



Society of Stukely
Westcott Descendants of
America
The Westcott Family
Quarterly

June 2005

Know Your Cousins Better

Vol. LXXI no. 1

President: Paul W. Westcott, New York
Vice President: David Seyfarth, Massachusetts
Treasurer: Evelyn Hitchcock, New York
Secretary: Ann Coltey, New York
Registrar: Lewis O. Westcott, Kansas
Historian: Betty W. Acker, Ohio
Chaplain: Sally Winter, Iowa
Genealogist: Jim Henderson, Pennsylvania
Webmaster: Michele McKenzie, New York
www.westcottsociety.com

The Westcott Family Quarterly
Issued quarterly or thereabouts through the year
with news of the Society. Free to members,
Non-members \$10.00 annually

Editor: Bart Westcott
722 Southampton Dr.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
bart@bmiles.com

253
254

**The Great American Desert:
An Interview with Lou Wescott Beck**

The following material was adapted by our Society historian, Betty W. Acker, from an article which originally appeared in the April 12, 1916 issue of "The Outlook".

.....

During the past year reports have come to us from visitors to California of the remarkable life-saving work carried on in the desert regions of the southwest by a former mining prospector, Mr. Lou Wescott Beck, and his dog.

Mr. Beck lived in Pasadena, Calif. and when he was not occupied with his rescue work on the desert he gave what are known as "grubstake lectures" in the mining regions.

Few people in the United States have any idea of the real American desert, which extends east and west from Salt Lake to the Sierra range and north and south from northern Nevada to the Mexican line. This



From *Travel Notes*
by Lou Wescott Beck
L. Beck

area contains something over two hundred thousand square miles. In spite of its death-like aridness, this region is of great economic value because of its mineral resources and the presence of alkalis, which include potash, gypsum and soda.

His companion for ten years on the desert trips was his dog "Rufus". Rufus wore elk-skin shoes to protect his feet from the hot sand. Rufus has a record of having saved thirty-two lives of men in the desert. Lou Beck has the record of having saved three hundred and thirty-four lives who were in the last stages of desert delirium. He said that Rufus was an expert in testing whether water was drinkable.

Rufus also carried an antidote for snakebites. They saved the lives of several Indians who had been bitten by the horned rattlesnake. Indians were more likely to be bitten as they went barefoot.

Rufus was a cross between a St. Bernard and a Siberian bloodhound. Lou Wescott Beck

died in 1917 and it about broke the heart of Rufus.

There is information indicating that Mary Hill retold the Lou Wescott Beck story in "The Child's Treasury". Perhaps one of the Society's members could locate this story.



Mabel L. Wescott, Society Past President

The following obituary appeared in The Rutland Herald on March 26, 2005.

East Poultney- Mabel L. Wescott, age 98, passed away on March 25, 2005, at her residence in East Poultney with her family by her side.

Mabel was born on April 7, 1906, in Wells, VT, daughter of the late Charles and Bertha (Juckett) Lake. She boarded at the Troy Conference Academy for two years and graduated in 1923. Mabel was

a graduate of Castleton State Teachers College and earned a masters degree in Education and a certificate of Advanced

Graduate Study from the University of Hartford, CT. Mabel married Phil Wescott in the East Poultney Baptist Church Parsonage on July 22, 1928. Mr. and Mrs. Wescott resided in East Poultney for many years. Mabel was employed as an

elementary school teacher in Connecticut, Poultney, and surrounding towns.

She was a very active member for many years of the Untied Baptist Church of East Poultney. Mabel was a leader of the Deep Rocks Boys 4H Club. She also worked as a volunteer at the Poultney Young at Heart Club where she was a Bingo Caller, exercise leader, and Meals on Wheels delivery person. Mabel was a lifetime member and past president of the Rutland County Retired Teachers Association. She was also a member of Valley Grange and a member of the Tunix Grange in Bloomfield, CT. Mabel was a member of the Poultney and the Middletown Springs Historical Society. She was a past president of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendents of America.

Mabel is survived by one son, Charles Willard Wescott of Rutland; four daughters, Wilma W. Avery of New Jersey, Pauline Dennis Schumann of Sheffield, MA, Phyllis A. Reed of Wells, VT and Velma J. Reed of East Poultney; 16 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was

predeceased by her husband, H. Phillips Westcott in 1959; two brothers, Robert Lake and William Lake; two grandsons, Phillip James Reed and Keith Allen Reed.

Donations in the memory of Mabel may be sent to the charity of one's choice.

Big 80th Birthday Party!

Barbara W. Reese turned 80 on January 15, 2005 and her children treated her to a limo ride to the party.

Some will remember Barbara as the new member who struggled through a storm

to get to the Friday evening gathering in Adamsville, OH in 1994. She has attended many reunions since then, but was unable to attend in 2004 in Kansas City.



Recent Graduates:

Miss Carolyn Westcott, daughter of Kathy (Wein) and Jeffrey Westcott, (No. 1106), graduated from State University of New York at Albany, NY with her Bachelor's

Degree in Anthropology honors and English and plans to start her Master's in Special Education and Literacy in the fall. She also received an Excellence in Anthropology award.

Miss Kyle Stirling, daughter of Connie (Westcott No 1107) and Thomas B. Stirling of White Bear Lake, MN graduated from the University of Minnesota at Morris with her bachelor's in Political Science.

Miss Melinda Westcott, daughter of Donna (Hildebrant) and Paul L. Westcott (No. 1108), who already has her Commercial Pilot's License, and is a certified flying instructor has completed her studies for her Airframe and Power mechanics certification. Her professor said of her, "she is not only the best female student I ever had, she is the best student I ever had."

These graduates are the Grandchildren of Barbara (Milliman) and Paul W. Westcott (No. 474).

Westcott House, Springfield, Ohio

Betty W. Acker, Society Historian, reports that September 18th is the date for the grand opening to the public of the Westcott House in Springfield, Ohio. This is the house that was designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright for Burton

Westcott, owner to the Westcott Car Company.

Go to www.westcotthouse.org for more information. But now might be the time to make plans to attend the open house in September!

Coat of Arms Pins Now Available

Now you can show you are proud members of the Stukely Westcott Society by wearing this coat of arms pin. Send check for \$5.00