



Society of Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America

The Westcott Family Quarterly

July 2008

Know Your Kindred Better

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The Westcott Family Quarterly

Issued quarterly or thereabouts through the year with news of the Society.
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www.sswda.org

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Review of the 37th SSWDA National Reunion

This year, for the 37th SSWDA National Reunion, the cousins gathered June 27-30, 2008, at the Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark, OH. Although our numbers were smaller than the last reunion, our spirits were strong! Betty Acker, Dianne Hatfield, and Kerri Paxson arranged a grand time for all of us. The Board of Directors met on Friday morning while registrations were processed and cousins were welcomed in the hospitality room. Westcott history displays, memorabilia and items for sale were in good supply. There were tables with cards and board games--no lack of things to do! Sightseeing information was available so off folks went. Highway 16 made all attractions very easy to find--can you spell "Longaberger Basket"?

After the barbecue Friday night, Kerri Paxson facilitated a lively and fun evening of Westcott bingo. The prize baskets were furnished by Denise Taylor-Spiker from her organically grown and personally made Spiker Springs Products.

After the Society business meeting Saturday morning, Dianne conducted the Memorial Service. The afternoon was free for more visiting and sightseeing. Special attendees were Sylvia and Alan Back, from Devonshire, England, whom the Westcott group had met during a trip to England in 1997; and they arranged to spend their vacation with us for our Reunion this year. Now they are going to try to trace their ancestry to Stukely!

At the Saturday evening banquet, Betty brought greetings from the cousins who were unable to attend. Kerri then introduced our speaker, a "Doctor" from Roscoe Village in costume from the mid

STUKELEY WESTCOTT, 1592 - 1677, planter and colonizer, one of the 13 original proprietors of Providence Plantation and Colony of Rhode Island; of Salem, Mass.; 1635, Providence, R.I., 1638, and Warwick, R.I., 1647. His wife: Juliana Marchant. Their children: Damaris (Arnold), Samuel, Mercy (Stafford), Jeremiah.

19th century who provided an entertaining and informative experiential view of life in the 1800's. Believe me when I say that medicine has made big strides since then! Our evening continued with our guest, Randy Cobun, who provided musical entertainment: a combination of his singing and karaoke tapes. We sang along, we danced, and we had a grand time.

Now we've said goodbye until the next time: we're all looking forward to gathering in Florida near the Kennedy Space Center in 2010. More to come on that in a future newsletter. We hope we will see you there!

~ Submitted by Nancy Westcott

From the President's Corner:



Siblings Lewis, Paul, Grace, & David

I want to note my personal thanks to the Ohio Chapter for the tremendous job they did in putting the reunion together. The facilities were great, the church service they conducted was personally rewarding to me, and the Bingo game was a lot of fun for both the children and adults participating. I also want to thank the Board members for their reports and special thanks to Susan Morris and Jim Leflar for their input, and to Nancy Westcott (my sister-in-law) for sitting in as Secretary. I have to identify Nancy as my sister-in-law since there were 3 Nancy Westcott's at the reunion.

I also want to thank Nadine Pachico for volunteering to host the 2010 reunion on Merritt Island, Florida. She assures us that even though it will be in July there is always breeze blowing which makes it most comfortable. More information will follow as arrangements are made.

~Submitted by David Seyfarth

Marriage Announcements

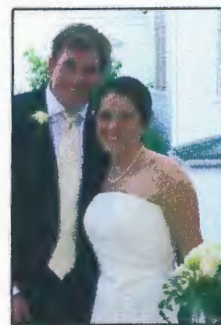


Carrie and Jim

Caroline Lee Schmidt and James William Leflar III were married at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kankakee, IL, on October 27, 2007. Jim is the SSWDA webmaster (www.sswda.org) and the great-great grandson of our founder, Roscoe L. Whitman.

Anna Carter McAlpine and Thomas Soren Bentson were married at St. John's Episcopal Church, Wytheville, VA, on May 31, 2008. Tom is the brother of Edmund ("Pete") T. Bentson, SSWDA Scholarship Officer, and the great-great grandson of our founder, Roscoe L. Whitman.

~ Submitted by Susan Morris



Tom and Anna

George Roessing Hays - Life Member Profile

George Roessing (Ross) Hays was born on January 27, 1912 in Arnoldsburg, West Virginia. Arnoldsburg is a small town in Calhoun County about 50 miles southeast of Parkersburg and is located on the West Fork of the Little Kanawha River.

The "Blue Hole" on the Lower West Fork was a deep swimming hole that was always described as bottomless. Large catfish used to swim in the Blue Hole where local boys would jump in and wrestle the catfish (a fishing sport now commonly called "noodling").

Ross and his brother Bernard were raised there by his mother, Myrtle Reading Hays, and his father, George Warren Hays Jr. After his education years he taught school in a one-room schoolhouse. Ross later became the President of First Federation life Insurance Company, doing business in the Caribbean. Later on he worked in the wholesale lumber business in Tampa, Florida, where he has resided for the last 50+ years. Ross served in World War II as a Chemical Warfare Officer in the United States Army Air Corps.

