

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

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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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BACK WHERE THE ROOTS SPROUTED.

In Rhode Island where the ancestral roots of the Westcott family tree propagated early in the 17th century, there assembled August 9, 10, and 11, the offspring of eight to thirteen generations later. It was an occasion commensurate with the interest and happiness experienced by those privileged to gather in the parlor of grandmother with its over-stuffed furniture and to sit with aunts, uncles and cousins at the table in the old wood-beamed dining-room and enjoy her bountiful cooking. Only those who lived in the late 19th century can fully appreciate the warmth and enjoyment of this, but in Rhode Island in August, the spirit of family ties of all ages, was in happy fulfillment of the days of yore. It was the 6th Biennial Commemorative Celebration of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants marking the 311th year of Westcott and his family coming to America.

The fullest credit and the highest commendation is due to Miss Susan Westcott Handy, who, as general chairman, had the active assistance of her brother, Thomas H. Handy, Jr., in charge of reservations, Mrs. Ansel A. Shippee in charge of registrations, Webb Westcott Wilder in charge of transportation, Ralph Westcott Dexter in charge of the historical pilgrimage, Mrs. Niles Westcott in charge of music, and National Chaplain William M. Westcott in charge of the Memorial Service. The reception committee, the members always on the alert for the enjoyment of visitors, had Miss Magel C. Wilder for chairman, assisted by President and Mrs. Leslie P. Westcott, William Mar Westcott, Mrs. V. Stukely Westcott, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Gregory Dexter, Miss Susan Westcott Handy, Dr. and Mrs. Niles Westcott, Mrs. Ethel Westcott H. Cargill and Mrs. and Mr. Ralph Westcott Dexter.

FRIDAY EVENING - Early in the evening, Westcott descendants began arriving at Celebration Headquarters in the Biltmore Hotel. After registering and each had received an unique insignia in the form of an anchor inscribed with the motto 'Hope' the seal of Rhode Island, with his or her name neatly lettered on the spread of the anchor, groups gather here and there, then joined by others. Late in the evening, everybody called it a day, having nearly exhausted family reminiscing, leaving only enough for the two days to follow. It was one of those enjoyable evenings so popular with the Westcotts. Eighty-two had registered, not only from Rhode Island but from Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York.

SATURDAY MORNING - First on the program was the business meeting of the Society. This was held in the spacious rooms of the historical old John Brown house on Powers street, now owned and the home of the Rhode Island Historical Society. President Dr. F. Howard Westcott called the meeting to order. Mrs. Leslie Perham Westcott, President of the Rhode Island Chapter, welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Chapter and Dr. Westcott responded on behalf of the National Society. Reports of National Secretary Mrs. Dorothy Potter showed the Society to have 208 descendant members and in the absence of National Treasurer Pliny Westcott, due to unavoidable circumstances Mrs. Potter read the Treasurer's report, showing cash on hand of \$449.04. Mr. Roscoe L. Whitman offered a resolution and asked that action be taken upon it. The resolution requested that a committee comprising Past-President Allan F. Westcott as chairman (until the committee could organize and name its own chairman), Past Presidents Joseph R. Westcott, Dr. Leo E. Westcott, Dr. F. Howard Westcott, the newly-elected

President Leslie P. Westcott, and other to be selected by the committee, be appointed to study the future needs of the Society, and to report at the next Celebration in 1948. Motion was made that the recommendation be adopted and it was adopted. Both Chicago and Johnstown, N.Y., were mentioned for the next Celebration. Chicago being so far from where the large majority of the members live, Johnstown was favored for the 1948 Celebration. The following officers for 1946-7-8 were elected;

