



Know Your Kindred Better

**Society of
Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America**

**THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY
JULY, 2014**

2014 WESTCOTT REUNION

Greetings cousins. What a wonderful time we all had in Providence at the 2014 Reunion of the Stuckely Westcott Society. There were 115 guests registered representing 28 states, the District of Columbia and England. Providence is so rich in Westcott history that we have decided to hold the 2016 Reunion there. We are grateful to Susan Morris for her work in organizing the event and a special thanks goes to David and Rosemary Smith, who live in Rhode Island, for all of their help.

**GENERAL MEETING:
SSWDA
PROVIDENCE, RI
JUNE 28, 2014**

The 40th Biennial Meeting of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America was called to order by President Ailene Picheco at 9:00am

A Prayer and Memorial Service were officiated by Chaplain Dianne Hatfield, immediately followed by the Salute to the Flag

President Picheco recognized our members who are veterans and active service personnel.

Registrar Rick Beirman presented his report: during the past two years we have added 19 applicants with full membership and 2 as associate members.

The following two Amendments to the By Laws were presented to the membership for a vote:

*A designation of one Director position as a Coordinator of Youth Activities at future Reunions

*Combine the positions of Registrar and Genealogist: Rick Beirman volunteered to write this description.

Bart Westcott moved and David Seyfarth seconded the motion. The Amendments passed with no discussion.

Webmaster Jim Leflar presented a proposal regarding the future of the Website (see article below). Jim envisions the website as the central place for communicating all information pertaining to our Society.

David Leflar on behalf of Pete Bentson presented a report on proposed changes to Scholarship Program. The goal is to transition from a Scholarship Loan to a true Scholarship Gift for rising undergraduates. Members of the Board will work with Pete to design the new program. Motion to accept this change was made by Jim Leflar and seconded by Bart Westcott. After discussion from the floor, the proposal passed unanimously.

New Business:

The 41st Biennial Reunion 2016 will be coordinated by Christine Hamilton Westcott and David Smith. We will use Feedback from this Reunion for guidance in planning.

The slate of new officers and directors was presented:

President: Susan Morris

Vice-President: Bart Westcott

Treasurer: Jean Brundage

Secretary: Sharon Whitlock

Registrar/Genealogist: Rick Beirman

Historian: Betty Acker

Chaplain: Dianne Hatfield

Quarterly Editor: Lyle Wescott

Webmaster: Jim Leflar

Scholarship Program: Edmund (Pete) Bentson

Directors:

Lynn Hulkow

David Leflar (Youth Activities)

Connie Stirling

Jeff Westcott

SSWDA Meeting cont'd

A suggestion was made that at our next Reunion we offer a pre-Conference session on Genealogical Research, perhaps from RI Genealogical Society

Outgoing President Ailene Picheco presented a new United States Flag that was flown over the US Capitol.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Morris, Vice-President

SCENES FROM THE REUNION

Lighthouse on Rose Island



Barlow with Mayor Avedisian



Saturday night banquet



Stuckely Westcott Monument



41ST BIENNIAL REUNION PLANS

The 41st Biennial Reunion is tentatively proposed to be held again in Rhode Island on June 24-26 at the same Radisson Hotel which hosted us this year. A special thanks is due to Christine Hamilton Wescott and David and Rosemary Smith who have volunteered to coordinate.

WESTCOTT CEMETERY DEDICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS REPRINTED FROM THE 7.8.14 EDITION OF THE WARWICK BEACON

http://warwickonline.com/stories/351-year-old-cemetery-identified,94109?search_filter=westcott&content_class=1&town_id=1&sub_type=stories

Mayor Scott Avedisian joins members of the Westcott family and the Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission at the site of the cemetery established in 1663. Betty Acker, left, of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America receives the certificate of recognition for the Society.



“Finding this cemetery was just wonderful. We can start to complete a picture of our history and color in all the holes,” Pegee Malcolm, the chair of the Warwick historical Cemetery Commission, said Monday.

Three hundred and fifty-one years after it was established, a Warwick cemetery has been dedicated thanks to an inquiry by descendants of Stukely Westcott, followed by the research of members of the Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission.

Origins of the Cemetery

Stukely Westcott emigrated from England to America on June 24, 1635. He lived in Salem, Mass., later moving to Providence with Roger Williams. In June of 1648, Westcott moved his family to the new settlement of Shawomet, now known as Old Warwick.

He was one of six early settlers to organize the first church in Warwick. He was chosen as a member of the Colonial Assembly eight times, and twice selected as one of the General Assistants to the Governor.

