



Society of Stukely Westcott  
Descendants of America

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The Westcott Family Quarterly  
April, 2011

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Know Your Kindred Better

## Greetings to all of the Westcott Clan!

Spring has finally arrived with its warmer weather. The birds are singing, the plants are budding and soon it will be hot; especially down here in Mississippi. I am going to escape it all and take an extended vacation in Canada; hoping to drive all the way to the shores of the Arctic Ocean by way of the Dempster Highway which runs from Dawson City to Inuvik; a distance of 429 miles. It may not be quite as ambitious as Gary and Monika Wescott's planned overland trip along the silk highway from Lisbon to Shanghai but then they are a few decades younger than I. I have a friend from New Zealand who will be making the trip with me. The Kiwis are a brave and adventurous lot, having invented bungee jumping, something I passed on when I was there a few years ago, so it should be a lot of fun for us both. I actually passed by the bungee jumping ledge where they were jumping on my way to the top where I did try paragliding. That was enough extreme sports for me.

We will be leaving on this Canadian Odyssey in mid-June and returning in late July so the July issue of The Westcott Family Quarterly will likely come out in August but it will include some "Tales from the Far North". I promise not to embellish them too much but remember I am an active participant in the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting and BS is a part of the game; especially after a whiskey or two.

### Welcome to Our New Members

On behalf of all of the cousins I would like to extend a hearty welcome to the following new members of The Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America.

James L. Westcott of Lake Orion, MI  
Sharon Lee Rush Whitlock of Chesterfield, VA  
Gary DeLyle Wescott of Grass Valley, CA  
Barbara Anne Kelsey  
Thomas Jarrott Harkey of Little Rock, AR  
Nathan Charles Harkey of Little Rock, AR  
Mary Ann Wescott Isham of Evart, MI

### George Blagdon Westcott Captain, Royal Navy

∞∞∞  
24 April 1753 – 1 August 1798

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Killed in The Battle of the Nile





The inscription on this monument at St. Michael's Church in Honiton, Devon, England reads:

To the Memory of  
**George Blagdon Westcott**

Captain of His Majesty's Ship Majestic  
who after 33 years or meritorious service  
fell gloriously in the victory obtained  
over the French Fleet at Aboukir  
the first day of August in the year MDCCXCVIII  
in the 46<sup>th</sup> year of his age.

### **George Blagdon Westcott**

In the January Quarterly I gave a brief history of HMS Westcott which was ordered by the British Admiralty in 1916 and served in the Royal Navy from 1918 until the end of World War II finally being scrapped in 1946 after the end of hostilities.

In this issue, I will give you a brief biographical sketch of the man for whom it was named – Captain George Blagdon Westcott, Royal Navy.

George Blagdon Westcott was born of humble parents at Honiton probably in 1753. He entered the Royal Navy as a Master's Mate on the frigate Solebay in 1768. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1777, Commander in December, 1787 and Captain in October, 1790 and appointed to the London.

He was Flag-Captain to rear Admiral Benjamin Caldwell on the Impregnable at the Battle of the first of June, 1794. After service in the West Indies and in the Channel Fleet on the Majestic he joined Lord St. Vincent's flag off Cadiz where Westcott was ordered to take her to join vice-Admiral Nelson in the Mediterranean where Nelson was searching for the French fleet under vice-Admiral Francois-Paul Brueys d'Aigalliers. Admiral Lord Nelson had 15 ships at the Battle of the Nile. Captain Westcott's Majestic had 74 guns.

When Nelson located the French fleet at anchor in Aboukir Bay he quickly ordered the British into the attack. The Majestic was toward the rear of the British line and did not come into action until late in the battle. In the darkness and smoke she collided with the Heureux and became entangled in her rigging. Trapped for several minutes, the Majestic suffered heavy casualties. Westcott was hit by a musket ball in the throat and was killed. The Majestic's first lieutenant Robert Cuthbert, took over and continued the battle. He was confirmed by Nelson as acting captain the day after the battle.

*– The above information was partially extracted from Wikipedia and partially from information sent by Marilyn Crabbs of Oregon*

**From the book “Great Sea Fights 1794 – 1805” by Sturges Jackson, the following are extracted:**

Page 56;

“Captain Westcott's Majestic was almost as pressed as the Bellerophon. Groping her way down the blazing line she ran into the Heureux, where she remained for some time in a position of disadvantage and where her Captain was killed.”

