

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 75¢ yearly. Secretary: Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, 457 The Fenway, River Edge, N. J.

December, 1952

"Know Your Kindred Better"

Vol. XIX No. 76

CHAPTER NEWS - Greater New York Chapter No. 3---Happy hours were spent at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on October 4th when the Greater New York Chapter met for their annual dinner. Many familiar faces were there including Roscoe Whitman our founder and his wife, Susan.

Many dear cousins who usually attend were not able to be present, some of whom sent notes of regret. Among these were Dr. and Mrs. Allan F. Westcott of Alexandria Bay, Mildred Noxon and her mother, both of Brooklyn and Joseph Westcott and his sister, Mrs. Martin of Binghamton.

The head table was decorated with our traditional red candles. Mrs. John Novak of Bergenfield, New Jersey made Puritan Dolls for the centerpiece. A scale model of a 17th Century ship made the setting complete.

Sam Dorfler, President of the Greater New York Chapter presided. He introduced a guest speaker, Miss Lois Hunter, a member of the Shinnecock Indian tribe of Long Island.

The new officers elected for 1952-1953 are:

President - Dr. F. Howard Westcott

Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. F. Howard Westcott, both of
Tenafly, New Jersey.

NEW MEMBERS - Congratulations from the Society!

#420 - Mrs. Harriet E. Davenport Corbett, of Mount Vernon, N. Y.
#421 - Mrs. Noble J. Kiernan, of Marblehead, Mass.

BIRTHS - Congratulations!

Gregory Wayne Ebert, born April 23, 1952, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ebert of Clarion, Iowa.

Martha Westcott, born October 24, 1952, in New York City, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Driver, Jr. of New York.

WITH APOLOGIES---In regard to the list of cousins who were not able to be present at the 9th Biennial gathering in Cooperstown, New York, our former Vice-President's telegram of regrets was mislaid.

Quote, "Deeply regret cannot be with you. Mother has been critically ill over a month, now is improving. We both remember our delightful time in Cleveland, and wish we could be with you in Cooperstown. Our very best wishes for a wonderful celebration and kindest regards to all the clan." Signed, Minita Westcott Trainor

The clan missed you and your mother very much at Cooperstown. Do hope you will be able to come to the 1954 gathering. Secretary.

WELLFLEET, MASS.---"Dear Cousin, I certainly appreciate the honor confirmed on me by the Society in making me an honorary member. I missed being with the members at their meeting in Cooperstown. I hope to be able to attend the next meeting and thank the Society for me. Sincerely, Cousin, William Marr Westcott."
(Former Chaplain)

NEED FOR SOCIETY PRAYERS FOR OUR OLDEST MEMBER---November 6th
"Dear Mrs. Trismen, Mother has been critically ill for the past two months and has wondered what her friends might think about not hearing from her of late. I found your name in her address book and thought I would advise you of her condition. Her having been such an avid correspondent and enjoying her cards and letters from her friends I assure you that a card or note will give her a great boost. Respectfully, Howard Westcott Craft, son of Ida E. Craft."

Ida E. Craft was 95 years old on September 8th last.
Her address is: 2916 Mount Brook Parkway,
Birmingham 9, Alabama

GUN COLLECTION---If you are ever in the vicinity of Sumner, Iowa, be sure to visit Stanley Westcott's home a mile south of Sumner on the Pennington Road. On September 4th in the Sumner Gazette there was a large article about the gun shop that Stanley and his wife, "Ginny", have established.

AMOS WESTCOTT, D. D. S.---Article in Troy Record July 6th, 1952
"R.P.I." Will be Honored at Chicago--In recognition of the fact that it conferred the first engineering degree in any English-speaking country, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute will be singularly honored during the Centennial of Engineering program in Chicago. As the birthplace of engineering as a profession, Rensselaer is the only college selected to take a direct part in the Centennial program, the principal object of which is to celebrate the formation

in 1852 of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the first society of engineers in the United States. Sixty-one technical societies are joining in the celebration in Chicago during August and September.

A class of four--William Clement, Jacob Eddy, Edward Suffern and Amos Westcott received the first degrees at Rensselaer. Stephen Van Rensselaer, founder, remarked that the school had been established for "the application of science to the common purposes of life."

