

# 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

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July 1986

KNOW YOUR KINDRED BETTER

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 No 3

179

OCTOBER 3-4-5 1986

## Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America



## Biennial Gathering

### Program

Society of Stukely Westcott  
 Descendants of America

Friday, OCTOBER 3, 1986

1:00 p. m. Meeting of the Board.  
 Escondido Hotel

7:00 p. m. Registration,

A Get-Acquainted Evening

Saturday, OCTOBER 4, 1986

10:00 a. m. Greetings  
 Recognition of Officers and Board  
 Members of the National Society of  
 Stukely Westcott Descendants of  
 America  
 Special Music  
 Memorial Service -  
 Chaplain Verner Utke-Ransing

10:45 a. m. Biennial Business Meeting

1:00 p. m. Luncheon  
 Tour of San Diego  
 Afternoon Wild Animal Park  
 Hobby Table  
 7:00 p. m. Biennial Dinner - Buffet  
 Restaurant  
 Greetings - Allan Boerker  
 President

Music  
 Chairman- F. Howard Westcott, M.D.

Sunday, OCTOBER 5, 1986

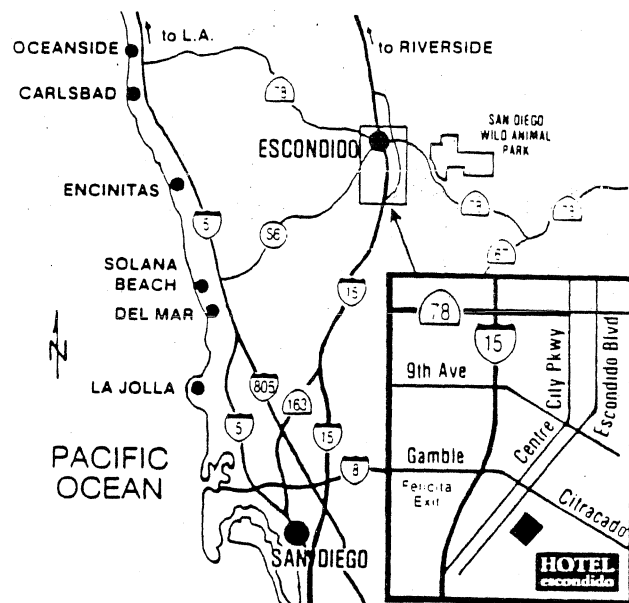
9:15 a Church, Escondido  
 Dutch Reform

This concludes the  
 Biennial Gathering

(NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY)  
 California

**HOTEL**  
 escondido

2500 South Escondido Boulevard  
 Escondido, California 92025  
 (619) 747-5000



The HOTEL ESCONDIDO is easy to reach. From San Diego, travel north on Highway 163 until you merge with I-15. Continue north on I-15 to Escondido. Exit on Centre City Parkway. Follow Centre City Parkway north to the first stop light (Citracado).

Southbound travelers on Interstate 15 should take the Felicita exit. Turn left at the end of the off-ramp. No other turns required. You are now on Gamble, which becomes Citracado once you pass under I-15. Continue on Citracado over the hill to the HOTEL ESCONDIDO.

Every "Westcott" Descendant is eligible

NOTES ABOUT THE OCTOBER NATIONAL GATHERING

Send banquet reservations, other inquiries to: F. Howard Westcott  
16673 San Salvador Ct.  
Rancho Bernardo  
San Diego, CA 92128

Send hotel reservations directly to the hotel- you'll find the phone number and address on the front of this paper.

The Saturday night meal will be a semi-formal buffet of beef, fish, chicken, and lots of salads, dessert, and wine. The cost of meal- \$18.23.

Self contained camping is available in the back parking lot of motel. Escondido is a rather rural setting for this 6 story motel, though it is growing, as the new shopping plaza across the street expands.

When you call your travel agent

Be sure to ask about including limousine service to Escondido. The phone for one used by the hotel is 743-2002, out of the airport.

