



Know Your Kindred Better

Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America

THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY SPRING 2019

WESTCOTT CAR

Our thanks to Elliot Leflar for sharing this with us:



1914 WESTCOTT

Touring

Interesting Features: This car was found in an unusually good condition with only 1,700 actual miles of use on it. It has been re-tired, re-topped, and re-painted, but the engine has not been touched and it will cross any mountain in the area in high gear without a whimper. Note the change from use of brass to nickel trim.

Horsepower: 60 HP
Motive Power: 6-Cylinder, water-cooled, gasoline engine
Made in: Richmond, Indiana
By: Westcott Motor Company (D.P. \$1,975.00)

As part of her birthday celebration, my wife Laura and I ventured to Luray, VA to tour the impressive cave system, which is also known for the famous "Stalacpipe Organ." (<https://luraycaverns.com/>) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luray_Caverns) A second attraction at the site is a museum featuring pre WWII automobiles. Among the collection was this pristine 1914 Westcott Touring model. We remarked to each other simultaneously that any Westcott cousins traveling through the area would definitely want to stop and see it! The placard reads as follows:

1914 WESTCOTT / Touring

Interesting Features: This car was found in an unusually good condition with only 1,700 actual miles of use on it. It has been re-tired, re-topped, and re-painted, but the engine has not been touched and it will cross any mountain in the area in high gear without a whimper. Note the change from use of brass to nickel trim.

Motive Power: 60 Horsepower 6-Cylinder, water-cooled, gasoline engine

Made in: Richmond, Indiana by: Westcott Motor Company

Also, here's additional information on Westcott auto company:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westcott_\(automobile\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westcott_(automobile))

FROM OUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings, Westcott Cousins:

After what seemed to be an unending winter season, spring is in the air here in Albany!

Our **43rd Biennial Reunion will be held in the Seattle, WA area in July 2020**, and it will be here before we know it. Please plan to join us! Cathie Westcot has selected the Marriott Courtyard in Everett, WA – this will make it more affordable than being right in Seattle, but close enough for us to plan to see the sights. The hotel will not do contracts until we are at the “year in advance” mark; for now, they are holding July 15-19, 2020 for us. The Registration information will be released as soon as everything is ready so please watch future issues of the quarterly as well as the website for details. We have some really neat things in the works for this reunion and I encourage everyone to try to fit it into their plans.

England Trip Sold Out! I am pleased to share that our England trip planned for October 2019 has sold out. Many thanks to Susan Morris, MaryPat Carroll and Neelie Kruse at Cary Travel Express for all their hard work in making the plans – and to Lyle Wescott, Dana Matteson, and Reed Powell for their efforts in helping to get the word out – it was a team effort and we could not have done it without all of you!

The Stukely Westcott Scholarship Committee, headed by Pete Bentson, has been hard at work reviewing this year's applications for the \$2500 SSWDA Scholarship. We will announce the scholarship winner, if one is selected, in the next quarterly because the committee typically has until May 1st to work through their process and contact everyone. The May 1st timeline works well because the deadline for receiving all of the elements of the application is April 1st and having the month for reviewing everything works well. Going forward, we hope that this award will continue to inspire our young adult cousins who are pursuing post-secondary education. Please spread the word to your family members about the availability of this scholarship opportunity.

PINS! We have sold the bulk of the pins so if you want one or more I encourage you to get your order to Lynn Hulkow right away – see the last Quarterly for those details. The pins were offered at the request of a number of attendees at the 2018 Indianapolis Reunion; the goal is to raise funds for the SSWDA Scholarship and I encourage donations to that fund as individuals can do so – our scholarship applicants will be grateful and it would be wonderful to be able to award more than one in a given year!!

Best to All the Westcott Cousins – enjoy the spring season!

Louise K. Aitcheson, President
Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America
louise.aitcheson@gmail.com

Three Samplers from Westcott, Rhode Island

In the first decades of the 19th Century, three talented young ladies in Westcott, Rhode Island demonstrated their literacy, dexterity and faith by cross-stitching the remarkable samplers on display here. While the males in the village of Westcott along the Pawtuxet River achieved fame as generals, entrepreneurs and politicians, the quiet work of cousins Sarah Cook (below left) and Sarah Rice and their niece Martha Westcott endures with these embroideries in the Westcott collection at the Warwick (Rhode Island) Historical Society.



