



Society of Stukely Westcott  
Descendants of America

The Westcott Family Quarterly

December 2008

Know Your Kindred Better

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264

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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](http://www.sswda.org)

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### Welcome New Members!

Carla Lamar Ray #1140  
49 Lantern Way  
Nicholasville, KY 40356

Catherine Ann Passas #1141  
146 Inner Court  
New Lenox, IL 60451

### History of Westcott Bay and Westcott Bay Orchards

Westcott Bay is located on San Juan Island in northwest Washington State near the Canadian border. The bay was named by Captain Henry Kellett to honor Commander George Blandon Westcott, a British naval hero at the 1798 Battle of the Nile.

Kellett is credited with making the first detailed charts of the area in 1846 for the British Admiralty. Kellett retained many of the original Spanish place names, assigning general use names to some locations and naming others after pedigreed British nobility and Naval officers such as Westcott. Nearby English Camp on Garrison Bay, now a National Park was occupied by British Marines during the Pig War of 1859-1872 which led to the final boundary settlement between England and the United States.

Westcott Bay Orchards located on the Northwest side of Westcott bay, is one of several old orchards in the area which date back to the 1880's when San Juan Island was a major apple producing area for the Puget Sound region. The original orchard was replanted in the mid 1990's and released its first cider in 1999.

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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.



### **Westcott Bay Cider**

Only in America is cider called hard cider. In the British Isles it is cider, in France, cidre and in Spain, sidre.

Unique among small Washington wineries, Westcott Bay Orchards produces and bottles crisp, refreshing ciders with a complexity and finish provided by using traditional cider apples grown in our San Juan Island orchard. These are vintage apples with wonderful names like Kingston Black, Yarlington Mill, Dabinett and Sweet Coppin.

Cider making is a blender's art using different apples from the orchard to blend for spiciness and astringency. Westcott Bay ciders are made with 100% fresh pressed apple juice which runs brown with tannin and clears to a brilliant amber-gold as the juice gently ferments and mellows.

Serve our cider slightly chilled with cheese, fruit, seafood and light meals, or enjoy as a social drink with friends. You can purchase our ciders in many Seattle markets, Western Washington markets and locally in the San Juan Islands.

~Excerpted from the website: [www.westcottbaycider.com](http://www.westcottbaycider.com)

~Submitted by Jim Henderson

### **Warwick's Villages & Historic Places**

**By Don D'Amato**

**Apponaug Village**

**The Four Mile Common**

The first mention of Apponaug in the Warwick Town Records was on May 27, 1663. It tells us that it was "Ordred yt 20 men of ye Inhabitants of this Towne of Warwick shall goe forthwith to sett up ye fence in ye place where it was formerly sett up from ye head of Coave goeing to Aponachack and raining downe to ye fresh river to toeskeuncke...." This reference was in the Warwick Town Records pg 134 #197.

**A Fulling Mill for Apponaug**

With the conclusion of hostilities after King Philip's War, the children of the first settlers in Warwick began to settle in the area called the Four Mile Common at Apponaug Cove. By this time, they were beginning to demand more comfort and material things than their parents had enjoyed. They especially wanted better dwellings and finer clothing. As a result, fulling mills were in great demand in the 17th century.

**The "fulling of cloth"**

"Fulling" is the process of cleansing, scouring and pressing woven woolen goods to make them stronger and firmer. During the Colonial Period, a water mill was used to scour or wash the cloth. According to the Encyclopedia Americana, these early mills consisted of a wheel, with pestles and stampers attached to it. Cloth is put in a trough with "fuller's earth," (usually clay) and the pestles beat on it to thicken and scour the cloth. After from about 48 to 65 hours of this treatment the result is considerable shrinkage of the cloth. The threads are firm and close together and the tendency for the cloth to unravel is eliminated. Apponaug had soil that contained this "fuller's earth" or clay which was necessary to separate the grease and oil from the cloth. Realizing this, and finding the area ideal for his enterprise, Micarter asked for and received permission to build a mill at the stream near the Cove.