President - Leslie Peckham Westcott, Providence, R. I.
 Vice-President - Chester William Westcott, Dumont, N.J.
 Vice President - Mrs. Harry L. Waugh, Fulton, N.Y.
 Chaplain - William Mar Westcott, Providence, R. I.
 Historian - Mrs. Wells S. Baker, Buskirk, N.Y.
 Registrar - Roscoe L. Whitman, Westfield, N.J.
 Secretary - Mrs. Adelbert N. Potter, New York City.
 Treasurer - Mrs. Edward R. Marroquin, Hackensack, N.J.
 Directors - The 8 elective officers and the following -
 Dr. Allan F. Westcott, Alexandra Bay N.Y.
 Joseph R. Westcott, Binghamton, N.Y.
 Dr. Leo E. Westcott, Kalamazoo, Mich.
 Miss Susan Westcott Handy, Manville, R. I.
 Mrs. Merton L. Ford, Pasadena Calif.
 James Radcliffe Morris, Roselle, N.J.

MEMORIAL SERVICES followed the Business Meeting, President Dr. F. Howard Westcott presiding. National Secretary Dorothy Potter reported that since the Biennial Celebration in 1941, twenty-one descendant members have died and twelve members by marriage. Their names were called, after which Miss Joanne Macomber of Providence, sang "The Lord's Prayer." Then followed an address, "We Build Memorials," by National Registrar Roscoe L. Whitman, and an address, "Our Family," by Mrs. Harry L. Waugh of Fulton, N.Y.

SATURDAY NOON AND AFTERNOON - The visiting members of the National Society were royally entertained at luncheon in the old John Brown house by the members of the Rhode Island Chapter. Mrs. Ralph Westcott Dexter was chairman of the committee and Mrs. Maude N. Colwell was vice-chairman. They were assisted by Mrs. Byron O. Dexter, Mrs. V. Stukely Westcott and Mrs. Henry W. Westcott. Following the luncheon, the entire group was shown through the Brown house and then the nearby Carrington, Pendleton and Stephen Hopkins houses.

SATURDAY EVENING - The banquet was enjoyed in the historic Narragansett Hotel, where the Society had its headquarters at the time of its first Biennial Celebration in 1935. The table was in the form of one large horse-shoe with a burst of flowers at the "toe of the shoe." The place-cards, again in the shape of the Rhode Island State seal and each bearing an individual name, the seal fastened to a pen-picture of some prominent local house, were executed by Miss Leone P. Cargill. They evinced the exceptional artistic ability of Miss Cargill. The retiring President, Dr. F. Howard Westcott, presided. After his address, he turned the meeting over to Milton Gregory Dexter, toastmaster. William C. Driver was the song-leader and Chester W. DeMond was at the piano. The following poem by Mrs. David A. Westcott of Boston, was read by the author:

So we'll give to Father Stukely
 The honor that's his due
 We'll sing his praise down thro the years
 A good man, stanch and true!

He lived in days of storn and stress,
 Of toil beyond our ken;
 He kept the faith and proved his worth
 This leader among men.

Tonight, we gather round the board
 To pledge anew our pride
 In him who labored for the right
 And could no wrong abide.

A toast to Julianna, too,
 Who walked by Stukely's side!
 Good wife, wise counselor and friend,
 Let weal or woe betide.

She saw her children grow in grace,
Her faith she kept secure;
With love and home she was content,
The blessings that endure.

Three hundred years and more have passed
Since that far distant day
When our forefathers lived and died
Where now we homage pay.

The message of their valient lives
Grows clearer year by year,
"Sweet freedom's price is steady heart
Trust God, and do not fear!"

Addresses followed by President Leslie Peckham Westcott, Dr. Allan F. Westcott, Dr. Leo E. Westcott and the guest speaker, Paul Francis Gleeson. During his address, Mr. Gleeson urged that all family, historical and fraternal associations should have an objective and suggested that the Westcott Society should interest itself in endeavoring to determine the origin of what is known as "the old arnold mill" in Newport. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Whitman asked permission to speak. He urged that instead of giving further attention to the old mill, the State of Rhode Island should acquire and care for the plot of ground on Pelham street, Newport, where were buried the first Governor of Rhode Island, Benedict Arnold, and his wife, Damaris Westcott Arnold, oldest child of the emigrant Stukely Westcott.

