

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

Issued Quarterly - January, April, July, October - Noting Activities of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants; mailed free to members, to non-members \$5.00 yearly.

NEWS COMPILER
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KNOW YOUR KINDRED BETTER

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NATIONAL SOCIETY NEWS

From Pauline Clark, SSWD President

Memo to national board members: Is Friday August 26th or Saturday Aug. 27th better for those who are planning to attend our Warwick meeting? Please let me know so that I can write the motel and give them an idea of how many are coming and set up the meeting place. I may have had the wrong date in mind but have had a request for the 27th.

Westcott Coat-of-Arms

Our screen printed coat-of-arms will be ready soon. They are printed on pressure sensitive vinyl. The back will be slick for easy removal, so the emblem can be peeled off. The emblem can be mounted on any surface or they are suitable for framing as is. The adhesive on the back can be peeled off up to 6 months. The large one (approximately 8½" X 9½") will sell for \$3.00. If you buy a large one you will receive a small one free. Small ones (approximately 2½" X 3½") will sell for \$1.00. The small one will be nice to put in the reprint of the genealogy for those who bought them. Please send your money and orders to: Paul Lewis, Treasurer, P.O. Box 58, Riverton, CT 06065.

Stukely Westcott Memorial Scholarship Fund

Scholarship

This fund was started in 1970. THE FIRST STUDENT WAS HELPED IN IN 1971. That loan was repaid by '78 plus a gift to the fund. Since then we have helped 10 other Westcott descendants. Two of those have fully repaid their loans, and one other is almost paid to date.

Since January of '81 six students have received help at very crucial times to continue their studies, in amounts from \$750.00 to \$1500.00. These loans total up to \$7200.00, which leaves only \$290.00 in the treasury for '83 and '84.

Since 1978 I have received \$1413.00 in gifts; \$1100.00 of which was from one family, and 100.00 from the Vermont chapter. Our total gifts, outside those mentioned, have totaled only \$313.00; showing that the society as a whole is not supporting this most worthy of family projects. If the membership as a whole does not come to the aid of our young people in this worthy family goal, it will end as of 1983, for several years; until the outstanding loans are repaid. It is even possible that some of the young people will have to stop their education for some years.

Just think! \$10.00 a month or \$100.00 from just fifty people for the rest of '83 would solve our problem. I need \$5000.00 this year to keep this wonderful project solvent. By 1985 I expect this fund could be self supporting, due to the return of loans; so let us all get behind it and succeed as the Westcotts of old did for us. Truly I am ASKING VERY LITTLE. Please do not leave it to the next person to do.

F. Howard Westcott
Tres. of Fund

Every "Westcott" Descendant is eligible

Golden Years Members

The following cousins have received Honorary Certificates:

#102 Helen Westcott (Mrs. Norman Marr)
Pawtucket, RI

#412 Mrs. Albert Westcott Driver
Fairfield, CT

#453 Delbert F. Lundquist
Winter Park, FL

#535 Harold George Bruce
Arlington, MA

#539 Helen Steere Brown (Mrs. Clifford W.)
Providence, RI

#696 M/M Howard J. Finley,
Weedsport, NY

New Members

A BIG Welcome to the following new Members!:

#700 M/M John Thomas Williams (Audrey Dell Perdue)
Lake City, Iowa

#701 M/M Jerome R. Johnson (Barbara Ann Ebert)
Altoona, Pennsylvania

#702 Judith Evelyn Kuhn
Wyoming, Michigan

#703 Iva Winifred (Pickens) Peck
Parish, New York

#704 M/M Harland C. Silliman (MaeBelle Pickens)
Marion, NY

#705 M/M Frank H. Brewer (Hazel Marilyn Pickens)
Middletown, Maryland

#706 M/M Robert H. Silliman (Carol Ann Lee)
Macedon, New York

#707 M/M James George Kuhn (Jacqueline Irene Sawyer)
Delevan, New York

#708 Kevin J. Westcott
Erieville, New York

#709 M/M Clyde L. Canfield (Dorothy Solinsky)
Parish, New York

#710 M/M Deverne W. Madison (Gail Wilma Canfield)
Parish, New York

#A-70 Fr. Francis G. Lewis
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CHAPTER NEWS

Iowa Chapter #9

Our next annual meeting will be held on Sunday, June 12, at 12:30 p.m., place yet to be announced. Members will be advised by mail, and newspapers in Iowa will carry the information, encouraging Westcott cousins to attend, who may not know of our existence. In all probability our meeting will be in the Des Moines area.

