



Know Your Kindred Better

Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY SUMMER, 2015

EDITOR'S WELCOME

Greetings cousins. As I put this summer's Westcott Quarterly together my thoughts turn to next summer when we will be having our bi-annual reunion in Providence, Rhode Island where our forbear, Stukely Westcott spent the greater part of his life. Please note our president's message below and the activities she, David Leflar, David and Rosemary Smith, among others, are planning. They are trying to make this reunion a particularly "family friendly" event with many age-appropriate activities for the children.



A DAD AND DAUGHTER MOMENT

Ben Westcott and his daughter Danielle at her wedding reception June 28, 2014.

Tears of joy at this major milestone in her life.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Hello Westcott Cousins:

2016 REUNION PLANNING

I send you summer greetings and best wishes for the season. It hardly seems possible that we had our last Reunion less than a year ago—and frankly, it is none too soon for us to begin planning for the June 2016 return to Providence. Please Save The Date: June 24-26, 2016!

In May, Don and I had the good fortune to be in Providence and had a wonderful late afternoon/evening visit with our Wescott cousins, David and Rosemary Smith. Together we reviewed the feedback from the 2014 gathering and discussed tentative ideas for 2016. We want your feedback and your input as we begin to create the activity agenda for the next weekend gathering of Stukely's Descendants. I invite you to contact me directly via email: susan.morris@mac.com

Our contract with the Radisson Warwick/Providence Airport hotel is signed. The hotel is honoring our 2014 room rates, and they are working with us to reduce our meal costs, too. We want this next Reunion to be as affordable as possible for our cousins with young families. If children come to our reunions and have a good time getting to know their kindred, then we ALL will benefit in the years to come! I am especially hopeful that we can entice young families to start the Reunion weekend on FRIDAY with our informal family gathering and meal.

Here are some of the agenda ideas that we discussed with the Smiths:

Thursday evening, June 23, 2016:

Board Meeting

Friday, June 24, 2016:

Daytime: (Several choices)

*a workshop at the hotel on conducting genealogical research;

*Save the Bay Lighthouse Cruise (this sold out last year, and many of us were disappointed we couldn't participate);

*trips "on your own" to the Warwick Historical Society and the Westcott Collection; viewing of the Stukely Westcott Bible; visit to the First Baptist Church in America

Friday, June 24, 2016: (cont'd)

Evening: a cookout at the hotel that will have a very reasonable cost followed by separate activities for adults and children.

Board Member/Youth Activities Director David Leflar will take the children to a separate room for a delightful entertainment by a local professional storyteller followed by small group, age-appropriate activities that will help the young ones get to know each other. Please contact David directly at davidleflar@gmail.com if you are willing to help him with the kids.

The adults will have a very special treat: Our Historian, Betty Acker, is putting together a special presentation from her archives on "everything we ever wanted to know about our ancestor, Stukely Westcott." At the conclusion of these separate sessions, the children will rejoin the adults for an ice cream sundae buffet. The hotel came up with this idea, and I know it will be fun!

Saturday, June 25, 2016:

Morning: Our General Meeting and election of new Officers

Afternoon: perhaps a boxed lunch picnic in a local park where families can visit, and David and his committee can organize games and activities for the children. Providence and the surrounding area have so much to offer!

Evening: Our Banquet followed by music and dancing. We are looking to find a more suitable DJ than the one we had in 2014.

Sunday, June 26, 2016:

*Cousins Farewell Breakfast at the hotel plus a group outing to services at the First Baptist Church in America for those who want to attend.

PLEASE NOTE these plans are NOT set in stone—PLEASE send your feedback and input of additional ideas!

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

Of additional interest to all of us: our webmaster, Jim Leflar, and our Treasurer, Bart Westcott, are working to set up our 2016 Reunion Registration as well as our Membership Dues Payment as an online function through the website. Hopefully we will have this functionality in place by the Fall edition of our Quarterly.

