



Know Your Kindred Better

Society of
Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

APRIL, 2012

Greetings to all of the Westcott Clan!

I have just returned from a two-week river cruise of Eastern Europe from Budapest to Constanta, on the Black Sea. Had a wonderful time, met many interesting people, both American and European. All of the countries we visited were former communist and behind the Iron Curtain. So much has happened there and it is a history that most Americans, including this one, know little about. World War I began there and so many of the countries have changed hands over the years. During the Second World War the Nazis occupied most of the region and the people cheered when the Soviet Army ran them off but, as they say, they overstayed their welcome and in 1989 they ran the communists out. One of the tour directors noted that she had lived in five countries but never moved from one spot. I have a short summary of my trip later in this newsletter but for now I must get on with the business of the upcoming reunion, at which I hope to see many of you, my cousins.

Susan Morris has been busy working on our upcoming 2012 reunion in Buffalo, NY and has a very interesting schedule of events including an excursion to Niagara Falls and a trip through the Lockport locks and a cruise on the Erie Canal. I can remember singing a song about the Erie Canal when I was in grade school, a long time ago! The schedule of events follows on the next page and the registration form is on the last two pages of this newsletter. *—Lyle Westcott*

Welcome to Our New Members

On behalf of all of our cousins I would like to extend a hearty welcome to our new members.

Michael James Bell of Cheyenne, Wyoming

Susan Okel Rose of Decatur, Georgia

David Eli Leflar of Barrington, Illinois

Attention all Cousins: This quarter's newsletter is a bit larger than usual because I have repeated much of the material about the upcoming bi-annual reunion published in the January issue of the quarterly for those who may have misplaced your applications.

Susan has worked very hard arranging accommodations and a very interesting program of events. Who knew Buffalo had so much to offer?

EASTERN EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE

Although Eastern Europe is not closely connected with the Westcott family I did take a vacation there this past March with my special friend Sherry Chason and thought that some of you might be interested. It is a part of the world that has been fought over for centuries dating back to Greek and Roman times. World War I began when a terrorist killed the Grand Duke Franz Ferdinand in what is now Belgrade.

We began our journey in Prague, Czech Republic then overland to Budapest, Hungary where we boarded a river boat and sailed all the way to Constanta, Romania on the Black Sea; passing through Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. All of the countries we passed through were Warsaw Pact countries, formerly behind the Iron Curtain and under Soviet domination following World War II. When the Soviet Union collapsed beginning in 1989 they gained real independence and adopted more democratic forms of self government, mostly parliamentary. It was very interesting talking to people who had actually lived under communism as well as democratic forms of government. The younger people for the most part prefer the present system although unemployment is high and wages are low (equivalent to \$130/month!). They at least feel that they now are in charge of their own destiny. Some of the older ones however said things were better under communism. At least everyone was employed, they had food and a decent though modest house or flat.

The people in Serbia, which was part of the former Yugoslavia, generally felt that the good times were when it was Yugoslavia, communist and run by Joseph Tito, a dictator. Most of the people who lived then remember him as a strong but benevolent leader. He died of natural causes.

Romania was another story. It was the only country where the communist leader was overthrown by force. Over 1,000 people died and many more were injured. The dictator there was Nicolae Ceausescu who ruled from 1965 until his death by firing squad on December 25, 1989. His wife Elena, whom some say was the power behind the man, was also executed. I remember when it happened and just a few days ago I stood in front of the balcony from which he was airlifted to escape an angry mob. He was captured in Targoviste, taken to Bucharest and tried in a show trial by a military tribunal on charges of genocide damage to the national economy and abuse of power to execute military actions against the Romanian people. They were found guilty of all charges, and immediately executed by firing squad on 25 December 1989.

It is hard to say which city or which part of the cruise we enjoyed the most. There is much history in all of them.

Prague is a very old city dating back to Charlemagne. Prague has been a political, cultural, and economic center of central Europe with waxing and waning fortunes during its 1,100 year existence. Prague was the capitol of the Holy Roman Empire for a time. It was an important city to the Hapsburg Monarchy and its Austro-Hungarian Empire and after World War I became the capital of Czechoslovakia. Of particular interest on this tour was the old Jewish Cemetery, the Charles Bridge and Old Town. In the Jewish Cemetery people are buried several layers deep.

Budapest, the capitol of Hungary occupies both sides of the Danube. One side being Buda and the other Pest. It is one of the most beautiful cities we passed through, originally a Celtic settlement that became Roman then the Hungarians arrived in the territory in the 9th century. Their first settlement was pillaged by the Mongols in 1241-42. In the 15th century following nearly 150 years of Ottoman rule development of the region entered a new age of prosperity in the 18th and 19th centuries, and Budapest became a global city.

