

Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America

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THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY
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KNOW YOUR KINDRED BETTER

Vol LXI no.4

NATIONAL NEWS

By way of introduction, my name is Domenic Spirito and I reside at 1531 West Shore Road in Warwick, Rhode Island. My home is located next door to the Stukely Westcott Homestead at 1515 West Shore Road. There has been a recent development regarding the Stukely Westcott Homestead which I feel should be communicated to the members of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America. I have spoken to both Ned Morris and to Betty Acker, who suggested that I write to you as Editor & Compiler of the Quarterly Society Newsletter.

The City of Warwick is in the process of conveying the former schoolhouse located on the Homestead property to an organization that plans to convert the building to multi-family housing. As you may be aware, the Homestead property was conveyed to the City of Warwick in 1860 with the stipulation that it be used for educational purposes only. This stipulation is included in the original property deed, a copy of which I have obtained from the city. There have been some questions raised as to the legality of the proposed conveyance of the building, given the "educational purposes" restriction contained in the deed.

A recent article in the local newspaper indicated that this issue will be resolved in the courts and that the City of Warwick will be looking for input from the descendants of Stukely Westcott to reach a final decision (a copy of the article is enclosed). My concern is that if the City of Warwick uses *only* the local newspaper to communicate this matter, it will not be brought to the attention of all the members of the Society, since they live throughout the United States. Ned Morris has written a letter on behalf of the Society to Mr. Carlo Pisaturo, the City Council member who represents the district in which the Homestead is located, stating his position that the building should continue to be used for educational purposes.

Letters from members of the Society to Mr. Pisaturo may also help to influence the final decision of the city. Such letters should be addressed to:

Mr. Carlo Pisaturo
Warwick City Councilman
178 Warwick Neck Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889

I personally feel that the Homestead property should be used as originally intended, for educational purposes, and not for multi-family housing. The continued restriction on the use of the property will help to ensure that the historical significance of the property to the City of Warwick and to the State of Rhode island is preserved.

Your assistance in communicating this issue to the Society members is greatly appreciated. As a decision on this legal question is expected shortly, your timely communication to the Society's membership is critical.

If you should require any additional information or if you would like to discuss this issue, I can be reached during the evening at 401-737-1811.

Sincerely,

Domenic P. Spirito
Domenic P. Spirito

1531 West Shore Road
Warwick, RI 02889

September 26, 1995

4 WARWICK BEACON, Thursday, July 27, 1995

Affordable housing plans move ahead with hurdles to leap

By SUE KAIRNES
Staff Reporter

Plans to convert an old schoolhouse at the corner of Sandy Lane and West Shore Road into seven units of affordable housing are moving ahead smoothly, with several bureaucratic hurdles to leap before actual renovations begin.

In January, in an 8-1 vote, the City Council gave the Women's Development Corp. the go-ahead to convert the old building — which has also served as the city's welfare offices — into seven apartments for low-income Warwick families. Alma Felix Green, president and chief executive officer of the corporation, testified before the City Council that the corporation would be conducting on-site visits at least twice a week and will be responsible for maintenance of common areas of the property, including hallways, shrubs, and exterior lighting.

Cost of the project — \$770,000 — is paid for with grant money, all of which will be repaid, Green said. (\$126,000 comes from HUD, \$150,000 from the City Community Development Block Grant, \$105,000 from the Home Improvement Loan Program, and \$57,000

from a first mortgage from Rhode Island Housing. Another \$281,000 will come from capital contributions from the corporation and its investors.)

The group faced opposition from residents concerned about safety, citing the fact that the building faces busy West Shore Road and is next door to one of the city's fire stations. The corporation also faced resistance from descendants of Stuckley Westcott, the original owner of the land. They contended that the original deed stipulated that the property be used for educational purposes only.

The corporation is currently petitioning the court to release the property from that stipulation, although Green notes, "The land was given to build a schoolhouse, and the city did that. It was operated until about 30 years ago, when it was no longer usable as a school, and the city then used it for a more practical use, although it kept the spirit that the building be used for public benefit.

"I'm confident that we'll be able to prove that we're not violating the stipulations," Green con-

cluded. "We have to prove to the court that we're using it for public benefit, as they did when it was used as a welfare building. And a portion of the land has since been used for the fire station."

As the petition moves through the courts, Green said the corporation will advertise so if any Stuckley descendants choose to oppose the project they may have the chance to do so.