WESTCOTT SCHOLARSHIP

A final note: we were disappointed to have NO applicants for our \$2500 Stukely Westcott Descendants Scholarship. Please help spread the word to any eligible cousins who could benefit from this opportunity. Details are on our website, www.SSWDA.org.

---Best regards,

Susan Morris, President

Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America

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Dear Westcott Society folks,

Our son, Duncan Rockwell Mamer, is going to graduate from the US Naval Academy next Friday. His grandfather is my dad, Lawrence Westcott Johnson (son of Ruth Westcott), a long time follower of the Westcott Family story.

Larry served in the Army, his brother, Lewis in the Navy, and it made him very proud to watch his grandson flourish at the Academy. Sadly Larry passed away last March without being able to watch Duncan throw his cover up in the air in celebration. We know he'll be watching in spirit however.

We just thought it might make an interesting tidbit for the newsletter.

Thanks much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth (Liz) Mamer

Caldwell, ID

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

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May 5th, 2015

CALDWELL NATIVE GRADUATES FROM THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY



ANNAPOLIS, Md. – Duncan Mamer of Caldwell, Idaho successfully completed four years of challenging academic, physical and professional military training, graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy, May 22, 2015, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Honors Naval Architecture and a commission as a U.S. Navy Ens. He is a graduate of Vallivue High School. At the Academy Mamer was a member of the Varsity Offshore Sailing Team. He has been selected to serve in the Submarine Service and continues his education in Groton, CT, and Charleston, SC.

Duncan is the son of Phillip and Elizabeth (Johnson) Mamer of Caldwell, ID, and grandson of Alfred and Lucille (Derrick) Mamer, of Nampa, ID, and Lawrence and Esther (Wilson) Mamer, of Los Altos, CA. His grand parents are no longer with us but were always so proud of his commitment to the Navy. They are watching over him in spirit.

Founded in 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy today is a prestigious four-year service academy that prepares midshipmen morally, mentally and physically to be professional officers in the naval service.

More than 4,400 men and women representing every state in the U.S. and several foreign countries make up the student body, known as the Brigade of Midshipmen. U.S. News and World Reports has recognized the Naval Academy as a top five undergraduate engineering school and a top 20 best liberal arts college. Midshipmen learn from military and civilian instructors and participate in intercollegiate varsity sports and extracurricular activities. They also study subjects like leadership, ethics, small arms, drill, seamanship and navigation, tactics, naval engineering and weapons, and military law. Upon graduation, midshipmen earn a Bachelor of Science degree in a choice of 25 different subject majors and go on to serve at least five years of exciting and rewarding service as commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps.

The Brigade of Midshipmen is comprised of approximately 4,400 students from every state in the union. Each year, approximately 1,200 young men and women are admitted to the Naval Academy's incoming class. The academy's more than 81,000 alumni include , one president, 21 members of Congress, five governors, 73 Medal of Honor recipients, two Nobel Prize winners, 52 astronauts and 4,000 admirals and generals.

USNA

Submitted by his parents, Liz & Phil Mamer elkflatfarm@gmail.com



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN AMERICA
PROVIDENCE, R.I.**

<http://www.fbcia.org/>

The story of the First Baptist Church in America, and Stukely Westcott's involvement, begins with Roger Williams, one of the more than 15,000 Puritans who departed from England in the 1630's to escape religious and political persecution. Many of these people sailed to America to establish the colony at Massachusetts Bay. Roger Williams had joined in 1629 in planning the exodus; he was a friend of the leaders, including the first governor, John Winthrop. Nevertheless Williams was not among the first wave of Puritans who arrived in the summer of 1630 to establish Boston. He came during the first winter in 1631 and immediately he revealed that his idea of the colony differed from the views of others.