Belgrade, the capitol of Serbia is located at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, where the Pannonian Plain meets the Balkans. As a strategic location, the city was battled over in 115 wars and razed to the ground 44 times. I am not even going to try to summarize all that happened there. Standing at the fortress overlooking the confluence one can see the rivers and the city.

Bucharest was first mentioned in documents as early as 1459. Since then it has gone through a variety of changes, becoming the state capital of Romania in 1862 and steadily consolidating its position as the center of the Romanian mass media, culture and arts. Although many buildings and districts in the historic center were damaged or destroyed by war, and earthquakes many survived. In recent years, the city has been experiencing an economic and cultural boom.

We visited many smaller towns and cities but these four were the major cultural and civic centers. Some pictures follow.



Cruising the Danube – Notice Man on the Mountain



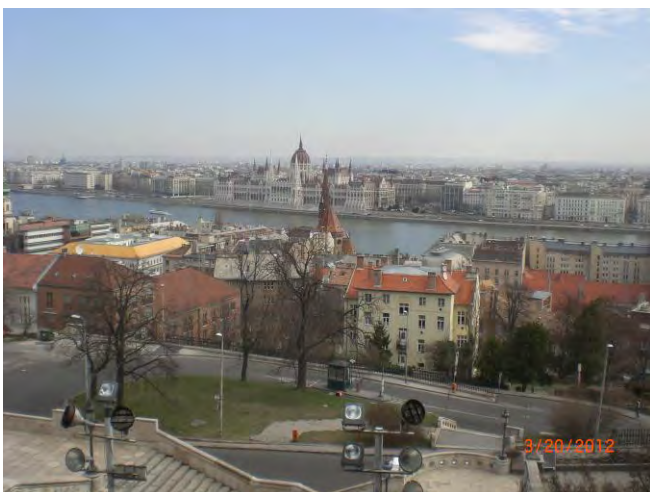
Breaking the Ottoman Rule – Notice the Islamic Crescent in the trash heap.



Casino in Constanta, Romania on the Black Sea



Your editor ready to do battle



Hungarian Parliament from across the Danube



Belgrade Fortress

CONDOLENCES

Donald L Dodge

Donald L. Dodge, 87, of Grafton, NH passed away on January 10, 2012 following a brief illness. He was born in Riverdale, NH on January 6, 1925. Donald had lived in Grafton for the past 55 years.

He worked as a janitor for IPC in Bristol for 49 years, retiring in 1992. Donald enjoyed hunting, fishing attending the car races at the Canaan Speedway going for long walks and spending time with all his pets, especially his dogs "Anna" and "Bear". He was predeceased by a grand-daughter, Amber Lyn. Members of his family surviving include his wife of 55 years, Mavis (Downes) Dodge of Grafton; five daughters, Pamela Reynolds of Florida, Kimberly Faucher of Groton, CT, Candace Bordman of Claremont, NH, Lisa Rollins of Alton, NH and Shannon Emery of Grafton and eight grandchildren. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Cynthia Wescott

Cynthia Wescott passed away on January 12, 2012. She was an incredible person who was a pilot, sky diver and owned an airport and skydiving school with her husband. She is survived by her husband, Laurie Everette Wescott III of Cle Elum, WA and daughters Theresa Lyon Wescott and Rose Wescott.

Ronald "Alex" Foell

Ronald "Alex" Foell, grandson of Dick and Nancy Westcott Bruckman passed away Friday, February 10, 2012 at Taylor House in Des Moines, IA. Alex's peaceful passage, surrounded by his loving family ended his four and a half year courageous battle with cancer.

Alex was born December 22, 1982 in Jefferson City, MO, the son of Ron and Marianne Foell. In 1987 his family moved to Sheffield, IA. He graduated with the class of 2001 at SC/MT High School and then attended Central College in Pella, IA. He was involved in many activities. His passion was teaching and he started teaching history at North Polk Schools in Alleman, IA in January, 2007. He also loved working with horses and telling the story of early farm life. He was an avid sports fan and a Civil War buff.

Alex will be sadly missed by his parents, sister, Marissa (Tad) Lincoln, niece Harper Alexis and his niece/nephew due in August, grandparents, Dick and Nancy Bruckman, aunts and uncles Doris Foell, Gwen (Jerry) Farnham, Bob (Deloris) Foell, Jan (Richard) Noss, Donna Johanss, Val (Curt) Daily, Matt (Michelle) Bruckman, eighteen cousins and his many, many friends. Preceding him in death were his great-grandparents, grandparents Clem and Doris Foell, uncles Dale Foell, Jim Foell and aunt Beverly Foell.

