



Know Your Kindred Better

Society of
Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY
SUMMER, 2018

LOUISE AITCHESON, SOCIETY PRESIDENT
REMARKS GIVEN AT THE 2018 REUNION

Good Evening. Before attending the 2014 Providence, RI reunion, I only had a cursory knowledge of our Westcott Society. I came to truly appreciate the society's objectives that year ... especially "to meet, know, and enjoy our kindred."

Mom - many of you know her as Leela - and I have been traveling for the past few weeks. We were in DC last week for the DAR Continental Congress - our annual membership meeting at the national level. While in DC the various state DAR organizations have luncheons or teas to gather together their members for specific business sessions. At the New York State luncheon, one of the table favors was this bookmark with a replica Dorset button. When I read it I immediately thought of our Westcott Society trip to England in 2019 and wondered how close Dorset was to Yeovil ... Google says ... only 25 miles!

The bookmark reads: *Handmade Dorset Buttons, a popular cottage industry from 1622 until the 1850s, provided a good living for those who resided in the mostly agricultural area of Dorset County, England. Thin rings cut from a ram's horn and strips of linen cloth or wool yarn were intricately wrapped to form uniquely shaped buttons. The buttons grew in popularity through the 17th and 18th century. At the height of their popularity, nearly 4,000 people made a living winding and weaving the buttons.*

The industrial revolution and cheaper mass produced buttons caused the collapse of the button-making industry and brought about massive financial hardship and poverty, ultimately leading to mass immigration to the United States, Canada, and Australia. Today, the craft has been revived and Dorset Buttons can be found on high-end handmade sweaters and other clothing.

Why buttons? The current NY State Regent's slogan is "Members are the Buttons that Hold Us Together" which I think is clever and applicable to every organization - including our Westcott Society. We could not do what we do without the active participation of members such as yourselves.

Also, while in DC, we visited the Colonial Dames 17th Century headquarters - a gorgeous brownstone built in the late 1800's and now on the National Register of Historic Places. We especially enjoyed seeing all the Coats of Arms adorning the walls of the ballroom. Including the Westcott, Littleton, and Grenville COAs ... if you have not extended your research to this, I encourage you to do so. Please look forward to a future edition of the quarterly in which I will share what we have learned in doing this research as well as some neat pictures.

And we had a front row seat to some political discourse as individuals exercised their right to free speech...much like I have a front row seat to the politics of New York State thanks to my office being located in downtown Albany (the state Capitol). The conviction behind the various sides of political discussions, or even general discussions around the dinner table, harken back - I believe - to the discussions that our ancestors must have had while contemplating their lives.

Now, let me be clear on something -- I do not care what a person's political beliefs or affiliations are as I feel strongly people have the right and the responsibility to engage and formulate their own opinions on matters. However, I do care very deeply about respect for others -- a tenet taught by my parents throughout our upbringing. We must, as a nation, have meaningful political discourse with one another on countless levels -- and it must be done in a respectful manner. We need to be mindful of our individual moral compasses which brings me to my pins.

I purposely chose the pins I am wearing today -- the Westcott Coat of Arms lapel pin is an obvious choice for this event -- the compass is a nod toward our ancestors. A reminder that they chose to come to this country back in the 1600's seeking a better life and freedoms that they did not have in their birth country -- for me, in addition to Westcott, this includes the surnames Chapman, Symonds, Brewer, Lee, Warner, Burlingame, Williams, and Woodward, among others.

They had a moral compass. They, like we are today, were imperfect souls in search of improving their lives and the lives of others as they pursue their life dreams.

With recent headlines cautioning that more than 30% of the country thinks we could be in a civil war in 5 years, I believe our Westcott Society mantra "to meet, know, and enjoy our kindred" is more important and relevant than ever! I believe we - as Westcott cousins - have an obligation to uphold the objectives of our Society and to engage in respectful discussion with others; and, hopefully, that discussion will lead to compromise, understanding, and respect for the opinions of others even if we do not share that particular viewpoint. We can and must have a positive impact on people around us.

Members and families truly are the buttons that hold us together! We have a duty and a responsibility to reflect our ancestors and abide by our moral compass in a respectful manner when engaging with others. I know we already do this and I encourage you to continue leading by example in your communities.

I look forward to getting to know all of you as well as other cousins across the country while fulfilling the objective to meet, know, and enjoy our kindred.

Thank you for coming to Indianapolis ... thank you for your active engagement in our Society ... and I sincerely hope you and many others can join us in October 2019 in England and June 2020 in Seattle. Finally, please do your Feedback Forms and place them in the folder in the Hospitality Suite - we will be looking at them tomorrow morning as we start to plan the next reunion ... Seattle 2020!