Our former Historian after reading article wrote to Dr. Ray Palmer Baker, c/o Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, at Troy, New York to inquire about Amos Westcott who was one of the four to receive first degrees at the Institute. Dr. Baker replied to Mrs. Baker on August 12, 1952 as follows--"According to the records of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Amos Westcott was born in Truxton, Cortland County, in New York about 1814, the youngest son of Gardner Westcott. Like many young men of his day, he taught school in the winter and studied during the summer. After being graduated in 1835, he began the study of medicine at the Albany Medical College, from which he was graduated. After 1845 he devoted himself to the practice of dentistry in which profession he attained distinction. He was one of the founders of The American Journal of Dental Science and the first president of the New York State Dental Society. He died in Syracuse, New York about 1874." Sincerely, Ray P. Baker.

Refer to Volume I, page 408 of Westcott Genealogy.

You will note the above Amos was father of Edward Noyes Westcott who wrote "David Harem".

"GRANDMA MOSES"---The following article was written by our cousin, the former National Historian of our Society, Mrs. Rachel W. Baker of Buskirk, New York. She wrote this article for the Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine and it was printed in their June 1952 issue. She received permission from Grandma Moses daughter to use it for our Westcott Quarterly. Mrs. Baker is now Consulting-Registrar of her Hoosac-Walloomsac Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution. From 1945-1948 she served as New York State Director of the Daughters of American Revolution.

Grandma Moses became a member of the Hoosac-Walloomsac Chapter, of Daughters of American Revolution in February 1952.

"GRANDMA MOSES"

A great honor came to the members of Hoosac-Walloomsac Chapter, of National Society of Daughters of American Revolution at Hoosick Falls, New York, when on February 1st, 1952, the National Board of Management accepted the application papers of Mrs. Anna Mary Robertson Moses of Eagle Bridge, a neighboring small community a few miles from Hoosick Falls.

The name, "Mrs. Anna Mary Robertson Moses" does not sound too familiar to us who know and love that celebrated little lady, but when we say "Grandma Moses" everyone knows who is meant. Her paintings have taken the country by storm during the past few years.

Two books and many magazine articles, as well as newspaper

stories during the past few years, give a good picture of her life. However, we propose to tell the story of one of her Revolutionary ancestors.

We are indeed fortunate, that one Archibald Robertson emigrated to this country with a brother William who later disappeared. Archibald was a Scotchman who came from Glasgow about 1770, and soon built himself a cabin in Washington County, west of Cambridge. For a few years, he taught school in New England and spent his summers on his farm land. He was a wagon maker by trade, and built the first wagon which ran over the Cambridge Turnpike. His only tools were an ax and a saw. He owned a team of oxen whom he trained to haul this wagon. He became noted as a wagon maker, and in later years, it was said that his wagons were the best between Boston and Buffalo.

Grandma says that Archibald was a "little peculiar." He could predict events ahead of his time, and some of his children inherited this trait.

Archibald Robertson was married three times. His first wife was Martha Selfridge of Argyle, New York who died in March of 1795. Martha and Archibald were the parents of seven children. One child, Oliver, had died in 1794. When she died in 1795, she left six children; William Alexander, Alexander L., Martha, Amy, Joel and John A. The eldest was only twelve years of age; the youngest, a mere infant, who probably died soon. No doubt Archibald found it difficult to care for his motherless children, for we find that he was married a second time very soon, to Rebecca Carswell who died in 1799, leaving two more children, Asa and Archibald. Again he married, and from this marriage to Elizabeth Bishop, six more children were born.

The records of the Protestant Presbyterian Church of Cambridge, New York, give the marriage record of Archibald Robertson and Elizabeth Bishop, both of Cambridge, which took place on 31 March 1801. The births of the five oldest children are not recorded in this record, but start with Joel, son of Martha Selfridge Robertson; continuing with Asa and Archibald, children of Rebecca Carswell, and finally, Zenas, Alvin, Martha, Ebenezer, Abner and Rebecca, children of Elizabeth Bishop. Archibald died in Cambridge on June 18, 1814 and was buried in the old turnpike cemetery south of the village.

Family records give us the date of the birth of Archibald's oldest child, William Alexander Robertson born on May 4, 1786, in the town of Cambridge. However, the date of his marriage to Sarah King, both of Cambridge, is given in the above-mentioned church record, taking place on 12 January 1804. Sarah King born in Cambridge on May 23, 1786 a daughter of Hezekiah King and Mercy Thornton and granddaughter of John King and Elizabeth Fenner.