**A village is born - 1697**

The site was suitable and Micarter was granted the right to build a mill at "Aponake". He was also permitted to build "some convenient accommodations for the abode and residence of himself and family." He was charged with the proviso, "that the said fulling mill shall be finished and completed, fit to do the town service at or before the first day of May, which will be in the year 1697..." Micarter was



told that he "shall always be ready to do the towne's work upon as reasonable terms as they can have it done elsewhere..." He was given one acre and a half of land which was situated "between two wading places, the uppermost being the foot way, the lowermost the horse way; as also, allowed liberty for digging a trench at the entrance of Kekamewit brooke to raise it sufficiently..."

In addition to the right to build the mill, Micarter asked for and received permission to dry cloth on the common, and to have "the privileges upon the common for fuel or fire wood...and privileges for ten head of cattle to feed on the common..."

Apparently, not long after the mill was put in operation Micarter decided to leave. The late Dorothy Mayor, who spent many years researching Apponaug's past, has concluded that John Micarter sold his fulling mill to **Jeremiah Westcott \*** in 1698. for the "sum of one hundred fifty and five pounds of current money of New England." In the spring of 1702, Westcott decided to sell "my dwelling house together with my fulling mill, each being situate at or near Aponake..."

\* Probably Jeremiah Westcott Jr. born in 1666

#### **The Greenes Take Over**

Westcott sold his interest to Samuel Greene for "one hundred and fifty pounds New England silver money." In addition to the house and mill, all the land, fences, water courses and privileges belonging to the mill were included.

The success of the mill under Greene ownership resulted in Apponaug being called Fulling Mill for a number of years and also served to encourage the establishment of other mills in the near vicinity.

There are no written records to tell us where early man lived in Warwick prior to 1642. Archeologists have made a number of discoveries to indicate that those sites shown on the map were well established.

Map prepared by Thomas Enoch Greene, 1991

#### **"Westcott" Sightings**

*~Send us your "Westcott Sighting" to be included in the next newsletter!*

#### **J.W. Westcott II on a rough mail delivery on the Detroit River.**

Located in Detroit at the foot of 24th street just west of the Ambassador Bridge, the J.W. Westcott Company was originally formed in 1874 by Captain J.W. Westcott to inform passing vessels of changes in orders.

The Westcott Company's role has changed to include a wide range of services. June 1895 marked the first mid-river mail delivery by a Westcott mail boat beginning more than 100 years of "mail-by-the-pail". All deliveries are carried out by the 45-foot J.W. Westcott II, with the Joseph J. Hogan standing by as a back up