Clarence Acker

Clarence Acker, husband of our Historian, Betty Acker, passed away on December 9, 2011. He was 92. He fell on November 6th and broke his hip. He and Betty were blessed with 33 wonderful years together. Many will remember him for his help with our society reunions and our displays of historical items of our extended family.

BETTY ACKER HONORED AS “HOME TOWN HERO”

Betty Acker, Zanesville, Ohio, was honored as “Home Town Hero” in October, 2011. She was pictured on a billboard with her picture and it was lots of fun with people she didn't even know walking up to her and saying, “I saw your picture.”



The following is the citation by Jeff Ditmar:

Betty totally exemplifies what a true hero is. When Betty does a job, she gives her heart and soul, or she doesn't do it. Betty volunteered for 14 years at The Wilds and she has been a volunteer at Genesis (Bethesda) Hospital for 20 years and is still active. She has volunteered her time to the Zanesville High School Alumni Association since 1994, helping with the history of Z.H.S.

Betty came to me in 2009 asking me to help her with the final solicitation of the WW II/Korean Memorial. They still needed over \$48,000 to complete the job. This 80-year-old lady gave her time resources working on a daily basis in order to get the project done. We had money left over to purchase medals that we gave to each one of the WW II/Korean Veterans. Betty also went with me to every Assisted Living Facility in Muskingum County helping me present 69 medals. She loved every minute of it! She was honored to do it since her husband is a WW II vet.

Betty is also a member of the Zanesville High School Class of 1949 and is always involved in organizing a breakfast and class reunions. Every year her class has a float in the Veterans Day Parade that Betty and her husband both organized.

Betty still has time to be a board member of the Muskingum County Senior Center in Sunrise Center.

Betty is truly a remarkable lady and is very deserving of this year's 2011 Senior Adult Hero Award.

SOCIETY OF STUKELY WESTCOTT DESCENDANTS OF AMERICA
39th Biennial Reunion
Buffalo / Niagara, New York
June 29 – July 1, 2012

Buffalo -- *WHO KNEW Buffalo is such a beautiful city?*
Buffalo -- *WHO KNEW there is so much to see and do there?*
Buffalo -- *WHO KNEW?!*

We are excited to be hosting our 2012 SSWDA Reunion in the Buffalo – Niagara region of western NY, and we think you will be enticed, surprised, and enthralled by all there is to see and do. In your free time, consider the following, just for openers:

- ⇒ Niagara Falls and world class attractions like the Maid of the Mist and the Cave of the Winds are a mere 20-minute drive from our downtown Buffalo hotel.
- ⇒ *Visit Old Fort Niagara, the site of historic battles and sieges, trading and conquest. It is preserved as it stood in the 1700's when France and Britain controlled Niagara.
- ⇒ *Architecture buffs will be impressed by the multiple works by Frank Lloyd Wright (the Darwin D. Martin House complex is the finest example of his Prairie Style), Louis Sullivan's ornate Guaranty Building, the Frederick Law Olmsted system of parks and parkways, and the birthplace of the American Arts & Crafts Movement, the Roycroft Inn and Campus, in nearby East Aurora, NY.
- ⇒ *Art lovers must make a visit to the reigning jewel in Buffalo's art scene, the Albright-Knox Gallery, rightfully famous for modern and contemporary works by such icons as Pollock, de Kooning, Warhol, and more.
- ⇒ *Check out the antique shops, galleries, pubs, boutiques, and bistros of the Elmwood Village, a few blocks from our hotel, and recently named one of America's top ten neighborhoods by the American Planning Association.

REUNION LODGING – LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION!

The Allentown Historic District is located in the heart of downtown Buffalo and boasts a culture all its own. Lavishly decorated in wood-frame and brick buildings and full of shops and restaurants, the Allentown District is home to the...

Holiday Inn – Buffalo Downtown
620 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
Telephone (716) 886-2121

Make reservations by calling the hotel directly and mentioning our **Group Code SSD**. We are guaranteed the *2010 room rate* of **\$109.00 per night** (plus taxes). The hotel has also offered our group this special rate before and after the actual Reunion itself – June 27-July 2, for those who may want to extend their stay. Free ample parking on site is available.

Hotel Registration Deadline: May 25, 2012

AIRPORT

Buffalo International Airport (BUF) is a short drive from the hotel. The hotel offers complimentary, 24-hour shuttle service to and from the airport.

2012 REUNION SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 28:

Board members arrive to attend the Friday morning Board Meeting.

Hospitality Room and displays will be open for registration, information, and an opportunity for “cousins” to greet each other and visit.

