

# *She Drew with Butterfly Wings*

*In the Line of Jeremiah Westcott and Eleanor England*

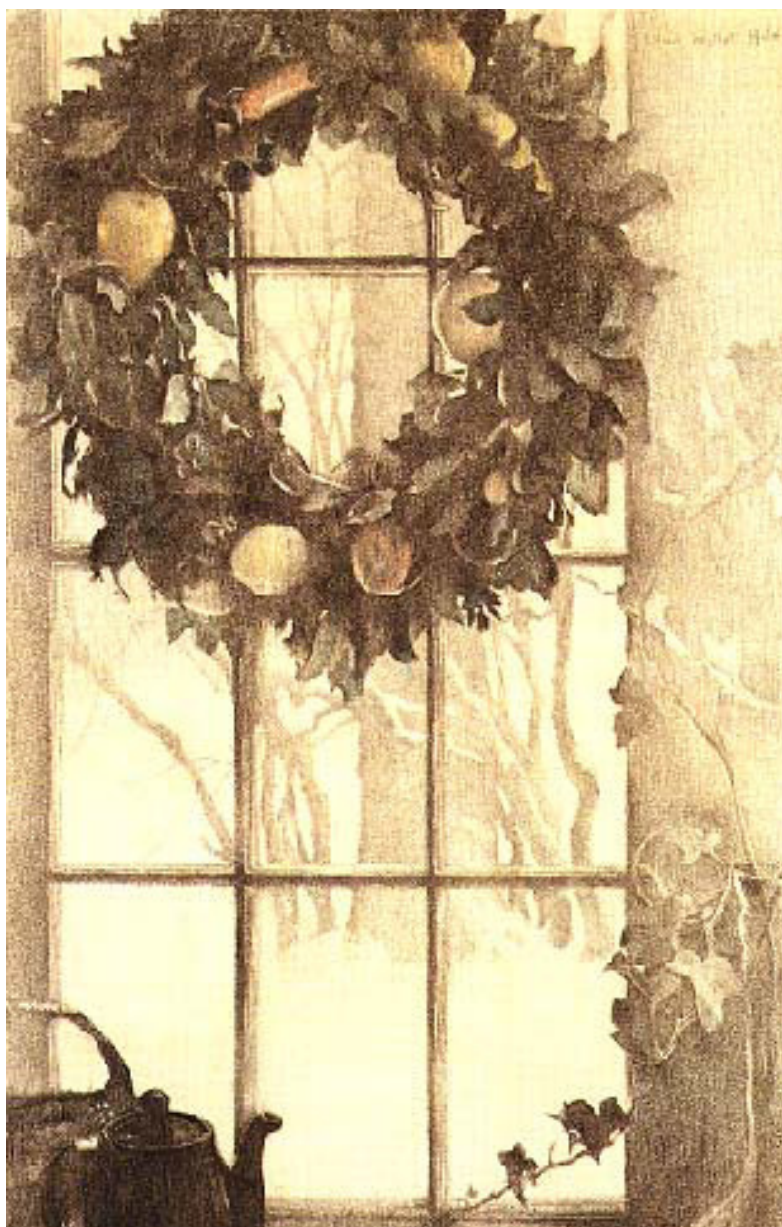
## **Jeremiah Westcott**

was the youngest of Stukely and Juliana's six children, born two years before the family sailed from Dartmouth, England. During the King Phillip War, he escaped the Narragansetts' raid on Olde Warwick to Portsmouth on Aquidneck Island, where he met and married Eleanor England. In 1666, he returned to Warwick, becoming a prominent figure in the rebuilding of the settlement. He and Eleanor had eight children and thousands of descendants, many of whom were famous inventors and entrepreneurs, soldiers, politicians, and religious leaders. And artists, such as American Impressionist

## **Lilian Westcott Hale**

who rendered elegant oil paintings and charcoal drawings of Twentieth Century domestic life. Artistically gifted, Lilian Westcott studied at the Hartford Art School at an early age and then at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Although her work as a portrait artist and teacher was in great demand, she worked in the shadow of her husband and famous father-in-law.

**Phillip Hale**, Lilian's teacher at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, then husband and always a strong advocate for her art and vision, was the son of **Edward Everett Hale**. In the 1890s, Phillip and his father, an aunt, a sister and assorted friends comprised the **Matunuck School of Painting** centered on the family's summer home in coastal Rhode Island.



