

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.

December, 1950

"Know Your Kindred Better"

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NOTES OF THE CHAPTERS--Greater New York Chapter, No. 3---Every year for 17 years, members of the Westcott family have gathered in New York for a dinner meeting. Perhaps it cannot be said that any one of these gatherings has been more enjoyed by the kinfolk than the preceding ones, but it can be said that the one on October 7th last, was a real demonstration of how people who inherit the blood of mutual ancestors who came to America when it was little more than a wilderness can get together and enjoy the thrill of blood ties. Previous to the dinner the group renewed old cousinly friendships for an hour. After a fine dinner, coffee cups were pushed aside and a meeting followed. Tables were nicely decorated in the Society's traditional red and silver. The program following included an interesting account of the travels in Europe of Dr. Allan F. Westcott, past president of the National Society. It was indeed interesting. The retiring President of the chapter, James R. Morris, presided. He had a "quiz" program that was new and interesting. The new officers were elected, Mr. Samuel Dorfler, President and Mrs. Samuel Dorfler, Secretary-Treasurer, both of 11 Ogden Road, West Islip, Long Island, New York. Mrs. Dorfler wishes to state that she would like to receive dues of members not present at the dinner. It was voted to make the \$2.00 a year for husband and wife and \$1.00 for each single member.

Central N. Y. Chapter, No. 1, held its annual reunion August 17th at Gilbert Lake State Park, near Oneonta, N. Y., (as briefly mentioned in the September Quarterly). Despite disagreeably cold weather, thirty-one adults and eight children were present. Officers elected were: President, Leo Packer; Vice-President, Walter Westcott; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Westcott. Morris Townsend was placed in charge of the upkeep of the cemetery at Milford Center where many of the pioneers of the Westcott family are buried. This old cemetery has been endowed by the Chapter, which voted to increase the endowment fund which is now in excess of \$2,000. The Mausoleum of the late Munroe Westcott is to have special repairs. Mr. Westcott provided Oneonta with a town-clock which has been tolling the hours for more than seventy years.

Vermont Chapter, No. 5, this chapter met at Idlewild Park, Lake St. Catherine on Sunday, August 20, 1950. After the picnic lunch, served at 1 P. M., a program was given which included musical numbers by Franklin Reed, Phyllis and Velma Jean Wescott and the Jay family. Songs were sung by Kathleen Roberts, aged 3 years, daughter of members Mr. and Mrs. David Roberts. The election of officers took place and are as follows; Mrs. Hudson Reed of East Poultney, Vermont, President; Archibald Drake of Granville, New York, Vice-President; Mrs. David Roberts of Whitehall, New York, Secretary; Nathan H. Williams of Buskirk, New York, Treasurer.

(Note: Will Chapters, #2, Rhode Island; #4, Northern New York; #7, Chicagoland; #8, Abington, Pa. kindly send reunion reports to Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, National Secretary.)

NEW MEMBERS--National Secretary Mrs. Eleanor Trismen welcomes to our Society.

- #396-Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Westcott Drake, of Northfield, Minnesota.
- #397-Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Goodell, of Oberlin, Ohio.
- #A-27-Mrs. George A. Greene, of Parkland, Penna.

DEATHS--With apologies to the Whitman family. Due to an error in printing our September Quarterly, the death of Dear Eva Kline Pomeroy, sister of Mrs. Whitman, was left out. It is with deep regret that this occurred. So many of us will have lasting memories of Mrs. Pomeroy. She was a cheerful guest at our functions. The day after the Whitman's and Mrs. Pomeroy arrived home from Cleveland last July she passed away very suddenly at the Whitman home, where she had lived for some years. Her last words with me were spoken at the Historical Society in Cleveland just before our gathering dispersed. She was telling me about a desk and a cane that she had possessed belonging to George Washington.

Your Secretary.