SUNDAY MORNING - Sixty and more of the Westcott family worshipped at the historical old First Baptist Meeting House. An inspiring sermon, "What Are We Going to Do With the Atom?" was preached by The Rev'd Richard W. Seebode. Space here permits only a brief quotation from his sermon, "Those men and women who can trace their ancestry back to those hardy pioneers who established colonies on this continent are justly proud of their genealogy - they have formed organizations; Descendants of the Mayflower, Colonial Dames, D.A.R., and we have here this morning a sort of family reunion in the descendants of Stukely Westcott, one of the founders of our own state, and of this church. * * Not many of us can claim that the blood of a Williams or a Westcott flows in our veins. But we can claim them as our spiritual ancestors, and by our lives, our thoughts and actions, our words and deeds, make them our own."

SUNDAY AFTERNOON - Shortly after two o'clock, a large motorcade wended its way down the old turnpike along which lived the pioneers Arnolds, Rhodes, Carpenters, Greenes, Hoxsies, Staffords, etc., to the site of the home-lot in Old Warwick of Stukely Westcott, where he lived the last thirty years of his life. A floral wreath was placed at the foot of the boulder on which in 1935, the Society erected a bronze tablet suitably inscribed to his memory. There was some speculation as to the exact location of the burying ground where Westcott, his wife and his son Jeremiah and other members of his family are buried. President Westcott is to make further investigation

The motorcade then moved on the "Westcote", the ancestral home at Oaklawn, of Dr. and Mrs. Niles Westcott. Under the venerable huge butternut tree which stands beside the house, Westcotts enjoyed refreshments just as they did there in 1935. Some toured the old cemetery nearby where rests several generations of the ancestors of Dr. Westcott; others visited the house which was built about 1830 and is the third house since about the year 1700 to be erected on the old farm.

This was a pleasant "adieu" to the 6th Biennial Commemorative Celebration of the Society.

The following are those who registered at the Celebration -

FROM CONNECTICUT - Mrs. Samuel Driver, Fairfield; Miss Florence A. Westcott and Miss Priscilla M. Sharpe, Old Greenwich.

ILLINOIS - Miss Helen J. Williams, Streeter; Louise and Grata Goffe, Evanston.

IOWA - Mrs. George W. Westcott and Mrs. Wayne Ebert, Sumner.

MASSACHUSETTS - Mr. and Mrs. David A. Westcott, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. David B. Westcott, and Miss Susanne Westcott, Waltham; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Gregory Dexter, Belmont; Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Royden Westcott, Seekonk.

MICHIGAN - Dr. and Mrs. Leo E. Westcott, Kalamazoo.

NEW JERSEY - Dr. and Mrs. F. Howard Westcott, Tenafly; Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe L. Whitman, Westfield Mrs. Eva K. Pomeroy, Roselle, Mrs. Charles Westcott and Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Marroquin, Hackensack.

NEW YORK - Dr. and Mrs. Allan F. Westcott, Alexandria Bay; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Doefler, Babylon; Miss Helen D. Ketcham, Yonkers; Dr. and Mrs. G. D. Pickens, Arcade; Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Waugh, Fulton; Mrs. Raymond C. Turner, Oswego; Mrs. Charles A. McGill, Bath; Mr. and Mrs. William C. Driver and Mrs. Bertha Baker, Larchmont.

RHODE ISLAND - Mrs. V. Stukely Westcott, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Westcott, Dexter, Mr. and Mrs. Byron O. Dexter, Mrs. Byron C. Bussey, and Mrs. George P. Westcott, all of Pawtucket; Dr. and Mrs. Niles Westcott, Oaklawn; Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Peckham Westcott, Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Westcott, Mrs. Ethel W. H. Cargill, Miss Leone P. Cargill Mrs. Charles A. Bassett, Elmer A. Westcott, Wescote H. Cheseborough, all of Providence Thomas H. Handy, Sr., Miss Susan Westcott Handy and Thomas H. Handy, Jr., all of Manville; Mrs. Maude N. Colwell, Riverside; Mrs. Alpheus S. Place, Hillsgrove; Mr. and Mrs. Ansel A. Shippee, Miss Dolly Stone, Mrs. Ethel H. Nautais, all of Cranston; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Westcott, William Mar Westcott, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Westcott, all of Edgewood; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob B. Wilder, Miss Magel C. Wilder and Webb W. Wilder, all of Johnston.