*Lilian Westcott Hale, On Christmas Day in the Morning. 1924, charcoal and colored pencil on paper  
The Boston painter William Paxton said that Lilian Westcott Hale "drew with butterfly's wings."*



*The Edward Everett Hale House is situated on a glacial moraine overlooking farmland and Rhode Island's south coast, providing subject matter for idyllic landscapes and seascapes and studies of rural life for the Matunuck School painters but not the interiors favored by Lilian.*



*Lilian Westcott Hale, Nancy and the Map of Europe, Oil on canvas, 1919*



*Lilian Westcott Hale, Alice (Sit-by-the-Fire), Oil on canvas, 1925, North Carolina Museum of Art*



◀ *Lilian Westcott Hale sketching, 1902, photographer unknown*



# 20th Century Notables

*In the Line of Damaris Westcott and Benedict Arnold*



*Notable Westcott cousins (from the left): Artist Dean Jackson Meeker at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; musician Bob Welch performing with Fleetwood Mac; Sister Mary Elise Sisson coaching mezzo-soprano Debria Brown at Xavier University, New Orleans; radio and television actress Templeton Fox; Congressman Leo Ryan, who was assassinated at Jonestown in 1978.*

## Damaris Westcott

was 16 and Benedict Arnold was 20 when they sailed with their families from Dartmouth, England to the New World. They would later re-unite and marry in Providence, and Benedict would become the first governor of the colony. Their nine children were the first generation of a large and diverse American family settling throughout the U.S. and beyond. Their most famous offspring were great-grandson General Benedict Arnold and Stephen Douglas.

Westcott Society Registrar and Genealogist Jeff Westcott has uncovered many more descendants of Damaris and has compiled biographies of Westcott kin who made names for themselves in the 20th Century, including a congressman, an economist, two recording artists, a TV producer and a radio star, a pioneering casino operator and a nun, and an engineer and physicist with over 200 hundred patents.



*Photographer Thayer Soule was deployed to the First Marine Division to document the invasion of Guadalcanal (right) and then Iwo Jima. He would later become a noted travel writer.*



◀ While most Damaris Westcott descendants migrated west, moral philosopher Philippa Foot's family returned to England where she starred at Somerville College, Oxford University. She then lectured at Oxford and later at U.S. universities, including a 25-year professorship at UCLA.

▶ TV Producer Stephen Cannell's credits include iconic television shows such as *The A-Team*, *21 Jump Street*, *The Rockford Files*, *Baretta*, *Hardcastle and McCormick*, and *Wiseguy*.



# The Mountain Man Was a Poet

*In the Line of Robert Westcott and Katherine*

## Robert Westcott

the oldest son of Stukely and Juliana, purchased in 1665 land about 10 miles south of Olde Warwick in Quidnessett, a foothold for Connecticut and Massachusetts Bay interests attempting to take control of the Rhode Island colony. In December 1675, Robert marched with a local militia and forces of United Colonies in the assault on the Narragansett encampment in the Great Swamp.

On the return march Robert died of wounds sustained during the massacre. Most of Robert's children settled in southern Rhode Island, but in the spring of 1760 great-grandson

## Robert Westcott

migrated to Nova Scotia to repopulate the province with loyal English subjects after the expulsion of the Arcadians. Four generations later

