

# Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America

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 to members, non-members \$5.00 yearly.  
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JANUARY 1994

KNOW YOUR KINDRED BETTER

Vol LX no.1

## NATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL REUNION IN ZANESVILLE, OHIO JULY 29-31, 1994  
 MAKE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS NOW.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

|                 |                |                              |                           |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 882 SALISBURY   | JOSEPH D.      | 21 PETERSON CIRCLE           | STAFFORD SPRINGS CT 06076 |
| 884 HANSEN      | EUNICE EMERICH | 1301 CHERRY RD.              | MANITOWOC WI 54220        |
| 885 DIXON       | MALCOLM R.     | 5431 MERKENS DR.             | SAN ANTONIO TX 78229-     |
| 886 BELF        | HAROLD CHARLES | 9435 PARSHALLVILLE RD.       | FENTON MI 48430           |
| 887 HENSLEY     | BETTY J.       | 64 EAST MAIN                 | FRANKLIN LA 70538         |
| 888 WOLF        | MARGARET       | 300 E.H.ST. #106             | BENICIA CA 94510          |
| 889 FULTON      | JOHN R.        | 702 SOBRATO DR.              | CAMPBELL CA 95008         |
| 890 COLE        | DARCY S.       | 176 BERNICK PL.              | LANSDALE PA 19446         |
| 891 HANSEN      | JOHN J.        | 210 IPANEMA PLACE            | DAVIS CA 95616            |
| 892 DEMLOW      | GALE C.        | 950 BADNARD                  | ANTIGO WI 54419           |
| 893 HESS        | PHYLLIS L.     | 2454 NORTH RD. NE            | WARREN OH 44483           |
| 894 DOBBINS     | MARILYN DEAN   | 1715 2ND ST.                 | CHENEY WA 99004           |
| 895 COLVIN      | LLOYD L.       | 392 SEVEN MILE RD.           | HOPE RI 02831             |
| 896 RISING      | LUCIEN         | 2956 W. ENCHANTED CIRCLE     | COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80917 |
| 897 WESTCOTT    | THOMAS         | 712 BROTHER ST.              | LUDINGTON MI 49431        |
| 898 WESTCOTT    | DONALD         | 1915 CARTIER ST.             | FLINT MI 48504            |
| 899 QUELETTE    | JEAN H.        | 1 BROOKSIDE CT.              | CLAREMONT NH 03743        |
| 900 SHEEHY      | BONNIE         | 10064 LUDLOW                 | HUNTINGTON MI 48070       |
| 901 MANN        | BETTY B.       | 4123 WHITE PINE DR., BOX 156 | DORR MI 49323             |
| 902 CANGSON     | RALPH A.       | 10821 VICKERS DR.            | GARDEN GROVE CA 92640-    |
| 903 MCLEOD, Jr. | IRVING         | 42254 SUNNYDALE LN.          | NORTHVILLE MI 48167       |
| 904 RATCLIFF    | JAMES F.       | 3600 MEADOW                  | N. RENTON WA 98055        |
| 905 SPRAGUE     | VIRGINIA       | 543 REED DR.                 | DAVIS CA 95616-           |
| 906 BURT        | BARBARA B.     | 783 RIVER RD.                | GLENMONT NY 12077         |
| 907 BURT        | GAVIN          | 783 RIVER RD.                | GLENMONT NY 12077         |
| 908 RATCLIFF    | PHILIP A.      | 3260 40TH AVE. S.W.          | SEATTLE WA 98116          |
| 909 ADAMS       | HERBERT        | 801 WATERSIDE LN.            | BRADENTON FL 34209        |

## Chapter News

Iowa chapter president, Jim Westcot, announces the 1994 state reunion will be held June 12, at the University Park Holiday Inn, Des Moines, Iowa at noon. For more information contact Jim at 3815 Indiandale Cr.Se., Cedar Rapids, IA 52403.

DAMARIS WESTCOTT  
BORN IN ENGLAND - DIED NEWPORT, R.I. 1679

OUR SOCIETY HAS HAD 17 MEMBERS IN THE STUKELY (1) DAMARIS (2) LINE SINCE 1934. TWO OF THE 17 BECAME MEMBERS IN 1993 AND WE WELCOME THEM!