PASSING OF "AUNT" EVA--The passing of Mrs. Eva Kline Pomeroy at the home in Westfield, N. J., of her sister, Mrs. Roscoe L. Whitman, the day following their return from the Westcott gathering in Cleveland, July 18th, was sudden and entirely unexpected. Mrs. Pomeroy had attended many of the National and Chapter reunions and was sincerely loved by Westcotts and other non-members of the Society. She was always happy and companionable and was generally called "Aunt Eva". She was deeply missed at the family dinner in New York on October 7th, as she will be at future family gatherings. This tribute to her has been written in fond remembrance by her brother-in-law.

DIED--Luly Westcott Isemen, formerly of Middletown, N. Y., died August 17, 1950 at Fair Haven, Vermont, her native home.

BIRTH--A grandson, Stephen Bridges, has been the proud possession of Dr. Randall and Rosemary Wescott of Wilmette, Illinois, since the day of the family meeting in Cleveland. Congratulations to the parents and grandparents.

THINGS DECIDED IN CLEVELAND

First--that all Chapter Presidents stress the need to their own group of members for an increase in their respective memberships. In order to do this, plan special programs at their gatherings for the young people. Remember they are the nucleus of future members. We are all proud of our Westcott heritage and we must interest our young people to perpetuate our Society, both National and local.

Second--need for revision of Roster of World War II. Please send all data that is, name, capacity, theatre, concerning your Westcott hero to your Secretary, Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, 457 The Fenway, River Edge, N. J.

SEPARATE LITTLE ITEM--1952 Celebration- The Directors of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants, at their annual meeting on October 7, 1950 considered a place to hold the 9th Biennial Celebration but reached no final decision. At the celebration in Cleveland, Ohio last July, favorable mention was made of Trenton and Historic Washington Crossing, or near by in New Jersey. The state is so replete in Colonial and Revolutionary history, it seems strange that it has not been considered before. It was decided that a committee should visit Trenton, Washington Crossing and also near by Valley Forge and Princeton, then report to the Directors at their next meeting in October 1951. Suggestions from members are earnestly requested. Send your suggestions to National Secretary, Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, 457 The Fenway, River Edge New Jersey.

CONGRATULATIONS!--Mrs. Miller, a member from Oregon and sister of our dear late Pliny Westcott of Brooklyn, will be 82 years young on the 26th of December. May she look forward to many more pleasant years!

Also congratulations to our dear Roscoe Whitman, who started his 82nd year last September 25th. He seems very well since his hospital ordeal last year.

NEWS ITEM from The Ashley Westcotts of Mass.-quoting from a letter received just a little too late for our September Quarterly.

Dear Mrs. Trismen,

"This is a reward for a production Quota already made by the writer on Timken Oil Burner Sales. All expenses are paid for wife, Gladys, and myself to Bermuda in November. We expect to be real spoiled people when we return. This is the third consecutive year that yours truly has been on similar sales quota trips as high man. Last year we had a week at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach and in 1948 I went in swimming in December in the Gulf of Mexico during our week in Biloxi, Miss. and New Orleans. Swimming is, incidentally, our most desirable sport and relaxation.

I feel like a kid at a birthday winning prizes and trips but it is part of a salesman's life.

Very truly yours,
Ashley P. Westcott.

GRACE PAUGH from Illinois-A sample of the letters we like to receive - Miss Paugh, a descendant of the first Richard, is a Librarian at De Land, Illinois.

August 10, 1950

Dear Cousin Eleanor,

I expect you are back from your fishing trip by this time, so I'll drop you a few lines to thank you again for the nice time we had in Cleveland. I know that you had a lot to do with it going off smoothly.

We arrived home safely on Thursday evening. After we left you at the hotel we went to cousin Marion Finch's (also at Convention) home for a backyard picnic supper and an evening by the lake. On Monday, I attended the American Library Association Meeting. Monday evening William and wife, Emma May, entertained our group for dinner.

As we had been together for lunch Saturday and Sunday and had sat together Saturday evening (National Society Banquet) we really felt as if Grandma Maria Jane's descendants had really had a reunion.