Photo by N. Schultheiss

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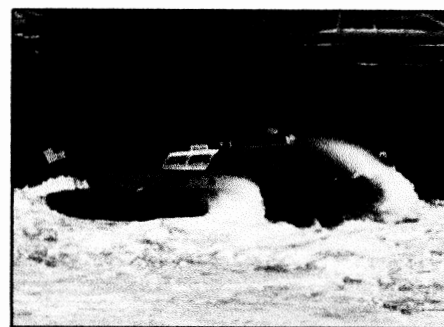
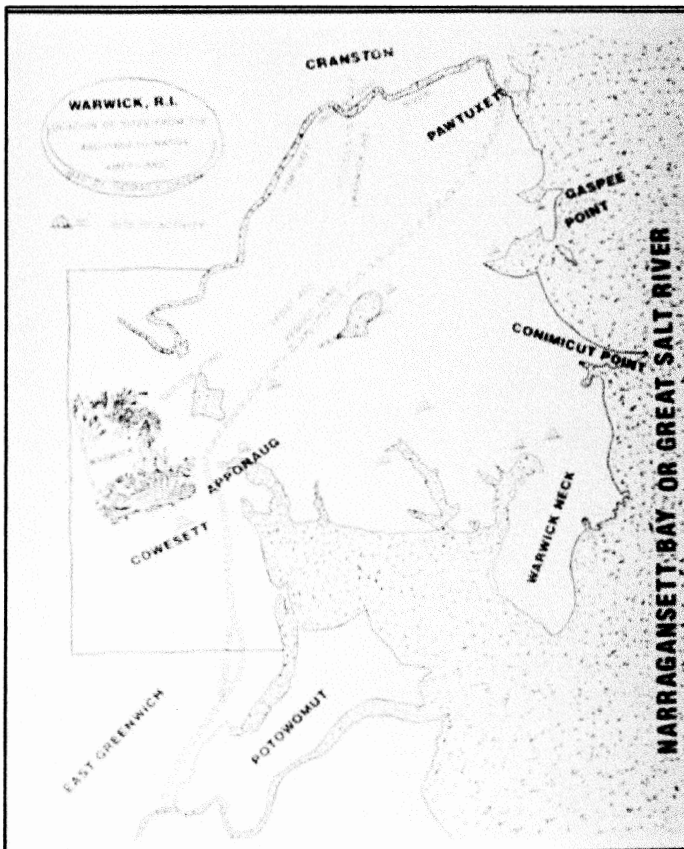


Photo by N. Schultheiss



boat. Today the Company's duties include: U.S. mail delivery; freight delivery, storage, forwarding; message service; passenger service to and from vessels; pilot boat services for the Port of Detroit; the sale of nautical charts, postcards, books, candy and cigarettes, and even the occasional mid-river pizza delivery.

### **Oliver S. Westcott Elementary School**

409 W. 80th St.; Chicago, IL 60620

[www.westcottschool.org](http://www.westcottschool.org)

**Mission:** All stakeholders of the Westcott School community are committed to improving teaching, learning, and academic achievement. Students are provided opportunities that support literacy development, which subsequently increases their academic, technological and social achievement. Our environment is nurturing, caring and fosters a sense of cultural awareness, high levels of self-esteem and respect. Students are empowered and motivated to become successful members of the community.

**Vision:** Oliver S. Westcott School is committed to providing a positive learning climate that will ensure that all students are literate and have the tools needed to achieve their goals. Students will be motivated to achieve at a higher level of academic performance. Students will have the opportunity to develop into critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and productive successful citizens of the broader community.



**Oliver S. Westcott Elementary School**

### **Tall Tales**

In a Michigan Department of Natural Resources paper written by John D. Schroeder, inland fisheries specialist for the Michigan DNR, entitled "Muskellunge Management in Michigan," one of history's largest muskellunge references is contained:



**Muskellunge caught on  
Umfreville Lake in northern  
Ontario**

"One fish reportedly caught in a pond net off Sleeping Bear Dunes in Lake Michigan in the 1880's was said to have weighed 162 pounds and measured more than seven feet long. The skull of that fish, which was retained by **Alvin Westcott of Glen Arbor**, measured about 13 inches long and 20 inches in circumference more than seventy years later."

Well, talk about exaggerating the size of a muskie! There is "no way" that a musky with those head dimensions could weigh anywhere near what was claimed. In fact, Dr. E.J. Crossman, one of the World's most respected Esocidae researchers, took it to task. Bottom line was that for a musky to be as big as the Sleeping Bear Dunes catch, its head would have had to have been as much as 23 inches long and 32 inches in circumference! Was the right head used to take those measurements? In doing his length extrapolation, Dr. Crossman found that a musky of 162 pounds would be about 82 inches or approximately 7 feet long.

Did muskies from the past grow to greater dimensions than muskies today? Did a 7 foot muskie actually exist in the 1880's, or did Cousin Alvin accidentally use the wrong side of his measuring tape? Causes one to think, doesn't it?

