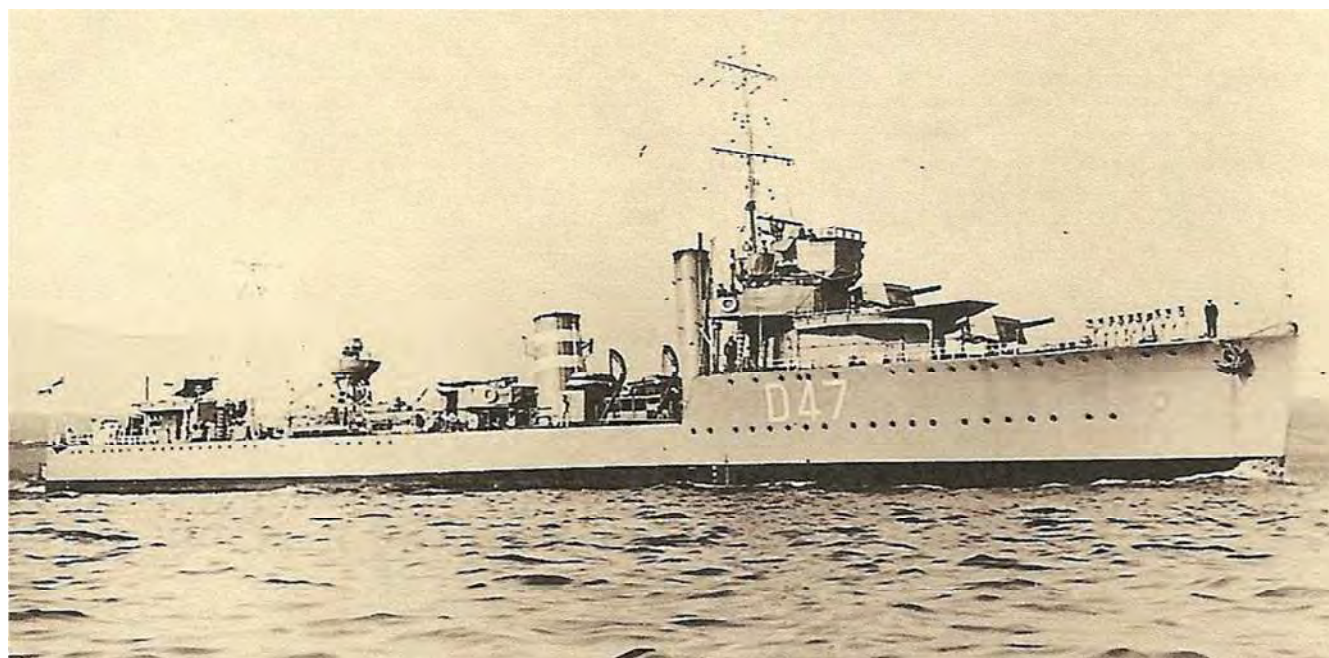


Society of Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America
~
The Westcott Family Quarterly
JANUARY, 2011
Know Your Kindred Better

Happy New Year to all of the Westcott Clan!

Winter is definitely here in the Deep South. Here in Mississippi it was 12° F last night. Just for kicks, I checked the temperature in Moscow and it was 13o F. So it was colder in Northern Mississippi than Moscow, Russia. Of course I have read about all of the winter weather up in the northeast where so many cousins live and there's more to come.

HMS Westcott



HMS Westcott was named after Captain George Blagdon Westcott, RN who was killed at the Battle of the Nile in 1798 while in command of HMS Majestic. The “Gallant Westcott” Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson, RN called him. He came from humble stock and rose from the lower deck to command a battleship of the line. There is a memorial statue to him in St. Paul's Cathedral in London which your editor has seen.

A Brief History of HMS Westcott (D 47) – V and W-Class Destroyer

HMS *Westcott* was ordered by the Admiralty in December, 1916. The keel was laid down by Denny at Dumbarton, Scotland on March 30, 1917; she was launched on February 14, 1918, commissioned on April 12, 1918 and served in the 13th Destroyer Flotilla based in Scapa Flow. After the Armistice she was one of the escorts for the German Fleet. During their passage to surrender at Scapa Flow. During the period August to November, 1919 she was deployed in Baltic operations against the Bolsheviks. She was sent to the Mediterranean in February, 1920 and used for bombardment of Turkish Nationalist positions. On return to the UK in August, 1920 she joined the Home Fleet in which she served until 1935. After a successful WARSHIP WEEK National Savings Campaign in December, 1941 *Westcott* was adopted by the civil community of Morecambe and Heysham, Lancashire.