In 1663, at a Town meeting, Stukely Westcott was designated a member of a group of citizens to survey and lay out the property for a local blacksmith, a Town House, and the first public burial ground in Warwick. Westcott died on Jan. 12, 1677 in Portsmouth, R.I., where he went to escape the King Phillip’s War. Family oral history has always maintained that Stukely was buried with his wife Juliana Marchant in the “Westcott Cemetery,” also known as the first public burial ground of Warwick, adjoining his home lot and former residence.

Finding the Westcott Connection

In the fall of 2013 the Warwick Historical Society was contacted by the Westcott Family Association historian Betty Acker. Acker had Westcott memorabilia in her possession and wanted to find a home for it in Warwick. The president of the Warwick Historical Society, Felicia Gardella, began her research to find any other Westcott material that had been collected in previous years. She discovered that Oliver Payson Fuller's "History of Warwick," first published in 1875, identified the location of the Westcott Cemetery on Feb 20, 1663 with a lot for a town house adjoining "ye buryings place layd out for ye towne is eight poles square, joining to ye western end of Peter Burzecott's aker of land."

This lot was early appropriated for school purposes and located next to the schoolhouse. John Sterling, in his book "Warwick, Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries," published in 1997, lists lost cemetery A18 as the School Master Lot with the grave of Mr. Emmett who was a school teacher at the time of his death in 1727.

Locating the Cemetery

Gardella then approached Pegee Malcolm, chair of the Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission, and the chair of the RI State Cemetery Commission, to help find the actual location of the first Warwick Public Burial Ground.

Mark Brown, a member of the Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission, after comparing old maps to one another, discerned the general location in "Old Warwick" off of what is today West Shore Road. With the help from Colin Parkhurst, also a member of the Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission, and his GPS, Jim Ostiguy and Bob Chorney, members of the Warwick Historical Society, were able to get close enough before counting poles. Poles are a unit of measurement equivalent to 16.5 feet. The team believes they are within 25 feet of the original burial ground.

And thus, Warwick lost cemetery A18 was found.

Dedication of the Cemetery

Warwick Historical Cemetery #165 has officially been dedicated 351 years after being laid out. On June 28, more than 100 relatives of Stukely Westcott from as far away as Hawaii, and England, joined Gardella, Malcolm, Acker and Mayor Scott Avedisian to dedicate this cemetery. The mayor read a proclamation making June 28, 2014 Westcott Family Day. This cemetery has a new sign that reads "Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Warwick 165" and is located behind the Fire Station on Sandy Lane. Now that it is documented, it is hoped to be easily identified for at least another 351 years.

The burial ground does not showcase any headstones because over time vandals have destroyed them.

Malcolm said, "It is amazing that something we thought was lost can be found again. History can be shown again."

Written and reported by Sue Cabeceiras, Warwick Planning Department liaison to the Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission and Beacon reporter Kelcy Dolan.

**CERTIFICATE PRESENTED TO
BETTY ACKER, SSWDA HISTORIAN
BY MAYOR AVEDISIAN**



**City of Warwick
Office of the Mayor**

*The Mayor
Of the
City of Warwick
Extends His*

*Greetings and Congratulations to
The Westcott Family*

In Recognition of

**Their effort in working with the Warwick
Historical Society and the Historical Cemeteries
Commission to locate the burial place of
Stukely Westcott and his wife, who are buried in
the first public burial ground in Warwick**

*In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Warwick to be
hereunto affixed this 28th day of June 2014.*



**Scott Avedisian
Mayor**

SSWDA WEBSITE PROPOSAL

The website should be the go-to place for everything Westcott. However during my tenure of maintaining the website, I saw a barrier between the technology and its user base. The website that I developed was fully interactive, but no one used it. And when people wanted content posted, they expected me to do it for them.

Now we have Reed Powell onboard, and he has developed an entirely new website which, from what I can tell, essentially has the same functionality that the previous website did, but using a platform that is more tailored to his expertise, which is fine.

For starters, I would like to propose a mission statement for the website: "To collect information related to 'all things Westcott', to organize it in a fashion that makes it easy for the public to perform research, and to support the society in meeting its objectives."

As a reminder, the objectives of the Society are:

1. To commemorate fittingly outstanding anniversaries and events in our family's history;
2. to memorialize our early family by suitable tablets;
3. to promote genealogical study of our family;
4. to create and develop interest and pride in family achievement;
5. to provide when possible care of ancestors' graves, including official markers for graves of family's wartime soldiers, sailors, etc.;
6. to support and advocate steadfastly the defense and protection of this country which our ancestors helped create, and the conservation of the United States Constitution and the American people's liberty;
7. to meet, know, and enjoy our kindred.