DAMARIS WESTCOTT MARRIED BENEDICT ARNOLD DEC. 17, 1640. THE ARNOLDS CAME FROM ILCHESTER, ENGLAND AS DID STUKELY WESTCOTT. ROSCOE WHITMAN WRITES ABOUT THE POOR CONDITION OF THE ARNOLD GRAVESITE IN HIS SECOND VOLUME, PAGE 410 & 411. OUR SOCIETY HAS TRIED TO CORRECT THE SITUATION OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

THE JUNE 1936 QUARTERLY CARRIED AN ARTICLE TITLED "PRESIDENT WESTCOTT PETITIONS RHODE ISLAND". A PORTION OF THE ARTICLE READS: "A PILGRIMAGE WAS MADE TO THE GRAVES IN NEWPORT AND A MOST UNHAPPY DISCOVERY FOLLOWED. THERE IN A SMALL BACKYARD OF A FRAME HOUSE ON PELHAM STREET, WHICH IS PART OF THE OLD ARNOLD FAMILY BURIAL GROUND, HEADSTONES WERE FOUND, NOT OF GOVERNOR AND DAMARIS ARNOLD, BUT OF THEIR SON BENEDICT AND HIS WIFE, SARAH MUMFORD." LATER IN THE ARTICLE: "PRESIDENT WESTCOTT HAS MADE AN INITIAL STEP WHICH MAY BE THE MEANS OF STIRRING THE AUTHORITIES TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO THE SITUATION AND POSSIBLY TAKE SOME ACTION." "HE HAS CAUSED A PETITION TO BE CURCULATED WHICH HE WILL PRESENT TO GOVENOR GREENE ASKING THAT "SUITABLE PROVISION FOR PERPETUAL CARE AND PRESERVATION OF THESE GRAVES THAT THEY MAY FOREVER NOT BE FORGOTTEN" ".

AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN JAN. 1939 A MEMORIAL COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED CONSISTING OF MR. V. STUKELY WESTCOTT, CHR, DR. NILES WESTCOTT, AND MISS SUSAN HANDY.

THE BOARD MINUTES OF JAN. 1942 ASK THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO MISS SUSAN HANDY, CHR., TO TENDER THANKS AND TO TELL HER OF THE BOARD'S REGRET THAT THE COMMITTEE COULD NOT BE CONTINUED.

FROM THE JUNE 1941 QUARTERLY, AN ARTICLE TITLED " RHODE ISLAND TO CARE FOR THE ARNOLD GRAVES". IT STATES IN PART "RELATIVE TO THE LONG NEGLECT OF THE GRAVES OF THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, BENEDICT ARNOLD, AND HIS WIFE, DAMARIS WESTCOTT, OUR MEMBERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE SOCIETY". THE "PROVIDENCE JOURNAL" OF MARCH 21 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE: "THE LONG NEGLECTED GRAVE OF BENEDICT ARNOLD, (FIRST) COLONIAL GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, WHICH IS IN A PRIVATE BACK YARD ON PELHAM STREET, NEWPORT, WOULD BE AT LAST CARED FOR UNDER A BILL APPROPRIATING \$15,000 OFFERED BY REP. JAMES J. HORGAN OF NEWPORT, IN THE HOUSE YESTERDAY. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THE MONEY WOULD BE USED FOR PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY WITH A RIGHT OF WAY TO THE STREET, RESTORATION OF THE GRAVESTONES AND CONSTRUCTION OF A FENCE ABOUT THE LOT." THIS RESTORATION PLAN IS EXACTLY IN ACCORD WITH THE SUGGESTION MADE BY THE COMMITTEE OF THIS SOCIETY, HEADED BY MISS SUSAN WESTCOTT HANDY LAST YEAR TO THE THEN GOVERNOR WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT, WHO APPOINTED THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT BACK THIS YEAR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IT IS EARNESTLY HOPED THE LEGISLATURE OF RHODE ISLAND WILL ACT PROMPTLY AND FAVORABLY IN THE MATTER.

I RECENTLY PURCHASED THE SOFTCOVER BOOK "THE BURYING PLACE OF GOVERNOR ARNOLD" FOR OUR WESTCOTT LIBRARY. IT IS A DELIGHTFUL STORY OF THE 1948 RESTORATION OF THE OLD CEMETERY AFTER THE PROPERTY WAS BOUGHT AT AUCTION IN THE SPRING OF 1946. THIS BOOKLET CAN BE ORDERED FROM:

THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NEWPORT COUNTY  
THE BREAKERS  
OCHRE POINT AVENUE  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND 02840

THE COST IS \$4.00 PLUS 1.75 FOR POSTAGE. IT IS WELL WORTH THE COST TO SEE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE. OR YOU CAN COME TO OUR NATIONAL SOCIETY GATHERING AND SEE ALL THE BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY!