A Young Woman's Education

A sampler is a piece of cross-stitching or embroidery produced as a demonstration or a test of skill in needlework. It often includes the alphabet, figures, motifs, decorative borders and sometimes the name of the person who embroidered it and the date.

The earliest known American sampler was made by Loara Standish of the Plymouth Colony about 1645. By the 1700s, samplers depicting alphabets and numerals were worked by young women to learn the basic needlework skills needed to operate the family household.

By the late 1700s and early 1800s, schools or academies for well-to-do young women flourished, and more elaborate pieces with decorative motifs such as verses, flowers, houses, religious, pastoral, and/or mourning scenes were being stitched. The parents of these young women proudly displayed their embroideries as showpieces of their work, talent, and status.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/american-samplers>
<http://www.rihs.org/connect/online-exhibits/samplers/>

(Three Samplers – cont'd)

Sarah Cook's Alphabet and Numbers, 1808

In 1808, twelve-year-old Sarah Crawford Cook demonstrated mastery of her letters and numbers by crafting a 12-inch by 13-inch needlework with three bands. The first band consists of rows of upper-case letters, an ampersand, numbers 1 through 12, lower-case letters, a period and then numbers 13 to 20. The faded center band reads:



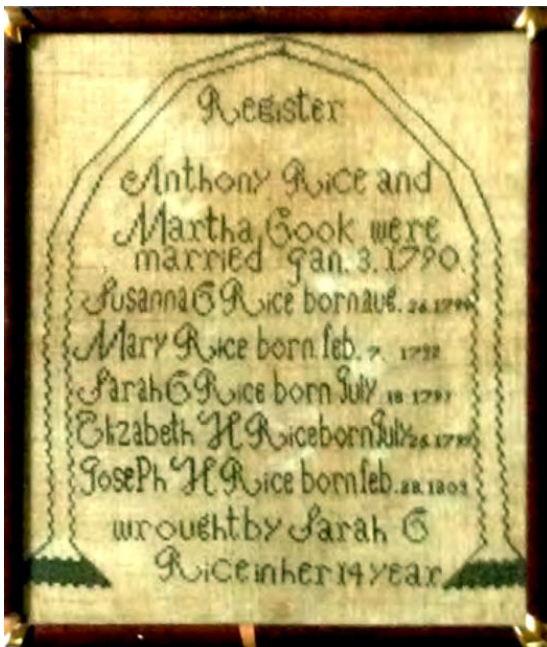
Sarah C. Cook was born 30 January 1796 and made this May 6, 1808.

The band at the bottom of the piece consists of three rows containing upper-case letters with a more elaborate script, followed by a simple sawtooth design to fill space at the end of the row. The presentation is contained within a single-line border.

There is not much of a record of Sarah until the federal and state censuses in the second half of the century when Sarah is a boarder in the home of her cousin Elizabeth Holden (Rice) Westcott and her nieces and is recorded as “insane.” The family story is that Sarah lived in isolation on the second floor of the Westcott house for 70 years after being “scorned by a lover.”

Sarah Rice Stitches a Family Register

In her 14th year Sarah Crawford Rice, Sarah Cook's cousin, wrought an 11-inch by 13-inch sampler titled “Register” documenting her parents' marriage and the birth of their five children:



