



Know Your Kindred Better

Society of
Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY
SUMMER 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings, Westcott Cousins:

It's hard to believe a year has passed since our last Biennial Reunion – I still smile when I look at the pictures and remember the great time had by those of us who were able to gather in Indianapolis, IN in June 2018! What a great group of “cousins” we are!

Before long the “Cousins” that are able to go will be headed for Yeovil, England and other wonderful spots in October to mark **Stukely and Julianna Westcott's 400th Wedding Anniversary**. Mary Pat Carroll, has obtained permission from the parish office for the SSWDA Tour Group to visit St. Mary's Church in Battersea, London where our cousin Benedict Arnold is buried, along with his wife and a daughter. Yes, he is best known as a traitor to the American Revolution, but he was not always a traitor and did a number of things that contributed to the founding of the U.S.A. I believe it's important to know, understand, and remember all aspects of history, because it's in cherry-picking facts/history that we run the risk as global citizens of repeating things that history should have taught us. Thus I applaud, support, and thank Mary Pat for reminding us of Benedict Arnold's complete life story. Due to space constraints we could not include this information in this edition, but it was sent to everyone going on the England Trip. If you have not already done so, please let Mary Pat know if you want to join her in visiting the Arnold Crypt while in England this October. We have asked MaryPat to provide an article for an upcoming Quarterly chronicling their visit so that all members can benefit from this historical information. While I cannot join the group due to family obligations, I will be there in spirit and I know a wonderful time will be had by all!

I also want to note we received several scholarship applications this year and I am pleased to announce the award of a **\$2500 Stukely Westcott Society Scholarship** to Jack P. Baumgartner of Kinderhook, NY. Many thanks to the Scholarship Committee for their time and effort in reviewing this year's applications – Pete Bentson, Susan Morris, and Lynn Hulkow. I purposely recused myself from the application review/decision process because Jack is my nephew; his grandmother (Leela Aitcheson) and parents (Jessie Aitcheson and Thomas Baumgartner) and I are very proud of him! You can learn more about Jack and read his essay in this Quarterly; the SSWDA is proud to support his educational endeavors.

As always, if you are able to do so please donate to the Scholarship Fund when you pay your annual dues, and please support the fund through fundraisers such as our Westcott Society lapel pins (contact Lynn Hulkow for pins).

Condolences – we are including condolences for those that we know have passed – please keep the Society in the loop so we can remember our Cousins in the Quarterly Newsletter.

We are already looking forward to the **43rd Biennial Reunion July 17-19, 2020 in the Seattle, WA area** with the SSWDA Board Meeting on July 16th. Cousin Cathie Westcot is planning a wonderful time for us and we will have more details for everyone in the next Quarterly. ***Plan to join us in the Seattle area in July 2020!***

All the best as We Strive to Know Our Kindred Better!

Louise K. Aitcheson, President

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Save the Date! July 17-19, 2020

43rd Biennial Reunion – SSWDA

Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Everett, WA (Seattle area)

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STUKELY WESTCOTT MEMORIAL

This photo was received from Philip Westcott Place, Warwick, RI. It shows the wreath he and his wife, Janice, have placed at the Stukely Westcott Memorial stone in Warwick, RI.

The Society is grateful to Philip and Janice for the efforts and dedication over the past several years.

CONDOLENCES

From time-to-time these have been included in the past; our Society Motto is Know Your Kindred Better and in that spirit we extend our condolences to the families of those who have departed us. Please let us know when a loved one passes so that we may let our Cousins know and honor their memory.

Donna (Westcott) Ottaviani (#475):

Condolences to Jeffrey Westcott and his family – sharing part of his post on SSWDA Facebook page, “Donna Ottaviani (Westcott) passed away 4/22/2019, she was the last of her generation in our branch of the family tree. She's buried next to her mother and the grandparents who raised her.”

Donna M. Ottaviani, 88 of Akron, passed away Monday (April 22, 2019) at Buffalo General Hospital. She was born July 29, 1930 in Buffalo, NY, a daughter of the late Harold and Carrie Halstead Westcott. Donna was employed by Alden Scientific prior to her retirement. She enjoyed crafts, painting, crocheting, reading, cooking and baking. She also enjoyed bowling in her younger years. She will be dearly missed by everyone who knew her loving heart.

Survivors include her daughter, Lynda C. Ottaviani Sheehan of Akron. Son, Christopher (Pamela) Ottaviani of Phoenix, AZ. Grandchildren, Denise (Scott) Prior of Darien, James (Stacey) Sheehan IV of Lewiston and Christopher Ottaviani Jr. of Phoenix, AZ. Great-grandchildren, Wyatt Prior, Caleb Prior and Liam Sheehan. She was the mother of the late David Ottaviani who passed away in 2002. Family and friends gathered to share thoughts, condolences and fond memories on April 26, 2019 at the J. Leonard McAndrew Funeral Home, LLC in Akron, NY, and interment followed in Evergreen Lawn Cemetery.