Objective: To commemorate fittingly outstanding anniversaries and events in our family's history; to memorialize our early family by suitable tablets; to promote genealogical study of our family; to create and develop interest and pride in family achievement; to provide when possible care of ancestors' graves, including official markers for graves of family's wartime soldiers, sailors, etc.; to support and advocate steadfastly the defense and protection of this country which our ancestors helped create, and the conservation of the United States Constitution and the American people's liberty; to meet, know, and enjoy our kindred.

2020 WESTCOTT REUNION

The 2020 national Society of Stukely Westcott Descendant of America Reunion will be held in the Seattle, WA, area. Details will be announced as they become available.

SOCIETY TRIP TO YEOVIL, ENGLAND

Our ancestors, Stukely Westcott and his wife Juliana Marchant, have a 400th wedding anniversary in Yeovil, England, in October 2019. We are offering an SSWDA trip to celebrate there. A PDF with trip description and registration form, and a lovely greeting from the Rev. James Dudley-Smith, Rector of St. John's, Yeovil, welcoming us, can be accessed on our website at <http://69.195.124.109/~sswdaorg/mantra/england-tour/>.



WESTCOTT MEMORIAL

The following was received from Philip Westcott Place, Warwick, RI. The Society is grateful for the efforts and dedication of Philip and his wife.

My wife and I want you to know we've been keeping up the Westcott Memorial stone in Warwick for several years now. Here's a photo from Memorial Day weekend 2018:

PHOTOS FROM THE 2018 REUNION

Additional reunion photos can be seen online at www.SSWDA.com, selecting the 2018 Reunion article, or at this link: <http://69.195.124.109/~sswdaorg/mantra/reunions/2018-reunion/>



Three generations – Barlow Westcott, granddaughter Margaret Westcott Wiatrowski, & son Bart Westcott (Margaret’s father). At age 98, Barlow is the last surviving charter member of SSWDA



David Laflar entertaining some of the younger descendants attending the reunion



Don Wolford and Susan Morris take a stationary spin in an Indianapolis 500 pace car



How do you start this thing?

FROM WHENCE WE CAME TO BE

Remarks by Susan C. Morris, President, SSWDA

42nd Biennial Meeting of the Society * Carmel (Indianapolis area), IN

Friday, June 29, 2018

I stand here as your outgoing Society President overwhelmed by a huge sense of humility at having stood in the shoes of the many extraordinary Westcott descendants who preceded me. My mom passed a little over a year ago, and I was recently going through some family papers gathered when I cleaned out my mother and dad's files. These were things I tossed in a box and transported from their retirement cottage in Virginia to my home in Illinois, with every good intention of sifting and seeing what was there. I came upon the text of an address that my Dad gave at the reunion in what I believe was in 1990. It was titled, "60 Years of Memories," and I must admit I am flooded with appreciation for how our little society began as well as how it has flourished over the past 84 years. No one can deny that we are a unique organization in America!

My Dad adored his grandfather (our founder, Roscoe Whitman) who provided so much important guidance to him as he was growing up in Westfield, NJ. In the years before the financial crash of 1929, they lived across the street from each other, and after the crash my Dad lived for a time with his grandparents. As Grandfather Whitman was pursuing our genealogical research, my Dad went along on many of the research excursions. I'd like to share some of this history as we meet for what is now our 42nd biennial SSWDA Reunion.

The beginning of the family gatherings pre-dates our Society founding in 1934. As long ago as the 1870's there is a record of Westcotts meeting usually at one of the family farms, and usually on an annual basis. Grandfather Whitman remembered such a meeting in 1882 when he was 12 that was held by the Westcotts of Milford Township, Otsego County, NY. Grandfather's mother was Zilpha Abigail Westcott, the daughter of Hamilton Westcott, from Vermont. These gatherings were real family get togethers, covered dishes of delicious farm foods, games, and lots of storytelling. My Dad remembered from talks with Grandfather that much of the generational lore and heritage was passed along at these events.

In 1931, Westcotts in Milford Township, NY, held a reunion and formed the Stukely Westcott Descendants Association of Milford Township, NY, and created an endowment fund for the perpetual care of the family section of the old Milford Center cemetery.

A year after Grandfather's Volume I of the genealogy was published in 1932, a 2nd reunion of the Association was held, in Oneonta, NY. My Dad remembered that at that time a committee was appointed to explore the possibility of forming a National Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants: AND HERE WE ARE.

The organizational dinner was held on January 13, 1934, at the Hotel Lexington in New York City. Visualize the men all dressed in business suits and the women wearing hats and gloves, excited to be meeting each other for the first time, brought together by a common ancestor. That night, the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America was formed and By-Laws approved. There were 40 in attendance of the 119 descendants who had each pledged \$1.00

to help defray expenses. These 119 were designated Charter Members. How honored we are that one of these Charter Members is with us this weekend: BARLOW WESTCOTT!

