



*Know Your Kindred Better*

Society of  
Stukely Westcott  
Descendants of America

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY  
JANUARY, 2013

**Greetings to all of the Westcott Clan**

The New Year is upon us and it seems we have survived Armageddon predicted by the Mayans so many years ago. I hope that all of you had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a happy and prosperous 2013.

**Trans-Eurasian Adventure**

Gary and Monika are very close to leaving on their trans-Eurasian odyssey. *[Refer to October, 2012 Westcott Quarterly]* Gary recently had some surgery on his hand and they are awaiting the doctor's approval before departing.

The Turtle V will be shipped to England and on through Germany, Switzerland and southwest to Lisbon, Portugal, and then east crossing 26 very different countries all the way to Beijing, China will be a daunting challenge. Thanks to Lonely Planet travel and guidebooks and our Garmin GPS, we at least have a chance of not been lost too many times. Of course, lost is a relevant term. I've been lost in a big hotel in Las Vegas. If we know we're in Turkey, we're not lost. Maybe temporarily disoriented, but not lost. We're in Turkey, right?

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

On behalf of all of the Westcott Clan, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to our new members:

Robert W. Gaffrey of Southfield, MI

Laura Johnson Westcott of Forest Park, IL

Stasha Powell of Redwood CA

## Condolences:

**Alonzo S. Wescott**, 75, died Sunday, June 17, 2012 at his home in Enfield, NH. He was born December 31, 1936 in Enfield, a son of Morris and Hope Margaret (Chase) Wescott, he grew up and attended school in Enfield.

At the age of 12 Alonzo began playing both the guitar and violin and through the years played with a number of local bands including Woody and the Ramblers and the Green Mountain Boys. He worked for Uline and Menard for several years before going into business for himself as Wescott Painting and Carpentry. As a young man Alonzo built and drove race cars and in later years enjoyed fishing, hunting and riding his motorcycle.

Alonzo was predeceased by his father and a brother, Neil Wescott. He is survived by his companion, Mary Harrington; a son Lonnie Wescott and his wife Kelley; his mother Hope Margaret Wescott all of Enfield; two granddaughters, Nicole and Amy Wescott; two great-grandchildren, Kayden and Kiya Wescott; one brother, Morris "Sonny" Wescott, Jr. of Bradford, NH.; five sisters, Muriel Foster of Lebanon, NH, Charlotte Taylor and Jeannie Langford both of Washington; Helen "Tootie" Barker of Spokane, Washington, and Patricia Leonard of New York.

He is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Enfield.

### **Making It in America – Kids Helping Kids**

Cousin Jim Wescott's granddaughter, daughter of Jennifer Wescott (Verruto) appeared on a CNN broadcast recently appealing for donations to buy Christmas gifts for underprivileged children. The link for the link for the clip is:

<http://www.hlnv.com/video/2012/12/06/indiegogo-kids-helping-kids-making-it-america>

*I found this article interesting since I once happened on the village of Westcott when I was touring England about 25 years ago. (editor)*

**Ranger finds mating barn owls in Westcott farm in England** > Friday, July 06, 2012

HARSH winters, pesticides and changes to farming practices are among the factors blamed for a 'substantial decline' of UK barn owl numbers. National Trust staff across Mole Valley are working to reverse the trend – and a breeding pair in Westcott has given them new hope, as Alex Robertson reports.

"It's great news," said head ranger Rob Hewer, after discovering a mating pair of barn owls had set up home at Landbarn Farm in Westcott.



*One of the barn owls is ringed by ranger Sam Bailey RSMD12526*

"We put up two boxes a few years ago because we were concerned about the lack of activity here and finally they have come back after five years.

"We are really thrilled because we made a point of stepping up our efforts to attract the owls here this year. We did this basically by mismanaging the meadow and letting it grow very long.

"This means the meadow is brimming with field mammals such as voles, which make up about 90 per cent of an owl's diet, and that's the obvious reason for them nesting here."

Since the owls started nesting in the box about a month ago, seven eggs have hatched. Two of the chicks have since died, but National Trust rangers said they were probably killed and eaten by their siblings.

"It's a survival technique of the barn owl," said Sam Bailey, head ranger at Leith Hill and Holmwood Common. "There are currently five chicks but I'd expect the smallest to meet a similar fate.

"The next stage is the fledging process, where the young birds' feathers and wing muscles are sufficiently developed for flight. They are probably another five or so weeks away from that."

Mr Bailey has now tagged the two parents and four of the chicks, a common practice of rangers trying to help protect the species.

"The idea is to gather information on the species", said Mr Bailey, a licensed bird ringer.

"By ringing them, any other bird handler that comes by any of them can record information of where they've been and how far they've travelled and add it to a huge international database.

"Numbers of barn owls have reduced nationally. The last two winters have been particularly cold and that has had a dire effect because they cannot hunt in heavy rain or snow."

The rangers ask that members of the public avoid disturbing the birds.

## **The Village of Westcott, Surrey, England**



**Church of the Holy Trinity**

**Westcott, Surrey England**

Imagine my surprise when visiting England some 25 years ago when I happened upon the village of Westcott in the southwest of England. I recently came upon the preceding article about barn owls on a Westcott farm; this prompted me to do a little searching on the internet.

