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THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY  
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Noting activities of the Society. Free  
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1156 E. 8th St.  
Rifle, CO 81650

OCTOBER 1991

KNOW YOUR KINDRED BETTER

Vol LVII no. 4

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT - BETTY W. ACKER

IT'S A GOOD THING I HAVE A VERY TOLERANT AND UNDERSTANDING HUSBAND OR I MIGHT BE IN BIG TROUBLE WITH ALL THE PLANS I MAKE FOR US.

ON JULY 12th WE SPENT A FEW HOURS ENJOYING NIAGARA FALLS (WHICH YOU MIGHT INCLUDE IN YOUR TRIP TO MASSENA NEXT YEAR), THEN WE WENT ON TO VISIT WITH GEORGE (OUR SOCIETY CHAPLAIN) AND BETTY WESTCOTT ON GRENELL ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER. WE HAD A GREAT TIME WITH THEM - FISHING AND JUST ENJOYING THEIR HOSPITALITY.

ON SUNDAY THE 14th, WE ALL DROVE TO MASSENA TO MEET WITH ART AND BARB AND THEIR FAMILY TO HELP WITH PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR OUR 1992 BIENNIAL GATHERING. ED AND THELMA HEATH ALSO CAME TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS AFTER HOSTING THE 1990 REUNION AT CONCORD, N.H. WE HAD A GREAT AFTER-NOON AT THEIR COTTAGE ON THE SHORE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

GEORGE AND BETTY ALSO TOOK US TO SEE THE "WESTCOTT BEACH STATE PARK" WHICH IS LOCATED DIRECTLY WEST OF WATERTOWN, N.Y. ON LAKE ONTARIO. MANY OF THE EARLY NORTHERN NEW YORK CHAPTER NO.4 REUNIONS WERE HELD AT THE BEACH WHEN IT WAS A FARM OWNED BY GEORGE AND TILLIE WESTCOTT. THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS SENT ME 12 PHAMPLETS ON THE PARK - IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE OF THEM, SEND ME A POST CARD REQUEST.

ONE THE WAY HOME WE STOPPED AT WEEDSPORT, NEW YORK TO MEET OUR COUSIN HOWARD J. FINLEY, AUTHOR OF THE BOOK, "SEABOARD, LAKE COUNTRY, AND WEST". WE FOUND BOTH HOWARD AND HIS WIFE, HELEN, TO BE WARM AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE AND A PLEASURE TO MEET. HELEN WAS GIVEN A HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE FOR HER 90th BIRTHDAY!!!! THE BOOK IS STILL AVAILABLE. IT HAS ONE CHAPTER ON THE WESTCOTT SIDE OF HIS FAMILY.

THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 7th MY HUSBAND, CLINK, OUR DOG TAFFY AND I CLIMBED INTO OUR CAMPER AND HEADED FOR RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY. THERE I MET OUR MEMBER #309 FOR THE FIRST TIME - ELEANOR TRISMEN. SHE IS A PETITE LADY AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE PICTURE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE. IT WAS A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO TALK WITH HER AS SHE WAS OUR SOCIETY PRES-IDENT 1960-62, OUR SECRETARY FROM 1949 thru 1960, AND EDITOR OF THE QUARTLY JUNE 1949 thru DEC 1962 AND AGAIN IN 1981 and 1982.

FROM WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN WOMEN - EAST

TRISMEN, ELEANOR LOUISE WESCOTT, LANDSCAPE ARTIST; b. EAST RANDOLPH, N.Y. AUG. 2, 1902. dau. JOSEPH ALBERTUS WESCOTT AND MARY ELIZA (DIXON) WESCOTT; B.S. COLUMBIA 1927. m. RALPH D. TRISMEN DEC 27, 1928; i SON, BRUCE WHITE T.; DESIGNER TEXTILES A. SIRCONO CO, N.Y.C. 1927-35; FREE LANCE LANDSCAPE ARTIST PAINTING 1935---; EDITOR CORR. SEC. REGISTRAR STUKELY WESTCOTT SOCIETY 1948---; AMBASSADOR COLUMBIA U. 1954---; MEM. AUDUBON SOC. OF N.J.; D.A.R.  
ADDRESS: 457 THE FENWAY, RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 17661

THE FOLLOWING IS CONDENSED FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE NEW JERSEY NEWS-PAPER "THE RECORD" OF SEPT. 11, 1991.

"THE NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING IN RIVER EDGE BOASTS A 4'x 8' LANDSCAPE PAINTING OF A WOODLAND SCENE IN THE ADIRONDACKS PRESENTED BY THE ARTIST, ELEANOR TRISMEN. THIS IS THE LARGEST CANVAS ELEANOR AS COMPLETED."