We drove to Anderson on Tuesday from Cleveland, rested Wednesday and came on Thursday. Two small nephews came with us. Then the next Sunday, we had our local reunion. All but three of our twelve first cousins were present. Mary Finch (also at National Society Banquet) and her son Charles and wife came and we brought Lola Paugh (at Convention, too) home with us. We were all pretty tired.

While in Cleveland, lightning ran in on the wires at Jennie and Ida's but there was fortunately no fire.

I've been busy since then, mowing, as the grass was too, too high for comfort. The garden was full of weeds and still is, but I have enough of them down to find ripe tomatoes and other vegetables. Also I've harvested my onion crop (3 rows) and potatoes (2 rows) and have been trying to get back to my painting. It's slow work but I may get it done yet! Then I won't have to paper or paint on the inside for a year or two. (I hope!)

Of course I never run out of work at the Library! I have 80 children on the summer reading chart. In June and July they had read about 1500 books.

Did you ever notice that Stephen A. (Arnold) Douglas was a Stukely Westcott descendant? I discovered that quite by accident. You know the Douglass' stayed overnight in the home of some Bement, Illinois people and it was there that he and Lincoln planned their debate itinerary. Lincoln was on his way to Monticello on horseback and just outside of town, met the Bryants and Douglass' in a carriage going to Bement. A marker shows where they met. They made arrangements to meet at Bryants' home that night. Mr. Bryant knew that one of the two would be a future President so he marked the chairs on which each sat. When Lincoln was elected he draped a flag over the back of the chair and when Lincoln was assassinated, he tied crepe on it and it was never removed. Bryant's granddaughter, Mrs. Lily Sprague, (in the 1920's) had the little house (which had been moved) put back on their grounds and the one room refurnished as nearly as possible like it was when her grandparents lived there. The furniture was re-upholstered except the one chair which is in a glass case, flag, crepe and all. A couple of years ago, she turned it over to the state. I taught in Bement for ten and one half years and took my pupils each year to see it. Bement is seventeen miles from here. Little did I dream then that "The Little Giant" was a far removed kin.

The more I look into Volume I, the more astonished I am that one person could track down as many members of a family as Mr. Whitman has. Is Volume II as large? (Yes, dear Grace, it is! Signed, your Secretary.)

You'll be worn out reading this so I'd better stop. Say "Hi" to Bruce for me. (Bruce being son of Secretary.)

As ever,
Grace"

INTERESTING GUESTS--The President of the Society, Mrs. Nettie Westcott Emery, had for guests in their home at East Cleveland, Ohio, on October 15, Attorney Frank A. Quail of Cleveland, and his sister, Mrs. Marshall and Mildred Quail, their niece, from Topeka, Kansas. They are descendants of Captain John Wescott of New Jersey and Virginia, who was with General Washington in 1776 when he crossed the Delaware. He stood back of the flag during the crossing.

SOLD OUT--The last copy of Westcott Genealogy, Volume I, was sold. Volume II Genealogy was sold out more than a year ago. No more books of either edition are available.

GLENWAY WESCOTT--For sometime we have wondered when Glenway Wescott, the famous author, has fitted in to our family picture, at last the mystery has been partially solved. In the course of exchanges of letters to a Mr. Lloyd B. Wescott, of Clinton, New Jersey, your secretary found that Glenway was a brother. Both were born in Wisconsin, their father being Bruce Peters Wescott, son of Willet Wescott, son of Samuel S. Wescott, of North Utica or Deerfield, as it was once called. Samuel went to Wisconsin in early 1800, when it was Indian territory. Does anyone of our members know who Samuel S. Wescott's father was?

Lloyd B. Wescott raises pure-bred Guernsey cattle and also Suffolk horses.

Another Wescott loving animals!! True to our family tradition!

REMINDER TO MEMBERS

1. More letters to print in our Quarterly! Also scrapbook material!
 2. More members!
 3. Data of World War II, of Westcott heroes.
 4. List of officers of local chapters.
 5. Use quarterly to advertise your local chapter gatherings.
 6. Write your reactions to the Quarterly.
 7. But not least! Send your 1951 dues.
(Your slip is enclosed, to the members who have not paid)
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A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!