Jean Chapman Snow (#1056):

SNOW, Jean Chapman Age 94, of Cumming, passed away Nov. 16, 2018. No services. McDonald & Son Funeral Home, Cumming, GA. Published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Nov. 21, 2018

SSWDA President's Note regarding Jean Chapman Snow:

Jean Chapman Snow passed away about 2-1/2 weeks shy of her 95th birthday. She had relocated from Sherman Oaks, CA to the Atlanta, GA area to live with one of her daughters. Jean was a consummate writer and genealogist collecting and proving multiple lines of her ancestry. We met (connected) in the early 2000's thanks to a note that my mother, Leela Aitcheson, left in a file folder at the Fenimore Library, Cooperstown, NY on our common Chapman-Pier line. From that connection we realized we were not only Chapman-Pier cousins, but also Westcott cousins, and enjoyed meeting up and visiting with Jean when she would make biennial visits to upstate New York. Our sincere condolences go to Jean's children and grandchildren. Meeting and knowing Jean before I joined SSWDA made the motto that much more meaningful to me.

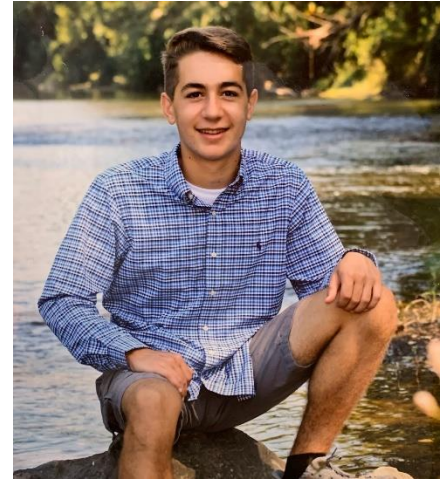
~Louise Aitcheson

RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 STUKELY WESTCOTT SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

Jack P. Baumgartner graduated on June 28, 2019 from Ichabod Crane Central School in Kinderhook, NY attaining:

- NYS Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors
- NYS Regents Diploma with Mastery in Science
- NYS Regents Diploma with Mastery in Math
- Top 10 (top 6% of 144 graduates) of Class of 2019

Jack will attend Northeastern University – College of Arts, Media & Design in Boston where he will be majoring in architecture; however, in the fall he will spend his first semester abroad as a visiting student at McGill University in Montreal, Canada participating in the *N.U. in Canada* program.



L-R) *Jessie A. Aitcheson, Satchel T. Baumgartner, Jack P. Baumgartner, Thomas M. Baumgartner*

Jack is the son of Jessie A. Aitcheson and Thomas M. Baumgartner. He has a passion for learning and helping others; during his time at Ichabod Crane he led his peers academically and in other areas such as National Honor Society, Captain of the Varsity Baseball team, Captain of the Junior Varsity Basketball team, Technology Club, Varsity Club, camp counselor at a week-long baseball camp, perfect attendance in school throughout his life, co-teaching a second grade church school class with one of his friends, serving meals to the underprivileged and at homeless shelters, altar server, aiding in church fundraisers, youth member of Pastoral Council helping to make important decisions for the church, and many other things.



Louise K. Aitcheson and Jack P. Baumgartner

For the past year, in order to earn money toward his college education, Jack has held down two jobs simultaneously while maintaining a 100 overall average – he worked as a Computer Aided Design (CAD) Draftsman for a local engineering company as well as a Busser for a local restaurant. The CAD Draftsman position had him creating and editing sketches of job sites with a professional engineer enabling Jack to learn about evaluating soil conditions and engineering for stabilization. Both jobs provided experience and skills for future success.



Jack P. Baumgartner and Leela N. Aitcheson

JACK P. BAUMGARTNER'S SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Stukely Westcott can be considered, through his actions, a pioneer. He was one of the first people to settle North America, crossing the Atlantic Ocean by ship for months. Westcott was one of the thirteen original proprietors of Providence Plantation and the Colony of Rhode Island. While in the "New World," Westcott never settled in one place for more than a few years. Stukely first settled in Salem, but ran into trouble with the authorities, forcing him to join Roger Williams and settle near Narragansett Bay in 1638. During this time, Westcott became one of the original members of the first Baptist Church in America. A few years later Stukely moved to Warwick, where he became a commissioner, a surveyor of highways, served on juries, and was designated a Freeman. He was even appointed to keep a house of entertainment on May 25, 1655 with a sign to be set out at the most perspicuous place. Westcott would eventually reach his highest position, Deputy to the General Court, and was forced out of Warwick due to King Philip's War. Stukely, at age 80, fled to Portsmouth where he would soon pass away, leaving his will unsigned.

Westcott's actions not only portray him as a pioneer, but also as a man who believed in liberty and freedom of speech. Throughout his entire life, Westcott took action to create a new way of life for others and his courage can be seen in his descendants. One of my ancestors, Dr. Charles W. Aitcheson, M.D., portrayed Stukely's courage, bravery, compassion, and drive throughout his life. Dr. Aitcheson, my great-grandfather, is comparable to Stukely Westcott because both are self-made men that worked hard to achieve their goals.

