

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 50¢ yearly. Secretary: Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen, 457 The Fenway, River Edge, N.J.

DECEMBER 1954

"Know Your Kindred Better"

Vol. XXI No. 84

CHAPTER NEWS---Greater New York Chapter No. 3 - About forty cousins enjoyed a most pleasant afternoon on Saturday, September 25, 1954 when the Westcott Clan gathered at a garden party and birthday celebration for our founder, Roscoe L. Whitman at Westfield, New Jersey. It was Roscoe's 85th birthday and cousins came from the eastern states to congratulate him.

The New York Chapter Officers are:

President--Edmund W. Morris of Cranford, New Jersey

Secretary-Treasurer--James R. Morris of New Providence,
New Jersey

Our National Society directors held a meeting previous to the garden party and the following were recommended: to try for more members; to do some research in Warwick, Rhode Island to ascertain the exact spot of Stukely's burial plot; to find out whether our small bronze plaque is still available; to further our research in England to determine names of parents of our first Stukely in America and last but not least to accept the Vermont Chapter's kind invitation to spend our 1956 National Gathering in Vermont at East Poultney.

Vermont Chapter No. 5 - The very active Vermont Chapter held their yearly meeting at the Historic Baptist Meeting House at East Poultney on August 29, 1954. Rachel Baker, Genealogist of her Vermont Chapter asked the members to bring their local records up to date and also to start a scrapbook.

Their 1955 meeting will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wescott near Middletown Springs, Vermont.

The Vermont Chapter Officers are:

President--Mrs. Edna Lewis, R. F. #2, Poultney, Vermont

Vice-President--Mrs. Frances Reed, East Poultney, Vermont

Recording Secretary--Mrs. Pearl Brown, Jerusalem Hill,
Rochester, Vermont

Corresponding Secretary--Mrs. Sadie Roberts, R. D. #2,
Whitehall, New York

Treasurer--Mrs. Guy Wescott, 134 Olive St., Springfield,
Vermont

Historian--Mrs. Phyllis Wescott Reed, East Poultney, Vermont

Genealogist--Mrs. Rachel Baker, Buskirk, New York

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROSCOE---Many cousins wished Roscoe a very pleasant eighty-fifth birthday on September 25, 1954. The following is a letter from Mrs. George Boyle of Gill, Massachusetts, mother of one of our new members. "September 22, 1954, Dear Mr. Whitman; I want to tell you how thankful I am that you founded the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants. I remember my grandmother, Frances Marion (Westcott) Bennett of Cheshire, Massachusetts. As a child I was impressed with her kind, cheerful disposition and I became very much attached to her. Her brother, Ed. Westcott of Nebraska and California visited us several times. Now that my two children are grown they are interested in their family tree and each has a chart started. William H. Boyle has just joined the Westcott Society. Glenna E. Boyle teaches school in Springfield, Massachusetts.

We wish you many happy returns of the day.

Sincerely, Grace M. Boyle, Gill, Massachusetts."

VERMONT CHAPTER INVITATION FOR 1956---The Vermont Chapter has invited the Westcott Clan to spend the 1956 gathering in East Poultney, Vermont area. The National Society is very happy to accept and will look forward to pleasant hours spent in beautiful country and among Westcott cousins. Rachel Baker writes, "We can offer a ride through the lovely Vermont country, a trip through the marble exhibit at Proctor, possibly a trip up Mount Equinox from Manchester, and a delicious old fashioned Vermont meal. Cousins can attend church there in the Old Historic Baptist Church which is a beautiful one." It sounds just wonderful, Rachel.

NEW MEMBERS---Happy Days with our Society!

#441 - Mrs. Florence C. Schaefer, Charleston 3, West Virginia
#442 - Mr. Daniel J. May, 3rd, Chicago 26, Illinois

BIRTH---Congratulations!

Patricia Anne Westcott, born June 18, 1954, daughter of Airman 2/C Ellis R. Westcott, Jr. and Elizabeth C. Westcott, of 972 Newman Avenue, Seekonk, Massachusetts.

DEATH---Our Deep Felt Sympathy!

