



Know Your Kindred Better

Society of
Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY
JULY, 2012

Miscellaneous Scenes from the 2012 Reunion



L-R Nancy Westcott,
Susan Morris & Bart Westcott



Officers
2012-2014



Mr & Mrs David Smith,
Mr & Mrs David Seyferth



Sharon Whitlock, Kim and Zach Stoots



Entering the Lock



Upside-down RR Bridge



All on board for the Erie Canal



Back L-R: David & Jim Leflar
Front Jim's wife Carrie & daughter little Ellie Leflar



Mystery Dancers



Bart & Nancy Westcott

Thoughts and Comments on the 39th SSWDA Reunion, Buffalo, NY (June 29-July 1, 2012)

First a few comments on the pictures featured on the first two pages. In order to cut the cost of printing the hard copies I have chosen to put the color pages all in one place with only a short caption. In most cases that is sufficient but I would like to add a few notes.

On the cover page in the lower right-hand corner is a picture of Zachary Stoots with his mother Kim and grandmother Sharon Whitlock. They are all relatively new members of the society and became interested when Zach was doing a project in school about his family. It was there that he discovered and became interested in his Westcott roots. There were some photos of Kim and some relevant family tombstones she discovered in the October, 2011 issue of the quarterly.

On page 2, the first three photos were taken on our cruise along the Erie Canal. This famous canal was proposed in 1808, begun in 1817 and completed in 1825. It connects Lake Erie with the Hudson river. I'm sure most of you remember singing the song about the Erie Canal when you were in grade school. We passed through two locks along the way. The upside-down railroad bridge was constructed that way to reduce traffic on the Erie Canal by making it difficult for high loads to pass. The railroads and canal were in direct competition and this was a gambit to increase rail freight at the expense of barge freight.

Finally, a note about the "Mystery Dancers". These lovely young ladies were having a ball on the dance floor so I snapped a picture and asked my friend, Sherry Chason, to ask them for their names. They refused to answer so they became the "Mystery Dancers". Maybe their parents told them not to speak to strangers. If they can be identified, I will print their names in the next quarterly.

I think that I speak for all of those in attendance at the 2012 Reunion when I say that a good time was had by all. Eighteen states and DC were represented by the 60 in attendance.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of all of our cousins, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to our new members.

Harry Harley Holgate of Long Beach, CA

Karin E. Toole of Manlius, NY

CONDOLENCES

George Roessing (Ross) Hays

George Roessing (Ross) Hays passed away March 25, 2012 in Tampa, Florida at the age 100 years and two months. His 100th birthday was celebrated on Feb 4th by a large group of family and friends. He was a life member of our society whose uncle contributed to the original Westcott Book.

Ross was born in Arnoldsburg, West Virginia on January 27th , 1912 and married Geraldine Vanhorn in 1935.



Ross was drafted by the Army Air Corps for WW II. He was first sent to Miami Beach where he began training as aircraft gunner.

At that time , with 3 young children , it was necessary for Geraldine , a nurse, to find work in Akron Ohio and she sent the children to various relatives for care - A situation not uncommon during WW II.

Ross completed Officer Training and became a Chemical Warfare Officer. Following duty in California, he was attached to a flight training unit in Tonopah, Nevada when the war ended. After the war Ross relocated to Tampa Florida and became president of First Federation Life Insurance Co. and later was associated with the world wide wholesale lumber business for some 50 years. Ross found great enjoyment in golf his whole life. At age 95 he admitted he used a "spotter" and no longer shot his age..

Ross is the 8th great grandson of Stukely Westcott and John Throckmorton Sr., both "Proprietors "of Roger Williams' original Rhode Island settlement. He is also descended from a family that helped settle Western Virginia, prior to statehood. His second great grandfather , Congressman Samuel Lewis Hays appointed Thomas Jonathon "Stonewall" Jackson to West Point in 1842. Ross' great grandparents found themselves on both sides during the Civil War - not an unusual occurrence in then Western Virginia. Ross became a Life Member of the Westcott Society (# 1062) and his uncle was a contributor to Roscoe Whitman's original Westcott Society work.

Daughter, Barbara Hays Henderson (# 1060) and three other children survive him.

Jeremiah and Louise O'Shea

Jeremiah William O'Shea and Louise May O'Shea of North Pole, Alaska passed away 24 days apart after spending over 64 years together. Jeremiah, 86, died on August 24, 2011 and Louise, 82, died on September 16, 2011.