ELEANOR TOOK US THROUGH HER HOME WHERE MANY OF HER PAINTINGS ARE HANGING. BUT SHE ALSO HAS PAINTINGS DONE BY HER MOTHER INCLUDING A SELF PORTRAIT IN CHARCOAL WHICH SHE CHERISHES. SHE ALSO HAS A PAINTING OF A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS WHICH SHE PAINTED ONE FLOWER A DAY A "FEW" YEARS AGO WHEN HER SON WAS NAPPING.

ELEANOR PRESENTED ME WITH A LARGE SHOPPING BAG OF EARLY QUARTERLYS AND MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE WHICH IS ALWAYS VALUABLE TO OUR SOCIETY.

I HOPE TO HAVE MANY MORE PLEASANT VISITS WITH COUSIN ELEANOR.

Police Chief, Ken Quinn (6'5")  
accepts painting  
from Eleanor Trismen (4'8")  
July 8, 1991



Wescoat/Waistcoat/Horton/Goff genealogical information available

Margaret R. Jenks , author/publisher, of The Descendants of Thomas Horton of Milton and Rehoboth, Massachusetts Vol. I, II, III, sent some material she has compiled in her newest book about these families.

James Wescoat/Waistcoat of Rehoboth, MA, b. 4 Feb 1734/5 Middleboro, Ma  
d. 1790 - 1810 Berkshire Co. MA, son of James and Mary ( Dickens ) Waistcoat.

He m. 20 April 1758 RVR, Hannah Horton b. 19 Dec 1738 RVR; d. 7 Aug 1813 in 77th y.,  
Manchester, NY, bur. First Baptist Church Cem., Village of Manchester, Manchester twp.,  
Ontario Co., NY.

Hezekiah Horton (John, Thomas) was b. 1 Sept. 1714 HHB; d. 19 Aug 1787 in 73rd year,  
Guilford, VT. G.S.

He m. 23 Dec. 1735 RVR, Mary Martin; b. 17 March 1718 RVR, , " Saturday March ye 16  
1717" HHB; d. 28 Aug 1802 in 86th year Guilford, VT VR, " aged 85 years 12 days " HHB;  
dau. of John and Mercy ( Stafford )( Thurber ) Martin, granddaughter of Samuel and  
Mercy ( Westcott) Stafford, and great granddaughter of Stukely and Julian ( Marchant )  
Westcott.

The material continues through children of Richard and Sybil ( Goff ) Wastcoat,  
fifth generation Barnabas Horton, Revolutionary War pension application information, up  
to 1985 family data.

Jenks credits Elizabeth A. McDonald of Hays, Kansas (SSWD member) for some of the  
data from her family records and research, used in this book on the descendants of  
Hannah ( Horton ) Wescoat ( See April,1991 Quarterly p.3. )

Write to the editor for a copy of this material.

Also searching for family Carol-Ann Lantz of RI-

" I am trying to locate the descendants of Joseph Westcott who was born in this house  
in 1837 and moved to the Boston area.

I am not a Westcott though my Mother's family shares a common ancestor through the  
Rice family.

However, I live in a Westcott homestead ( built in 1789 ) and am doing an in depth  
study of the Westcott's who lived here.

I am in frequent contact with Betty Acker."

WESCOCHACONET FARMHOUSE

1789 - 200 YEARS - 1989



THE STORY OF AN OLD HOUSE

1789 was a year of major events in world history; George Wash-  
ington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States; the  
French Revolution was in full swing and the Bastille was stormed and burn-  
ed on 14 July of that year; Uranium was discovered and named for the re-  
cently located planet Uranus---and Captain Bligh was set adrift from the  
HMS "Bounty" by his mutinous shipmates.

Meanwhile, in the State of Rhode Island, County of Kent, Town of  
Warwick, a house was abuilding by the Rice family who were already living  
in the recently completed barn. Built of American chestnut ( a species  
exterminated by blight a hundred or so years later) and in the common post  
and beam construction of the period it was of the typical "Cape Cod" design,  
i.e. 5 rooms down, 2 rooms up, center chimney and four fireplaces. In the  
two centuries of its existence several additions have altered the original  
plan. Four rooms, 2 up, 2 down, were added to the east end and an ell on  
the west side was attached in four separate increments. Removal or adding  
of inside partitions have rearranged the early interior.

Randall Holden, born in England in 1612 was, with Rhode Island's founder, Roger Williams, a witness to a deed transferring Rhode Island land from Indian Sachems (Chiefs) Canonicus and Miantonomi in 1638. In 1673 4300 acres were set apart for ten of the early settlers: half of this grant, lying south of the Pawtuxet River, was known as the Wecochaconet Farms and of the five pieces of property in this division Farm #5 was granted to Randall Holden after the platting and surveying were completed in 1692. One of the unique features of this particular property and old house is that it remained in the family of the original grantee for 9 generations before my family came to live here in 1922. Much of the acreage has subsequently been willed or sold away leaving the 15 acres we presently hold.