On January 16, 1941 HMS *Westcott* (Lt. Cdr. W.FR. Seagrave RN) , HMRT *Superman* and HMRT *Tenacity* together picked up 143 survivors from the British passenger ship *Oropasa* that was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-96 southeast of Rockall.

During the Second World War, *Westcott* was employed in the anti-submarine role and supported numerous Atlantic and Malta convoys. As a test platform, *Westcott* became the first vessel to be equipped with Hedgehog anti-submarine mortar. The navy had *Westcott* converted into long-range escort in 1943.

On February 2, 1942, HMS *Westcott* sank U-581 off Pico Island, Azores by ramming. Thirty-nine survivors were rescued and the prisoners disembarked on February 6th at Gibraltar.

On November 8, 1942 *Westcott* came under shore fire during entry of Cutters and withdrew. Later that day she took part in sinking Vichy French submarines *Actaeon* and *Argonaute*. These submarines were attempting to interfere with landings.

In December of 1942 *Westcott* was nominated for refit and conversion to long-range escort. The work was completed in HM Dockyard Portsmouth. The refit was completed in June, 1943 and she was re-commissioned on July 19th.

She took part in many convoy escort missions for the remainder of the war.

In July of 1945 *Westcott* was placed on disposal list for breaking up. She was sold to BISCO on January 8, 1946 for demolition by West of Scotland Ship-breakers. She arrived in tow later that year and was broken up into scrap.

Time-line for HMS Westcott

Surrender of the German fleet	1918
Scuttle of the German Fleet.....	1919
Baltic Campaign.....	1919
Constantinople Campaign.....	1920
China Station.....	1936-1940
The Norway Campaign.....	1940
Atlantic Convoys.....	1940-1942
Malta Convoys.....	1942
North Africa Campaign.....	1942-1943
Russian Convoys.....	1943-1945
Normandy Campaign.....	1944
Scrapped.....	May, 1946



The Hedgehog anti-submarine mortar aboard HMS *Westcott*



There has been some activity in the Azores area, but no attacks on shipping have resulted. On 2nd February H.M.S. *Westcott*, as already reported in daily press, sank a U-Boat south-east of Fayal Channel by ramming.

ennant: D-47/I-47

uilt: William Denny & Brothers (Dumbarton, Scotland)

eel Laid: 30 Mar 1917

aunched: 14 Feb 1918

ommissioned: 12 Apr 1918

reconstruction to Long Range Escort finished in July 1943.

In these photos you can see remains of the rammed U-boat and survivors in the water.

The information in this brief article on HMS *Westcott* was obtained from several sources which the reader may wish to visit including Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Westcott_\(D47\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Westcott_(D47)), www.uboa.net/allies/warships/ship4269.html. www.naval-history.net/aGM-Chrono-10DD-09VW-Westcott.html and www.secondworldwar.org.uk/westcott.html

INTRODUCING ANOTHER WESTCOTT/WESCOTT COUSIN:



Gary and Monika Wescott of Grass Valley, California lead exciting lives that others only dream about!! Gary Wescott studied photography and journalism at the University of California in San Diego, and began traveling in 1969. In 1972 he created THE TURTLE EXPEDITION, UNLTD. Since then, his photographs and articles have been published in fifteen countries in ten languages on six continents. His unique lifestyle has drawn the praise and loyal following of four-wheel-drive and travel enthusiasts around the world.

Monika Muehlebach Wescott was raised and educated in Switzerland, graduating from the University of Zurich with a masters degree in teaching. Joining THE TURTLE EXPEDITION in 1977, she began to develop her skill as a photographer and editor. Speaking five languages fluently has helped to open doors wherever THE TURTLE EXPEDITION goes.