William Marr Westcott, our honorary chaplain, passed away at his home in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, on September 11, 1954. Members

DEATH---(Continued)

who had known him through the years will miss his companionship. He was a frequent "well-wisher" at the New York Chapter Dinners. He had intended riding over at the Rhode Island gathering this year but due to ill health had sent his regrets at not feeling well enough to attend. We extend our sympathy to his family.

"GET-WELL" MESSAGE---Ethel Clarke writes that her sister, Florence Earll Clarke of 603 West 139th Street, New York City, has been quite ill. In September she was in the hospital for three weeks and is now recuperating at her home. We hope Florence is on the road to good health. Both Ethel and Florence are usually present at the New York Chapter Dinners and they sent a message that they were sorry to miss the birthday party at Mr. Roscoe Whitman's this year.

OUR CENTENARIAN MEMBER---In the New Rochelle, New York paper dated August 20, 1954 there appeared a nice "write up" of our oldest member, Mrs. Harlow Hamlin Stafford, who is one hundred and one years of age. She lives with her great-granddaughter, Mrs. Richard B. Kershaw, who is also an active member of our Society. Grandma Stafford makes her home with the Kershaws at 84 Hillside Avenue, New Rochelle, New York.

Oldest living member of New Rochelle Chapter, of Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Stafford was honored by President Eisenhower and Governor Dewey on the occasion of her 100th birthday last year when they sent messages of congratulations and best wishes.

Our Society hopes Grandma Stafford enjoyed her 101th birthday and that she enjoys many more.

"MEMORIAL ROCK"---Our President's wife, Fran Driver kindly sent the following copy of Reverend Henry Schooley's words on the occasion of placing of the wreath at Stukely Westcott's marker in Warwick, Rhode Island at our 10th Biennial Meeting on August 7th, 1954, quote, "Carl Sandburg in his lovely novel entitled, 'Remembrance Rock' tells how retired Supreme Court Justice, Winton built in the garden of his home what he reverently called, 'Remembrance Rock'. To that hallowed spot Justice Winton was wont to retire, ever so often, to renew his hope and revitalize his faith. When Justice Winton died, his grandson found engraved on that Remembrance Rock these words - 'Nations go down when they forget where they came from, and when they become satisfied with what they are today.' As it is with nations, so is it with families and individuals.

"MEMORIAL ROCK"---(Continued)

It is altogether fitting, therefore, that we should make this annual pilgrimage to the 'Remembrance Rock' of our chief ancestor. This, indeed, will be hallowed ground if we do not forget that our ancestors were and what we, their descendants, should become. In remembrance of our esteemed ancestor, Stukely Westcott, we reverently place on this sacred ground a memorial wreath garlanded with flowers which are symbolical of our thoughts.

'There are stars that go out in the darkness
 whose silvery light shineth on;
 There are roses whose perfume still lingers
 when their blossoms are faded and gone;
 There are souls full of light and sweetness
 when no longer the life current flows:
 Still their goodness lives on with the living,
 Like the souls of the star and the rose'.

Memorial Prayer - Eternal Spirit and Father of Mankind, we rejoice that thou art as near to us in Spirit as are near to Thee in thought. As we bow our heads in humble tribute to those of our family of earth who have gone before into Thy colony of heaven, make us mindful of what we must do today to keep faith with them and Thee. Teach us that we can best do this by the torch of light which we succeed in passing on to others by the caliber of our living. Make us aware that the blessing of liberty, which our ancestors have passed down to us is not just a bequest to be inherited but a conquest which must be daily conquered anew. Abide with us all as we now depart from this emerald site, so sacred to memory, so dear to life itself; and Thine shall be all the honor and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

CHURCH ORGANIST HONORED---Providence Journal, Monday, August 16, 1954. Our member, Mrs. Ethel Westcott Place of 86 Blackburn Street, Hillsgrove, Rhode Island marked her 47TH year as church organist on Sunday, August 15, 1954 and her 50TH year as a member of the Hillsgrove Methodist Church, Warwick. Many of her fellow members paid tribute to her and Reverend Warren M. Roberts, pastor, spoke: "This is truly a sacred hour in your life, the culmination of long years and faithful service. May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you."