To build on this- my vision is that the website be an interactive place where people can go to build a sense of community, i.e., "to meet, know, and enjoy our kindred".

This could include e.g., (hiring someone to) photograph and annotate all of the items that Betty Acker and others have collected over the years, information on cemeteries, newsletters (past & present), reunions (past & present), scholarship fund, blogs, chat, etc.

Keep in mind that the job of the website is to host this content, but people need to take ownership to keep it up-to-date.

This is our biggest challenge right now, and in my opinion this is the linchpin to moving forward to next generations and keeping the Society alive.

Now, I don't want to (and realistically I can't) force people to go to the website. So my challenge to the Board of Directors is to be creative and brainstorm some ideas that will actually draw people in. Technology has granted us with these amazing tools, and we are not even close to using them to their fullest!

I will start: my proposal is that we should be referencing the website in all communications. As a matter of fact, we should use it as the primary means of communication, where people subscribe to updates via email, and pull up the website to retrieve detailed content as it is posted. This essentially turns the website into a launch pad for "all things Westcott". Once there, I expect people will tend to browse and even interact with others. (Maybe live chat should be the next feature. J)

I am anxious to see what the rest of the Board of Directors comes up with.

Regards,

Jim Leflar, SSWDA Webmaster

SSWDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PROPOSAL

PETE BENTSON

JUNE 30, 2014

As discussed at the Board meeting, here are some talking points for consideration regarding the scholarship program:

- Convert from scholarship loan program to pure scholarship.
- Forgive 11 outstanding loans with an approximate balance of \$11,000.
- Utilize existing funds of almost \$6,000 to fund at least one scholarship of \$1,000 to \$2,500 at least every two years.
- Update scholarship application to require brief essay from all applicants on SSWDA-related topic TBD.
- If multiple applications are received, scholarship committee (members TBD) will select a winning essay and award scholarship accordingly.
- Applicants who do not receive scholarships may reapply in future terms.
- All submitted essays may be published in the quarterly newsletter.
- Scholarship committee may request that scholarship recipients write a brief update for the society while pursuing their studies.
- Donations to the scholarship fund will be requested and collected separately in concert with membership dues.

DEATHS:

INES LAWRENCE, mother of Mavis Dodge of Grafton, NH passed away on May, 25th, 2014 at the age of 95. Mavis' brother, Stantley Downes passed on June 20th at the age of 76.

BIRTHS:

Mavis Dodge Announces the birth of a new granddaughter, Athenna Fowghter, born to Katie Fowghter on June 20, 2014.

NEW MEMBERS:

The society is definitely “on a roll” re new members with seventeen new members added during this quarter. Many of them were signed up at the reunion and were relatives; sister, niece, nephew, grand nephew, grand niece... of a member in attendance. What better way to recruit new members than to mention the society to some of your close relatives and mention the Westcott car, the Westcott ruler, Westcott wrench or George Blagdon Westcott who served in the navy of King George III and perhaps engaged in some of the naval battles against us in the Revolutionary War, is memorialized in St Paul's Cathedral in London or the HMS Westcott, named after him, which served in the Royal Navy during WW II. Of course Stuckely's association with Roger Williams, whom every schoolboy should recognize, after leaving Salem, should kindle some interest.

Let us all extend a heartfelt welcome to the following new members:

- David Toepfer of Cincinnati, OH
- Sharon Hare of St. Charles, IL
- Marshall Smith of Caledonia, NY
- Christine Wescott of Albertson, NY
- Karen Ylimaki of Mosely, VA
- Carolyn Ann Hardy (Westcott) of Falls Church, VA
- Jonathan Devon Westcott of Mountain Home, ID
- Chad Krouse of Glen Allen, VA
- Mary Wescott of Gilbert, AZ
- Sarah Scheaffer of Mays Landing, NJ
- Louise Kathleen Aitcheson of East Greenbush, NY
- Debra Westerman of Franklin, NC
- Elaine Wescott Marshall of Franklin, NC
- Justin Westerman of Dania Beach, FL
- Dennis Marshall of Sanford, FL
- Laura Marshall of Sanford, FL
- Robert Hudson Reed of Hampton, NY

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

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

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www.sswda.org

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SOCIETY OF STUKELY WESTCOTT DESCENDANTS OF AMERICA

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Secretary: Sharon Whitlock

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Historian: Betty W. Acker

Chaplain: Dianne Hatfield

Youth Activities Director: Jim Henderson

Quarterly Newsletter: Lyle Wescott

Website Collaborators: Jim Leflar

Rick Beirman

David Smith

Scholarship Fund: Pete Bentson

Directors: Lynn Hulkow

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