Jerry was born June 10, 1925 in Rumney, NH to Jeremiah and Arline O'Shea. He served in the US Army during WW II and the Korean War and retired from the military. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, John and Daniel O'Shea.

Louise was born on December 10, 1928 in Grafton, NH to Harry and Martha Powell. Louise will long be remembered for the beautiful afghans and quilts she created and gave to family and friends. She was also known for her love of animals. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Laura Ford and brother Walter Powell. She is survived by her sisters, Rose Buckwald, Arlene Normandin, Ruby McAlister and Barbara Dauphinais.

Jerry and Louise lived in Canaan, NH for many years and had resided in North Pole, AK for the past 18 years. They are survived by their children and their spouses, Jerry and Mary O'Shea, and Linda and Robert Shanks; their grandchildren, Tina O'Shea, Jeremy O'Shea, Kelly O'Shea and Rick Hill; and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in Canaan, NH. Arrangements were entrusted to Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home. Please visit this link to sign the online guest book: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsminer/obituary.aspx?n=jeremiah-william-and-louise-may-oshea&pid=153758786#fbLoggedOut>.

**Meeting of the Board of Directors
Minutes of the 2012 Reunion of the
Society of Stuckely Westcott Descendants of America
(Preliminary)**

**Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants in America
Holiday Inn Downtown Buffalo, NY
June 29, 2012**

Present: Ailene Picheco, President; Susan Morris, Vice-President; David Seyfarth, Past-President; Jean Brundage, Treasurer; Rick Beirman, Registrar; Betty Acker, Historian; Jim Leflar, Webmaster; Lyle Wescott, Quarterly Editor; Dianne Hatfield, Chaplain; Joye Satterfield, Director

Call to Order: Ailene Picheco, President, at 8:30AM

Pledge to the Flag

Opening Prayer: Dianne Hatfield, Chaplain

Treasurer's Report: Jean Brundage

We need another signer on the account as an either/or. Rick Beirman will serve as co-signer of the account. Jim Leflar and David Seyfarth will serve as auditors.

Registrar's Report: Richard Beirman

Susan Shelton will be joining the Society here at the Reunion. We've taken in 22 applicants, with Susan we have 23. We have a new form to send with applications to the Society.

Genealogist Report: Jim Henderson not present. He submitted the following summary:

- Five new applications have been processed year to date vs ten Last year.
- Several contacts have been answered regarding ancestral questions.
- There are presently 47194 individuals contained in the data base.

We are now recording members of the 15th generation from Stukely Westcott.

Historian Report: Betty Acker

Betty shared her concerns about all of the Westcott memorabilia that she has in her possession. She has a 4-drawer file cabinet that is full. Rick Beirman will take the files that relate to the Registry.

Sending application packets is quite heavy and expensive. In the last 3 years we have sent 58 packets, with postage at \$5.15 each.

Process right now:

*Betty receives an inquiry.

*Betty sends the hard copy packet, 69 B&W and 30 color pages.

Much discussion as to how we can streamline this process. Jim Leflar suggests we need two paths for the flow of information: one electronic and the other for "snail mail." Susan Morris moved that the Society absorb the cost of printing and mailing. Jim Leflar seconded. Rick Beirman will help Betty streamline the process. Dianne Hatfield recommends that those who inquire electronically should receive the packet and application electronically.

Chaplain's Report: Dianne Hatfield

We've sent out 3 condolences. Diane will send condolences to the surviving family members of all we hear about.

Quarterly Newsletter: Lyle Wescott

Dana Matteson is sending out the electronic copies, and Lyle sends the hard copies. Lyle will continue to serve as Quarterly editor.

Webmaster: Jim Leflar

Jim expressed concern at his own personal time limitations. The old site really needs to be "retired" and all the old data migrated to the new site. He has absorbed the annual costs of our domains and our hosting site. Much discussion about updating the website. Rick Beirman is interested in working with Jim on the information update. Rick and Jim will collaborate.

Student Loan Administrator: Pete Bentson unable to attend

NEW BUSINESS:

Historian:

Betty expressed concerns about the future of the historical collection. Joye Satterfield has contacted the Historical Society in Oneonta, NY, and they are interested in setting up a Westcott Room to house our materials. Betty and Joye will investigate further.

Scholarship Fund: this really is an interest-free loan. Dana Matteson has suggested that we create a "real" scholarship. Jean Brundage will communicate with Dana to see if he is willing to design our program.

