

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, River Edge, N. J.

March, 1950

"Know Your Kindred Better"

Vol. XVII, No. 65

West and East Westcotts to Meet at Cleveland in July

The 8th National Biennial Commemorative Celebration of the members of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants is booked for Cleveland, Ohio, for Friday (evening), July 14, Saturday, July 15, and Sunday, July 16. All Westcott descendants and their families and friends are invited to join in this gala occasion. Ideal "Westcott Weather" in July. Why not? Every Westcott celebration has had ideal weather.

The Mayor of Cleveland, through our member, Mrs. Ira J. Emery of that City, extended a very cordial invitation to the Society to hold its next reunion in Cleveland. This invitation was accepted by our Board of Directors and a committee comprising Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, Mrs. Edward R. Marroquin and Roscoe L. Whitman was appointed to advise Mrs. Emery of the decision.

The Society has never held its biennial gatherings west of eastern New York State, so it is felt this will be a happy opportunity for Westcotts to gather at this mid-way point and meet for the first time their kindred living in far separated communities.

Our celebrations have all been held in places settled in the 18th century or before. Although far removed from the early settlements in the East, Cleveland was first settled in 1796. It was named in honor of General Moses Cleveland, a native of Connecticut, under whose charge the first surveys were made.

The celebration headquarters will be at the Wade Park Manor. This hotel is some seven or eight miles from the busy downtown section, and is located in the beautiful park section in the University Circle area. In this area are such cultural institutions as the Cleveland Museum of Art, Severance Hall, the fine Arts Gardens, Western Reserve University, Case Institute of Technology and the Western Reserve Historical Museum, where of course, the two Westcott Genealogies are on file.

Mrs. Emery, whose address is 1829 Allendale Ave., East Cleveland, has kindly consented to be the local chairman. Her interest and enthusiasm assures a delightful gathering. Detailed information will be given in the Westcott Family Quarterly for June. WATCH FOR IT!

NEW MEMBERS -- National Secretary, Eleanor Trismen, announces with a cordial welcome the following new member:

#383 - Mr. & Mrs. Ashley Prince Westcott of Hyde Park, Mass.

BIRTHS: -- Two great-grandchildren of our Alabama member, Mrs. Ida E. Westcott Craft:

Catherine Fontaine, b-June 17, 1944

Jane Kearfoot Fontaine, b-May 31, 1947

Also, the ninth grandchild to our President and Mrs. Allan Westcott:

Margaret Emily Griffin, b-December 15, 1949, whose parents are William F. and Emily (Westcott) Griffin of Cuba.

MARRIAGE: -- A niece of Mrs. Albert Fowler of Hastings, New York, and daughter of Mr. Herbert J. and Emma Westcott of Dexter, Jefferson County, New York: Eleanor Westcott to Robert Diefendorf on June 18, 1949. Robert is the son of Clarence Diefendorf and the late Myrtle Diefendorf of Perch River, New York.

DEATHS: -- Mrs. Mary A. MacFarland, d-October 1949

Mrs. Leander K. Carr, d-November 7, 1949

Mrs. Frank Shippy d-December 7, 1949

To the families of these Westcott members, the sincere sympathy of the Society is extended.

YOUR SECRETARY REPORTS: that promptness in sending your 1950 dues is very much appreciated. You may wish to know how many active members there are in the Society as of January 31, 1950. There were 201 members, a loss of eight from our January 31, 1949 roster which numbered 209. Will the 16 members who have not paid their 1949 dues kindly remit, then we will have 217 in our Society, or a gain of eight.

ALSO: Our Society needs more members, so may our cousins always be on the look out for new members.

ALSO: Our scrapbook, or album, begins to shape up very well, so keep sending stories and clippings of interest to your Secretary. You may see it in Cleveland.

ALSO: Please start saving your pennies for our fun at the Cleveland gathering in July, only five months away.

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT: dated January 25, 1950. "Dear Eleanor: Elizabeth and I hope you are having a pleasant winter, and that the Quarterly is not giving you too much trouble. We came here from Paris early in September, after spending three days in Asigon, and have been in Nice most of the time since then, though we spent one week in a very enjoyable motor-bus trip to Rome, December 28 to January 5th.