Register

Anthony Rice and

Martha Cook were

married Jan. 3, 1790

Susanna C Rice was born Aug. 26, 1790

Mary Rice was born Feb. 7, 1792

Sarah C Rice was born July 18, 1795

Elizabeth H Rice was born July 26, 1799

Joseph H Rice was born Feb. 28, 1803

wrought by Sarah C

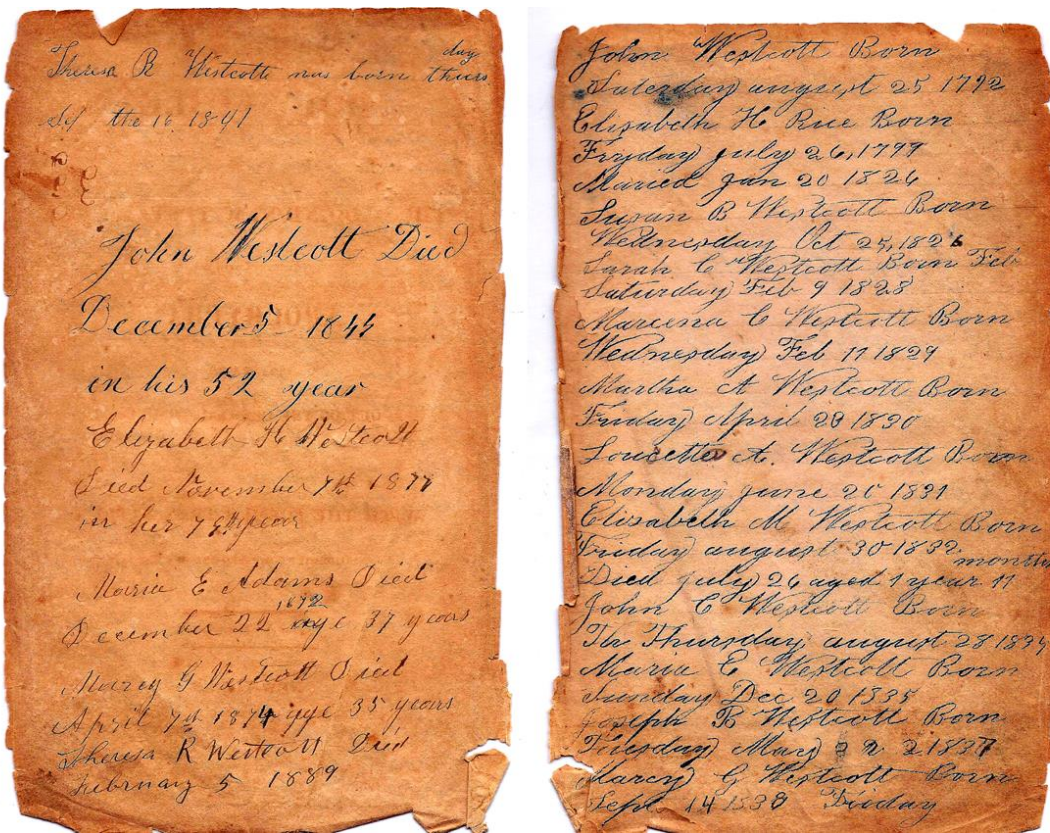
Rice in her 14 year

The marriage and the five births all took place in Warwick, R.I. The text is bordered by a simple arch.

(Three Samplers – cont'd)

Sarah married Major John Westcott on January 23, 1814. John Westcott (August 25, 1792 to December 5, 1844) was the son of General Thomas and Marcy Westcott and the three-times great grandson of Stukely Westcott (John⁶, Thomas⁵, Nathan⁴, Josiah³, Jeremiah², Stukely Westcott¹).

Their marriage and the births of their three children – Thomas Alonzo Westcott (1818-1850), Mary Louisa Westcott (1815-1864) and Amanda Fitzallen (Westcott) Holden (1816-1878) – are recorded in John Westcott's bible. Sarah died on April 18, 1822 and was buried in the General Thomas Westcott Lot.