Make your reservations now, as many reduced fares depend on early booking. Also ask about senior citizen discount, late night flight discount, any discount you can think of. It seems one must continue to ask questions, the airline agents do not offer best prices unless you ask and ask. All major airlines fly into San Diego and Los Angeles. Fly to California ahead of the reunion, stay later- it's cheaper.

Come by train

Ned Morris and his wife are coming on the Canadian Pacific railroad. They are touring out of Toronto in mid- September by train and will fly to Los Angeles, then on to Escondido.

Come Together

Paul and Edna Lewis are driving to Dulles Airport (Washington) to meet the Boerkers to fly out early together. They will be at the Hotel Escondido on October 1 and stay in the area for several days later.

Mabel Wescott will join daughter, Wilma Avery, in Philadelphia.

Drive your car or motor-home

Pauline and Chuck Dennis are driving their motor-home by way of Colorado, Montana, Expo '86.

Sharon and Arlene Coltey will be there. By Delta ? or van ?

California people will be there

Fern Peterson will be there with pictures of Yeovil, England. (Oc 5)

Don E. Westcott of Whittier will be there.

### Early Gatherings

The first family reunion of which there is record, was held in 1866 on the old farm homestead of Asa Stone in Coventry township, R. I., although it is said that reunions were held regularly previous to that year by the family descending from Oliver Westcott, who about the year 1800, settled on a farm tract at West Eaton, Madison County, N. Y. It may be presumed that there were other gatherings even of an earlier period, but none are of record. Asa Stone was the youngest child of William and Lydia (Westcott) Stone. The exercises held on the Stone farm were opened with reading from the Bible of the first Stukely Westcott, which he brought with him from England and had been handed down in that branch of the family.

It is of record that, in 1878, over 250 descendants of Oliver Westcott, to whom reference has already been made, assembled on his old farm. In more recent years, this branch of the family has had its reunion each year. About 1857, descendants of William Westcott of Clarendon, Vt., and Savannah, N. Y., migrated to near Bangor, VanBuren County, Mich., and, since 1905, members of his posterity have had annual reunions. In the years of the 1860s and 1870s and the last in 1882, within the memory of this compiler, the Westcotts of Milford tp., Otsego County, N. Y., were accustomed to assemble each year, holding their reunions at different convenient places in or adjacent to the township.

### A Wish That Culminated into a National Society

In 1930, Minnie Westcott Lunn (Mrs. Joseph Seth Lunn) of Oneonta, N. Y., expressed the wish that the Westcotts might have another reunion such as those she attended in Milford township, N. Y., when she was a child. She referred especially to the one in 1882 held on the old farm of her grandfather, Reuben Westcott. Her wish led to a reunion at Milford Center in 1931 at which 179 were present. At that time, the Stukely Westcott Descendants' Association of Milford tp., N. Y., was formed. (This Stukely Westcott [W. G., pp. 39-235] refers to a great-great-grandson of the first of the name, who lived in Cheshire, Mass., and was the father of the three brothers who early settled in Milford tp.) The late Brig.-Gen. James Westcott Lester of Saratoga Springs, N. Y. (W. G., p. 264-5), was the first president of this association. He died in office and was succeeded by Harris Lee Cooke, esquire, of Cooperstown, N. Y. (W. G., p. 266.)

This association has carried on a splendid work by creating an endowment fund for the perpetual care of the old part of the cemetery at Milford Center, where the pioneers of the family in the township—Benjamin, James and Reuben and their sister Dorcas (Fitch)—are buried.

Another reunion of this association was held at Oneonta, N. Y., in 1933, when 140 were present, including a number descending from other branches of the family, among them Dr. and Mrs. Allan F. Westcott of Annapolis, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Haydn B. Westcott of Ridgefield Park, N. J., William Mar Westcott of Apponaug, R. I., and William C. Driver of New Rochelle, N. Y. At this gathering, interest was manifested in the organization of a National society of Westcott descendants, and later, Harris Lee Cooke, esquire, then president of the Milford association, appointed a committee to have the matter in charge

and arrange for an organization dinner-meeting in New York City. This meeting was held on the following January 13, 1934, the 257th anniversary of the death of Stukely Westcott.

