

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. Ralph D. Trismen, 457 The Fenway, Rivers Edge, N. J.

September, 1948

"Know Your Kindred Better"

Vol. IV, No. 59

ORDER SOON--To eat at the Westcott banquet in New York Oct. 2nd, mail your reservations not later than Sept. 28th.

President Westcott Urges Action.

As the new President of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America I feel not only deeply honored but also deeply concerned for the future welfare and progress of the Society. This welfare and progress can be assured only if each and every member contributes in at least two ways: First, by making a real effort to attend not only the gatherings of his own local Chapter but those of other chapters and of the National Society. Second, by doing his best to bring in new members. We need young blood! We should be able to make our Westcott Society one of strongest and most flourishing of the many family organizations which not only help to maintain our best national traditions but also do much to strengthen our national life. Our new officers can accomplish little without the warm support of ALL our members, young and old. For this we make our appeal. And as a first opportunity, remember the next dinner of the Greater New York Chapter on October 2nd --always a most delightful affair! -- Dr. Allan F. Westcott.

THE 7th BIENNIAL CELEBRATION AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS.

Members of the Society who haven't attended one of the biennial family celebrations, can hardly realize the enjoyment they miss. This is particularly true for those who failed to attend the 7th Biennial Commemorative Celebration in old historic Johnstown in the Mohawk Valley last July.

The weather was ideal, the Hotel Johnstown was a gem for the gathering and Johnstown proved a delight with its wealth of historical incidents in the life and activities of Sir William Johnson, for whom the city was named. A printed program was mailed to all members with "The Westcott Quarterly" for June and the various events were carried out in detail with some added features.

There were forty in attendance, which considering the fact that with one exception, the nearest member lived more than fifty miles away. Friday evening was passed on the broad veranda of the hotel and many old and new acquaintances were made.

The Celebration proper began Saturday morning when ten cars carried the group to the many points of interest, including the grave of Sir William Johnson and Johnson Hall which he built in 1762 and where he died while counciling with the Indians in 1774. The old Mansion has been wonderfully preserved and is an intensely interesting exhibit of architecture in his day. One of the two stone forts flanking the mansion still stands, a grim reminder of the days when the savages were more numerous than the white settlers.

The Memorial Service

After luncheon, the group assembled for a memorial service, commemorating the founder of the family, Stukely Westcott, 1592-1677, and his descendants now deceased. The impressive service was addressed by Mrs. Angie Frelick Waugh of Fulton, N. Y. The report of the Secretary named six members who passed away since the Celebration at Providence in 1946. A silent prayer followed. President Leslie P. Westcott presided.

The Business Meeting

After a short recess, the biennial business meeting of the Society followed, with President Westcott in the chair. Reports of the officers showed the Society in a sound, flourishing condition. There was some discussion and suggestions relative to when and where in 1950 the eighth biennial celebration should be held. The decision was left for the directors to decide at their annual meeting at New York City in October. Officers for 1948-9-50 were elected as follows: For President--Dr. Allan F. Westcott, Maryland. For First Vice-President--Dr. George Dana Pickens, N. Y. For Second Vice-President--Mrs. Ira J. Emery, Ohio. For Chaplain--William Mar Westcott, Rhode Island. For Registrar--Mrs. Adelbert N. Potter, New Jersey. For Historian--Mrs. Wells S. Baker, N. Y. For Secretary--Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, N. J. For Treasurer--Mrs. Edward R. Marroquin, N. J. For the Board of Directors--The 8 elective officers, the 4 past-presidents, Joseph Rogers Westcott, N. Y., Dr. Leo E. Westcott, Mich., Dr. P. Howard Westcott, N. J. and Leslie P. Westcott, R. I., and three directors at large--Roscoe L. Whitman, N. J., Miss Mary Ella Stafford, Illinois, and Mrs. Michael F. Tretola, N. Y.