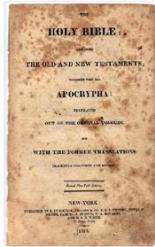
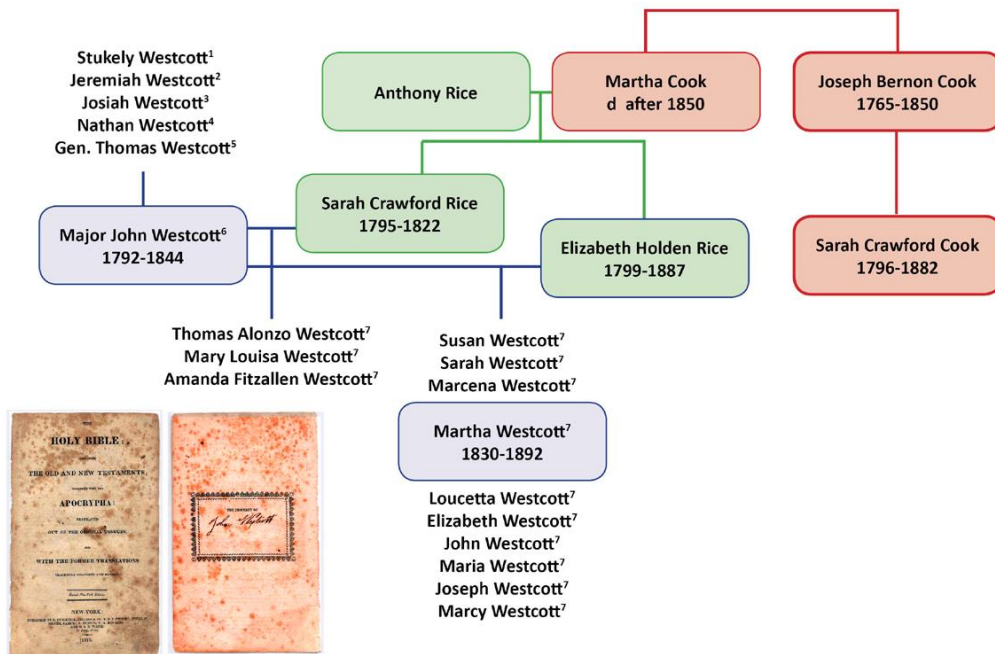


**Two pages from John Westcott's bible, Westcott Collection
at the Warwick Historical Society**

On January 20, 1825, John married Sarah's younger sister Elizabeth Holden Rice (July 26, 1799 to November 7, 1887). John and his three children moved in with Elizabeth in the Rice family home in the southwest corner of the 400-acre Wecochaconet Farm Number 5 that was laid out for Randall Holden in 1673. (Farm Number 4 to the south was allotted to Stukely Westcott.) The house would soon become known as the Westcott House.

John and Elizabeth had ten children, the fourth of which was Martha Westcott, maker of the third sampler in the Westcott collection.

Westcott * Rice * Cook



No eye hath seen nor ear hath heard”

Martha Westcott was 11 years old when she stitched a three-band sampler with alphabet and numerals, a four-stanza hymn based on 1 Corinthians and floral decorations surrounding her signature “Wrought by Martha Westcott Oct 8 1841.” Martha’s is the largest (18 in. by 19 in.) and the most complex of the three.

The sampler has a pulled-thread border.

Fading in the first and fourth stanza obscures some of the words; tentative transcriptions are underlined>.

High on a throne of amazing hegt {sic}
 God sat exalted high
 And great the Lord at his right hand
 With all his majesty

No eye hath seen nor ear hath heard
 The Glory of the Place
 But myriads with their glorious train
 Can bow before thy face

Shall I appear among that train
 To worship God above
 And shall I see my god & Christ
 Whom angels now do love

God grant his power to fit my soul
 To be amongst them here
 To see my savior and my God
 And in his blessing share

(Three Samplers – cont'd)

Martha Westcott was the seventh child of Major John Westcott and the fourth child of Elizabeth Holden Rice. John and Elizabeth would have six more children before John died on December 4, 1844.

In the 1850 Federal Census, Elizabeth is listed as the head of household along with 10 of her children. Twenty-year-old Martha's occupation is, not surprisingly, "dressmaker."

In the 1875 Rhode Island Census, Martha is living with her mother, eight siblings and her aunt, Sarah Crawford Cook.

In the 1880 Federal Census, older sister Susan is the head of household consisting of six Westcott sisters. Martha died on January 17, 1892 and was buried in the General Thomas Westcott Lot.



Portrait of Martha Westcott (date unknown) in an album in the Westcott Collection at the Warwick Historical Society, the Westcott-Rice house (also date unknown) and Martha's headstone in the General Thomas Westcott Lot

Where's Westcott?

Westcott is a village in current day West Warwick, R.I. at the juncture of the New London Turnpike, Toll Gate Road and Providence Street. At the beginning of the 19th century, it was the farm land surrounding the Rice family home where Major John Westcott would later join his second wife Elizabeth Holden Rice in 1825.