It was also voted at the dinner that the Society should plan a celebration in 1935 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the arrival of Stukely Westcott and his family in America. What a lavish celebration this was! It started in Salem, MA, and went on for 5 days. It is described in great detail in the genealogy.

Except for a brief hiatus during WW II, we have continued to meet biennially ever since.

Our Society has had ups and downs in participation. I remember attending Westcott summer picnics when I was a little girl, but my Dad's active involvement in the Society waned in the 60's and 70's. From the 1950's to the 1980's I believe we had active local chapters. My Dad became active again in 1980 and joined the Board as a Director.

Both of my sisters attended Reunions during the 80's and 90's with my parents. I believe my sister Joan-Harvey served on the Board as Secretary (and her son, Pete Bentson is now Director of our Scholarship Fund). However, during those years, I was dancing as fast as I could, raising three terrific sons and managing an active career with a demanding travel schedule. The boys and I did attend the Ohio reunion in 1988, and my sons Elliot and David each went to a Reunion with my folks but I did not make it to another one until Kansas City in 2002.

My Dad talked me into becoming a Director at the Philadelphia reunion in 2004. In the years since, I've done some reading. I have become so incredibly impressed not only by the ancestral heritage that we all share, but also the high caliber of all the Westcott Cousins I have been so fortunate to get to know! Our Society is very much a family affair. Today there are extended Westcott families that I know of who gather in Vermont, in Michigan, as well as a very active group out in the state of Washington. Social media such as Facebook has been terrific at helping us connect with one another, and my hope is that going forward we can use the internet to foster increased involvement in our national Society.

We have developed some renewed momentum over the past several years. Attendance at our Reunions is UP! And I am no longer the youngest person on the Board of Directors. In fact, we have a wonderful Board of Directors and Officers who have each taken pride and ownership in our ongoing activities. We have members who annually support our newly established Stukely Westcott Scholarship award of \$2500, something that I hope will encourage our youngest cousins to become interested in our shared heritage.

Looking to the immediate future, October 5, 2019, marks the 400th anniversary of the marriage of Stukely Westcott and Juliana Marchante at St. John the Baptist Church in Yeovil. The ladies of St. John's are already planning a tea to welcome those of us who can make this journey to the "old country". Our cousin, Mary Carroll, has made these connections, so be sure to visit with her during our time together.

We are indeed reviving the family motto "to know thy kindred better." Enjoy the weekend, we are cousins all!

CONDOLENCE



George P. Passas

Born: July 22, 1947

Died: June 30, 2018

Our cousin Catherine Munch Passas (and Illinois DAR Daughter) lost her beloved husband, George. George P. Passas passed away Saturday, June 30, 2018 in the care of the Hospice Center of Joliet, IL. He was surrounded by his family in his final days.

The full obituary can be found at this link:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theherald-news/obituary.aspx?n=george-p-passas&pid=189466499&>

2018 WESTCOTT SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

The Westcott Society Scholarship for 2018 has been awarded to Mikhael Jabril Carroll, a 22 year old descendant who is studying at Texas A&M University for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Distribution.

Mikael enjoys basketball and football, and is currently the President of the Mu Gamma Chapter of Kappa Sigma fraternity. Last year he was the Vice President of Brothers Against Distracted Driving (B.A.D.D.), a group which spreads awareness about the dangers of distracted driving to his campus and local community.



He is a member of the professional organization for his major, Professional Association for Industrial Distribution (P.A.I.D.).

For the past 3 years Mikael has been a part of the community outreach program at Texas A&M University called Big Event where he and 20,000+ students perform manual labor for the local residences in the Bryan-College Station area who are in need of home repairs and other tasks around their homes that otherwise are difficult for them due to sickness, disability, or old age.

ANCESTRAL IMPACT OF CAPTAIN JOHN BAPTISTE MARCHANT

Westcott Scholarship Essay / Mikhael Jabril Carroll

Renovato Nomine... "A new name" --- a new beginning--- each ancestor by their choices makes a new name for themselves and the family. Captain John Baptiste Marchant (my "13 great" grandfather) made a new name for the family by participating in some of the most important voyages and naval battles of his time, all while faithfully serving his Queen (Elizabeth I) and country under the command of her much loved Vice Admiral, Sir Francis Drake.

John Baptiste Marchant was born sometime around the late summer of 1540 in Yeovil, Somerset, England. He was married in Yeovil (St. John's Church) to Eva Cominge (born 1548) in 1568. Their son, John Marchant II, was born in 1571. This John II married Joanne Cottington (born 1574) in 1590, and their daughter, Juliana Marchant, was born in Somerset on August 8, 1591. Through her October 5, 1619 marriage to Stukely Westcott in St. John's Church, Yeovil, Juliana became the matriarch and founding mother of our Westcott Family in America.

