



Know Your Kindred Better

Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY SUMMER, 2016



ATTENDEES AT THE 41ST BIENNIAL REUNION OF THE SOCIETY OF STUKELY WESTCOTT DESCENDANTS OF AMERICA

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2016 STUKELY WESTCOTT SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS



Faizal Westcott is a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts, Boston pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in communications and a minor in marketing. He has a passion for photography and hopes to make use of that in his professional life.



Thomas Jarrott Harkey is a rising junior at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. His professional goal is to become a physician.

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EDITOR'S WELCOME

Greetings Cousins. Well, the 41st Biennial Reunion of The Society of Stuckely Westcott Descendants of America held in Providence/Warwick, Rhode Island is now history and what a wonderful reunion it was. The special activities for the children on Friday evening, organized by David Leflar, was well attended as was the ice-cream social for adults and children which followed. This was all topped off Saturday evening by a banquet followed by socializing and dancing.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings, Westcott Cousins:

I am still smiling as I reflect on the great time that was had by those of us who were able to make it back to Warwick/Providence, RI, for the 41st Biennial Reunion in June. What a great group of "cousins" we are!

The Friday Legacy Tour of the Statehouse and The First Baptist Church in America provided so many interesting insights. It was stunning to see the original King Charles II Charter from the 1600's with Stukely's signature. We were doubly blessed to have Dr. Stanley Lemons, noted historian, share so many interesting things about the early Rhode Island days of Roger Williams and Stukely Westcott and their strong moral fiber that contributed to the founding of the colony. I for one came away ever more proud of our collective heritage.

You will see throughout the rest of this edition of the Quarterly so many more highlights from this Reunion. There is a wonderful group photo (page 1) of all the "Cousins" resplendent in our new Westcott polo shirts (thank you, Lynn and Rich Hulkow for making this possible. Information for ordering is on the website, [www.SSWDA.org \(http://69.195.124.109/~sswdaorg/mantra/membership/westcott-shirt-orders/\)](http://69.195.124.109/~sswdaorg/mantra/membership/westcott-shirt-orders/). Style / sizing at (<http://69.195.124.109/~sswdaorg/files/WestcottShirtsWebsiteFlyer1.pdf>).

I also want to note the award of TWO \$2500 Stukely Westcott Society Scholarships! We were overjoyed to have Faisal Westcott and his family with us as Pete Bentson presented an award certificate to him at the General meeting (photo page 1). You will be learning more about Faisal and his fellow scholar, Thomas Jarrott Harkey as we present their entries in the next issues of the Quarterly. We are proud to support their educational endeavors. As of now, we have the funds to award one \$2500 Scholarship in 2017. PLEASE if you are able donate to the Scholarship Fund when you pay your annual dues.

As we welcomed our new slate of Board members, we acknowledged with heartfelt thanks those who have stepped down: Jean Brundage, Treasurer; Sharon Whitlock, Secretary; Betty Acker, Historian; and Dianne Hatfield, Chaplain.

We are already looking forward to the 42nd Biennial Reunion in 2018. Cousins are exploring the feasibility of Saratoga Springs, NY; Indianapolis, IN; Colorado Springs/Denver, CO; and Seattle, WA. Where would YOU like to join us? I'd love to hear from you!

Susan C. Morris, President
Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America
Susan.Morris@mac.com

SOCIETY OF STUKELY WESTCOTT DESCENDANTS OF AMERICA

MINUTES FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016

Meeting Type: Biennial Meeting

Time: 9:00am

Location: Gaspee Room, Radisson Hotel, Warwick, RI

Presiding Officer: President, Susan Morris

Call To Order: President Susan Morris called the meeting to order at 9:00am, recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an opening prayer from Chaplain Laura Westcott.

Memorial Service: All Cousins in attendance honored and remembered the lives of the three cousins who passed away in the last two years: Lewis O. Westcott, Paul Avon Westcott and James Lee Westcott.

Service Member/Veteran Recognition: All cousins who have served or currently serve were asked to stand and receive recognition. We are so grateful for their service!

OFFICER REPORTS

Registrar/Genealogist: Laura Westcott delivered the following report on behalf of Rick Beirman, who was unable to attend: We have added 16 applicants with full membership and two applicants as Associate. One application in Rick's open file, and three requests for applications. The only expense to the Society is for supplies (application forms and membership cards), postage. We will streamline the application process. We should have a fillable PDF form and legacies should be automatic.