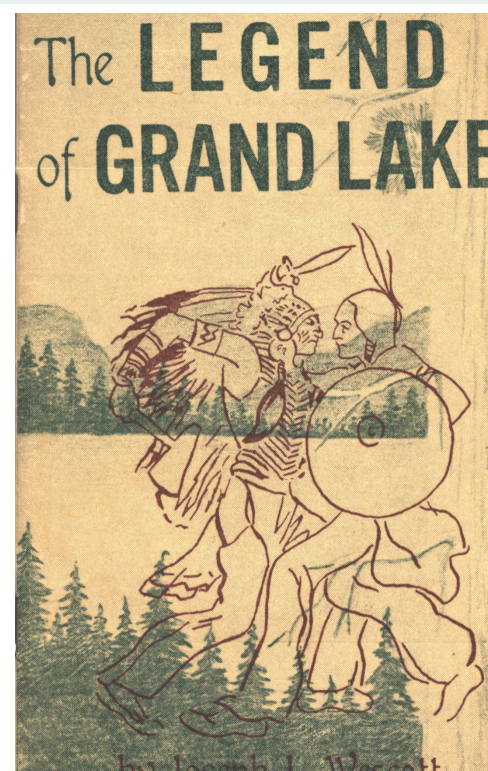
## Joseph L. Westcott

was born in Kings County, Nova Scotia 1835. But the family was on the move again. In 1850 Joseph's family was in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a decade later in Marshalltown, Iowa. But by 1860, Joseph had set out for *Colorado* in the Kansas Territory, where he became one of the first white settlers in Hot Sulphur Springs. After serving with the First Colorado Volunteers, which stopped the advance of the Confederate Army into New Mexico at Glorietta Pass, he moved to Grand Lake, which is just west of Rocky Mountain National

Park. He was a popular figure with the native Utes and white settlers, who called him "Judge Westcott."



In this 1901 photo, **Joseph Leander Westcott** (1835-1912 or maybe -1914) sits in front of his cabin in Grand Lake, Colorado, where he was known as Judge Westcott. While not an actual judge (the nickname was probably of his own making), he was an explorer, Civil War veteran, prospector, hunter, twice victim of fraud, survivor, surveyor, the first postmaster of Grand Lake in the new State of Colorado and author of the epic poem *The Legend of Grand Lake*.



◀ Cover and title page of a 1958 reprint of Westcott's *The Legend of Grand Lake* (published in 1882), which tells of an epic battle between local Utes and an Arapaho raiding party along the shores of Grand Lake, Colorado's largest and deepest natural lake.

# The Big Staffords Answer the Call

*Kin of Mercy Westcott and Samuel Stafford*

## Mercy Westcott

was the second daughter of Stukely and Juliana. In about 1660, she married Samuel Stafford of Warwick, had 10 children and lived 78 years. Unlike the volumes about her older sister Damaris, the Westcott Society archive is silent about Mercy's direct descendants. But we do know about her in-laws, including four Stafford boys who distinguished themselves in the Revolutionary War.

The Westcott family history is woven together with the story of

## Thomas Stafford,

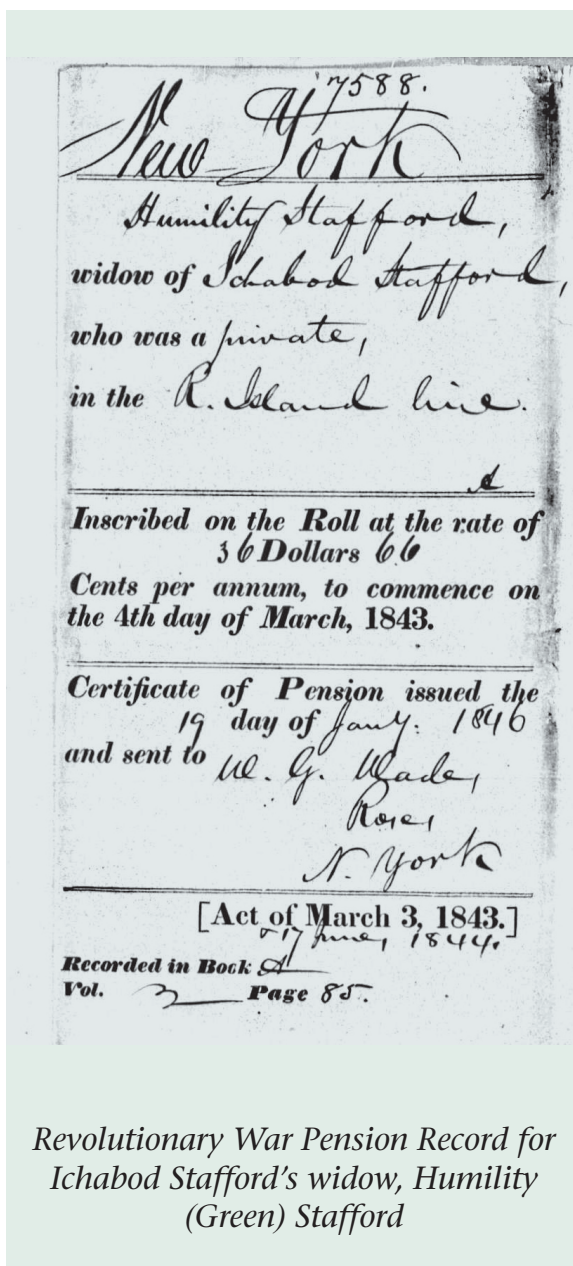
who migrated from Warwickshire, England to the Plymouth Colony in or before 1626. He was New England's millwright and built the first water-powered grist mill in the colony. He built similar mills in Providence and Warwick, R.I. Stafford was declared a Freeman in Newport in 1638. He moved to Providence, and then in 1652 to Warwick, where he became a Freeman in 1655. Three of his six children married children of Stukely and Juliana Westcott, and when you read the early records of Warwick, the importance of family soon becomes obvious as there is a Westcott or Stafford (and sometimes one of each) on almost every jury, surveying team and special committee. We jump to Thomas Stafford's great-grandson

