



Know Your Kindred Better

Society of
Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY
OCTOBER, 2013



WOLLATON HALL NEAR NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND

14th Century Home of Francis Willoughby and Elizabeth Littleton of Frankly

GREETINGS TO ALL OF THE WESTCOTT CLAN

Your editor has returned from the Old Country and after traveling to Taunton, Somerset to find the original recording of the marriage between Stuckely and Julianna Marchant I must report that the original record has been lost. I contacted the archivist before going and was told that they did have original parchment records for the sixteen hundreds but on searching it was discovered that the period from 1616 to 1621 was missing. Stuckely and Julianna were married in 1616. Fortunately, that was not the only reason for my trip and I did enjoy visiting the town of Taunton and the castle there.

Taunton played an important part in the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685 when James Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth and bastard son of Charles II tried to claim the throne from James II. James was a Roman Catholic and many Protestants opposed his kingship. The coup failed and Monmouth and many of his supporters paid the ultimate price and in those days, the victors were not satisfied to simply execute them but, in most cases they were also drawn and quartered.

While in Cambridge, I happened upon the Westcott House. Of course I had to find out what that was about and discovered that it serves as a seminary to train vicars for the Church of England.

I spent quite a bit of time in Nottingham where I have several English friends, visited Sherwood Forest and Wollaton Hall where the very wealthy owner of extensive coal mines, Francis Willoughby, and his wife Elizabeth Littleton of Frankly lived in the late 14th Century. Recall that another Elizabeth Littleton of Frankly married Thomas Westcote in the 13th Century. I have still been unable to find the connection.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

Deborah Ann Reed Landauer of Albion, Nebraska

Joyce Ann Westcott Downey of Rhode Island

Charla Alice Johnson of Faircrest Washington

DEATHS

John Anderson:

Pauline Felix announces the death of her brother-in-law, John Anderson who passed away in Escondido, California at the age of 89.

Marlin Eugene Perdue:

Maurine Jesse Mercer announces the death of her brother, Marlin Eugene Perdue who passed away in Council Bluffs, Iowa at the age of 85 after a long illness. They enjoyed several reunions with he and his wife Marilyn. The first was in Iowa in the 60's. Marlin had a love of music that lasted a lifetime. Playing trombone in both high school band and a local dance band developed his appreciation for music of the Big Band Era, an appreciation that has been passed on to several of his grandchildren.

Flying was another passion of Marlin's. After high school Marlin got his pilot's license learning to fly a Piper Cub and was a charter member of the Flying Farmers of Iowa. After retiring from farming he became a travel agent he and Marilyn flew around the globe but his favorite destination was France which he visited 99 times!

Marlin enjoyed his years as a dairy farmer welcoming French agricultural students who did internships on the dairy.

Marlin was a "people person" in the fullest sense. He only had to meet a person once to consider them a friend. As long as he had his beloved wife Marilyn by his side and he could be surrounded by family and friends, he was as happy as anyone could be.

BIRTHS

Pauline Felix announces the birth of her 10th great-grandchild, the son of Whitney Felix Woodard and her husband Ryan Woodard.

A BIT OF WESTCOTT HISTORY – THE DARK SIDE

Jean Snow sent me this re the contested will of one Munroe Westcott. Some of the dates seem inconsistent such as the stated date of his death and the ten year gap between the first and second article. Also, the size of Munroe's estate. I print it here as it was sent to me so you can be the judge. Frankly, if I were Dr. Pope-Westcott's husband I would not let her have any chloroform.

Utica Semi-Weekly Herald, June 11 1887

Cooperstown, June 10 – There is a brilliant array of legal talent gathered before Judge Forbes to try the contested will case of Catherine Ellerson against Dr. Elisabeth Pope-Westcott. The action involves the disposition of an estate valued at \$10,000, which formerly belonged to Munroe Westcott of Oneonta, who died in 1831 [?] His death was the cause of much gossip. He had been treated by Dr. Pope-Westcott, who lived with him as his wife.

Before the surrogate, when there was a contest over the probate of the will, Dr. Pope-Westcott testified that on the night of her husband's death she gave him morphine, aconite, and atropine, and perhaps some chloroform. She claimed he had died of erysipelas. Her first husband died in Havana, N.Y., from inhaling chloroform which was used on his face for toothache.