Scholarship: Two amazing scholarship winners this year: Faisal Westcott and Thomas Jarrott Harkey. Faisal was in attendance and spoke to us about his application and what he has learned about his Westcott lineage. Thomas Jarrott Harkey was unfortunately unable to attend the Reunion. His certificate and scholarship will be sent to him.

Special Awards: President Susan Morris awarded 6 special awards:

- 1) The “*Boots on the Ground*” award went to David Wescott Smith and Rosemary Smith for all their local work in preparing for the Reunion.
- 2) The “*Atta Girl*” award was presented to Laura Westcott for agreeing to fill the Secretary and the Chaplain roles.
- 3) The “*Innovation*” award went to Nancy Westcott Pocock for her creativity in preparing the photo booth at the banquet on Saturday night. It was so fun!!
- 4) The “*Service to Cousins*” award went to Pauline Wescott Dennis for all her work on the Edna Lewis Genealogy book and making it available at this Reunion.
- 5) The “*Above & Beyond the Call of Duty*” award went to Lynn and Rich Hulkow for all their work ordering and distributing the Westcott polo shirts.
- 6) Special awards were also presented to our Past Presidents, David Seyfarth and Barlow Westcott.

Secretary Laura Westcott presented Lifetime Memberships to Mariel Sotzen and Chuck Westcott.

New Slate for 2016-18: The new slate of officers was announced for 2016-2018:

President: Susan Morris
Vice President: Lynn Hulkow
Treasurer: Bart Westcott
Secretary: Laura Westcott
Registrar / Genealogist: Rick Beirman
Historian: David Wescott Smith
Chaplain: Laura Westcott
Quarterly Newsletter: Lyle Wescott
Webmaster: Jim Leflar
Scholarship Program: Pete Bentson
Directors: David Leflar (Youth Activities)
 Connie Westcott Stirling
 Jeff Westcott
 Nancy Westcott Pocock

David Seyfarth moved that we vote to accept the slate. Pauline Wescott Dennis seconded the motion. The slate was approved unanimously.

Closing Announcements: President Susan Morris made the following closing announcements:

- Dr. Stanley Lemon’s book is on sale for \$20
- Stukely and Juliana’s grave marker has been moved to the side of the road next to the cemetery plot. A map/flyer is available in the hospitality room.
- We are looking for suggestions for locations for the 2018 Reunion.

Adjournment: A closing prayer was offered by Chaplain Laura Westcott and the Biennial Meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.

All Cousins in attendance gathered for a large group picture, wearing our Westcott polos. Photography by Jeff Westcott.

*Respectfully submitted,
Laura J. Westcott, Secretary*

STUKELY WESTCOTT - FIRST GENERATION IN AMERICA

Address by Eleanor Wescott Trismen

Read at the 15th Biennial Meeting in Vermont, August 8, 1964

(Continued from Spring, 2015 Quarterly)

Fourth Epoch of Westcott Family History – Stukely

"The fourth epoch was the coming of the family founder, Stukely Westcott, to America in June, 1635."

Concerning the life of Stukely in America, I will continue. Stukely was born about 1592, probably near Ilchester, England. He married Juliana Marchant at the Baptist Church in Yeovil, England on Oct. 5, 1619, of which there is record. Note: In Mr. Whitman's first book, he recorded Stukely's wife as Rosanna Hill. Laura La Mance, the recorder, was the source of that data, with no proof. If Stukely did marry Rosanna, it was probably at a later date. There seems to be no record of that marriage. There is baptismal record of most of Stukely's and Juliana's children at Yeovil. Among Rhode Island Governor Arnold's papers was the following notation: "June 24, 1635 - arrived in Mass. Bay. Sailed from Dartmouth of Devon May 1, 1635, all but one of the party (Wm. Carpenter) coming from Winchester in southern Somerset or within five miles of that place. My Father, William Arnold, and his family "sett sayle" from England and arrived (Thurs.) June 24 1635. On board was Stukely Westcott, 43, of Yeovil and his wife, with children: Robert, Damaris, Samuel 13, Amos 4, Mercy, and Jeremiah."