The Banquet

After a busy day, the group filed into the banquet hall in the evening bent on enjoying the good turkey dinner provided by Mr. Fred H. Ramsey, vice-president and manager of the Hotel Johnstown. It was one of those occasions only too rare in the history of the Society. Mrs. Charles S. Price of Clayville, N. Y., led in singing several songs during the dinner. After ice cream and coffee, chairs were pushed back and the group settled down to hear the two addresses that followed. Retiring-President Leslie Westcott introduced the first speaker, Mr. John T. Morrison, president of the Johnstown Historical Society, who traced the life and activities of Sir William Johnson during his residence in Johnstown. His address was intensely interesting and illuminating. An address followed by Dr. Allan F. Westcott of Annapolis, Md., and Alexandria Bay, N. Y. Having been elected President of the Society in the afternoon, the future of the Society was uppermost in his remarks. He counseled those present to loyally support the Society by obtaining new members and by impressing on the minds of known descendants of Stukely Westcott the facts of their rich heritage. The Rev. Walter O'Grady of Johnstown, pronounced the benediction, and then came a surprise number not on the program. Through the courtesy of Mr. Michael F. Tretola of Gloversville, whose wife was local chairman of the Celebration, the famous moving picture, "Drums Along the Mohawk," was shown. The picture was regarded as a fitting climax to the Celebration.

Those At the Banquet

Around the banquet table were Dr. and Mrs. Allan F. Westcott of Annapolis, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Leslie P. Westcott of Providence, Mr. and Mrs. Coulman C. Westcott of Bomeseen, Vt., William Mar Westcott and Mr. and Mrs. Norman M. Westcott of Providence, Joseph R. Westcott of Binghamton, N. Y., Mrs. A. R. Krause and Miss Mary Ella Stafford of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Tretola and son Michael III, of Gloversville, Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Marroquin of Hackensack, N. Y., Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen of Rivers Edge, N. J., Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Waugh of Fulton, N. Y.,

Mrs. Charles McGill of Bath, N. Y., Mr. Nathan N. Wilkins of Hoosick Falls, N. Y., Mrs. Wells S. Baker of Buskirk, N. Y., Dr. and Mrs. George Dana Pitkins of Arcade, N. Y., Rev. Walter O'Grady of Johnstown, Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert Niles Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe L. Whitman and Mrs. Eva Kline Pomeroy of Westfield, N. J., Mrs. Chester W. DeMond of White Plains, N. Y., Mrs. Sarah C. Killiam of Providence, Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Price and three guests of Clayville, N. Y., and John F. Morrison of Johnstown.

The following registered to attend the Celebration, but later found it impossible to be present and sent regrets: Col. and Mrs. Ira J. Emery, Cleveland; Dr. and Mrs. Leo E. Westcott, Kalamazoo; Mrs. Joseph S. Martin, Binghamton; Mrs. Mabel W. Bishop and Mrs. Frank Shippy, Utica; Mrs. Raymond C. Turner, Oswego; Mrs. George W. Westcott and Mrs. Wayne Ebert, Sumner, Iowa; and Dr. F. Howard Westcott, N. Y. City. Others who sent regrets: Mrs. and Mrs. William Sharpe and Miss Florence A. Westcott, Old Greenwich, Conn.; the Misses Ethel and Florence Earll Clarke, N.Y. City, and Mr. and Mrs. Chester W. Westcott, Dumont, N. J.

WESTCOTTS WILL EAT OCT. 2nd—The 15th annual dinner-meeting of the Greater N.Y. Chapter will be held at the 5th Ave. Hotel, corner 5th Ave. and West 9th St., New York City, on Saturday evening, Oct. 2nd. The annual dinners are always enjoyable and usually are attended by from fifty to sixty people, some coming a long distance. The recently elected President of the National Society Dr. Allan F. Westcott and his wife, are expected to come down from their Summer camp in the Thousand Islands. There will be the usual informal reception in the lounge of the hotel from 6 to 7 P.M. Following the dinner vocal chords will be exercised in group singing and short addresses. Reservations accompanied by checks, should be mailed not later than Sept. 28th to the Treasurer, Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, 457 The Fenway, Rivers Edge, N. H. The Dinner will be \$3.00.

