



Society of
Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America

Know Your Kindred Better

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY
JANUARY, 2015

Greetings cousins! Christmas 2014 is now history and the New Year is upon us. I would like to wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.

A lot is happening in the society and we have exciting news from our president about the scholarship program which you will find beginning on the next page.

TURTLE EXPEDITION

Our intrepid explorers, Gary and Monika Wescott have returned from their trans-Eurasian overland expedition. I'm sure many of you have been following them through their email posts.



Gary and Monika arrive in Vladivostok after their trans-Eurasian odyssey

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A message from SSWDA President, Susan Morris:

January 2015

Greetings Westcott Cousins! In the months since the June 2014 Reunion in Providence, several of us have been busy behind the scenes with some exciting work on behalf of our Society. I am pleased to share some highlights with you.

The Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America Scholarship is now a reality! This Spring 2015 we will award at least one \$2500 Scholarship. My sincere thanks go especially to Scholarship Committee / SSWDA Board Members Lynn Hulkow and Pete Bentson, as well as to Dana Matteson, for their time and dedication to the development of this program.

The establishment of this Scholarship is one important way that our Society will support and remain relevant to our future generations. The details of the Scholarship Program are now available on our Society website, www.sswda.org. Please pass this information along to any of our kindred who might be interested in taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity. We are accepting applications immediately. Deadline for application submission is April 1, 2015. *In addition, please consider a special designated donation to the Scholarship Fund when you pay your annual membership dues.*

To support the Scholarship Program and to improve our messaging to people who might be “surfing the web” in search of Westcott genealogy, our web master, Jim Leflar, has been working to get our home page and the contents of our site updated.

Much of our history (thanks to Historian, Betty Acker) is available online for those who are interested. Make sure you check out www.sswda.org. Your feedback is always welcome.

Another bit of encouraging news is that our Membership continues to grow: our Registrar, Rick Beirman, reports that we have added a total of 22 cousins since June 2014. The future of our Society is dependent on our welcoming and engaging as many members of our younger generations as possible! Did you know that you can register your younger than 18-year-old children and grandchildren under their parent’s membership in the Society? Our joint Westcott heritage is seriously something of which we each must be proud, and one way to share this legacy with our children is to give them the opportunity “*know their kindred better.*”

Looking to the immediate future, we will be taking advantage of social media using Facebook and Twitter to increase our connectedness with each other and as a means to promote our Society to all the Westcott cousins out there who might be interested in connecting with us. If you are already a Facebook user, please request to join our closed group, “SSWDA (Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America).” This is a great way for us to get to know each other better. In addition, David Leflar, our Youth Director/Board Member, occasionally will be posting “tidbits” of interesting family history. It will be fun and interesting if we each share our own Westcott lore, both present and past.

WE NEED PICTURES FROM THE PROVIDENCE REUNION

It's been a busy time behind the scenes on behalf of our Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America since we were all together in Providence in June.

Another thing we have been working on is getting our www.SSWDA.org website updated. If you have any decent pictures from the Reunion that we could consider for the web site, we would very much appreciate your sending them along. I now regret that we didn't appoint a "family photographer" while we were together.

Susan Morris, President

Society of Stuckely Westcott Descendants of America

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serving suggestion

My friend Sherry Chason was shopping in a local Sav-A-Lot Grocery store recently and came across some Westcott Vegetable Oil. It was news to me and maybe it will be news to some of you.

DEATHS

The passing of cousin **Lew Westcott** was briefly mentioned in the October Quarterly but I have now received, from his wife Nancy, the complete obituary of his remarkable life. He was a family man, a small business man, active in many charitable organizations, an avid supporter of our society and a true American who served his country honorably during and after WW II.

Lewis O. Westcott, 97, died September 26, 2014 in Prairie Village, Kansas at his home. He is survived by his wife Nancy Sue, two daughters Nancy W. Anderson (Mark) of Fairway, KS and Shirley A. Westcott of Washington, DC, 2 grandchildren Dane Anderson and Chris (Jennifer) Anderson, and half-brothers Paul (Bernadette) Westcott and David (Jeanne) Seyfarth, step-children Janet (Steve) Weidner, Julie (Brad) Shotton, Jill (Ed) Chavez and step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren and many other family and friends.