**The following is excerpted from THE NEWS – Newport R.I., Monday, August 9, 1954**

Dr. William A. Driver of Larchmount, N.Y. was elected president of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America at its biennial meeting held at the Newport Historical Society Saturday. Sixty of the 200 members of the association attended.

Greetings were extended by Mrs. Maude Colwell, president of the Rhode Island chapter, and by Herbert O. Brigham, historical society librarian. Mrs. Colwell conducted the memorial service.

Others selected to office were Lester Townsend, Oneonta, N.Y., chaplain; Mrs. Eleanor Wescott Trismen, River Edge, N.J., corresponding secretary and registrar; Mrs. Alice Wescott Marroquin, Hackensack, N.J., treasurer; and William M. Wescott, Wellfleet, Mass., honorary chaplain.

The group attended a clambake Saturday night at the Manville home of Miss Susan Westcott Handy. A visit to the Westcott lot in Warwick took place yesterday followed by tea at "Westcote," the Oaklawn home of Dr. and Mrs. Niles Westcott.

*-Submitted by Jim Henderson*

**Thompson Westcott, An ancestral history**

**WESTCOTT, Thompson**, editor, born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 5 June, 1820; died there, 8 May, 1888. He was educated at the English schools of the University of Pennsylvania, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1841. In 1846 he became law-reporter on the "Public Ledger," remaining there until 1851 and frequently acting in an editorial capacity for this journal and for the "Dollar Newspaper." When the "Sunday Despatch" was begun in 1848 he became its editor and served until 1884. In 1863-9 he was editor-in-chief of the "Inquirer," and he contributed to this journal until 1876. In 1884 he accepted an editorial appointment on the Philadelphia "Record," which he held for several months, after which he contributed to the "Public Ledger" and to other journals. Mr. Westcott was the author of a "Life of John Fitch, the Inventor of the Steamboat" (Philadelphia, 1857)" "The Taxpayer's Guide " (1864)" "Names of Persons who took the Oath of Allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania between the Years 1777 and 1789, with a History of the ' Test Laws' of Pennsylvania" (1865)" " The Chronicles of the Great Rebellion against the United States of America," first published in the " Old Franklin Almanac " (1867)" "Official Guide-Book of Philadelphia" (1876)" "Centennial Portfolio " (1876) . "Historic Mansions and Buildings of Philadelphia" (1877)-and, with J. Thomas Scharf, a "History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884" (3 vols., 1884) , and contributed to the "Sunday Despatch" a " History of Philadelphia from the First Settlements on the Delaware to the Consolidation in 1854."

**-Related Story:** One of the more popular dates of the Liberty Bell's cracking is July 8, 1835, when the bell was tolled during the funeral procession of Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, John Marshall. Although newspaper accounts give details of the funeral, there is no mention of the Liberty Bell cracking. The earliest versions of this story appear in **Thompson Westcott's** The Official Guide Book to Philadelphia: A New Handbook for Strangers and Citizens published in 1876 for the Centennial Exhibition. Also, the custodian of Independence Hall, Frank M. Etting, announced in March 1876 that he learned that the bell was cracked in 1835 while tolling the death of Chief Justice Marshall. Neither source provides documentation to support their claims.

*-Submitted by Jim Henderson*

**Richard Wescoat: An ancestral history**

It is with great concern that I write you about a recent trip I made to the Batsto museum in NJ were I noticed that Col. or Major Richard Wescoat has been left out of all time lines on the exhibits there. When I asked an employee why Richard Wescoat has been left out of the history of Batsto the reply was alarming. The employee stated, "We only mention people who owned the property for a long period of time." I have done some research on Richard and it shows he owed a half interest in batsto for 16 years during the most important time frame of the Revolutionary War.