Ross is descended from Stukely Westcott via his grandmother, Mary Westcott Roessing, and great-grandmother, Julia Ann Westcott, the 5th great-granddaughter of Stukely. As a youngster, Ross heard about the Westcotts from his father. However, he only recently found out that his namesake uncle, Frank M. Roessing, was a contributor when Roscoe Whitman was composing his Westcott book, in which Frank is recognized by Whitman in the forward section of Vol. 1. Ross is now a life member of SSWDA, # 1062, having been enrolled by his daughter, Barbara Hays Henderson.

At age 96, Ross still enjoys a game of golf two or three times per week, especially in Michigan where he spends his summers on Lake Charlevoix. He admits that he has recently resorted to using a "spotter", but claims that this does not give him any advantage since he no longer shoots his age.

~Submitted by Jim Henderson



**George Roessing Hays,
May 2008**

Graduation news from Ellis Westcott of Hernando, Florida



Lt. Daniel Ellis Westcott

Dan received a law degree from West Point. When he returns from Europe, he'll report to Fort Benning in Georgia for a month of officers' basic training, then to flight school at Fort Rucker in Alabama for an 18 month course learning to fly helicopters.

Greg received his degree in Public Policy with minors in Chinese and Chemistry from Duke University. He's currently engaged in a two year research project in Molecular Pathology at Mass. General Hospital in Boston. At its conclusion he intends to go to medical school to become a doctor.

It seems my grandsons like to travel. From West Point, Dan was sent to Korea, Italy, and Greece and is now touring Europe with one of his brothers. Greg spent a summer in China. Boy, do I envy these kids! Fifty-four years ago I was a Chinese linguist in Korea, but I have never been to China and the closest I got to Europe was a couple of weeks in Ireland about 30 years ago.

~Submitted by Ellis Westcott



Gregory Peter Westcott

Cemetery Research Project open to all Society Members

Betty Acker of Zanesville, Ohio, and Doug Wescott of San Diego, California, have long talked about a project to disseminate cemetery information to people who are working on their family histories. The Westcott Society Board approved the project at their meeting in Ohio at the biennial reunion. By coordinating with our web site, www.sswda.org, we can make this information readily available to our "cousins" who are working on their ancestry.

You can either photograph the Westcott/Wescott tombstones in the cemeteries near you or transcribe the information and send it to Doug Wescott; 8669 Jenny Ave.; San Diego, CA 92123; or via email to doug@wescotts.org. You do not need to know the ancestry of these people. This will be one way that the many people listed in Roscoe Whitman's Genealogies as "Went West" might be located by their descendants.

The "Cemetery Research Project" page on the sswda.org website will be indexed for ease of use in locating your lost ancestor/s. Please feel free to submit as many grave sites as you can or at least the most obvious ones. It would also be helpful if you would include the name and address of the cemetery if it is available.

~ Submitted by Betty Acker

Launch of New SSWDA Website

If you haven't already seen it, we have a new website! It can be found on the internet at <http://www.sswda.org>. Please update your web browser's *Bookmarks* and *Favorites* accordingly. The new website has some great new functionality, including the ability to add comments to web pages, contact other society members and committees, submit newsletter articles, and the list goes on! I am still working out some of the details, but feel free to take a look around and send me any suggestions or questions. If you can't find something you are looking for, you can still temporarily see the original website's content at <http://old.sswda.org>. Once all the content has been copied over the old site will be retired.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Michelle McKenzie for all her great work to get the original website up and running, as well as for all the help she provided in transitioning the Webmaster responsibilities over the past two years. Without her efforts and the great deal of content that she created, none of this would be possible.

I greatly appreciate any feedback that you have to offer on the new layout and content, and hope that this website becomes a place where you can turn to get more information and reconnect with your "cousins"!

~Submitted by Jim Leflar

Note from the Editor~

The SSWDA Quarterly Newsletter is a wonderful yet underutilized way for us to keep in touch throughout the year. The problem is this: the Newsletter can be published only when there is enough material to warrant a mailing. With technology available today like digital cameras, internet, and email, we can all easily participate.

And don't be shy! Send that photo of Baby's first birthday or of the family vacation to Niagara Falls. If you know an interesting story about an ancestor or family member that others might enjoy, please send me a quick paragraph or give me a call. If it is easier, you may also submit a photo or newsletter story in the envelope along with your annual dues slip as you mail it to the society Treasurer. With every family's single contribution even once a year, we can easily ensure that the Newsletter will

continue to be sent out regularly. Many thanks for your interest in the Society and for your next submission!

Also, if you would like to receive subsequent newsletters via email, please let me know. Benefits include color photos and active web links in an Adobe .PDF document, the same that goes to my local printer.

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