He was born 2 June 1917 in Syracuse, NY, to Sidney B. and Florence Henry Westcott, who preceded him in death as did his brothers Percy and Frank, and half- brothers Stewart, John, Robert and Byron and half-sister Grace. He lived in central New York State until 1937. He has lived in the Kansas City area since 1946. He married Margaret Anne Laughlin Welch who died in 1986 after 35 years of marriage. He remarried in December 1989 to Nancy Sue Davis Edwards Cook and is survived by her.

He attended Syracuse University, University of Illinois, and night school at the University of Kansas City and the University of Missouri at Kansas City

He was a Naval aviator in WWII serving with Patrol Bombing Squadron 33, and Patrol Bombing Squadron 206 on anti-submarine patrol in the Caribbean area and barrier patrols between Corinto, Nicaragua and the Galapagos Islands and Salinas, Ecuador in the Pacific to protect the Panama Canal from Japanese attack. He also flew anti-submarine patrols with Patrol Bombing Squadron 206 on the east coast of U.S., and flew transport in the Naval Air Transport Squadron 3 at the Naval Air Station at Olathe, KS from 1947 through 1959. He attained the rank of Commander. He had about 23 years active and Reserve duty, and was a member of the Retired Reserve.

One of his more memorable flights was in April 1945 when he led a flight of three PBM-3S twin-engine seaplanes escorting President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the U.S.S. Augusta on his return from Malta (Yalta? ed.) with his meeting with Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Premier Joseph Stalin.

He owned and operated Westcott Traffic Service and was President of Industrial Traffic Service, Inc. (transportation consulting services and freight traffic managers). He served on a Transportation Law Delegation of the Association of Transportation Practitioners through the People to People's Citizen Ambassador Program to the Peoples Republic of China in 1988. He was on a People to People Anniversary Caravan to the Soviet Union in 1991 as a Small Business Representative. He was also on a People to People Mission of understanding to the People's Republic of China in 1992.

Lew Westcott (cont'd)

Lew was Past President of the Kansas City Chapter of Association of Transportation Practitioners, Industrial Traffic Managers Assn., Tedrow Transportation Library Assn., Prairie Fields Homes Assn., The Homes Assn. of the Country Club District. He was Treasurer of the Old Olathe Naval Air Museum and had also served as Registrar of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America.

He was a member of the Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village over 50 years.

Charities and worthy organizations: The Salvation Army, and the City union Mission in Kansas City, MO.

Memorial service will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday, October 3, 2014, at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS. Cremation. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charitable organization of your choice.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members to our Society:

Janet Hartman of Greenwood Lake, NY

Nancy Westcott-Pocock of Milford, CT

Robert Westcott of Early, IA

Timothy Westcott of Kansas City, MO

Jeffrey Westcott of Albert City, IA

Jonathan Westcott of Sleepy Eye, MN

Cameron Westcott of Sleepy Eye, MN

INTERESTING TIDBITS REGARDING SOME OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth R. J. Mamer

“Liz” and husband Phil own and operate ElkFlat Farm where they have been raising beef since 1991. They take pride that their cows come from hearty Owyhee County stocks and graze on 100 % privately owned grass/alfalfa pastures their entire lives. The farms website is available at <http://elkflatfarm.com>.

Liz works for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as Data Coordinator, and has co-authored a number of reports on fishery research.

She is the daughter of Lawrence W. Johnson (Aug. 14, 1924-March 22, 2014) and is the author of the tribute obituary for Lawrence published in the April, 2014 Westcott Quarterly.