By that time, Rhode Island was well into the Industrial Revolution with mills and mill villages being built throughout the Pawtuxet River Valley, except around the Westcott Rice House. Instead the house would become the site of the Toll Gate on the New London Turnpike that connected the mills to ports and markets along the Eastern Seaboard. Built by a chartered private corporation, the road surface was hard enough to turn a pike (or gate) open after a Westcott family member collected the authorized toll.

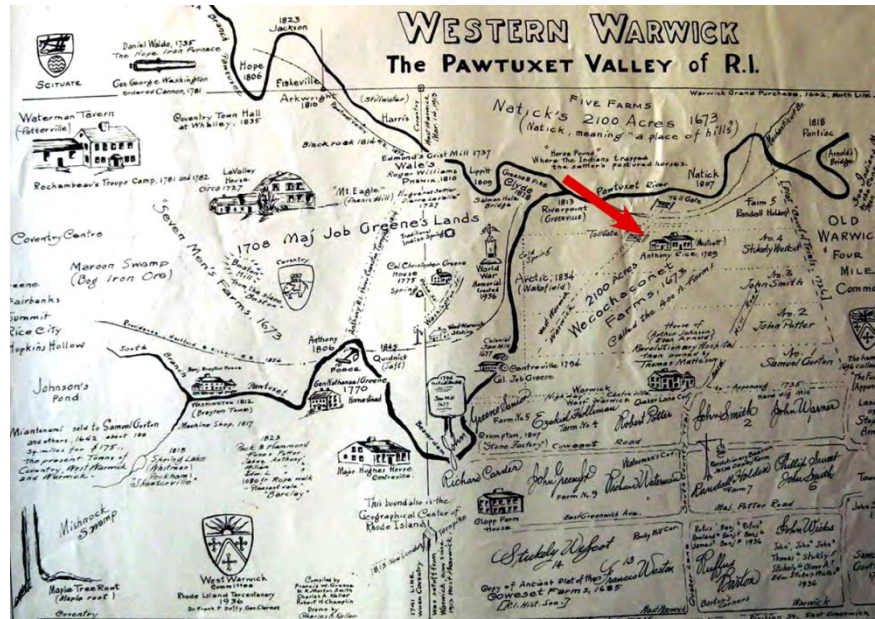
(Three Samplers – cont'd)

New London Turnpike

From Historic and Architectural Resources of Warwick, Rhode Island, R.I. Historical Preservation Commission, 1991:

“Improvements to the [Rhode Island’s] road system were encouraged by the construction of factories, many of which were in what had been remote river valleys. Better means of transporting raw materials and finished goods were needed, which led to the formation of turnpike companies authorized to build, maintain, and operate toll roads connecting the manufacturing villages of Rhode Island to Providence and to towns in other states.

“One such road was the New London Turnpike, which ran through western Warwick, linking the former backwoods outposts of Natick and Centerville to Providence. This highway, opened in 1821, was built by the Providence and Pawcatuck Turnpike Company, a corporation of Rhode Island businessmen and professionals that included Christopher and William Rhodes, owners of the Natick Mill, and Obadah Brown, a



shareholder in the Warwick Manufacturing Company which owned the mills at Centerville. In addition to improving freight transport between Providence and the Pawtuxet Valley mill villages, the New London Turnpike was designed to facilitate long-distance travel. At the time of its construction, people traveling from Boston to New York generally rode by stage via Providence and Norwich, Connecticut, to New London, where they transferred to steamboats, thus avoiding a long, inconvenient overland trip through Connecticut. The New London Turnpike, which ran straight across southern Rhode Island from Centerville to Westerly, was shorter than the Norwich route and was meant to provide a quicker, more direct connection from Providence to New London. The supposed advantages of the turnpike prompted one early nineteenth century writer to characterize the road as ‘the greatest improvement that ever was made in this state.’ However, the road soon proved to be a financial failure, for the tolls made hauling freight too expensive and the steep grades along the route, among them the section of present-day New London Avenue that branches off Providence Street to climb over the crest of Natick Hill, made travel difficult. With the completion of the Stonington Railroad in the 1830s and improvements to public roads, the turnpike quickly became obsolete.”