In 1970, their first vehicle was called La Tortuga Azul, (The Blue Turtle), because it was very slow and carried its house on its back. From that came the name of THE TURTLE EXPEDITION. Since then, their adventures have included a 9-year exploration of Mexico and parts of Central America, a 14-month/50,000-mile circumnavigation of South America, numerous trips around the U.S. and Canada, and a yearlong journey across all of Russia, (starting in the Winter with Temperatures down below -90 degrees F), and leading to a 3-year Expedition around the World. Their next adventure, starting in 2011, will take them through 26 countries from Lisbon, Portugal to Shanghai, China, following the infamous Silk Road.

Go to their website for information on their various expeditions - www.turtleexpedition.com



Thanks, Monika, for your help with this article.

Betty W. Acker
Society Historian

Condolences

Myrtle Sadie (Gallup) Cooper passed away on October 5, 2010 at her home. She was born September 20, 1929 in Grafton, NH the youngest daughter of Robert and Ora Gallup. She was a lifelong resident of Grafton and active in many of the civic and social organizations. She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and two sisters. She is survived by one sister, Inis LaWare of Hill, NH, five sons, two stepdaughters, two stepsons, nine grandchildren, numerous step grandchildren and great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Lawrence C. Westcott who was born on April 6, 1943 passed away June 23, 2010. He is survived by his daughter Taina (Westcott) Marlowe.

The following is a poem that your editor received at the recent funeral of a good friend. I reproduce it below. The author was not given. I think it expresses the way we feel when we lose a friend or loved one. All of us feel grief and sorrow but when God calls us home He sets us free.

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call.
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
to laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me.
God wanted me now. He set me free.

Author unknown.

Joanne Leitner writes from Germany:

After completing additional training at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, Germany this past spring, where I was allowed to attend a rehearsal of Placido Domingo for „Simon Boccanegra“, I directed the German premiere of the Broadway Musical Little Women in German at the school where I teach! Hard to imagine this in the German language? Our high school students and the audience were mesmerized by this wonderful story and gave a charming performance.

I began teaching at the school soon after the wall came down. It is located just across the border to former West Berlin, in a town called Kleinmachnow. Over the years I also directed, in part professionally, among other works „Company“ (Sondheim) with appearances at the Academy of Arts, „Kiss Me, Kate!“ (Porter) with appearances in Basel, Switzerland and The Contra-bass“ (Süsskind) with appearances in Adelaide, Australia. In 1985 my art happening („Entheos“) was one of six pieces produced in Berlin from a field of 56 competition entries for the national horticultural exhibition.

In 2001 a book of my poetry “Out of the Picture“ was published.

One of my favorite projects however remains taking 6th graders to the zoo each year and sketching a variety of animals. We then transfer their original drawings to paper and material and make stuffed animals. We then design miniature habitats for them and set up exhibitions with which we support diverse animal protection agencies. I began the project over 10 years ago and among its admirers was Juergen Trittin, at the time Minister of Germany's Environmental Administration Agency, who awarded the children games for their efforts. One year a class took 2nd place in a national competition for animal protection among 120 German schools.



Little Women in Germany

New Members

We welcome the following cousins as new members of The Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America.

Robert Westcott of Canby, OR

Jennifer Ann Westcott Blake of Rapid City, SD

Gerald Westcott of Cypress, TX

Brooke Westcott of Missouri City, TX

Michael Frost of Pensacola, FL

A Word from Your Editor

Please send any news or articles re the Westcott Family which you may wish to have considered for inclusion in the Quarterly to your editor at:

Lyle_Wescott@yahoo.com

While there are no firm deadlines, I shall try to publish the Quarterly in January, April, July and October of each year.

A Word from Our President

SSWDA Note from the President:

I want to wish everyone a very Happy & Prosperous New Year!

Susan Morris is planning our next Reunion for June 29, 2012 in Buffalo, New York. It sounds like it will be a great adventure. Although I was born and raised near Syracuse, NY, I have never visited Buffalo. I am really looking forward to seeing my "cousins" again and seeing all the sights. So, for those who plan ahead, hold that weekend open and join us for a really good time.

Ailene Picheco, Merritt Island, FL

The Westcott Family Quarterly

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www.sswda.org

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