Cousin James Dillon, grandson of Cousins Loren and Lorraine Killion, returned to his home in Ogema, Wisconsin, following a five-day experience in Washington, D.C., which he will not soon forget. He was the Wisconsin winner of the Voice of Democracy contest, sponsored by the VFW, and as such was given a grand tour of the Capitol area, where he met many national dignitaries, plus 49 other highschool students, whose friendships will no doubt be lasting ones. These same young people, plus 200 others, will attend the American Academy of Achievement in San Diego, July 7-10, where they will hear renowned speakers and will be honored at a \$1,000-a-plate dinner - all of this at the beautiful Coronado Hotel. In August, Jim will be participating in the D.A.R. Contest in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. We wish him well in all of these endeavors.

**Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Killion, Secretary**

New Hampshire Chapter #12

I was very proud as well as our members were that our Cousin Allen Boerker was elected as Vice President of the National Society of Stukely Westcott descendants of America. I as President of the N.H. Chapter appointed his wife Claudine Boerker as a board member to the National Society representing the New Hampshire Chapter as the National Society requested me to do. I also want to say we were pleased to hear that our Cousin from N.H. Chapter Virginia Sampson was appointed from the National Society to their Board of Directors. Congratulations: Cousins Allen, Claudine, and Virginia.

While congratulations are in order congratulations to Cousin Edna J. Lewis for her achievements and graduates I believe either March 6 or May 6th. She is very happy about this. Congratulations to Cousin Bernice Heman on her birthday. She was 90 years old January 5th. She was given an open house party at her sons home in Danbury, N.H. She received flowers, a money tree, many gifts, and cards, and of course a large birthday cake with 90 candles on it. There were served all kinds of sandwiches, punch, and coffee.

Congratulations on the birth of a new little Cousin born in the Stukely Westcott Society Feb. 27, 1983, weighed 5 pounds 7 ounces, Adam Scott Potter. The proud parents are Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Potter (Members) of Ashland, N.H. Sharing grandparent honors are Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Huckins Sr. of Bridgewater, N.H. and Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Potter Jr. of Ashland, N.H. Great Grandparents are Mrs. Lena Romprey of Ashland, N.H., Mrs. Norma Warner of Bridgewater, N.H., Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Potter Sr. of Holderness N.H., and Mrs. Rena Gray (Member) of Ashland, N.H. A sister Corin Potter 15 months old.

My son-in-law Dean says you are never too old to go back to school. The factory he works for is sending him to night school to teach him how to run computers. All expenses paid.

At our annual meeting we voted to give the scholarship fund \$25.00. Three of our members applied for it to help them to go through college. It is a great help to our young Westcotts and the plan is great. I like to encourage all our New Hampshire chapter members to donate to it. It can only help if we keep it replenished. Some give in memory of their loved ones. If anyone is interested and want to know more about it, they may write to Dr. F. Howard Westcott, 16673 San Salvador, CT., Rancho Bernardo, San Diego, California 92128.

The next annual meeting for N.H. Chapter No. 12 is Sunday, July 10, 1983 at the Rumney Baptist Church, in Rumney Village, at 11 a.m. Dinner follows. Officers for '83 and '84 are: Mrs. Eulalia Wescott, President; Mrs. Pamela Field, Vice President; Mrs. Fay Gray, Secretary & Recording Secretary; Mr. Dean Gray, Chaplain; Mr. Richard Hackeman, Historian; Mr. Edwin Heath & Mrs. Claudine Boerker, Members-at-Large; and Mrs. Eulalia Wescott, Genealogy & Research Chairman.

Anyone never knows when and where you are going to find a new Westcott Cousin. Dec. 7, 1982 I picked up a newspaper and read where George Westcott was presumed dead, a month ago was found walking along a frozen wooded road in

Maine. No injury but his feet were frozen. He was lost since Nov. 14, 1982. For three days and three nights he wandered through 12 inches of snow til he found a cabin, found some food and fuel. He stayed until everything was all used up then started out again searched for another cabin which he did find and stayed two weeks trying to heal his feet. The food ran out he started again. He was in Maine, and Massachusetts Hospitals. His feet were frozen, and he lost all of his toes. He had a lot of skin graft done. He expects to be home the first of April. His mother and I have been corresponding back and forth. He and his family want to join S.S.W.D.A. We will hear more about it.

Through this man getting in this accident, I have gotten 3 more letters from three different Westcott names beginning with George. One from Tiverton, R.I., one from Sumner, Washington, one from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, one from Ohio amounting to about 12 adults. I answered all these letters. You will hear more about these later.

Eulalia Wescott, President

Virginia Chapter #13

Letters have been sent to all those cousins known to be living in the area and who are members of the National SSWD. It is hoped that a meeting can be held this spring or early summer.