Attorney Johnson, who opened the case for the plaintiff yesterday, made strong allegations which he say he will prove. The plaintiff some time ago moved to amend the complaint by making the allegation that Dr. Pope-Westcott produced the death of her husband in order that she might benefit by the will. This motion to amend was denied by the court of appeals. Luserne Westcott, a cousin and business partner of the testator, swore that Munroe Westcott admitted he was not married to Dr. Pope. He also said Dr. Pope seemed to exert much influence over Munroe Westcott. Among the attorneys are A.D. Wales, Roger P. Clark and George B. Curtis of Binghamton, Senator Smith and Hon. W. H. Johnson of the statutory revision committee for the plaintiff; Judge Lennant of Albany, Charles Andrus of Stamford, and Judge Arnold of Otsego, for the defense.

From the Elmira NY Telegram, Sunday, June 1897

COOPERSTOWN SENSATION: *Mrs. Dr. Pope-Westcott is Very Seriously Accused.*

Cooperstown, N. Y., June 12.—There has been a brilliant array of legal talent gathered before Judge Forbes to try the contested will case Of Catherine Ellerson against Dr . Pope-Westcott. The action involves the disposition of an estate valued at \$100,000, which formerly belonged to Monroe Westcott, of Oneonta , who died in 1891.

His death was the cause of much gossip. He had been treated by Dr . Pope-Westcott, who lived with him as his wife. Before the surrogate, when there was a contest over the probate of the will, Dr. Pope-Westcott testified that on the night of her husband's death she gave him morphine, aconite and atrophine, and perhaps some chloroform. She claimed he died of erysipelas. Her first husband died in Havana, N.Y., from inhaling chloroform which was used on his face for toothache. Attorney Johnson, who opened the case for the plaintiff, made strong allegations, which he says he will prove.

The plaintiff some time ago moved to amend the complaint by making the allegation that Dr. Pope-Westcott procured the death of her husband in order that she might benefit by the will. The motion to amend was denied by the court of appeals . Several witnesses gave testimony Wednesday. Mrs. Young and Mrs. Banks swore that Dr. Pope-Westcott predicted to them an early and sudden death for her husband. Luzerne Westcott, a cousin and business partner of the testator, swore that Munroe Westcott admitted he was not married to Dr. Pope . He also said Dr. Pope seemed to exert much influence over Munroe Westcott. Among the attorneys are A. D. Wales , Roger P. Clark and George B. Curtis , of Binghamton; Senator Smith and Hon. W. H. Johnson, of the sanitary revision committee, for the plaintiff; Charles Andrus, of Stomford, and Judge Arnold, of Otsego, for the defense.

Lester Swift testified Thursday that Dr. Pope-Westcott told him that when her husband was in Europe it made no difference if he did not return, as he had made his will. Mrs. Bessie Corcoran swore that on the evening, the will was supposed to have been drawn Munro Westcott forgot he had eaten his supper fifteen minutes after he had done so. She swore that Dr. Pope-Westcott gave the testator drugs or medicine, and the inference was drawn that these affected his mental condition.

The witness heard Dr. Pope-Westcott dictating what is said to have been the will the night he forgot about eating. She also testified that Dr. Cora P. Ganing, the daughter of Mrs. Westcott, petted Mr. Westcott, urging him to make the will . Eva Nearing swore that she found a bottle labeled "chloroform" under Mr. and Mrs. Westcott' s bed a few days before the testator's death, and that Mrs. Westcott cautioned her never to say anything about it . Dr . Pope-Westcott, it was developed, told conflicting stories regarding her alleged marriage. To one she said it took place in New York, to another in Milford Center and to another in Jersey City. Mrs. Westcott once remarked, said a witness, that she had persuaded her husband to make a will just as she wanted it, and did not propose to allow him to change it. Mr. Westcott had often declared his intention to leave his property to Mrs. Ellerson, his sister and the plaintiff in the action, and to a favorite nephew.

On one occasion, it is alleged, Mrs. Dr. Pope-Westcott and Dr. Cora P. Ganing appeared much affected by the evidence. They appeared in court attired in costly and beautiful silks, and wore several large diamonds.

In the Westcott will case Friday the most important evidence was given by Thomas Cantwell, of Albany, a hand -writing expert . He was on the stand most of the day, and he was there for the purpose of showing that the will had been altered after having been signed.

He testified that words had been erased, other word s being written in, in another handwriting, from the body of the will. One of the words erased he stated was "heirs," the word "children" being substituted. Mrs. Westcott was the residuary legatee, and Westcott dying without children the estate came to her under the will as it appeared.

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.

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