As yet we have no definite proof of the names of the parents of Stukely. In 1935 a Mr. Russell Westcott gave the following record to Mr. Whitman: "The parents of Stukely, Richard (Sr.), and Rebecca were Guy (nickname for Guido) Westcott and wife Mary Stukely, daughter of Sir Lewis and Margaret (Arscote) Stukely."

Our Society did some research in England a few years ago, but found that early Devon and Somerset records are scarce. Because of religious strife, heavy tax burdens and controversies in England, many vital statistics were carelessly kept or lost, so it is difficult to trace various family lines. Our Society is thankful that it knows as much as it does about Stukely I and his whereabouts.

Stukely's children all lived to maturity except Samuel, who must have died shortly after his arrival in Massachusetts. The rest of the children married and have living descendants.

1. Damaris married the first Governor (B. Arnold) of R.I. (Royal Charter).
2. Mercy married Samuel Stafford.
3. Robert married Katherine (surname unknown). Robert was killed in King Philip's War in R.I. in 1675-6.
4. Amos married (1) Sarah Stafford, (2) Deborah Stafford (sisters).
5. Jeremiah married Eleanor England.

On March 16, 1676, at the age of 84, Stukely was driven from his home in Warwick, R.I. by the Indians at the time of King Philip's War in R.I. He took refuge on a neighboring island, where he died the following January 12, 1677, at his grandson's home in Portsmouth, R.I. - - -

Talk by Eleanor Wescott Trismen (cont'd)

Concerning Roger Williams, Founder of Providence

In order to appreciate fully the interesting life of our Stukely Westcott, it is quite necessary to tell something of Roger Williams.

Roger Williams was born in 1606, the son of William Williams. He lived in Conwyl Cayo, a parish near Lampeter in Wales. Roger's wife was Mary Barnard. Roger and Mary "sett Sayle" for America on their honeymoon, and they landed in Boston Harbor on February 5, 1631.

In 1950 a Mr. Gilbert Rees published an interesting story about the life of Roger Williams. The book is called I SEEK A CITY. On the book cover it says: "It was the unquenchable fire of the religious zealot which enabled Roger Williams to carry out his beliefs in the face of some of the most maddening opposition ever placed in the path of a man with true faith in an ideal."

In the cold gray dawn of a bitter morning in 1636, Roger had no choice but to flee the onslaught of the City Fathers of Boston, who were determined that his non-conformist tongue should be silenced. With a handful of followers he set out for he knew not where, sustained by the faith that somewhere, somehow he would be enabled to build the City of his dreams; a City where men could live together in peace and harmony, give vent to their right of freedom of speech, religious belief, and general way of life.

In referring to an account of Roger Williams by R. Elton, Roger Williams maintained that "the people were the origin of all free powers in government," but that they were "not invested by Jesus Christ with power to rule in his Church, that they could give no such power to the magistrate, and that to "introduce the civil sword" into the Kingdom of Christ was to confound heaven and earth, and "lay all upon heaps confusion." In other words, he advocated separation of Church and State, which, thank the good Lord, holds true today in our country.

In referring to the DAR Magazine, an excerpt from an educational article by Mrs. Ralph W. Wilkine, State Regent of Rhode Island: "Roger Williams, called "Netop" by the Indians, founded Providence in 1636." The history and tradition of this great City still exert their influence, and its charm and spirit can be felt not only in its people but in its monuments and in its beloved streets and buildings.

Providence started on a small Rock, which is now called "Roger Williams Rock" and is located in a small Park adjacent to a street bearing his name. When Williams came to R.I., he settled in what is now East Providence, but finding that the land was under Mass. jurisdiction, he took a canoe and paddled down the Seekonk River. An Indian is said to have been standing on a rock and called out a welcome to him: "What cheer Netop." Williams landed there. Later he settled near the site of a spring, which is now enclosed in a small Park on South Main Street. A Proprietor's Grant in 1721 reserved liberty for the inhabitants to fetch water at this spring forever.

Roger Williams often presided at the first town House during the years 1644-1647, and a tablet marks the site.