After he declined to become the minister of the church in Boston because he thought that the church was not sufficiently pure, Williams went off to Salem where he stayed briefly. He then moved to the Plymouth Colony and lived there for about 18 months before returning to Salem to become the minister of the church there. During this time he began to preach his doctrine of "soul liberty" which denied the right of the civil authorities to interfere in the doctrines and practices of the church. He said that God required freedom of worship and freedom of conscience. This idea threatened the very religious and political foundations of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In addition Williams declared that it was a "solemn public lie" to say that the King of England had the right to grant land to the settlers that had not first been purchased from the Indians. This idea challenged the legality of all the land titles in the colony, thereby threatening its economic foundations.

By 1635 the authorities had had enough of Williams' radical ideas, and he was tried and convicted of sedition, heresy and failure to take an oath of allegiance. Under order of banishment to England, Williams fled in the dead of winter walking through the snow from Salem to Narragansett Bay where he spent the winter with friendly Indians. In the spring of 1636, he and some companions from Salem crossed the Seekonk River and began a settlement on land that Williams purchased from the Indians. He called it "Providence" because of God's Providence toward him. On the initial deed signed by Roger Williams, the initials S.W. for Stukely Westcott appear first, followed by the initials W.A. of his future in-law, William Arnold. This colony was a place where everybody would have freedom of worship. All those who were 'distressed of conscience' could find "soul liberty" in Providence.

Within two years several of Williams' friends from Salem had joined him and they felt ready to establish a church. Roger Williams, the ex-Anglican, ex-Puritan and Separatist had now become a Baptist. He now believed in the believer's baptism not infant baptism. The congregation was baptized and Roger Williams became the first pastor.

Thus, the first Baptist Church in America was founded in 1638 by Roger Williams and his followers. They were Stukely Westcott, Ezekiel Holliman, William Arnold, William Carpenter, Robert Cole, John Greene, William Harris, Thomas James, Thomas Olney, Richard Waterman and Francis Weston.

Roger Williams held religious services in his home for nearly a year, and for the next sixty years, the congregation met outside in nice weather or in congregants' homes. Baptists in Rhode Island through most of the 17th century declined to erect meetinghouses because they felt that buildings reflected vanity. Eventually, however, they came to see the utility of some gathering place, and they erected severely plain-style meetinghouses like the Quakers.

Roger Williams' spiritual journey did not end here however. Within months Williams came to doubt that any existing institution could call itself the church because all of the rites of the church had become corrupt through the ages and its practices invalid. So, he resigned in 1641, but he cherished to the end of his long life that the church that he had planted was based on Scripture. Williams remained steadfast in his defense of religious liberty; twice he went to England to secure charters which made Rhode Island a unique haven of religious freedom.

The tiny Baptist Church went on without him, but by 1700 Baptists in all of New England numbered only 300. In that year, the Providence Baptists' pastor, Pardon Tillinghast, himself erected the first meeting house there at his own expense. Stukely Westcott's home lot was near the church location.

In 1726 a two-room building replaced the simpler first one. Finally in 1774-75 the present meeting house was built and dedicated in 1775 on the eve of the American Revolution. When construction began in the summer of 1774, and it was the biggest building project in New England at the time. Due to the closure of the Massachusetts ports by the British as punishment for the Boston Tea Party, out-of-work ship builders and carpenters came to Providence to work on the Meeting House. The new structure represented a dramatic departure from the traditional Baptist meetinghouse style. It was the first Baptist meetinghouse to have a steeple and bell, making it more like Anglican and Congregational church buildings. The builders were part of a movement among Baptists in the urban centers of Boston, Newport, New York, and Philadelphia to bring respectability and recognition to Baptists. Its size and beauty indicated that the direction of the Baptist work in Providence had come under the dynamic leadership of James Manning.

Dr Manning had been dispatched by the Philadelphia Baptist Association to Rhode Island to start a Baptist college and to collect the various Baptist churches in New England into an association. As a result, Brown University was founded in 1764 and the Warren Baptist Association started. In 1770 the college moved to Providence and the College Edifice, now called University Hall, was begun. Dr Manning became the pastor of Providence's First Baptist Church and a consequence of his pastorate was the building of the present meeting house.