In 1585, Marchant was selected to serve under Sir Francis Drake. He would share many battles against the Spanish for the next ten years, defending his homeland, his people and their way of life from Spanish aggression. During the 1585-86 expedition Marchant served aboard the Hopewell where he and the rest of Drake's companies captured many Spanish vessels such as the Santiago in the Cape Verde Islands, the Santo Domingo in Hispaniola, and the Cartagena in Colombia as well as capturing St. Augustine, Florida in "the New World".

During the 1587 expedition there was a rumor of a planned Spanish invasion of England. Drake's forces, including Marchant, manned approximately twenty-four ships (representing about 70% of the then "Elizabethan Navy") and quietly set sail for Cadiz, Spain. Many of the ships were owned and outfitted (at their own expense) by their merchant owners as the world renown English Navy did not yet exist. In Cadiz they successfully destroyed thirty-seven Spanish ships in a surprise pre-emptive strike. This bold expedition delayed the Spanish Armada's eventual attempt to invade England by an entire year. The following summer of 1588 Captain John Marchant and comrades, under the command of Vice Admiral Drake succeeded in destroying the "Invincible Spanish Armada" thereby saving England from invasion and introducing an entirely new type of naval combat.

The expedition of 1595 would be Sir Francis and Captain Marchant's last. After failing to capture a Spanish treasure ship in Puerto Rico, they hoped to intercept the Spanish in Panama who were bringing gold in from Peru. Marchant, the Quarter-master General, as part of Drake's forces, marched up hill only to discover too late that the Spanish had hidden a fort at the top. This would end up killing about twenty of Drake's men including John Marchant. Sir Francis Drake died from dysentery a few weeks later and was buried at sea in a lead coffin. It is believed that Captain Marchant was most likely laid to rest at the place of his death in Nombre de Dios, Panama.

Captain John Baptiste Marchant was a “patriot privateer” who obviously felt strongly about the liberty of his country and fellow man. Without a doubt, if the King of Spain had succeeded in his aspiration to conquer England, oppressive restrictions such as the insidious Spanish Inquisition would have been imported to England and all English people would have suffered terribly. Marchant was a courageous leader who proved loyal where others did not and illustrated his fortitude by claiming the failures as well as the successes. Additionally, courage and perseverance in the face of overwhelming hardship and uncertainty during decades of dangerous voyages are most certainly values Marchant may have passed on to our matriarch, Juliana Marchant Westcott.

I am drawn to this ancestor because of his undeniable impact on history and his audacious backbone. He was dauntless and enduring throughout his tenure as a significant member of the English forces commanded by Sir Francis Drake. His passion for liberty fueled a desire to take the wheel of his own fate and his ambition created a new way of life for himself as well as sustained a strong foundation for his family. It is characteristics like these that make me proud of Captain John Baptiste Marchant and admire him as an ancestor. At the risk of appearing over-confident/conceited, I feel I have inherited many of these same traits. My determination and ambition pushed me to get where I am today, accepted into a highly sought after major at a well respected engineering university. My perseverance has kept me strong through the ups and downs of my fraternity and gave me the courage to accept the role as President of our Chapter during an especially challenging time in the Chapters’33 year history. A true leader does not flee in the face of uncertainty and/or adversity. A true leader stays loyal to his/her commitments, responsibilities and takes action to create a new – and hopefully better – way of life. This is a mindset that I have grown to understand. If properly executed, it seems to me that this is an integral part of what makes an individual a positive part of history.

During my time studying Industrial Distribution at Texas A&M University, I have had the chance to pick up knowledge from some of the best Professors of practice in the supply chain industry. I hope to take what I have learned about supply chain management, logistics, and procurement to make a difference in the world with Doctors Without Borders. DWB, also known as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is a humanitarian group bringing worldwide help where the need is greatest, delivering emergency medical aid to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from health care. With MSF I could be a Supply Logistician, responsible for ordering all supplies for whichever project I might be assigned to. This would entail ensuring precise coordination and accurate forecasting – essential - to be sure the project has the ability to respond immediately to urgent medical needs/disasters that far too frequently plague the least fortunate members of humanity.

Should I be so fortunate as to be awarded the SSWDA Scholarship for 2018, it would enable me to get into the “volunteer world” much faster as it would help to lower my educational loan debt.



2018 REUNION
Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sswda/>

The Society has a very active page on Facebook. Please join us! When you post a family event to your timeline, consider also sharing with Cousins, your extended family, on our page. We'd love to hear of the milestones in your family's life, such as:

- New baby
- Family wedding
- Interesting vacation
- "Remember when" moments
- Noteworthy birthday
- Passing of a family member
- Graduations & awards
- And photos of course!

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

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www.sswda.org

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