Liz joined SSWDA last July

Carolyn Lunsford Mears (New Members cont'd)

A founder of the Sandy Hook-Columbine Cooperative, Carolyn L. Mears is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts and is an alliance member of the National Centre for Therapeutic Residential and Foster Care (UK). She serves on the Board of Directors of the ILUG (school safety) foundation, is on the Advisory Board of the Trauma Certification Program at DU's Graduate School of Social Work, and holds a research appointment at the University of Denver (DU).

As an educator and parent whose son survived the Columbine High School shootings, Carolyn conducted research into the impact of the tragedy on parents and families. Her dissertation, *Experiences of Columbine Parents: Finding a Way to Tomorrow*, received the Outstanding Qualitative Dissertation of the Year award from the American Educational Research Association in 2005.

She has published numerous articles and presented to a variety of audiences in the U.S., Europe, and Australia, on such topics as trauma response and recovery, crisis preparedness and recovery, leadership in times of crisis, and interventions in traumatized communities.

Her book, *Reclaiming School in the Aftermath of Trauma: Advice Based on Experience* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), received the prestigious Colorado Book of the Year Award for anthology, given by the Colorado affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and Library of Congress Center for the Book. This anthology offers stories of real experience in crisis situations and the traumatic aftermath that can help readers understand what happens when people are exposed to life-threatening events. It provides practical advice that survivors have found helped them toward recovery. Contributors include educators, students, parents, clergy, crisis responders, counselors, and others related to a variety of traumatic exposures, including rampage shootings, Columbine, Virginia Tech, Jokela (Finland), Platte Canyon; natural disaster such as Hurricane Katrina; the terrorist attacks of 9/11; and personal violation.

Her previous book, *Interviewing for Education and Social Science Research: The Gateway Approach* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), was selected by the American Educational Research Association as a Finalist for the Outstanding Qualitative Book of the Year Award 2010. This book introduces her innovative approach to research, using aspects of oral history and insider research to traverse the boundaries of human experience and bring to light matters of concern to education and social science researchers. This narrator-centered method, a by-product of her Columbine study, provides a means for researchers to access the often hidden human responses and perceptions about an event or situation so that others can better understand. It is a way to document life experience as well as to help those who make decisions and write policy become better informed about the true impact of their actions on the individuals involved.

Dr. Mears consults, works with schools and communities, and speaks to audiences worldwide about recovery from trauma, sharing her own experiences related to the shooting at Columbine High School as well as the stories of others who have survived and transcended tragedy.

(Dr Mears joined SSWDA last August.)

WESTCOTT & PARKER
DEALERS IN COAL & WOOD

Our Historian, Betty Acker sent the following item of Oneonta – Utica, New York History.



Frank Dwight Westcott, son of Stephen S. and Philinda A. (Brown) Westcott, was born in Oneonta on September 7, 1858 and moved with his parents to Clinton in 1866. In 1883 he went to Utica as a clerk in charge of the mail-order department of Hugh Glenn & Co., where he remained for one year. He was then a bookkeeper for Miller & Finke for two years and later held a similar position in the wholesale clothing house of Tucker, Calder & Co. for about six years.

In 1890, he formed a partnership with Henry F. Miller, as Miller & Westcott and engaged in the coal business. In 1891 this firm dissolved and with Elmer E. Parker he formed the firm of Westcott & Parker which continued until July 1894. Since then Mr. Westcott has conducted the business alone dealing in coal, wood, flour and feed. He was one of the organizers and a Director of the Cornhill Building & Loan Association of Utica and is secretary and director of the Utica Carriage Company.

He is a member of the Faxon Lodge, F&AM and has been very prominent in the Royal Arnaum serving in almost every office. He was Regent of Imperial Council No. 70 for three years and elected representative to the Grand Council of the State of New York. At his first session he was chosen Grand Guide. He has also served as Grand Orator and Grande Vice-Regent and was Grande Regent from April, 1891 to April, 1893. On February 21, 1882 he married Libbie A., daughter of James W. Cronkhite, of Little Falls, NY and they have one son, William Carlton Westcott.

Society Historian – Betty Acker

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

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www.sswda.org

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