SOME NOTES OF THE CELEBRATION - It has been arranged to have mimeographed copies made of a transcript of the sermon preached by the Rev. Richard W. Seebode at the Sunday morning services. If you desire a copy will you please send eight $\frac{1}{2}$ cent stamps to help defray the expense; mail to either the National Secretary or the National Registrar.

The Society was fortunate that the banquet could be served at the Narragansett Hotel instead of the Biltmore Hotel. The efficient service added much to the enjoyment.

Seven new members were received during the Celebration, which, with one member re-instated earlier in August, increased the membership roll by eight. Other applications for membership are pending.

Ideal weather prevailed during the three days of the Celebration; except one electric storm Saturday evening while everybody were cozily in the Narragansett Hotel enjoying the banquet. Every Westcott present descended from Stukely Westcott through his youngest child, Jeremiah Westcott, and his daughter-in-law, Eleanor England. This made the relationship of everybody so much closer.

The following poem by Mrs. Ethel Westcott h. Cargill appeared on one of the place-cards, together with a pen-picture of the Stephen Hopkins house by Mrs. Cargill's daughter, Miss Leone.

To the Shores of Rhode Island

Kind Providence guided brave Stukely of old,
To the shores of Rhode Island he came,
With high courage and hope he has blazed
a trail,
We will follow forever to fame,
Upward, onward we go, with his beacon in
sight,
We Rhode Islanders follow the gleam,
Never doubting let's do what is worthy
and right,
Oh! we never can fail it would seem

After three hundred years we still
carry on,
His descendants will rally once more,
To honor brave Stukely the first of
his line,
To set foot on the Rhode Island shore,
Oh! The Westcotts of old have always
been true,
What a heritage this for our clan,
So to our posterity we'll all bestow,
Their faith if we possibly can.

AN EVENT IN OLD JERSEY - The spacious lawn nestling in a woodland area at Tenafly, N.J., is the beautiful home of former National President F. Howard Westcott, M. D., and his wife, Gertrude. Here on June 22nd last, twenty-eight members of the Greater N.Y. Chapter, S.S.V.D., four guests and five children, enjoyed a picnic long to be remembered. The afternoon and early evening were passed in games and the usual rummaging in family history and folklore. The event was concluded with a bountiful grill-supper with Dr. Westcott at the grill. The committee members, efficient to the tenth Westcott degree, comprised Mrs. F. Howard Westcott (Gertrude), Mrs. Chester W. Westcott (Mildred), and Mrs. Edward R. Marroquin (Alice). Those present beside Dr. and Mrs. Westcott and their children, Martha and Julianna, were: Mr. and Mrs. Pliny K Westcott, Chapter President and Mrs. Chester W. Westcott, Miss Helen J. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Trisman and son, Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe L. Whitman, Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert N. Potter, Mrs. and Mrs. Edmund W. Morris and daughter, Susan (ae. 5m., 9 dys.) Mrs. and Mr. Edward R. Marroquin and daughter Alice Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Driver, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd R. Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Greene, Mr. Judson S. Bennett and Miss Grace Bennett, Secretary of the Chapter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Westcott, Mr. James R. Morris, and the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Westcott, Mrs. Eva K. Pomeroy, Miss Lucille Leven and Miss Dortha Durang.

COMING EVENTS - About the time you are reading this Quarterly, members of the Southern Michigan Chapter will be holding its first reunion since the war. There are a lot of Westcotts in Michigan. * * The 13th annual dinner-meeting of the Greater New York Chapter will be held as usual, on the Saturday evening nearest January 12th, 1947. The exact date is January 11th. More particulars in the Quarterly for December. A number of new faces are expected at the dinner. The new Board of Directors will meet that afternoon.