When we returned to Nice, we found waiting for us the news of the arrival of our ninth grandchild, Margaret Emily Griffin.

Just for the fun of it, I enclose another item from the NICE MATIN, indicating that we came out second in a bridge tournament last Saturday night. We are not telling how many times we have come out near the bottom.

After the carnival at Nice, in February, we shall probably move further West along the coast. We sail from Marseilles on March 25 (American Export Lines) but letters addressed to Dr. Allan F. Westcott, % American Express Co., Nice, France, will reach us. As ever, Allan Westcott. "

ILLINOIS BIRTHDAY: (A letter from Jennie M. Patton, 80 years young) dated December 19, 1949; "Dear Mrs. Trismen - Thank you for the Westcott Family Quarterly just received. Sister (Ida A. Patton) and I find them very interesting.

The Philharmonic Choral Club surprised me December 9th with a beautiful birthday party. I have belonged to this choral club for twenty-five years, being a charter member.

There was a table in pink and white decorations, a cake with "Happy Birthday, Jennie", and eighty small candles, two rows, forty in each row, around the edge of the cake, "Happy Birthday" on each slice of ice cream, a corsage, a song for me and many good wishes. There was newspaper publicity in the next morning paper with a picture that needed a better looking subject before the camera, local radio notice, that let my friends know I was having a birthday, so, I was swamped with cards, telegrams, telephone calls, flowers and other attentions for a week. Sister gave a turkey dinner with six guests, all long time friends and all over seventy years of age.

We spent Christmas day in Bloomington, Illinois, forty miles east of Peoria, with cousin Alice Paugh Wrench's oldest daughter, Mildred W. Gronemier and family; cousin Alice and John (her husband) and her sister Grace Paugh were there.

Hope to meet you in Cleveland. May many joys be yours in the New Year. Sincerely, Jennie M. & Ida A. Patton."

AN INCIDENT AND A VERY WORTHY LETTER: One day in January, Mr. Frank Brophy postman to your secretary in River Edge, New Jersey, delivered a letter to her. On the front was a return address of Major Byron C. Bussey, Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

"As Mr. Brophy handed the letter to me he said, 'You know, I knew a Lt. Commander, "Jack" Bussey in the service. We both served on the U.S.S. Hyman in the Pacific. Do you suppose he (Major Bussey) is any relation to him?' I asked a few details and said I would write a note when I sent Major Bussey's membership card back to him. The following letter I received and with the kind permission of our cousin, Major Bussey, I will quote the contents:

"January 19, 1950. Dear Cousins: My son, Lt. Commander John Dale Bussey, served as Engineer Officer on the "Fighting" ship, U.S.S. Hyman, a destroyer, in the Battle of Okinawa.

In this battle, off the island of Iwo Jima, the Hyman was attacked by 7 Kamikaze (suicide) planes. Six planes were shot down by the Hyman gunners. The seventh dove into the ship. Through the deck and into the engine room crew, flooding the forward engine room. Although wounded, Lt. Commander Bussey and crew abandoned the forward engine room, and kept the ship under way with the aft engine.

Fires on the top deck then exploded one of the Hyman's deck torpedoes, blowing away most of the top deck stacks and super structure, killing more of the crew.

The ship never lost speed and eventually reached Mare Island Navy Yard for repairs, and was proceeding toward Japan, after repairs, when Japan quit.

Lt. Bussey was removed to a hospital ship on Saipan, was home in Pawtucket on convalescent leave and returned to the ship at Mare Island, had started west again for more when war ended.

Lt. Bussey has the Navy citation for heroism in this action, Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medals. Yours very truly, Major Byron C. Bussey."

P. S. He, of course, knows Mr. Brophy who is president of the U.S.S. Hyman Association. The object of the association is the education of children of men killed on the ship. B. C. B.

"After reading this vivid description of that battle, do you feel as I do, that maybe the war could not have been won without the hundreds of brave men, descendants of our brave Westcott ancestors.

Your secretary, Eleanor Trismen."

REMEMBER: On to CLEVELAND in JULY; Make a note of the dates; July 14, 15 and 16, 1950. That's Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday.

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES!!