Page 63 & 64;

“August, 1, PM; moderate breezes and fine weather. At 2, observed a number of French ships in the port of Alexandria with colours flying. At 3 saw sixteen sit at anchor in a line-of-battle in Aboukir Bay. The Admiral made the signal to prepare for battle. At 35 past 6 the French began to fire at the head most of the ships and began the action. At 7 let go the sheet anchor and brought the ship up by the stern abreast of one of the French line-of-battle ships. At half past seven Captain Westcott was killed.”

Page 66;

“August, 2, PM; Aboukir Bay, off the River Nile. Fresh breezes. Got down the fore topmast and fore yard, being shot in the action. At 4, committed the body of the deceased Captain Westcott to the deep. Fired 20 minute guns.”

**Memorial to Captain George Blagdon Westcott in St. Paul's Cathedral, London**

In the South Aisle of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, among other memorials to England's distinguished soldiers and seamen stands a monument to Captain George Blagdon Westcott, RN (1753 – 1798). When your editor, came unexpectedly upon this memorial he felt a pride and a curiosity as to the possible kinship of this British sailor and our own ancestors who came overseas a century before. This curiosity may be partially satisfied. From the researches of our able Historian, Betty Acker we know definitely the county (Somerset) and the town (Yeovil) from which Stuckely Westcott came. At the same time, we may note that Captain Westcott's middle name is Blagdon which is the name of a hamlet in Somerset, not twenty miles north of Yeovil, and that his family lived in Honiton, a village on the Otter River an equal distance westward. Surely then the Captain was of the same Somerset Westcotts from whom our own family is descended. British Biographies state that George Westcott was the son of a baker at Honiton, entered the navy as a Master's Mate and rose by merit to Post-Captain and was one of Nelson's “Band of Brothers”.

Admiral Nelson visited the family in 1801. At Honiton he writes, “I visited Captain Westcott's mother -- poor thing, except for the bounty of the government and Lloyd's, in very low circumstances. The brother is a tailor, but had they been chimney sweepers it was my duty to show them respect. “ Nelson presented the Captain's widow his own medal awarded for the victory of the Nile. In America today, we shall perhaps think less of the humble beginnings of this sailor hero and more of the fact that he rose by his own abilities and died worthily in his country's cause.

Much of the above was given in an earlier Westcott Quarterly and researched by our Historian, Betty Acker to whom your editor is much indebted.

His parents were Benjamin Westcott and Susanna Bamfield.

His paternal grandparents were Benjamin Westcott and Margaret Blagdon.

*Reference: Laughton, J.K., Dictionary of National Biography. ISBN 0543883361*

*For the complete record of the military history of Captain George Blagdon Westcott see the “Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. XX*

## Condolences

**The following is from Ken Coyle  
(member #919)  
Received Friday February 25, 2011;**

To Dad's Friends,

This is Becky Coyle Boggs. Dad had been in Bethesda North since last Friday morning. He "coded" Monday morning about 5 AM. They got him back and he spent the day in intensive care – not giving him a very good chance of survival. He had heart and kidney failure. However he rallied some during the week and had moments where he was able to talk to all us kids and grandkids.

He had a really good day on Wednesday, but yesterday took a turn for the worse and passed into the arms of Jesus about 9:15 PM last evening after struggling most of the day yesterday. Mom is doing quite well. We are all glad to know that he is no longer struggling. We will be making the funeral arrangements later today.

You have all been wonderful friends of Dad over the years and Mom wanted all of you to know. Please pray for our family over the next couple of days as we finalize things. I know that Dad and Mom have counted you among some of their dearest friends over their life.

Blessings on all of you~Becky

## Birth Announcements

Pauline (Mann) Felix writes that she may be a few years late in informing her cousins in The Society but she wishes to announce the birth of some of her great grandchildren:

**Tyler James Morris**, born 11/4/2001  
(Peter and Laurie Morris)

**Maverick James Montes**, born 4/3/2003  
(Michael and Amy Montes)

**Samantha Nicole Friedrich**, born 8/1/2003  
(Mark and Amber Friedrich)

**Megan Kimberly Morris**, born 8/27/2003  
(Peter and Laurie Morris)

**Kylie Grace Friedrich**, born 1/19/2006  
(Mark and Amber Friedrich)

**Jacob Paul Friedrich**, born 1/13/2010  
(Mark and Amber Friedrich)

**Charles Henrik Westcott**, Born Feb. 6, 2011  
Parents: Evan Charles Westcott and Inese Westcott

Grandparents: Lewis Edward Westcott and Susan Patricia Westcott (member #819)

**Gavin Michael Montalvo**,  
Grandson of our Registrar, Richard Beirman

## From Pauline (Mann) Felix

My sister **Isabel Janet (Mann) Andres** died on May 25, 2010 at her home in Escondido, CA. She was 81 years old.