In the Fall of 1933, members of the family living in Rhode Island assembled and under the leadership of V. Stukely Westcott of Pawtucket, organized and arranged to have representatives at the dinner-meeting in New York the following January.

### The Dinner-Meeting and Organization

One hundred and nineteen descendants had each pledged one dollar to help defray the expenses of organizing and they became the charter members of the Society. Forty were present at the meeting, which was held in the Hotel Lexington in New York.

Dr. Allan F. Westcott, who was chairman of the committee on organization, presided and with him at the head-table, besides Mrs. Westcott, were Dr. and Mrs. Niles Westcott and Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe L. Whitman. At the other tables were Mr. and Mrs. V. Stukely Westcott, Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Hadley, Miss Edith S. Arnold, Mrs. Jennie C. Noxon, Edmund Whitman Morris, Dr. and Mrs. Frederic P. Solley, Mrs. John Klein, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Westcott, Carlton L. Westcoat, Mrs. Adelbert Niles (Morris) Potter, William Dyer Merriam, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Henry Frost, Mr. and Mrs. Coulman C. Westcott, \*Mrs. Caroline W. Woodburn, Mrs. Lulu W. Iseman, Mr. and Mrs. \*Haydn B. Westcott, the Misses Ethel G. and Florence E. Clarke, Miss Gwendolyn W. Jones, Mrs. Samuel Driver and William Mar Westcott.

(\* Since deceased.)

Dr. Allan F. Westcott was made permanent chairman and Miss Florence Earll Clarke, secretary.

### The 300th Anniversary Celebration in 1935 of the Coming to America of the Family Founder

Arrangements for the Tercentenary Celebration in 1935 were made by the following committee: V. Stukely Westcott, Chairman; Dr. Allan Ferguson Westcott, Dr. Frank Howard Westcott, Dr. Niles Westcott, Coulman C. Westcott, Leslie P. Westcott, Harris Lee Cooke and Roscoe L. Whitman.

This Celebration resulted in an outstanding demonstration of family spirit, of love a posterity may bear an ancestor after an elapse of three centuries, of appreciation and of recognition of the deeds of forebears who sought and helped win liberty of action and conscience, and who helped create a civilization more dynamic, more far-reaching, more enduring, than the world has ever known.

From John Edwin Wescott of Maryland

" I hope to explore for Wes(t)cotts in Western New York state this coming summer. My immediate family were located around Elmira, Olean, Salamanca, New York. I am in contact with my Uncle Lester."

John sent a scheme of his family which probably will be printed in the October Quarterly, which includes cousin, Eleanor Trisman.

CHAPTER NEWS

Ohio forming a chapter

Betty Acker has held the first Westcott reunion at her home in Ohio . They are working to form a chapter. (See Jan/May '86)

New Hampshire Meets

National officers, Paul and Edna Lewis; Allan and Claudine Boerker, attended the NH chapter annual reunion on July 13, 1986. A report of the meeting will be in the October Quarterly.

Vermont Chapter celebrates a 50th Anniversary

1986 is the 50th year since the association was formed, it received its charter the following November as a chapter of the National Society.

The annual reunion will start with church at the newly renovated East Poultney Baptist Church, August 17, Sunday. A pot luck lunch will follow at the Bomoseen State Park on the west side of the lake. President, Rita Sanders, asks that those attending bring a dish to share on the community tables.

Last minute program plans are being made by the officers. It will include some of the original materials from the first reunions like this piece copied from the Whitman Genealogy:

**Chapters of the Society**

Charters were granted by the Society for the following Chapter Milford Tp., N. Y., Chapter, No. 1, Feb. 9, 1934; Rhode Island Chapter No. 2, Mar. 9, 1934; Greater New York Chapter, No. 3, Dec. 8, 1934; Northern New York Chapter, No. 4, Sept. 6, 1935; and Vermont Chapter, No. 5, Oct. 27, 1937.