Deaths

Cynthia Westcott of Croton-on-Hudson passed away on March 22, 1983. She is survived by a nephew, F. Thomas Westcott, of Attleboro, Mass. Memorial services were held at the Spring Vale Inn, Croton-on-Hudson, with interment private. In lieu of flowers, it was asked that contributions be made in her memory to The American Rose Foundation, or, the Wetzal-Wescott Lecture Fund, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

Clifford H. Westcott, 89, a retired structural engineer and former village trustee of Oak Park, Ill. Mr. Wescott retired in 1973 as president and chief executive officer of Westcott Engineering Company, Chicago, a firm he had joined in the early 1920s. A 1914 graduate of the University of Illinois, he served as a first lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps' construction division during World War I and as an officer in World War II. Surviving are his wife, Grace; a son, Robert H.; a stepson, Michael Gallagher, nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and a brother.

THE LETTER BOX

From Mabel Wescott, East Poultney, Vt.

Three great-grand daughters in 1982! Jennifer Marie Reed was born June 20 to Jane and Keith Reed. Keith is the son of members Phyliss and Donald Reed. He is Petty Officer 2nd Class and an aviation structural mechanic assigned to Patrol Squadron 11, based at Brunswick Maine Naval Station. Kendra Dawn Cartier was born November 15 to Kathy and Robert Cartier of Homer, Alaska. Kathy is a member of SSWD and the daughter of members, Pauline and Charles Dennis of Phoenix. Tarin Marie McGuirk was born November 23. She is the daughter of Lyndia and Rick McGuirk. Lyndia is a member of SSWD and the daughter of Pauline and Charles Dennis. They live in Phoenix where both teach in the Phoenix school system.

From Wilman Avery, Absecon, N.J., SSWD Corresponding Secretary

Wilma and her mother, Mabel Westcott, are traveling to Phoenix to visit sister, Pauline. Both of Pauline's daughters, Kathy who is visiting from Alaska and Lyndia have new babies so it will be an exciting time. Wilma hopes that her daughter, Pam, will be home from France for Easter.

JULY QUARTERLY DEADLINE

Please forward all reports/data/messages for the next Quarterly to:

Ruth Barnhardt (Mrs. Luther)
525 Sunset Drive
Ashville, N.C. 28804

It is important that Ruth receive information by June 15th.

The case of Westcote was not the only case in which the Town Council of Warwick assumed to make wills for persons dying intestate. At a very early day in the history of the town, John Greene and Randall Holden, both men of influence, placed upon record their opinions that the Town Council possessed this power. This was followed in 1666 by an official declaration by the Council that if any person “shall die intestate, the Council “shall dispose, bequeath and distribute the whole estate, and draw up “a writing thereof” for record, “which writing shall stand and bee authentick for the will of the dead.” As early as 1648, they proceeded to make a will for Rufus Barton, renewing and confirming it in 1666. Before June, 1656, they made one for Robert Cole. Then they made one for Robert Potter. In 1663, they made one for John Smith, senior. In 1659, they not only made a will for Ezekiel Holliman, who baptised Roger Williams, but appointed a committee of two of their number to wait upon Mary, his widow, and demand her formal acceptance of it, and of the office of executrix under it.

These proceedings of the Town Council of Warwick, and also like proceedings in some of the other towns, furnish an interesting commentary upon the manner in which judicial power was exercised by the inferior and local tribunals in those early days. By the Law of England, as well as by the statute of the colony, no unsigned will was of any effect, and no signed will was effectual to pass property unless attested in the presence of the testator by the signature of three or more witnesses. By the statute of 1647, Town Councils were empowered to take possession of the estates of persons dying intestate, and distribute it among his heirs. But this law conferred no power to make a will for the intestate, nor was it intended to confer any such authority, thus substituting themselves, not only in the place of the intestate, but also in the place of the “Statutes of Descent” to determine who should inherit his estate. Both the law of primogeniture and the statutes of 22d and 23d of Charles II (1682-83) were then in force in the colony; the latter regulating the mode of distributing the personal estate of intestate, and the former, passing the real estate to his eldest son, and if he was dead, then to his eldest son.

But we would not forget that these sturdy and self-reliant “non conformists” cherished no deep regard for the laws of England, whose rigorous enactments had driven them from the homes of their fathers, through many trials, here. At the advent of “The Commonwealth,” believing it to be the harbinger of a larger freedom, they hastened to yield to it their allegiance, and reluctantly tore from their records and concealed the evidence of their loyalty when the monarchy was restored. They ignored, so far as they could, such laws of the mother country as seemed to them unequal or unjust, and appealed to its authority only when their jurisdiction or rights were menaced by the stronger Colonies surrounding them on either side. A century later, James Arnold, the assistant, and William and Jacob Greene, Charles Holden, Jun., and John Waterman, the Deputies from this ancient town, descendants from its early settlers, truly voiced the sentiments of the men of Warwick when, two full months before the great “Declaration of Independence”, they heartily joined in the passage of the Colonial Assembly of an act abjuring all allegiance to the British crown, and striking forever from the arms of the Colony, and from all of its Executive, Legislative and Judicial Acts and Precepts, every existing symbol and insignia of royalty.