## William Stafford, Jr.

who reconnected the families when he married Freelove Westcott in about 1750. William and Freelove had at least eleven children.



Gravestone of Ichabod Stafford (1762 to 1804) in the Waterville Cemetery, Waterville, New York. Ichabod died in an epidemic caused by a dam burst and flooding of the Oriskany Valley. (photo: Bill Stone)



Revolutionary War Pension Record for Ichabod Stafford's widow, Humility (Green) Stafford

The sons of William Stafford and Freelove Westcott were called the "Big Staffords," and they certainly came up big in the Revolutionary War — just like their dad who enlisted in 1776 at the age of 64:

► **William** enlisted in the Rhode Island militia in August 1777, served for 18 months and saw action in the Battle of Rhode Island.

► **David** was a midshipman aboard the privateer brig *Washington* when he was captured by the British and held prisoner in Portsmouth, England until October 12, 1783.

► **John** enlisted in 1777 in the Second Rhode Island and served until his discharge at Morristown in 1780.

► **Stukely** was taken prisoner by the British, was sent to England and was never heard from again.

► **Ichabod** had multiple enlistments starting in 1777 in various Rhode Island regiments, mostly serving as a fifer. After his final stint in 1779, he returned to Coventry, R.I. and in 1781 married Humility Green.

# He Was Simply Being a Smith

*In the Line of Amos Westcott and Deborah Stafford*

## Amos Westcott

was the third son of Stukely and Juliana, born in 1631 in England. In 1667, he married Sarah Stafford in Warwick, with whom he had one child, Amos, before her death in 1669. In the next year he married Sarah's sister, Deborah. They had a son, Solomon (who was mentally challenged), and four daughters, Sarah, Penelope, Luranah, and

## Mercy Westcott John Smith, Jr.

whose farm on the western shore of Narragansett Bay provided a landing for a ferry service operated by John and his cousins Ephraim and Ebenezer. The ferry was an integral part of life in Colonial Rhode Island, with shipments of produce and dairy products to Newport and receipt of imported goods, and slaves, for the Planters. It also provided free travel for citizens attending legislative assemblies and courts held on both sides of the bay. John sold the ferry operation before its demise during the Revolutionary War, but the family remained a presence in Narragansett.



*Smith's dock as imagined by Ernest Hamlin Baker in a WPA mural installed in the Wakefield, R.I. Post Office in 1939 depicts the plantation economy of the Narragansett Country, which depended on slave labor as much as on the Smiths' ferry dock.*



▲ **William Wescott Smith**, five-times great grandson of Mercy Westcott and ferryman John Smith, makes the anvil ring in the Blacksmith Shop which he created at the South County Museum in Narragansett, R.I.

◀ Bill Smith holds a "spork" he made at the forge for a Civil War reenactment group.



▲ Before he was the blacksmith, he was the Tinsmith, a sheetmetal contractor for 40 years.

◀ His metalworking career began in earnest during World War II when as an aviation metalsmith he repaired U.S. Navy float planes (like the PBM-35 Martin Mariner), first at NAS Quonset Point in R.I. and then at Hangar 79 on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor. Unbeknownst to him, distant cousin Lewis Westcott flew a Martin Mariner on patrols out of Quonset.