Dr. Aitcheson was born on April 24, 1891 in Devil's Lake, North Dakota and was forced to move to Ontario at age 10 after a prairie fire in which his birth certificate was burned up. At 14 years old, his father, David Jackson Aitcheson, passed away. Charles and his older brother, Jack (for whom I was named), were sent by train by their mother back to North Dakota to homestead. The train contained a car full of cattle, it was their job to get the cattle out to water and feed them every time the train stopped. When the train stopped at the rail yards in Chicago, Jack got off the train to spend some time in the city.

Unfortunately, Jack did not make it back to the train in time and the train left without him. This forced Charles to deal with the cattle alone for the majority of the trip. Eventually they were reunited in North Dakota, where they rode horses and drove the cattle to the homestead site by following the surveyor pins driven into the ground. This adventure resembles Stukely's voyage by ship across the Atlantic Ocean from England in 1635.

Dr. Aitcheson enlisted in the US Army during World War I and was inducted at Devil's Lake on June 24, 1918. From there he was sent to Camp Dodge, Iowa where he served in Headquarters Company, 352nd Infantry until July 13, 1918. He was reassigned to Medical Detachment No. 313 and was tasked with conserving the strength of the Field Signal Battalion by making sanitary measures and providing medical care. Before being sent to Europe, Charles became a Private First Class on August 2, 1918. Dr. Aitcheson was then sent to France on August 17, 1918 and promoted to Sergeant on November 27, 1918. Charles was engaged in a defensive sector in Alsace until World War I ended on November 11, 1918.

After the war ended, Charles remained in France and went to medical school until he returned to the United States on July 20, 1919. Finally, on July 28, 1919 Dr. Aitcheson was discharged at Camp Dodge, Iowa as a Sergeant. After being discharged, Dr. Aitcheson finished school and became a teacher. He used the money he earned from teaching to put himself through more schooling to become a civil engineer. Now an engineer, Dr. Aitcheson helped to survey the trans-Canada railroad by day and teach his fellow workers by night. He used both incomes to put himself through medical school.

Dr. Aitcheson showed a tremendous amount of courage in travelling across the United States by train. His odyssey, much like Stukely's voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, was filled with challenges, all of which he overcame to achieve his final goal. Charles was brave enough to continue his journey without his brother Jack, displaying strength in taking care of the cattle. Stukely Westcott was known for taking action to help others and this trait

can also be seen in Dr. Aitcheson, who enlisted into the U.S. Army during World War I. As a medic on the battlefield, Charles selflessly tended to the wounded. Charles knew the dangers of fighting, but he recognized the importance of serving his country. I am proud of him for the valor he displayed not only on the battlefield but also after the war. Dr. Aitcheson knew it was necessary to get an education. That is why he went to school to become a civil engineer and later a doctor. Charles managed to teach and go to school simultaneously, displaying Stukely's determination and pride. By going to school, Charles increased his knowledge as well as his career opportunities. Dr. Aitcheson continued his service to others when taking the Hippocratic Oath to heart and tending to patients regardless of their ability to pay. His hard work, dedication, and knowledge amaze and inspire me to pursue a higher education.

Throughout all four years of high school, I have worked hard to get to where I am today as a person. I am dedicated to gaining knowledge and this is reflected in my 3.9 overall grade point average. My 100 overall average in the first semester of my senior year proves that I do not slack off, even while working two jobs. This was a difficult challenge, but using my great-grandfather's determination I managed to successfully overcome all three at once. I take great pride in stating that I have never missed a day of school in my entire life. Every day I walk into school I try to learn and grow to become a better human because it is my responsibility to improve the lives of others that are not granted the same fortunes as I. Stukely, Charles and I all display the same desire to give back and help others.

As a veteran, civil engineer, doctor, and teacher, Charles helped improve the lives of others. As an architect, I will be able to help others in numerous ways. Whether it be to design and build residential houses or public works buildings, I have the opportunity to give back to those less fortunate than me. But to do so, I must pursue a higher education as my great-grandfather did. That is why I chose Northeastern University to continue my

education. Northeastern will provide me with the necessary tools to grow and succeed both in life and as an architect. I plan on taking this education and using it to improve the lives of others, just like my great-grandfather did.

Stukely Westcott's actions portray him as a pioneer, but he was so much more than that. He was determined to improve the lives of others in any way he could. Westcott believed in liberty and opportunity for all. My great-grandfather took his opportunities and used them to achieve a higher education. With this education, Dr. Aitcheson was able to help others as a veteran, civil engineer, doctor, and teacher. With the education I will be receiving from Northeastern University, I hope to achieve the same accomplishments Dr. Aitcheson achieved. The courage, strength, and dedication displayed in all my ancestors can be seen inside of me, a young man hoping to improve the world.

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

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www.sswda.org

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