IN MEMORIAM - Melvin DeVer Westcott (A-339), brother of our member Mae Minita Westcott Trainor (Mrs. George W.), died July 14, 1946, in Chicago after a long illness. He was a member of Chippilly Post, American Legion, which organization conducted the funeral. The sympathy of the Society is extended to the sister and to the mother, Mrs. Melvin D. Bennett, and nephew, Westcott Trainor, both members of the Society.

* * Miss Jennie Maria Westcott (A-234), greatly esteemed charter member of the Society, died August 12, 1946, at her old home in West Warwick, Rhode Island. Her grand-parents were John and Elizabeth (Rice) Westcott. About 1830, they settled on the old Rice homestead-farm and the locality then became known as "Westcott". It is still so indicated on the maps. The Society deeply mourn the passing of Miss Westcott.

NORTHERN N. Y. CHAPTER REUNION - Twenty-seven of the Westcott kin and friends journeyed on August 17th to Selkirk State Park on the Scenic Highway some twelve miles south of "Westcott Beach", where so many of the family reunions were held in the past and which is now being developed into another State Park. Mrs. Waugh, Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Witzel were appointed a committee to see what might be done to place a memorial placque at "Westcott Beach." Mrs. George H. Westcott, or "Tillie," as she is so well remembered, was present and pleased that her late husband and owner of "Westcott Beach" should be so honored. The old officers were re-elected - Mrs. Albert Fowler, President; Mrs. Raymond C. Turner, vice-president; Mrs. Ellen Witzel secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Dorothy Coon, assistant; Mrs. Dennis J. Mullin, chaplain. Among those present were Dr. and Mrs. Allan F. Westcott, Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Waugh and Mrs. Raymond C. Turner, who had returned home earlier in the week from the National Family Celebration in Rhode Island; Mrs. George H. Westcott, already mentioned; Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Westcott, Mrs. Fred Westcott, Mr. and Mrs. Arbie Pickens and mother, Mrs. Ellen Witzel, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Coon and son.

NEW MEMBERS - National Secretary Mrs. Dorothy Potter reports the following new members, to whom a cordial welcome is extended by the Society. (*Indicates members re-instated.)

- *51 Mr. and Mrs. Milton Gregory Dexter, Belmont, Mass.
- *121 Mr. and Mrs. Theron Burke Westcott, Philadelphia, Penna.
- 332 Mr. and Mrs. Alpheus Sprague Place, Providence, R. I.
- 333 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Alexander McGill, Bath, N.Y.
- 334 Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Aylesworth Shippee, Cranston, R. I.
- 335 Mr. and Mrs. Westcote Herreshoff Cheseborough, Providence, R. I.
- 336 Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Bassett, Providence, R. I.
- 337 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wilmarth Westcott, Jr., Edgewood, R. I.
- 338 Mrs. Maude Colwell, Riverside, R. I.

ONLY THREE MORE - Three to go and then there'll be no more. The supply of Westcott Genealogy, Vol. II, 1939, is nearly exhausted. A new edition will not be printed. Hence, if you expect to have a copy, be safe and order it now. Vol. I, 1932, can be supplied for some time.

CENTRAL N. Y. CHAPTER TO REUNIONIZE - President Harvey L. Westcott has announced that a basket picnic of the members of the first Chapter of the Society will be held Sunday, Sept. 8th, at his home in Unadilla, N. Y. This notice was received just as "The Quarterly" was about to be issued.

WESTCOTTS DON'T MOVE - Over one hundred notices of the family Celebration in Rhode Island were mailed to addresses eight to fifteen years old. Only two copies were returned marked "removed." It is evident that Westcotts like it where they are.

POSTPONED - While it was planned to publish a membership roster of the Society in "The Quarterly" for December next, it has been decided to postpone the publication until the issue for next March. This seems advisable because at the end of each year changes in the roster are made necessary. As these changes are not final until the following January 31st, an authenticated roster for 1947 is not possible until that date. Therefore, it is planned to publish a revised and up-to-date roster in "The Quarterly" for March next.