Clarence E. Stoughtenburgh, choir director:"Down through the centuries music has drawn men close to the eternal, and Ethel Place has been the cornerstone of our musical life. We, the choir, pay tribute for unfailing dependability, steadfast devotion and a boundless love for Christ as shown in your beautiful music".

 CHURCH ORGANIST HONORED---(Continued)

Mrs. Milton L. Carlson presented Mrs. Place with a life membership pin; Mrs. Eva A. Carter presented her with a 50 year membership scroll; and Miss Elsa L. Norden gave her a corsage.

Note - Many of our Westcott cousins met and had a nice visit with our member, Ethel Place at our Tenth Biennial Meeting at Dr. Niles Westcott party on August 8th, 1954. Little did we know that she was to be honored the following Sunday August 15th. Our Society extends congratulations too.

HURRICANE "CAROL"---Two members, Susan Handy and Olive Shippee sent the pictures of the Old Walnut tree that stands back of Dr. Niles Westcott home in Oaklawn, Rhode Island. Fortunately it withstood the storm. Many cousins will remember the old tree when we visited Dr. Niles and his wife on August 8th at our National Gathering in Rhode Island.

The Providence Journal printed a picture and article about the tree on September 26, 1954. "A venerable black walnut tree which still produces walnuts every year grows behind the house of Dr. and Mrs. Niles Westcott at 680 Oaklawn Avenue, Oaklawn, Rhode Island. It has grown there beside generations of Westcotts, since the years immediately following the Revolutionary War. One family legend establishes the year of planting as 1803, but this is by no means certain. Mrs. Westcott is convinced the tree may even be slightly older, because of another story, more certain, involving the tree, Dr. Westcott's grandfather Niles and the Great Gale of 1815. The Westcott black walnut was known to have been a relatively large tree even then and it toppled during the historic 1815 blow. Grandfather Westcott, then a strapping orchardist of 19 years, thought so highly of his walnut tree that he set to work and replanted it. It must have been a heroic and loving effort, because the story has been told and retold in family circles with deep feeling. He replanted well, for the tree survived the hurricane of 1938 and 1954. There is an odd progression about these survivals. First the tree went down in 1815. In 1938 it lost a number of big branches. In 1944 and 1954 it was practically untouched."

The photo of the tree which was taken by John T. Hopf of Newport will be placed in our Westcott Scrapbook. Many thanks to Susan and Olive for sending the item.

ARNOLD BURIAL PLOT---On August 7th many cousins visited the Governor Arnold cemetery in Newport. There was a marker for Governor Arnold but many of us thought it probably was placed in front of the wrong stone and we were right because cousin Susan Handy on the later pilgrimage found the following, "The marker for Governor Arnold has been moved to the proper stone, an older one back to the right of the cemetery. Damaris (Westcott) Arnold, his wife is beside him but no writing remains on either stone."

*Scrapbook
Property
of
RI
West.*

ARNOLD BURIAL PLOT---(Continued)

NOTE: For years the old Arnold Cemetery was abused but a few years ago it was restored and will be a Newport Historical point of interest. Our Society is happy to learn the Governor Arnold marker has been placed in its right place.

RESEARCH IN ENGLAND---Since we have had a few more dollars in our treasury, our Society thought we could start more research in England to try to find names of parents of our Stukely Westcott who came to these shores. Mr. Roscoe Whitman always hoped to be able to establish, with proof, Stukely's parents' names. Some months ago through the Harleian Society a Mr. D'elboux was contacted and he sent the name of a reliable researcher, Miss M. Larter.

Miss Larter has sent photo copies of old Yeovil Church records where Stukely and Juliana Marchant were married. Their names are barely decipherable because of age of records but we are glad to have the copy.

On October 2nd, 1954, Miss Larter writes that the records in Yeovil show that there are no further records of Westcotts there, that she will try to combine more research with a visit down Ilminster way. All of us hope she finds the clue we need.