ISN'T IT GREAT WHEN A STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING.

YOUR SOCIETY HISTORIAN  
BETTY W. ACKER

JAN. 16, 1994

Vermont chapter annual reunion was held August 29, 1993 at Crown Point Campground on Lake Champlain with 55 members attending. We had beautiful weather, good food and great fellowship. New officers were elected: president, Donna Sue Mayville; vice-president, Charles Willard Wescott; secretary, Ann Coltey; treasurer, Charlie Jay; chaplain, Phyllis Reed. Many thanks to our past president, Gloria Duprey, for a job well done.

Bev's daughter Stacy Lee Coltey was married Saturday, Aug. 28, 1993 in Crandall Park, Glens Falls to Michael Lawrence Moak.

We are all looking forward to the gathering in Zanesville, Ohio. We just got our conversion van ready to do some traveling.

Ann Coltey, Sec.

#### FROM THE LETTER BOX

##### From Philip Erlenbach of Connecticut

I am writing this letter on behalf of my mother, Georgia (Pickens Ellis), Erlenbach who has moved to "The Kent", a lovely new care facility in Kent, CT. She took a fall on November 15th in her condo and stayed with us for awhile but really needs professional care twenty four hours a day. She has lost track of time and of things around her. I know she would enjoy hearing from you, or visit The Kent, Room 203, 46 Maple Street, Kent, Conn. 06757, telephone (203) 927-5368.

##### From Robert F. Westcott of Illinois:

Left Chicago 12-9-93 for a trip I had planned for years. From London to Cape Town, South Africa, and then the Blue Train to Johannesburg. Checked to see at least 12 Westcott's in Cape Town and "Joburg" phone books. On to Kruger Forest which is the perfect way to initiate a first game drive. Victoria Falls and then Jijima Tent Camp in Hwange Park, Zimbabwe. Only 2 Westcott's in Zimbabwe. Christmas Day we were in Nairobi, Kenya, where we drove to see snow capped Mt. Kilimanjaro and New Year's we were animal watching at The Ark, and Mount Elgon, near the Uganda border. I took over 600 pictures in my 30 day trip of animals, flowers, birds, and great sights.

##### From Charles Willard Wescott of Vermont:

"On January 23, 1994, Eunice Marie Beayon and Charles Willard Wescott were united in marriage at the Union Church of Proctor, in Proctor, Vermont by Rev. Russell Gates."

##### From Barbara Benware Burt of NY:

I am writing to request an application for membership in the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America. I am a descendant of Stukely Westcott through Truman Westcott, daughter Hattie Westcott Anderson DeGowin, grand-daughter Leila Anderson Benware, and my father Willard Benware. I believe my great-grandmother, Hattie, was a member of SSWDA and attended some gatherings in the 1920's or 30's. I am quite proud and have dutifully kept alive my Westcott and Benware heritage for my son. Just this year his eighth-grade social studies teacher made copies of Truman Westcott's letters and diaries from the Civil War for all the students. A long prized possession in our home is the musket with bayonet he used in the war.

ed. note (Barbara is now a member)

##### From Lynda D. McGuirk of Arizona:

With daughters Kerry and Tarin, I drove my mother, Pauline W. Dennis, to Edmonton, Canada to her Lutheran woman's conference. Since my father was not well at the time my sister, Kathy Cartier with children, Kendra and Matthew, stayed in Colorado with him. We drove through the Tetons, Glacier Park, Waterton Lake, Canada, where there were deer wandering around on the lawn of our motel! The sun never went down so far north! The girls and I enjoyed the Edmonton Mall, said to be the largest in North America, with an inside wave pool, ice skating, triple loop roller coaster, 18 hole miniature golf course, submarine rides, dolphin show, seal show, plus thousands of stores and restaurants! We drove home through Jasper National Park, past the mountain goats, mountain sheep, and elk in velvet in our campground. We drove out on the glacier in a snowcoach, on to Yellowstone National Park, and Jackson Hole. For a family from Arizona it was quite a site to see snow, to drive in snow, a real blizzard, in June! A white water rafting trip on the Crystal River in Colorado was a great way to end a great trip.

##### From Pauline W. Dennis of Colorado:

I want to thank all of you who were so kind and thoughtful to send cards and letters at the time of the death of my husband, Chuck.