Slate of New Officers and 2014

Reunion: to be discussed in General Meeting

Adjourn at 10:15AM

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Morris, Vice-President
June 29, 2012

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of SSWDA (Preliminary)

Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants in America

2012 General Meeting: June 30, 2012

Holiday Inn – Buffalo, NY

Call to Order by Ailene Picheco, President: 8:50AM

Pledge to Flag

Opening Prayer: Dianne Hatfield

Audit of Treasury: Jim Leflar and David Seyfarth

David Wescott Smith from Rhode Island presented his book, "Finding Wescott." Available on: www.wescottmusic.com/book.html. He is descended from Amos, and encourages us to learn more about Amos.

Edna Jay Lewis announced that she has 3 copies remaining of her Westcott Genealogy, "The Big Red Book on Westcott.

David Seyfarth announced that once more they placed a wreath at the Stukely Westcott Memorial.

Betty Acker and Joye Satterfield have been In touch with the Oneonta, NY, Historical Society regarding their being the repository of the Westcott Memorabilia.

Conversation turned to David Wescott Smith who lives in Rhode Island. In the ideal our Westcott Memorabilia would reside in Rhode Island. David will make inquiries.

Our Slate of Officers for 2012-2014 is as follows:

President: Ailene Picheco

Vice-President: Susan Morris

Secretary: Sharon Whitlock

Treasurer: Jean Brundage

Registrar: Richard Beirman

Geneologist: Jim Henderson

Historian: Betty Acker

Chaplain: Diane Hatfield

Quarterly Newsletter: Lyle Wescott

Webmaster: Jim Leflar, Rick Beirman,
David Smith will collaborate

Scholarship Fund: Pete Bentson

Directors: Joye Satterfield

Jeff Westcott

Susan Sheldon

Connie Stirling

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that the 2014 Reunion will be the important anniversary of the founding of the Society in 1934, 80 years ago.

David and Rosemary Smith and Susan Morris will work together on the feasibility of hosting the Reunion in Warwick, Rhode Island. The members in attendance enthusiastically endorsed this plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Morris, Vice-President

June 30, 2012

Barbara Westcott Honored by Habitat for Humanity House Donation.



BOB BECKSTEAD / JOHNSON NEWSPAPERS

Barbara W. Westcott, Massena, was honored at an open house for the donation of her home to Raquette Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Massena, NY – Members of the Raquette Valley Habitat for Humanity held an open house June 14, 2012 at Emmanuel Congregation Church for Barbara W. Westcott who had donated her home in 2011 making her gift the largest donation ever made to Raquette Valley Habitat for Humanity. The house was sold; the proceeds along with other donations will be used to build a home for a qualifying family at a site already owned by Habitat.

Barbara said she knew it needed painting and some upkeep work she wasn't able to do and didn't want to get into contractors so she thought of donating the home to Habitat for humanity then followed through on the idea. She said: "I know Norma LaPointe (Habitat for Humanity Board Member). I used to play bridge with her mother, so I called her. I knew it was time. I had to do something. I was pretty sure I had enough to live all right."

She said Habitat partners went in and painted and freshened up the house before turning it over to a real estate agent to be put on the market. Mrs LaPointe said village and town officials, service organizations, attorneys, business and tradesmen, donors, painters and laborers helped prepare the house for sale.

Cynthia Y. Atkins was president of Raquette Valley Habitat for humanity at the time Mrs. Westcott donated the house to the organization. "We were excited. We had to check the home out and see the condition then use it as a fundraiser. It was the first time anyone had ever donated a house to us," Mrs. Atkins said.

For Mrs. Westcott and her family, it was the end of association with a home they had moved into in 1956. "It would have been 56 years, this year," Mrs Westcott said, noting that she had three children at the time the family moved into the home.

Although the event was supposed to have been a surprise, Mrs. Westcott said she figured it out before her arrival at the church. She had been told by family members that they were taking her out to dinner.

A Word from Your Editor

Please send any news or articles re the Westcott Family which you may wish to have considered for inclusion in the Quarterly to your editor at:

Lyle_Wescott@yahoo.com or

Lyle Wescott
180 Pleasant Valley Dr.
Holly Springs, MS 38635

While there are no firm deadlines, I shall try to publish the Quarterly in January, April, July and October of each year.

The Westcott Family Quarterly

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

Free to members

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www.sswda.org

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