Originally when the structure was built there were no rooms on the ground floor. A rough cellar was dug out and rented to local businessmen for storage. The town's undertaker stored his barrels of rum here at one time, and the town hearse was stored there and was rolled out the front doors of the meetinghouse when needed. When rooms were developed there, the first was named the Manning Room in honor of Dr Manning (photo). The interior of the meeting house was renovated and restored in 1957 with a grant from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The color of the paint was returned to its 18th Century colors and the high pulpit was rebuilt, and the Manning Room was redecorated in its present fashion. In 1988 America's first Baptist Church celebrated its 350th anniversary.



Each Easter since 1993 our family society has sent a donation for an Easter Lily to honor the memory of Stuckely Westcott.

The church is located at 75 North Main St, Providence, RI 02903. "Soul Liberty" was and continues to be its watchword

DEATHS

Helen Claire Goodearl

(Published in Valley News: Sunday, July 12, 2015)

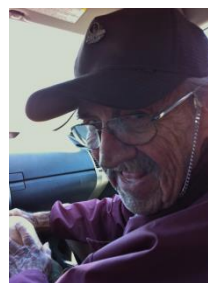
Orange, NH — Helen Claire Goodearl, 93, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 8 while surrounded by loved ones and listening to the music of Dean Martin. She was born in Reading, Mass. on May 19, 1922 to Joseph H. Helen (Erskine) Westcott. Helen graduated from Reading High School in 1939. She was married to Roy Goodearl in 1947 and was happy until his death in 1996. While in Massachusetts she worked for Avco Inc. for many years. She later moved to the Upper Valley where she was the manager of Colonial Book Shoppe in West Lebanon for fifteen years. She loved spending time with her husband and family, fishing, bowling and gardening. Later on she did volunteer work at the Mascoma Senior Center. She is survived by three sons Richard, Roy and his wife Judie and Ronald, four granddaughters and two great granddaughters, several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by three sisters and two brothers and a daughter in law Mary. By Helen's request there will be no calling hours or funeral services.

Ricker Funeral Home & Crematory of Lebanon assisted the family with arrangements.

DEATHS



Dorman E. Westcott Jr.



Carol (Westcott) Anderson shared the following about her father's life:

Dorman passed peacefully on August 16, 2014 at the age of 88. He was born October 30, 1925 in Norfolk, Virginia to parents, Dorman E. Westcott Sr. and Freda V. Cherry. He graduated from Granby High School in Norfolk and went on to enlist in the Army Air Corps in 1944. He started his training to become a pilot but the war ended before he finished training. He then traveled west and took Aeronautical Engineering courses at a Spartan College in Oklahoma and worked at a dude ranch in Texas.

He married Nancy L. Best in December 1951 and their daughter, Carol, was born in February 1953 in Kansas City, Missouri. Dorman worked for White Rodgers, a division of Emerson Electric, for many years as a salesman and traveled to many states to call on customers. He earned an award as top salesman of the year and trained many new salesmen for the company. Dorman married Jane A. Stoner in May of 1970 and they settled in Howell, Michigan where Dorman lived for 40 years. He spent the last 2 ½ years of his life living in Spokane, Washington with his daughter Carol and son-in-law Dennis.

He is survived by his daughters Carol (Dennis) Anderson of Spokane and Lisa Johnson of Florida; grandchildren Gene (Regina) Korby, Arielle Anderson (Pat Wall) and Jamaica (Nikolaj) Bloch Jespersen; great-grandchildren Reese Korby, Liam Wall, Veda Bradley, Mathilda, Villades and Josephine Bloch Jespersen. Dorman is also survived by his sister, Marian (Robert) Rudd; nieces Peggy Rudd and Nancy (David) Sumner, nephew David Rudd; and good friend Jim Creps. He is preceded in death by his parents Dorman E Westcott Sr. and Freda V Cherry, and wives Nancy Trueman and Janie Westcott. No services at his request. His ashes will be scattered in the Chesapeake Bay of Virginia at a later date.

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

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www.sswda.org

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