William Alexander Robertson and Sarah King were the parents of twelve children; the eighth child, born May 23, 1820, was Russell King Robertson. William Alexander died near Blendon, Ohio on August 1, 1838. His wife survived him many years, and died in Cambridge in January of 1872.

Russell King Robertson married September 25, 1856, Margaret Shannahan, who was born January 20, 1840 in Pittstown, Rensselaer

County, New York. Their third child was Anna Mary Robertson born on a farm near Greenwich, New York on September 7, 1860. Grandma's early life is so completely told in her books, that we will not repeat, save to say that romance started for Grandma when she was introduced by her employer to a young man, Thomas Salmon Moses of Hoosick, New York who, on November 9, 1887, became her husband. How they immediately started for Virginia, living there for a number of years, is well known.

Just prior to the battle of Bennington, fought at Walloomsac in New York State, Archibald Robertson was ploughing a field for a neighbor. This field was located on a high hill, where Mary McClellan Hospital now stands in Cambridge Village. He was also acting as a lookout from this high vantage point, from which he could see for miles in all directions. He finally thought he could see a path thru the woods in the direction of Saratoga, which he had not noticed previously, and after making several additional rounds of the field, was sure that his eyes were not deceiving him. Burgoyne's army were cutting down trees, making a path for the oxen to haul their cannon thru the woods. He had a team of exceptionally fine black horses which he finally unhitched from the plow, and after turning one horse loose, he rode the other thru the village notifying the people as he passed that Burgoyne was coming and they should immediately flee to the hills. His path took him down the main road from Cambridge Village to Waite's Corners, a settlement very well known at that time, where he branched off toward St. Croix and on toward Walloomsac, where he met the Bennington boys coming, and joined them in the fight, against the British armies. During the engagement the big black horse was killed by the enemy, while he was fighting with an Indian. No one ever heard of the fate of the horse, which Archibald turned loose in the field.

Reference for the Revolutionary service for this direct ancestor of Grandma Moses--her great grand-father may be found in Robert's, New York in the Revolution, page 131, which shows Archibald Robertson as a private in the 16th Regiment of Albany County Militia commanded by the two Colonels, John Blair and Lewis Van Woort.

Grandma Moses has two other Revolutionary patriot ancestors,--namely, John King who served as a captain of the 14th (Taconia Mountain Company) 1st Berkshire County Regiment, of Massachusetts Militia. His son Hezekiah King, served in the Berkshire County Militia, and was at Ticonderoga. Hezekiah came into the Cambridge valley in 1777, and was the first school teacher in that neighborhood, later well known as "The King Church District." This line gives Grandma her only claim to early New England ancestry.

When Grandma Moses first returned to Eagle Bridge from Virginia, she was told by her mother that she had Revolutionary ancestry and was eligible to join the Daughters of the American Revolution. However, her mother advised her against joining as she felt it would be "too expensive" with the young family to be educated and two farms, one in far-away Virginia, which was not sold for about three years after the return north, and one in Eagle Bridge to be cared for.

As time passed, many other duties, as well as family cares, took up Grandma's time and attention, and she did not think much about joining our Society. But in the fall of 1951 after being invited by several chapters to be their guest and learning more of the purposes

and work of the organization Grandma decided that she would be proud and happy to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. So, when approached by members of Hoosac-Walloomsac Chapter, she very happily consented to have her name proposed for membership.

When asked what she thought about her membership Grandma said "now I have joined and am very proud that I had Revolutionary fighters in my ancestry."

Hoosac-Walloomsac Chapter feels that with Grandma Moses, becoming a member, that it is a fitting climax in their twenty-fifth year of existence, which will be celebrated in the fall of 1952.

Written March 3, 1952, by Mrs. Rachel Wilkins Baker,
R. D. #1, Buskirk, New York.

REMINDER TO MEMBERS: Kindly send following to Secretary.
(Address at top of 1st Page of Quarterly)

1. Items for Quarterly! The success of the Quarterly depends on you.
 2. More Members!
 3. Scrap book items!
 4. News of the Chapters!
 5. Please send dues! (Your dues slip is enclosed.) Promptness is greatly appreciated.
 6. If you have any new babies in your family or some you haven't recorded with our Secretary, will you please fillin The Westcott Family Data and send it back to the Secretary.
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SOCIETY EXTENDS - Greetings for a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
GOOD FORTUNE IN THE COMING YEAR!!!