remained to visit on Monday, old Wickford, Narragansett Pier, Jamestown, Newport and Portsmouth, where Westcott died in 1677. All in all, it was a notable gathering of family kin from more than a dozen states. Now, let us prayerfully hope that we can return to Providence and Warwick next year sometime during the summer. Some who were there with us ten years ago, will be missed, but the old scenes and points of interest will be there. It will be inspiring to see them again and meet the cousins of Rhode Island and other states. Thanks just the same, members of the Rhode Island Chapter, for your gracious invitation.

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MISSED BY A DAY--The day before the Westcott dinner was held in New York City last January, Lieut. and Mrs. Leon W. Westcott were in the city and registered at the hotel. They missed a good dinner and meeting a lot of good cousins by not staying over another day.

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WHY NOT?--It has been suggested that "The Society of Westcott In-Laws" be organized for mutual protection.

Prob No. 46  
War years

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Issue ~~# 46~~ seems #46 seems  
to have been miss-numbered  
#47 Dates are consecutive  
for quarterly issue.