OUR NEW MEMBERS—The new National Secretary Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, 457 The Fenway, Rivers Edge, N. J., announces the following new members, to whom a hearty welcome to the Society is extended:

- 372 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jacob Woods, Syracuse, N. Y.
- 373 Wobb Westcott Wilder, Johnson, R. I.
- 374 Miss Susan Elmina Robinson, Scio, Allegany Co., N. Y.

RESIGNED—Our member Frank E. Westcott of Gary, Ind., has resigned after many years as advertising manager of the Gary Post-Tribune. However, he will remain with the newspaper in an advisory capacity. Congratulations.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS—The first meeting of the new Board of Directors to be held in New York City on October 2nd, will have at least, two questions to consider and decide. One of the questions is when and where in 1950 the 8th biennial celebration will be held. If you have a suggestion send it to the new National Secretary Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, 457 The Fenway, Rivers Edge, N. J. The other question is to decide upon a committee to compile and mail The Westcott Family Quarterly, beginning with the issue for December next. Mr. Whitman who has been editor of The Quarterly since it was started in March, 1934, has resigned from further activities for the Society but will serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

NEWS OF THE CHAPTERS--Central N. Y. Chapter No. 1 held a reunion and picnic in Fairy Spring Park on Lake Otsego, near Cooperstown. Rhode Island Chapter No. 2 held a reunion and supper at "The Breezes", Manville. Greater N. Y. Chapter No. 3 will have its annual dinner-meeting at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, N. Y. City, next month. Northern N. Y. Chapter No. 4, held a reunion and picnic at "Westcott Beech." Vermont Chapter No. 5 held a reunion and picnic at Indlewild Park on Lake Saint Catherine. Southern Michigan Chapter No. 6 held a reunion and picnic. No report from Chapters Nos. 7 and 8.

SEWING AND KNITTING TAUGHT--In the closing years of the 18th century, teachers were employed in Rhode Island to teach the youngsters "to read, write, sew and knit." Was sewing and knitting for the boys, too?

THE SOCIETY HAS A NEW NATIONAL SECRETARY--At the 7th biennial business meeting of the Society on July 24, 1948, Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen of 457 The Fenway, Rivers Edge, N. J., was elected National Secretary. Mrs. Trismen joined the Society on October 18, 1947, and immediately became one of its most enthusiastic and active members. Before her marriage in 1928, she was Eleanor Louise Westcott, great-great-granddaughter of Arnold and Elizabeth Smith Westcott, who settled in Renselaer County, N. Y., late in the 18th century, coming from Rhode Island (A-355). Eleanor, the members wish you much happiness and success in your new duties.

DIED--Just as this number of The Quarterly was being closed, information was received of the death of William C. Sharpe of Old Greenwich, Conn. He is survived by his widow Pauline Westcott Sharpe, a daughter Priscilla Sharpe, and a sister-in-law Florence A. Westcott. The sympathy of the members of this Society is extended to them.

THE WESTCOTTS OF MILFORD, N. Y.--In August, 1933, the Westcotts of Milford, N. Y., took two steps of which they should feel justly proud. Most worthy was their determination to reclaim an old cemetery at Milford Center where their settling forefathers were buried in the early years of the 19th century. Bushes and vines had grown during the years almost obliterating the sacred acre as a cemetery. An endowment fund was proposed. This fund now amounts to within \$140.00 of the \$2,000 goal and assures reasonably good care of the cemetery in the future. Furthermore, they proposed a national society of the Westcott family and appointed a committee to bring it about. A dinner-meeting in New York followed in January, 1934 when the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants was organized with Dr. Allan F. Westcott of Maryland, its first president.