"I'm pretty certain this will go through with no problems," she said. The corporation is also waiting to wrap up a request of HUD to assist in funding the project. Green notes that finalizing this request, too, is slowed only by paperwork.

In the meantime, designers are drawing up plans for a septic system. Architects are also drawing up plans for the interior of the building.

"Everything's in process right now," Green said. "Bureaucratic procedures are holding us up, but those issues should be resolved within a couple of months. In the meantime, we're moving ahead with plans."

Chapter News

New Hampshire Chapter # 12

The 16th annual meeting of the "Wescott's of New Hampshire" was held on July 9, 1995 at the Canaan Methodist Church, Canaan, New Hampshire. There were 15 members present, and 3 guests including National SSWDA Newsletter editor, Pauline W. Dennis.

We attended church together at 10:30 am and enjoyed a pot luck luncheon in the vestry following services. The traditional Wescott cake was presented by Thelma Heath.

The business meeting was mostly concerned with adopting the revisions of the by-laws, which had been approved by the New Hampshire Chapter Board of Directors.

Pauline brought greetings from Edna and Paul Lewis of Connecticut, and her mother, Mabel Wescott and brother, Charles W. Wescott of Vermont. She encouraged us to send news of births, marriages, deaths, graduations and anniversaries to her for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter. This same material should also be sent to Edna Lewis to keep our family history up to date.

We concluded our day with a silent auction competing for the "treasures" donated. The best part of our day was, of course, visiting with and enjoying "Our Kindred".

Our 1996 meeting will be held the third Sunday in July at the Dorchester, NH Town Hall. If you are in the neighborhood, please, join us.

The officers: President - Edwin Heath
 Vice-President - Willis Nowell
 Secretary - Thelma Beckwith
 Treasurer - Dorothy Heath
 Chaplain - Donald Dole
 Historian - Richard Hackeman

Vermont Chapter # 5

The Vermont chapter picnic was held August 13, 1995 at Lake St. Catherine State Park, Wells, Vermont. There were 82 present, lots of children. Some families attended the United Baptist Church on the Green in East Poultney together before the picnic.

Election of officers : President - Velma W. Reed
 Vice-President - Sonny Coltey
 Secretary - Ann Coltey
 Treasurer - Sylvia Carr Chandler
 Chaplain - Stewart Brown

Velma Reed discussed preliminary plans for the 1998 National Reunion for presentation to the SSWDA Board in Iowa next summer.

The group decided to send \$25 to the Westcott Scholarship Loan fund. Out-going pres., Donna Sue Mayville lead childrens games while others enjoyed boating with Don Reed and catching up on family news with cousins not seen for quite awhile.

Nicole Carr, dau. of Sylvia Carr Chandler, read her poem, "When I Think of You", which has been placed in A Delicate Balance in the National Library of Congress.

When I think of you
 I think of red roses with rain-
 drops all over them. I also think
 of you and me dancing to the most
 romantic song.

When I think of you
 I think of romance and passion,
 I think of a water fall flowing
 downward with endless motion and
 I think of us on a moonlit walk, walking
 around with the wild animals, with their
 bright yellow eyes, making mysterious noises.

When I think of you
 I think of a stream flowing so
 soft with the wonderful taste of
 clean water and again the rose that
 is now a rose bush so beautiful and delicate.

Sharon and Sonny Coltey delighted the group by leading a sing-a-long of old time songs accompanied by their guitars, harmonica, and 'dancing men'.

Ohio Chapter #15

Sean Westcott, (Gen. 13) 9 years old son of Timothy Westcott of Zanesville won the Nabisco Sweepstakes and was awarded a trip to Anaheim, California. The trip was to meet and greet the Power Rangers. He was accompanied on the trip by his father, mother Misty and his brother, Matthew.

FROM THE LETTER BOX

From Barlow Wescott of Colorado

At the last reunion I found out about the Westcott car and obtained a copy of the magazine with pictures and an article about it. (*Editors note: see p. 5*) Using the insignia from the car, with the help of a son-in-law who is a good artist and a local lady who makes belt buckles and bolos I had a set made. If anyone is interested I can get them made in approximately two weeks at a cost of \$50.00 for the buckle and \$35.00 for the bolo tie. The buckle is silver with red inlay in a large W, and a silver WESTCOTT spelled out on the red background. Very impressive.

Barlow Westcott
411 Lakewood Cr. B 1116
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

From Dorothy W. Hartman of Kansas

"We've become a tribe, really. At our family camp-out there were 55 of the 59 living members of our family present."