Through the efforts of Miss Rachel C. Wilkins, descendants of Nicholas Westcott, a pioneer in Clarendon tp., Rutland County, Vt., who reside in and adjacent to Vermont, an association was formed at Lake St. Catherine in that State in September, 1936. It received its charter for a Chapter in the following November, and in 1937, H. Phillip Westcott was made President; Leon D. Baker, Vice-President; Miss Rachel C. Wilkins, Historian; Frank N. Baker, Secretary; Nathan H. Wilkins, Treasurer. This Chapter has placed headstones at the graves of Nicholas Westcott, Jr., and his wife, Phebe Hines, thus again demonstrating one of the purposes of family organization.

From Edmund W. Morris

From Mabel L. Wescott

Dear Cousin:

My mother, Dorothy Whitman Potter passed away in March 1985 and I regret that I have not been in touch with you sooner. She is survived by my brother, Jim, myself, six grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Her 90th birthday would have been in April, 1985. As I am sure you know, mother was the daughter of Roscoe and Susan Whitman, he having authored the Westcott genealogies.

Obituary

*Dorothy Potter 3/9/85*  
 Services will be held Sat  
 for Dorothy Whitman Potter,  
 88, who died Tuesday in  
 Charlottesville, VA.

Born in Amsterdam NY, she  
 lived in Cranford + Westfield  
 for many years before moving  
 to Crozet VA, in 1979.

Her husband, Adolbert Miles Potter  
 died in 1974. Surviving are two sons  
 James Radcliffe Morris IV, Ft. Lauderdale  
 Fla and Edmund Whitman Morris, Crozet  
 VA; 6 grandch. and 12 gr. grandch.

The graveside services Saturday will be  
 held at Fairview Cemetery at 11:am. In lieu  
 of flowers, contributions may be sent  
 to Hospice of the Piedmont, 908 Lyncamore St  
 Charlottesville VA 22901

Arrangements were by Gray Memorial  
 Funeral Home, 12 Springfield Ave.

ORGANIZED JANUARY 13, 1934

FOUNDER

Roscoe L. Whitman

Frances Reed

**EAST POULTNEY** — Frances Belle Wescott Reed, 88, wife of the late Hudson W. Reed, died early Thursday morning at the Rutland Regional Medical Center after a long illness.

Mrs. Reed was born Sept. 30, 1897, in Wells, daughter of Rollin and Maryette (Phillips) Wescott.

She was an honorary deaconist of the East Poultney Baptist Church, served as superintendent of the church Sunday school and was a member of the church choir and friendship circle.

She was a charter member of the Stukley Wescott Society of America and was a life member of the National Society.

She was also a member of the National Pomona Grange and the Poultney Valley Grange.

Mrs. Reed was also the cook at the East Poultney School for a number of years.

She is survived by three sons; Robert Reed of Middletown Springs, Franklin Reed of East Poultney and Morris Reed of East, N.Y.; four daughters; Alice Eastman of Salem, Mary Coltey of Hudson Falls, N.Y., Sadie Roberts of Hampton, N.Y., and Margaret Mars of Pawlet; a sister, Ruth Smith of Tunbridge; 41 grandchildren, 87 great-grandchildren, 20 great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by two sons, Elmo Reed and Harold Reed, and three daughters Sylvia, Louise and Caroline.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the East Poultney Baptist Church. The Rev. Gregory Ledbetter, pastor, will officiate. He will be assisted by the former pastor, the Rev. John Padrick. Burial will follow in the Wells Cemetery.

Friends may call from 2 and 4 and 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday at the Roberts-Lantman Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the East Poultney Baptist Church memorial fund, in care of the funeral home.

Dorothy Potter was the 8th person to be taken into membership, 13 Feb 1934. She worked closely with her father, Roscoe Whitman, in the founding of Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America.

Grandma to many, Aunt Fannie to everyone else. She is listed as one of the first National members from VT, and was able to attend the Vermont Chapter picnic in 1985.