Randall's great, great, great grandson, Anthony Rice, married Martha Cooke in January, 1790 after the house was completed. A sampler, wrought by their third daughter, Sarah, hangs in our kitchen listing the Rice-Cooke marriage and the birthdates of their five children. This cross-stitch-on-linen work was done in 1808 when Sarah was 13. The two oldest daughters married and moved to upper New York and northern Rhode Island. The fifth child, and only son, went to sea and died in Canton, China. Sarah married a local militiaman, Major John Westcott. After bearing four children Sarah died and the Major then married her younger sister, Elizabeth, with whom he had 12 more children. Despite the prevalent infant mortality of the time 14 of these children reached adulthood. Three were boys, two of whom moved to Providence and Boston. Only three of the girls married and several of their sons were of Civil War service age; their descendants are in several parts of the country where the former soldiers settled when the war was over. The third son, John, remained on the place, married and had one daughter, Jennie, from whom we purchased the property. The remaining 8 daughters never married which must have been a heavy burden for a poor farm family to support.

A small family cemetery near the house contains 37 marked and about 8 unmarked (fieldstones, no identification) graves. I have spent the last three years researching the lives of these people, following their families as far as possible while pondering the many questions that arise as I study the information on the headstones, a time consuming but fascinating endeavor.

The venerable house has withstood the ravages of time--the great gales of 1815 and 1938 and the many of lesser force before and since may have whipped off some shingles and rattled the timbers but it has stood sturdy and strong against such blows. Mighty blizzards in 1888 and 1978, torrents of rain, bitter cold and scorching heat and even a few earth tremors have left it basically unperturbed. In 1816, when the first of those many Westcott children was born; the area suffered the "year without a summer" when killing frosts destroyed the crops during each of the summer months. One can only speculate as to the hardships resulting the following winter to a family who relied on what they could raise for food and fodder.

The house contains some original furniture and utensils and the meat hooks are still visible in the smoke house off the stairs where the meat was cured. Many, many old deeds, letters, wills, receipts and other family papers were saved and have helped enormously in my study of the place, still not completed. The Westcott family tended the Tollhouse on the New London Turnpike (built 1812-1815) for many years and the old building stood here in the yard until the 1940's when my father reluctantly tore it down, finding it too rotted to be saved. Providence Street is part of the old Turnpike.

For the Lantz family the house is home. Fred took out the antiquated central heating system over 12 years ago and installed insulation over the ceilings of the second floor. Our woodstoves keep us snug and warm but we often wonder how the earlier inhabitants survived the cold winters with inefficient fireplace heat which is only warm close to the source.

Old houses take a lot of work and love to maintain but the charm and coziness they give in return is worth it all.

Scholarship funds remain available. Inquiries should be directed to Edmund Whitman Morris at his new address  
Westminster - Canterbury Box 61  
250 Pantops Mountain Road  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

### SSWD Scholarship Policy

Any descendent who is a member, or whose family is a member, of the SSWDA, may apply for a college loan up to \$ 1,000.  
Repayment of loans are to be made either after the applicant graduates, or, is a drop-out from college, and becomes employed.  
Interest on the loan will become effective at 5 % at the time of graduation (or drop-out).

( condensed policy)

### FROM THE LETTER BOX

#### From Eleanor Trisman of NJ

" My granddaughter, Jennifer Lee Trisman, and William Sanders were married on June 15, 1991 at one of the oldest Reformed churches in DuMont, NJ. They went to Florida for their honeymoon. Their apartment is in River Edge.. Both belong to the River Edge Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

My eyesight is not too good these days - my next birthday will be my 90th ! - forty years since I was Pres. of our Society ! " (see Oct. p.2)

#### From Melanie Reed of Vermont

Melanie Anne Reed and Kirk James Dennison were married September 28, 1991 at the Granville Baptist Church, NY. She is the daughter of Phyllis (Wescott) and Donald Reed of Wells. She will join her husband as a service wife in Hawaii.

#### From Lynda Dennis McGuirk of AZ

### SRP award goes to Royal Palm teacher

PHOENIX — The Salt River Project has honored a West Valley teacher for her commitment to energy and water education. Lynda McGuirk received a \$1,000 award at an Arizona Science Teachers Association luncheon at the Hyatt Regency in Phoenix.

McGuirk is a seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher at Royal Palm School in the Washington Elementary School District. Two other Valley teachers also received \$1,000 each. McGuirk was cited for involving her entire school in a week of intensive energy-awareness activities and heading a school recycling program.

#### From Betty Acker

BE THINKING MASSENA IN ' 92 !!!!!

I HAVE JUST TALKED WITH ART AND BARB WESTCOTT IN MASSENA AND THE REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE IN THE JANUARY QUARTERLY.

#### Note from the Editor

I need new address for

- # 173 Mrs. J.B. McPherson
- # 344 Mrs. Morris B. Townsend
- # 290 Mrs. L.G. Bryngelsson
- # 655 SFG Gary Reed
- # 768 Keith Reed