Friday, June 29:

Hospitality Room will be open for registration, information, and an opportunity for “cousins” to greet each other and visit.

8:30 – 10:00 AM: SSWDA Board Meeting

10:45 AM: We will take boxed lunches aboard our chartered luxury coach en route to Lockport, NY, and our **Lockport Locks & Erie Canal Cruise**. This unique 2-hour cruise includes “locking through” and being raised the 49 ft. elevation of the Niagara Escarpment (the same one that creates Niagara Falls) in the only double set of locks on the Erie Canal. We will pass under bridges the raise straight up, see water cascade over Lockport’s famous “Flight of Five” 1840’s locks, and travel through the solid walls of the “rock cut” as our captain describes the architecture, sights, and folklore along the way. We will return to the hotel by 4:00PM.

6:00 PM: A fun evening to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones at our cash bar and **Taste of Buffalo Evening**: enjoy those famous Buffalo Wings, Beef on ‘Weck, and delicious Chiavetta’s Barbecued Chicken with all the trimmings. A lively presentation, *Life on Delaware Avenue: 1890-1910*, from the Buffalo Erie County Historical Society will tell us stories about our hotel neighborhood.

Saturday, June 30:

Hospitality Room will be open for registration, information, and an opportunity for “cousins” to greet each other and visit.

8:30 – 10:30 AM: The SSWDA Membership Meeting and Memorial Service to follow.

Morning and Afternoon: On your own to explore the “Queen City” area.

6:00 PM: Gather for **cocktails** at the cash bar, followed by our **banquet** and the introduction of the new Society officers. *Midnight Traffic*, a terrific western New York R & B band, will provide live music for our dancing and listening pleasure.

Sunday, July 1:

8:00 – 9:30 AM: Enjoy a *Breakfast Buffet with your Cousins*, as we get in one more visit, make our final good-byes, and bring another terrific SSWDA Reunion to a close.

PLEASE SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THIS QUARTERLY FOR THE REGISTRATION FORM

A Word from Our 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.

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.

The Westcott Family Quarterly

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

Free to members

Non-members \$10.00 annually.

www.sswda.org

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Holly Springs, MS 38635

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Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America

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Chaplain: Dianne Hatfield
Genealogist: Barbara Henderson
Editor: Lyle Wescott
Webmaster: Jim Leflar III
Directors: Fern Peterson
Anita C. Guenin
Joye Satterfield

Westcott Car Books

Betty Acker has a few Westcott Car booklets for sale. When these are gone there will be no more printed due to the high cost of printing the color pages.

The cost of these last copies will be \$25.00 plus \$5.00 shipping.

Send check to: Betty W. Acker
3654 Mill Dr.
Zanesville, OH 43701

2012 Westcott Reunion Registration Form

Enclose this form with a check/money order for all fees. Mail to the address below.

Reunion Registration	Number	Cost Tax and gratuity are included in all Meal Prices	TOTAL
Adults		\$5.00 per person	\$
Children under 18		No Charge	

FRIDAY BOX LUNCH (INCLUDES CHIPS, PICKLE, COOKIE) AND LOCKPORT LOCKS & ERIE CANAL CRUISE (LUXURY MOTOR COACH COST IS INCLUDED)			
Adults Lockport Locks/Erie Canal Cruise		\$16.00	\$
Children ages 4-10 Lockport Locks/Erie Canal Cruise		\$8.50	\$
Lunch: Ham & Swiss Wrap		\$11.00	\$
Lunch: Turkey & Provolone Wrap		\$11.00	\$
Children Turkey & American Cheese Sand.		\$8.50	\$

FRIDAY EVENING A TASTE OF BUFFALO			
Adult Appetizers and Dinner Buffet		\$26.00	\$
Children's Meal (ages 4-10):Chicken Fingers & French Fries		\$13.00	\$

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET			
Breast of Chicken Marsala		\$25.00	\$
Baked Italian Haddock		\$25.00	\$
London Broil		\$25.00	\$
Children's Meal (ages 4-10):Chicken Fingers & French Fries		\$13.00	\$

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST BUFFET			
Adults		\$16.00	\$
Children (ages 4-10)		\$10.50	\$

TOTAL – check or money order (do not send cash)			\$
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DEADLINE FOR HOTEL AND REUNION REGISTRATIONS: FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2012

Make checks payable to and mail to:

<p>Susan Morris 731 Lill Street Barrington, IL 60010 Tel: (847) 304-1755 Cell: (847) 767-0162 Email: susan.morris@mac.com</p>
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Print attendee names and state as you want them to appear on Name Tag:

NAME	STATE

In case we need to contact you:

Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone Number	
E-mail Address	