She is survived by her husband John, two daughters Susan Tolhurst and Mary Giordano, two sons, Paul and David Andres, sister Pauline Louise (Mann) Felix, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter Lauren Tolhurst born on October 25, 2010.

## The War of 1812

Next year will mark the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Several cousins were wondering if we were going to give special remembrance to those cousins who fought in that war. We could perhaps mark their graves in remembrance but suggestions are welcome. Eldridge Westcott fought in that war but I am sure there must have been many others.

It is a war about which we hear very little. While there is much interest in our Revolutionary War and our Civil War one rarely hears mention of the War of 1812 but it was actually the second time we fought the British for our independence. The Star Spangled Banner was also written during that war.

If you know of an ancestor who fought in that war please let your editor know. I will make some mention of him in a 2012 newsletter.

## Proud Grandfathers

Lawrence Westcott Johnson encloses the following picture of his grandchildren, the 12th generation for whom Esther and he are responsible. They are from left to right:

Duncan Rockwell Mamer of Caldwell, ID  
Jack Daniel Buckett of Mountain View, CA

(who has not yet seen his way to  
acquire a “grown-up-style” haircut)

Victoria Renee Buckett also of Mountain View  
Derrick Wilson Mamer also of Caldwell  
Alexander Stewart Johnson of Palo Alto, CA



Your Society Registrar, Richard Beirman,  
sends the above picture of his grandson,  
**Gavin Michael Montalvo.**





## A note from a Cousin

Daphne M Brownell, 92 ½, shown here at age 90 , writes that although she is becoming weak and frail, her mind is sharp and she reads quite a lot. She is able to go out with her son and daughter-in law once or twice a week.



## Celebration

Maureen Mercer celebrated her 80th birthday and 60th wedding anniversary last September. The Diamond Wedding Anniversary was celebrated with a cruise last February. Maureen was born in Iowa on September 17, 1930. Her family includes her children Jeff and Michele Tyre of Griswold, Iowa and Jeff and Debbie Mercer of Centennial Colorado, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



## 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 < or >

Lyle Wescott  
180 Pleasant Valley Dr.  
Holly Springs, MS 38635

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:

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*

## **Joanne Leitner Writes about her great grandfather John Kimberly Mumford**

### **‘FADOO’, A MAN WITH A PLAN**

Special to the SSWDA Quarterly  
by Joanne Leitner (Part 1), April 2011

John Kimberly Mumford, a great-great-great-great-great-great-grandson of Stukely Westcott, was born November 15th 1863 in Watkins, Schuyler County, New York. He was the second of four children born to Harriet Sarah and Prosper Dwight Mumford who had married on October 5th 1854. Prosper Dwight was born on March 15th 1830 in Portlandville, Otsego County, New York and his bride was born on August 11th 1829 in Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York.

The Westcott and Mumford lines connected when Prosper Dwight's mother, Orrissa Westcott, one of at least 12 children of Reuben Westcott and Susanna Leavens, married Nelson Mumford. Orrissa was born on June 6th 1809 in Cheshire, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, her grandfather being Stukely Westcott III, born in 1726. Orrissa and Nelson exchanged vows in Milford, Otsego County, New York on October 19th 1827.

Nelson Mumford was a direct descendant of the South Kingston, Rhode Island Mumfords, Thomas and Sarah. Sarah's father, Philip Sherman, was the first Secretary (General Recorder) of Rhode Island. He held several political offices during his lifetime and also signed the Portsmouth Compact along with Ann Hutchinsons's husband, William Coddington. Sherman became a Quaker (a member of the Religious Society of Friends).