The following is from the book **Iron in the Pines**, by Arthur D. Pierce: "On May 9, 1764, the Batsto lands were offered at the equivalent of foreclosure sale by the Common Pleas Court. Presiding at the auction as Associate Justice was Charles Read. The sale was held from noon to 5:00P.M. Only one bidder appeared. He was Richard Wescoat or (Westcott), who became an associate of Read in the iron business. Wescoat's 300 pounds proclamation money closed the sale. One year later, on May 3, 1765, Charles Read bought from Richard half interest in several thousand acres of the Batsto property. It is known that from the start Read had four partners in his enterprise: Reuben Haines, a Philadelphia brewer; John Cooper, of Burlington, mentioned in deeds as a 'gentleman'; Walter Franklin, a New York merchant whose interest was held in trust for his son; and John Wilson, one of Read's friends in Burlington County. Richard Wescoat, of course, was a half owner of the site. On January 2, 1781, Richard Wescoat sold his long half interest in various Batsto lands, so that after some 16 years the property itself was consolidated. However the partners cut Wescoat in again the following December, when Joseph Ball sold him a one twelfth share from his holdings."

Let's also not forget Joseph Ball, who is well documented as Batsto met and won his wife, Sarah Lee, the daughter, by a previous marriage, of Richard Wescoat's wife. I will be writing letters to the Historical Preservation Office and Batsto Village with this and more documents. I ask that you take a minute out of your day and write or call them to inform them of your concern for the history of the Wescoat or Westcott family. This is our family name and we should take pride in the ancestors and what they were able to accomplish and how they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or up, their resoluteness to build a life for their family. Please take a minute to write so that your great-grandchildren can learn the true history of their ancestors. Also please send this email to anyone you can that can help us in preserving are family history.

Batsto Village  
Barsto RD. # 9  
Hammonton NJ 08037  
Phone: (609) 561-0024

Historical Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 404  
Trenton NJ 08625-0404  
Phone: (609) 292-2023

~Submitted by Aaron Westcott

### **The Pike to Providence Westcott House**

Betty Acker writes: In my Christmas card from Carol-Ann Lantz, she tells me that the old Westcott house has sold and by now is torn down. This was the house that was the toll gate on the pike to Providence. If you will remember, we had two bus loads of Westcott "cousins" to tour the house and see her displays during our 2002 reunion in Rhode Island. The house was built of American chestnut which you cannot find today.

If anyone would like to drop Carol-Ann a note of thanks for caring for the old Westcott house for so many years, I'm sure she would appreciate it. Her address is:

Carol-Ann Lantz  
57 Grandeville CT Unit 2228  
Wakefield, RI 02879-8244

### **Passing of Sharon Wolley Coates**

Joanne M. Picard wrote with news from her family. Sharon Wolley Coates, her niece, passed away on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 after a prolonged illness. She is survived by her mother, Bonnie Picard and her daughter, Virginia Picard Sampson. Joanne Picard is spending fall of '08 and spring of '09 in Alimos, Greece, a suburb of Athens, with her daughter, Julie Picard-Dopoulos and her grandchildren, Philemon Ralph, aged nine, and Artemis Theoni, aged six.

### Passing of Marilyn Perdue

Marilyn Margaret (King) Perdue, aged 81 of Griswold, passed away on Saturday, September 6 at Clarkson Hospital, Omaha, NE. Marilyn was born March 24, 1927 in Galesburg, IL to Stanley and Mabel (Clay) King. Marilyn grew up in Red Oak, IA and graduated from Red Oak High School in 1944. She entered nurse's training in the Cadet Nurse Corps in September 1944, and graduated as a registered nurse from Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing in 1947. She worked at Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital the following year, then practiced nursing at Murphy Memorial Hospital in Red Oak and the Griswold Care Center. She retired from nursing in the late 70's to join her husband full-time at Travel Place in Red Oak.

Marilyn was married to Marlin Perdue of Griswold on January 1st, 1950. They made their home in rural Griswold where they farmed. Marilyn was adored by her 3 children, 19 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, as well as by many French students who called Marilyn's home their own.

### Note from the President's Corner

David Seyfarth wishes everyone good health and happiness in 2009.