"For a hundred years after the founding of the town, the citizens established themselves and their families firmly at the headwaters of the Providence River and dedicated themselves to the task of building a free and prosperous community." - - -

Talk by Eleanor Wescott Trismen (cont'd)

Concerning Stukely's life in Rhode Island

Stukely Westcott, the Founder of one branch of the family in America, became a staunch follower of Roger Williams and his beliefs. Stukely obtained a license from the General Court at Salem, Mass. on March 12, 1638, to remove with his family out of the jurisdiction of the Mass. Bay Colony. On August 8, 1638, Roger Williams "freely admitted twelve loving friends and neighbors" into equal ownership with himself in Rhode Island. Stukely's name headed that list.

Through his friendship to the Indians, Roger Williams acquired great tracts of land. He distributed parcels of land to his faithful followers. Stukely was one of the colony's largest land owners, owning up to 20,000 acres in Rhode Island. Stukely was also a co-founder of the first Baptist Church in America, called "The First Baptist Church of Providence." He was several times chosen "assistant" (corresponding to our Lieutenant Governor) and frequently was elected deputy to the Colonial Assembly. Stukely was truly a leader among the sturdy pioneers of Providence.

Based on old deeds of November 11, 1664, it is believed that Stukely Westcott's log cabin lot in Providence was located upon the present block bounded by Waterman St. and College St. on the south, and nearly in the center of that block extending from North Main St. eastwardly to Hope St. That location is not far from the old First Baptist Church.

As we know, Stukely and his family later moved to old Warwick in 1647, some miles south of Providence, where he owned land. At Warwick our Society placed and dedicated a marker in 1935 to his honor. The marker is located on a large boulder at the edge of his lot.

On May 12, 1682, Stukely sold his house, orchard, and lot in Providence to Samuel and Anna Bennett, whose granddaughter Priscilla was later to become the wife of Stukely's grandson Stukely.

Concerning Stukely's character, I will sum up with the following: Stukely Westcott must have been a man of courage and a man dedicated to his convictions of right and wrong. Because of religious strife and heavy tax burdens, he left his homeland to try a new life in the wilderness of America. Just remember it took him and his family two months to cross the Atlantic Ocean. And because he believed in separation of Church and State, he had the courage to leave Salem, Mass. to find a new life in the wilds of Rhode Island, following his beloved friend, Roger Williams. Stukely was a religious man and helped to found the First Baptist Church in America, at Providence. He was a leader among his fellow men, having held various posts in the early history of the Colony. He was a home-loving person, raising five children to maturity. And he must have been a fearless man, living a long life of 84 years enduring the hardships of cold winters, disease, and Indian raids. - - -

Conclusion

I conclude my address with the following poem, written by Alice Wilson of Seal Beach, California:

"Roll back the curtains of the years
And let your eyes behold
The distant times, the ancient ways,
The sturdy men of old.
Across the stormy deep they came,
The forest wilds they trod,
To find a home for Liberty,
A Temple for their God."

CONDOLENCES

Louise L. (Stevens) Gallup:

Louise Gallup passed away Wednesday April 20th at the New London Hospital at the age of 81. She was born in Danbury, NH on October 13, 1934 the daughter of Edward and Edith (Woodward) Stevens. Louise graduated from Andover HS, was married in 1954 and lived the rest of her life in Grafton. She was a dedicated stay-at-home Mom.

Active in her community, Louise was a member of the Ladies Benevolent Society, The Grafton Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary and was active with the Recreation Committee. She had served as a cemetery trustee, a ballot clerk and the town hall supervisor. Louise was a member of the Millbrook Christian Fellowship. She also enjoyed bingo and doing word searches.

She was predeceased by her husband Donald in 2007 and all of her siblings. She is survived by three children, Cynthia and her husband Clifton Jipson of Grafton, NH; Glen Gallup of New London, NH and Teri and her husband Keith Sliker of Grafton, NH; a daughter-in-law, Michelle Gallup of Danbury, NH, 12 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A graveside service was held Saturday, April 23, 2016 in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Grafton, NH with The Reverend Thomas Warner, pastor of Millbrook Christian Fellowship, officiating.

James Lee Westcott:

James' wife Helen sent this note: "I am sorry to have to report to you that my husband, Jim Westcott, passed away on April 6, 2016. He was suffering from heart disease. Jim was a life member of SSWDA and an active member of the Iowa chapter of SSWDA. I am sure he would wish continued success to both organizations."

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

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