Orrissa's husband, Nelson, was a Baptist clergyman. Nelson's son, Prosper Dwight, became a business manager for The Syracuse Journal in Cemetery in Nyack, Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York and is listed as a bookkeeper on the 1880 US Census. Prosper had a younger brother, Erastus Sylvester Mumford, who became a physician in Syracuse. His offspring and the four daughters of a sister, Mary Mumford (who married Theodore Belding), provided John Kimberly with several cousins in the area. John's siblings were: Harriet Anne, born on June 23rd 1858 in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin; Isabel, born on August 27th 1865 in Watkins, and George Devereux born in 1867, also in Watkins.

Mumford's timeline discloses a successive loss of relatives: in 1866 his sister, Isabel; in 1869 his aunt, Orphena (wife of maternal uncle, Dewitt); in 1872 his maternal aunt, Julia Tanner; in 1877 his paternal grandmother, Orrissa Westcott; in 1882 his paternal aunt, Mary Mumford; in 1884 his paternal grandfather, Nelson; in 1888 his maternal grandmother, Harriet Sarah (Talcott) Tanner; in 1889 his maternal uncle, Dewitt Clinton Tanner; in 1893 his brother, George; in 1895 his father, Prosper; 1898 his mother, Harriet; in 1899 his aunt, Elna (wife of Erastus); in 1900 his uncle, Erastus. His maternal grandfather, Job Tanner, had passed away before John was born.

On a happier note, John Kimberly wed Coralyn Currier Tanner (1866 - 1949) on March 19th 1895 in Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York. She was the young and wealthy widow of a talented banker and the First Secretary of the American Embassy in Paris, Joseph Meade Bailey, Jr., with whom she had had no children. Coralyn, sometimes spelled Corolyn or Carolyn, was an 1888 graduate of Mount Holyoke College. On June 12th 1896 John Kimberly and Coralyn greeted their first daughter, Harriet Talcott Mumford, who came to the world in Syracuse.

By the time their first son, John Kimberly Mumford II, was born on December 27th 1898 in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, Mr. Mumford had begun working in New York City. The births of two additional daughters, Constance and Marcia, in 1906 and 1907 respectively, took place up the river in Nyack, Rockland County, New York. Following her death in 2007 at 100 years of age, Marcia or 'Marty' Mumford, the wife of George Colton Park, was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Nyack.



John Kimberly Mumford

Now that the family tree has been elaborated upon, it's high time to have a look at the endeavors and adventures of our kinsman. On page 91 of the 1933 Princeton year book there is a reference to him having had graduated from the university in 1885, where he had been a member of the rowing team. He was subsequently offered a 'chair', for he had read more Latin and Greek during his studies than anyone to date. Alas, he turned the honor down. Class Historian, Jonathan Sturges, described him as having entered Princeton with, as opposed to in, a rush. His contemporaries had great expectations that he would continue the line of tradition, possibly putting the Greek muse of history to shame.

Sturges claimed he had a devoted clique of fans, referring to those at Whig Hall, who felt Mumford was capable of ridding them of what ailed them. Although Mumford was gifted in their eyes, he appeared to have had a streak of laziness which later caused hopes at Whig Hall to diminish, perhaps a reaction to his choice not to become a professor. Sturges concluded by mentioning that Mumford left to run a newspaper for a skating rink in New York. Indeed he was a contributor to Rink and Sporting News. In 1896 Mumford relocated from Syracuse, where he had written for The Syracuse Journal, to New York City, accepting a position on the city staff of The World.



With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, John Kimberly was sent to La Habana, Cuba, as chief of staff and correspondent for the New York Evening Journal. The role of American journalism in this war is a subject in and of itself. He among many others took ill with yellow fever. Family legend tells of him hearing the sound of his coffin being hammered together through the window of the infirmary in which he lay. His presence of mind intact, he fled and disappeared into Cuba for a year.

Back in New York his wife, fondly referred to as „Gaga” by her descendants, learned by chance while reading the newspaper that her husband had died. Sixth months following his departure for Cuba the family held a memorial service for him, albeit without his earthly remains. Several months later he showed up on their doorstep quite unexpectedly, his wife still dressed in mourning. He never revealed what had happened to him. Although he was a friend of Teddy Roosevelt, there is no evidence of his having been connected to the Rough Riders.

- to be continued

*Photo courtesy of M. Park. Many thanks to M. K. Leitner, J. K. M. Dutton and B. & G. Small for providing valuable information. No part of the contents including photography may be copied, reproduced or published without the expressed written permission of the author.*

### ***The Westcott Family Quarterly***

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