From Evelyn Hitchcock of New York

Sara Evelyn Matteson, daughter of Dana Matteson and granddaughter of Evelyn P. Hitchcock will begin her graduate education this fall. She will be attending the Indiana University of Pennsylvania pursuing her Doctorate degree in clinical psychology. Sara received her BA magna Cum Laude from the University of Rochester in May 1993 where she earned double majors in Religion and Psychology. She also won the honor of becoming a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Sara is a 3rd generation Westcott society member.

From Barbara Wescott of California

I am searching for James Logan Wescott b. 8-14-1880 d. 1-3-1913 prob. born in Wisconsin. His father, Daniel Young Wescott, May 21, 1849 to April 7, 1937 lived in Wisconsin and Arkansas. If anyone knows about these men, please, contact me, I really need to know.

Barbara Wescott
4901 Green River #318
Corona, CA 91720
909-371-8911

From Nancy L. Dodge of New Hampshire

Might there be anyone who would be willing to help me "flesh out" my Westcott ancestry, someone who has a similar line and might be interested in comparing notes. I have done research and cemetery work for many years, and have enormous files on many families besides my own which I am willing to share.

I'm working on the line of: I Stukely; II Jeremiah; III Jeremiah, Jr. and Mary Warner; IV James and Mary Dickens; V Richard and Rachel Goff; VI Elizabeth who m. David Redway, son of Timothy. They also had Martha who m. Jonathan Redway.

Nancy L. (French) Dodge
RR 2 Box 191
Colebrook, NH 03576

BIRTHS

Robert Scott Langley, born 13 June 1995 in Hanover, New Hampshire son of Tammy Sue (Morrill) and Robin Langley, and great grandson of Laura Sturtevant. He joins brother, Nickelous Robin, born 17 March 1991.

Brianna Shae Conley born 18 March, 1995 daughter of Kevin and Sharon Conley, granddaughter of Joseph and Patricia (Wescott) Conley, and great granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold "Doc" Wescott of Point Pleasant, New Jersey. She joins sister, Michele, and brother, Sean.

The Westcott Motor Company

Burton Westcott was born in Richmond, Indiana in 1868. In 1903 he migrated to Springfield, Ohio where he hired Frank Lloyd Wright to build him a home. His father, John W. Westcott, was founder and President of the Hoosier Drill Co., a Richmond based firm noted for the production of farm implements.

In 1896, he founded the Westcott Carriage Company, which enabled him to combine his business acumen with his love of horses.

Undoubtedly, Burton Westcott is best remembered as a manufacturer of automobiles. For a number of years he had tried unsuccessfully to interest his father in expanding to the manufacture of motor cars, and finally in 1916 he decided to bring the Westcott Motor Company to Springfield, even as the Westcott Carriage Company continued in Richmond as a separate enterprise.

The newly formed Springfield firm manufactured a luxury touring car that enjoyed a brief popularity after the First World War. Indeed, few automobiles could rival the Westcott touring car in its splendor and craftsmanship. Full-page ads such as appeared in the October 9, 1920 Saturday Evening Post indicates that the car boasted a nationwide following. Hand assembled from parts manufactured elsewhere, the 'Westcott' was produced on Warder Street, in Springfield.

As a civic and political leader of Springfield, Burton Westcott appears to have been extremely popular and successful.

In April 1923, Orpha, his wife, died suddenly in Philadelphia. The Westcott car company failed and Burton's health began to fail. He died in his home in 1926.

(Editors note: This article was taken from The Westcott Family Quarterly vol. XXVIII no.159, submitted by David and Dorothy Westcott of Springfield, Ohio abt. 1981)

SSWDA members George and Betty Westcott of Florida own one of these cars.

COME TO IOWA IN 1996

Why not plan a mini vacation in Iowa which will, of course, include the WESTCOTT FAMILY REUNION,
July 26, 27, 28, 1996.

If you have never been to Iowa you'll be surprised. It's not just one big flat field of corn. Whether you drive your own car or fly and rent a car, you may want to stay over a few days - before or after the reunion.

The Reunion will be held at the Comfort Suites motel on the grounds of the Living History Farms. A tour of the three farms, one depicting 1870, one 1880, one 1920 will be a part of the weekend. The Memorial service will be held at one of the farms, also.

Plan now to be in Des Moines in 1996.

James L. Westcot, 3815 Indliandale Circle S. E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52403, Telephone: (319) 363-9206