ADVERTISING MANAGER---Edmund W. Morris (our founder's grandson) an active member of our Society, of 212 Columbia Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey has been appointed branch advertising manager of Bristol-Myers Products Division, New York Drug and Toiletries manufacturers, according to an announcement by that company. He has been with the company since 1946.

A graduate of Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio, he began his career in market research. During World War II, he served abroad in the Signal Corps and then in the Air Corps with the rank of Captain.

Good luck, cousin Edmund in your new appointment!

EARLY WESTCOTT HISTORY---Continued from September Quarterly

"Richard Westcott was residing in Wethersfield, Connecticut in 1637, his home being invaded by the Indians in the massacre of that year. In the offensive war which followed, he was one of the company of 26 men, under Lieutenant Seeley that completely routed the Pequots on May 23, 1637. ("Refer to History of Ancient Wethersfield - Volume I, page 72, 211.")

Daniel, his son, later petitioned the Government for a grant of land on account of the services rendered by his father in this expedition.

EARLY WESTCOTT HISTORY---(Continued)

Richard was a Constable for Wethersfield in 1639. (Refer Connecticut General Register, Volume I, page 41.) He was a Deputy for Wethersfield to the General Court at Hartford in 1644. He owned ten acres on a road now called Jordan Hill Lane, his homestead being on the site, now south west corner of High and Prison Streets. He bought this in 1635 and sold it in 1645 to John Stoddard, after which he removed to Fairfield, Connecticut, where his homestead was on Ludlow Avenue, near Windsor Street. He was probably married twice, and had a son Richard by his first wife who became quite a prominent man in Westchester County, New York. Shortly after his death, his widow, Joanna married Nathan Baldwin, who had moved to Fairfield from Milford. They continued to occupy the dwelling and lands of Richard Westcott where three children were born to them. Joanna died in 1682 at Fairfield. (Refer to "History of Fairfield, Connecticut").

(To be Continued in the March, 1955 Quarterly)

LIST OF ACTIVE MEMBERS---(Continued)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Judge & Mrs. Harold E. Wescott,	45 Holamn St., Laconia, N. H.
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar E. Greene,	3011 Edwin Ave., Fort Lee, N. J.
Miss Alice Joyce Marroquin,	47 Davis Ave., Hackensack, N. J.
Mr. & Mrs. Edward R. Marroquin,	47 Davis Ave., Hackensack, N. J.
Miss Helen J. Williams,	129 No. Arlington Ave., East Orange, N. J.
Mr. & Mrs. Edmund W. Morris,	212 Columbia Ave., Cranford, N. J.
Mr. & Mrs. A. Courtney Norwine,	30 Glenwood Drive, Short Hills, N. J.
Mr. Homer D. Roberts,	327 W. Main St., Boonton, N. J.
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph D. Trismen,	457 The Fenway, River Edge, N. J.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Clinton Wescott,	824 Pennsylvania Ave., Pine Beach, N. J.
Mr. & Mrs. Chester W. Wescott,	19 Carlisle St., Bergenfield, N. J.

LIST OF ACTIVE MEMBERS---(CONTINUED)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Mr. Charles H. Wescott,	47 Davis Ave., Hackensack, N. J.
Dr. Cynthia Westcott,	96 Essex Ave., Glen Ridge, N. J.
Mrs. Frank H. Westcott,	19 Woodhill Road, Tenafly, N. J.
Mr. & Mrs. Roscoe L. Whitman,	109 Dudley Ave., W., Westfield, N. J.
Miss Elizabeth M. Wescott,	495 Main St., Orange, N. J. (House #10, Apt. 1A)
Mrs. Violet W. Greene,	215 W. Glenwood Ave., Wildwood, N. J.
Mrs. Amy Westcott Keen,	14 Van Meter Terrace, Salem, N. J.
Mr. Carleton L. Wastcoat,	290 Prospect St., Ridgewood, N. J.
Mr. Bruce White Trismen,	457 The Fenway, River Edge, N. J.

REMINDERS TO MEMBERS! KINDLY SEND THE FOLLOWING TO THE SECRETARY
(Whose address appears on top of page 1.)

1. More members!
2. Items for Quarterly!
3. Scrapbook items!
4. News of local chapters gatherings!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!