There are many pre-1800 buildings and homes in Westcott including Leslie Howard's (mid-20th century actor) Stowe Maries, built in the 1550s. The Church of the Holy Trinity was commissioned to be designed in 1851 by Sir George Gilbert Scott. Its spire has a clock, weather vane and bells. It was near a village, with some trade, to John Evelyn's Wotton Estate and was well known to the diarist in the mid to late 17th century; in 1694 Evelyn moved in at Wotton, a mile further west. Of the original three public houses The Prince of Wales remains. It has an art gallery, a number of small stores, a bicycle shop and two general stores, one with a small post office. Westcott's village school celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2004.

Westcott's main claim to fame is long-time resident Richard Wallace who is an obsessive collector and hoarder. His hoarding is so extreme that local residents and councilors took him to court for destroying their idyllic village to try and force him to clean up his mess. He defended himself in court and won. There was even a documentary on British TV, Obsessive Compulsive Hoarder in which viewers got to look at his life and home and experience his extreme hoarding first hand. Most rooms in his house were filled, floor to ceiling with old newspapers, cardboard and plastic bottles. Residents of Westcott have since tried to help him clear up the mess.

## AUCTION BLOCK IS FISHING BOAT'S LAST SAD CHAPTER

In dry dock at Promet Marine Services in Providence she rose up from the ground like a four-story building. Nearby, workers in hardhats moved about in clusters. Two U.S. Marshals leaned against a black sedan.

"Do I hear one-hundred thousand?" asked Deputy U.S. Marshal John E. Edson. One hundred thousand?"

Everyone looked at each other. Nobody said anything. Ninety thousand?" Edson said. "Do I hear ninety thousand?" As the FN Suzanne Beth stood in the distance, obscured from view by the masts of other boats at the sprawling facility, she seemed lost. Towed from New Jersey after being seized by U.S. Marshals, her fate rests in the hands of a cluster of lawyers, an anonymous man in sunglasses and a federal agency ordered to seize and protect her – for now.



Suzanne Beth Westcott shown on the boat's Christening day in 1980

She is an 83-foot, twin oil screw, all welded steel Eastern-rigged offshore dragger. She features an aft pilothouse deck, raised foredeck and main work deck. She weighs 168 gross tons and is powered by two Caterpillar model 3406 turbo charged marine diesel engines rated at 400 hp each. Attached is a commercial fishing license authorizing her crew to fish for bluefish, black sea bass, spiny dogfish, summer flounder, herring, scallops, monkfish, quahog, scup, surf clam, skate, mackerel, butterfish and tilefish.

The scene at Promet is a far cry from her christening in 1980, when a young Suzanne Beth Westcott, of one of the most well-known and respected local fishing families, smashed a champagne bottle against her bow.

"Eighty thousand?", said Edson. "Do I hear eighty thousand?"

Suzanne Beth Westcott was 12 years old the day of christening. On that day she was given a gift. "It was a gold chain in a black velvet-covered box," she said. "I loved it! I still have it. It was my first real piece of grown-up jewelry. That was a special day in my life."

The Suzanne Beth was built in Bath, Maine by Washburn and Doughty. It was Jack Westcott's new baby and he was a proud man. On Christening day, she was heading into the port and 12-year-old Suzanne could hardly contain her excitement.

"Somehow we knew when the boat was going to pass the Point Judith lighthouse, because we were there waiting to see her," Westcott-England said. "After she passed the Point, we raced to Galilee to see her come in. She was amazing!"

Jack Westcott, 85, lives in Charlestown now. He still heads to Galilee a few times a week to talk to fishermen and keep tabs on what's going on in the port.

Understandable – you could say that this man has fish swimming in his blood. He caught many pounds during his career and even snared a nuclear submarine in his net, and then battled the government for five months before getting compensation for his damaged equipment. Cont'd –

Cont'd – Suzanne Beth

The Suzanne Beth was one of the last few Eastern-rigged boats with the wheelhouse aft still working out of Galilee. Most of the boats are now Western rigs.

Eighty thousand?" Edson said. The man in the yellow raincoat raised his hand. "We have a bid for eighty thousand," he said. "Eighty thousand going once."

The last owner of the Suzanne Beth, Christopher Pease, bought her in 2005. He paid \$400,000. She had been fishing out of Long Island and before that was used for sword fishing in Brazel. The name had been changed from Suzanne Beth to Hope. Pease, who brought the boat back to Galilee, gave the vessel its original name back. For the Westcotts, this was good news.

But like many fishermen struggling to make a living in the declining industry, Pease could not keep up with the payments. By December 2008, the boat was ordered to be seized by the U.S. Marshals and it was found in Cape May, N.J. and towed to Promet.

The balance due on the mortgage at the time of the foreclosure was about \$320,000. The cost to tow from New Jersey was \$5,850. Promet was owed more than \$8,600 in fees.

"Eighty thousand, going twice." Jack Westcott said he hopes that whoever ends up with the boat finds good luck. "It's a tough business."

Westcott finished his career in the 1980's when the port was still a bustling epicenter of some of the best fishing in the country. "There's no boats down there now." Westcott said, "They're foreclosing on everybody. When you take a boat that burns 20, 30, 40 gallons of fuel an hour, you can't make it."

Edson glanced at the man. "Sold, for eighty thousand dollars."

What happens to the Suzanne Beth remains to be seen. The man in the yellow jacket declined to comment on what would happen to the boat now. Edson reported that the highest bid was on behalf of the Bank of Rhode Island "to protect their monetary interest in said vessel."

Information taken from an article in the South County Independent May 14, 2009  
Betty W. Acker, SSWDA Historian

P.S. I have recently gotten in touch with Suzanne Beth Westcott-England and we should have a follow-up to this article for the next issue.

## 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:

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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*

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

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### **Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America**

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