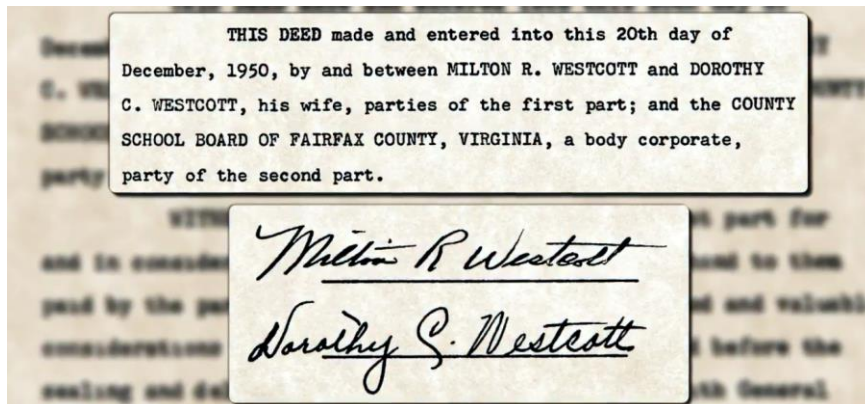
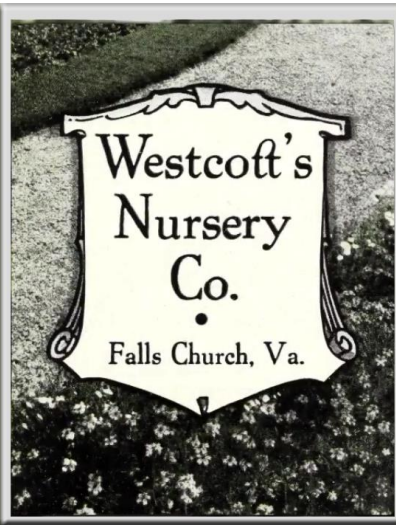
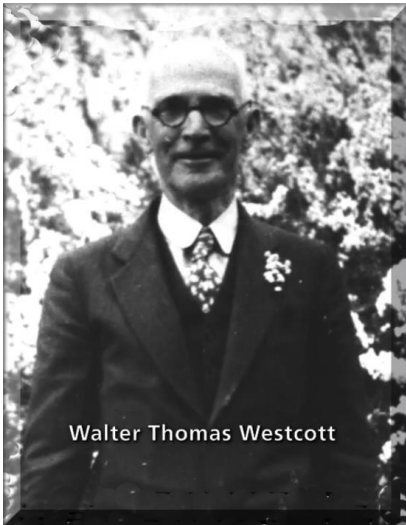
*Notes by David Wescott Smith, Historian /
Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America
Revised March 17, 2019*

FALLS CHURCH, VA – WESTCOTT NURSERY

We received a request from the Fairfax County, VA Public Schools office of communications to use several Westcott related images in a video they were producing to assist their students in learning about the history behind the name of their building. One of the schools, Westlawn Elementary near the City of Falls Church, was built on land that was formerly part of the plant nursery owned by Walter Thomas Westcott and his son Milton Westcott.

Below is the YouTube link to that newly produced video, and some images from it.

https://youtu.be/f5Qt_OqAnls



UPDATE: FAIZAL WESTCOTT – A 2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Faizal's family has sent word that he will be graduating this spring from UMASS Boston. He originally started college at UMASS Amherst, majoring in environmental science. He shifted majors focusing instead on communication.

Faizal is planning to start a photography and film business after graduation. He produced his first film for Harvard University. The film is a short documentary exploring Harvard Forest's first art-based interpretive trail. This immersive science-communication project tells the story of the ongoing demise of the hemlock tree at the hands (and mouth) of the hemlock woolly adelgid. While telling the story of the loss of eastern hemlock, the project addresses larger issues of climate change, and the future of New England forests..

The film is available for viewing at this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/apeXVkn6rY>



THE WESTCOTT FAMILY QUARTERLY

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www.sswda.org

Editor:

Lyle Wescott
180 Pleasant Valley Dr.
Holly Springs, MS 38635
Lyle_Wescott@yahoo.com

Co-editor:

Dana Matteson
WestcottSociety@aol.com

SOCIETY OF STUKELY WESTCOTT DESCENDANTS OF AMERICA

President: Louise K. Aitcheson

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