

Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America
41st Biennial Reunion
Radisson Hotel Providence Airport, Warwick, Rhode Island
June 24 – June 26, 2016

Last Day to Register is May 27, 2016
Questions? Contact Bart Westcott: bwestcott2@gmail.com

2016 REUNION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 23:

- **Board Meeting**
Board members arrive to attend the late afternoon Board Meeting.
- Hospitality Room and displays will be open for registration, information, and an opportunity for “cousins” to greet each other and visit.

FRIDAY ALL DAY – JUNE 24:

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

FRIDAY MORNING – JUNE 24

- **8:30am – noon: Legacy Tour: Stukely, Roger Williams, and Friends in Providence**

8:30 -- Leave hotel by luxury motor coach

9:00 -10:00 -- Guided Tour of Rhode Island State House and The Charter Museum, including any artifacts that directly relate to Stukely, as well as the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington

Bus to the First Baptist Church of Providence

10:30-11:30 -- Tour and Information Session at First Baptist Church of Providence, with the eminent Dr. J. Stanley Lemons, Church Historian and highly regarded author, researcher, and college professor. NOTE: Dr. Lemons will also be our guest at dinner, bringing his book, First: The First Baptist Church in America, for purchase and signing. (He has a number of interesting books, including one published in 2014 where Roger Williams’ final essay was decoded from its cryptic notes in the margin of another book. The essay is a refutation of infant baptism!)

Noon -- Bus arrives back at hotel

FRIDAY AFTERNOON – JUNE 24 -- 3:00 – 4:30

▪ **Genealogy Workshop**

Learning more about your R.I. ancestors can be a daunting task. For starters, records are kept at 39 different municipalities in a state smaller than most counties elsewhere. But there are plenty of connections to be found in diaries, census reports, and court and town council records. Join us for an interactive workshop led by Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, Editor of Rhode Island Roots, The Journal of the R.I. Genealogical Society, and learn how to navigate these multiple sources. Cherry's own publications include gleanings from the early court records of Warwick and Newport, and editing diaries and census reports.

And, come ready to share your own experience as we wrap up the workshop with a "Wall Session," as in "I've hit the wall and can find..." It will be a fun and information workshop for novice or veteran alike.

While there is no charge for attending this workshop, we need to know how many will be attending. Please indicate on the Reunion Registration Form the number in your party who will be attending.

▪ **-OR – Self-Guided Tours of the Local Area**

See listing of Local Areas of Interest at end of this Reunion Schedule

FRIDAY EVENING – JUNE 24 – 6:00PM

Informal Family Buffet

We will begin the evening with a social hour and some "getting to know you" activities to catch up with "cousins" and old friends and meet some new ones at our cash bar.

Following will be an Informal Family Buffet of hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the trimmings that go with old-fashioned picnic fare.

After supper, the adults will enjoy an historical, giving us fascinating insight into the lives of our ancestors.

During this presentation for adults, David Leflar, our Youth Director, will take the kids to the Hospitality Room where they will be entertained and delighted by Marvelous Marvin. The hour-long event will kick off with half an hour of magic tricks, followed by a half hour of circus arts. Best of all, Marvelous Marvin's activities are educationally based and designed to incorporate the participation of the kids!

There will be an Ice Cream Social with of ice cream, cookies, and lemonade for all grown-ups and children following the evening's presentations.

SATURDAY – JUNE 25:

▪ **All day**

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

▪ **8:00am – 9:30am**

The SSWDA Membership Meeting and Memorial Service

We are offering an optional Continental Breakfast Coffee Cart during the Biennial Membership Meeting.

▪ **Noon – 5:00pm**

Experience Stukely’s Waterway via Save the Bay Northern Lighthouse Tour

We are offering this group outing on Saturday afternoon, limited to 30 people on a first come, first serve basis: therefore, get your registration in ASAP, as space is truly limited. The fee is \$60/ per person to include a boxed lunch and luxury motor coach transportation to and from the hotel for the 3.5 hour boat tour.

Board our luxury motor coach at the Hotel Radisson Providence Airport for the ride to Providence where the boat tour begins. Enjoy the rich, historical sights of the upper reaches of Narragansett Bay and the Providence River. With breathtaking views of Gaspee Point, Hog Island, Prudence Island, and Conimicut Point, you'll view up to 10 active and inactive lighthouse sites.

Starting in Providence, this 3.5-hour tour includes a stop and a tour of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. Arrive back at the Hotel Radisson Providence Airport and get ready for the evening’s event.

▪ **-OR – Self-Guided Tours of the Local Area**

See listing of Local Areas of Interest at end of this Reunion Schedule

SATURDAY EVENING – 6:00PM

Gather for cocktails at the cash bar, followed by our Banquet and the introduction of the new Society officers. Judy Howard, an energetic and delightful local DJ, will provide music for our dancing and listening pleasure.

NOTE: Dr. Lemons from The First Baptist Church of Providence will be our guest at dinner, bringing his book, *First: The First Baptist Church in America*, for purchase and signing. (He has a number of interesting books, including one published in 2014 where Roger Williams’ final essay was decoded from its cryptic notes in the margin of another book. The essay is a refutation of infant baptism!)

SUNDAY – JUNE 26 – 8:00AM – 10:00AM

Enjoy a **Farewell Cousins Breakfast Buffet**, as we get in one more visit, make our final good-byes, and bring another terrific SSWDA Reunion to a close.

LOCAL AREAS OF INTEREST (WE WILL HAVE PACKETS PREPARED FOR THE FOLLOWING):

▪ **Self-Guided Tour #1: South County for History, Sand and Clam Cakes**

Tour South County by private or rented vehicle, total distance: not much, it's in R.I.

South County is the local name for Washington County, which includes the beaches of the south coast, location of the 17th and 18th Century plantations of the Narragansett Planters, and many venues for such gastronomical delights as stuffed quahogs (stuffies), Rhode Island Clam chowder (bowl of clear), clam cakes.

Smith's Castle in Wickford, originally Richard Smith trading post, built in 1678, is a house museum on Cocumscussoc. Smith Castle was the staging area for the Great Swamp massacre of the Narragansett Indians in 1675 during King Phillip's War. Includes the burial site of Robert Westcott, who died from wounds received the battle.

Gilbert Stuart Birthplace and Museum, Saunderstown, is a Colonial era snuff mill and the birthplace of Gilbert Stuart, "Painter of President." Enjoy a narrated or self-guided tour of the museum and explore the headwaters of Narrow River.

▪ **Self-Guided Tour #2: Walking Tour of Historic South Main Providence**

Take public transportation or rented car to Downtown Providence and visit:

- Roger William National Historical Monument
- First Baptist Church
- Rhode Island School of Design Museum
- Boat Tour of the Providence River
- R.I. Historical Society John Brown House
- River walk
- R.I. State House
- Providence Place Mall
- Providence Arcade

▪ **The Beach!!**

There are four state beaches in Narragansett: Scarborough and Scarborough South face out to the Atlantic and offer ride-able waves, and Captain Wheeler and Salty Brine Beaches inside the Harbor of Refuge offer calmer adventures for young families.

Pt. Judith and Galilee offer a range of restaurants from clam shacks on up for fresh seafood a la South County.

(Narragansett Town Beach is an alternate destination, with sea wall, historic Casino Towers, and restaurants within walking distance. There are charges for admission and parking at the beach. You can take RIPTA Bus 14 from the Airport to Narragansett Beach.)