



Society of Stukely Westcott Descendents of America

Know your kindred better

A message from the President

One of our board members, Jennifer Verruto, suggested that we give you some information about our membership.

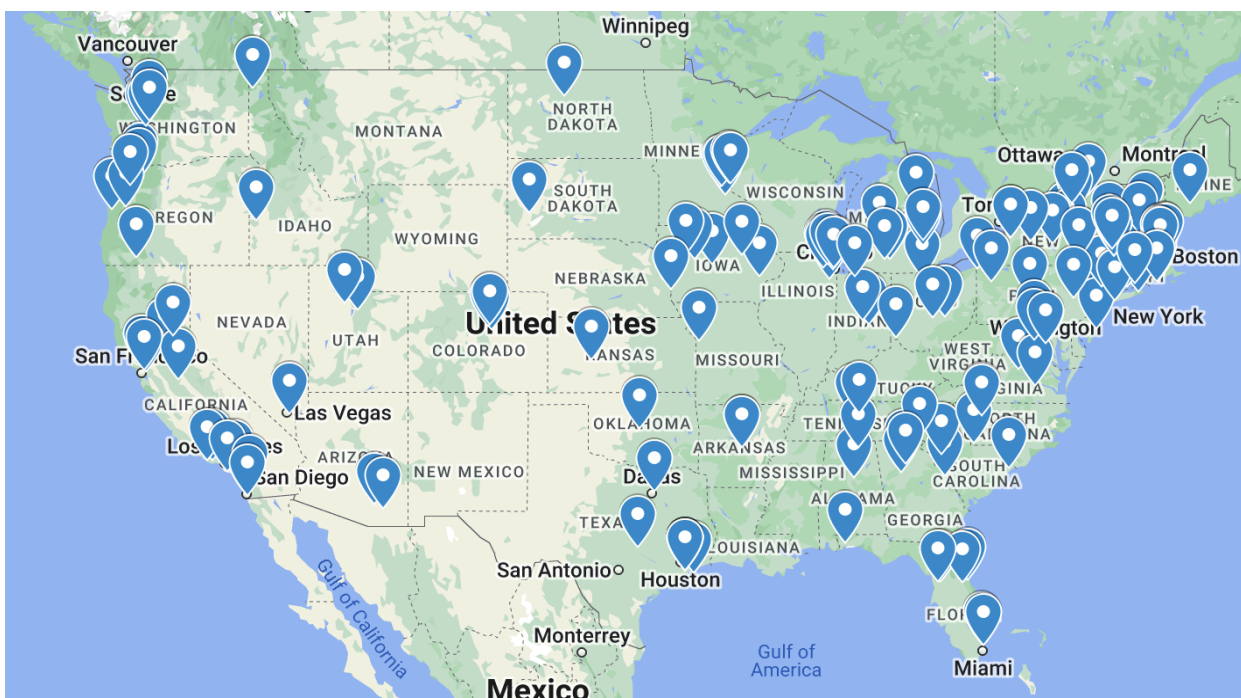
We currently have 260 active members, categorized as follow:

Members	157
Life Members	88
Youth Members	11
Associate Members	1
Associate Life Members	3

Life members are those over the age of 79, youth members are under age 18, and associates are those not descended from Stukely.

As you can see on the map, we are pretty spread out across the country (apologies to our cousin in Fairbanks, Alaska, for cropping you out of this). With all the challenges of the last several months, fire, flood, and storm, I surely hope that you are all safe and healthy. Spring is on the way!

Bart Westcott
Palo Alto, CA





Scholarship

SOCIETY OF STUKELY WESTCOTT DESCENDANTS OF AMERICA
BARLOW MILES WESTCOTT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – Spring 2025

“Raising future generations on the foundation of our ancestry”

Description

Stukely Westcott, (1592-1677), planter-churchman-public servant, held strong beliefs about liberty, freedom of speech, and taking action to create a new way of life in Colonial America. His commitment to those ideals is recorded in the history of early New England, and has been continuously modeled within the diaspora of his descendants through time since then.

To honor and promote these continuing family contributions to our Nation, the Westcott Society is pleased to offer a minimum of one \$2500 scholarship to an applicant age 16 to 26, who will be entering, or returning to, an educational program beyond the high school level. The recipient, or parent of same, must be a member in good standing of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America, and have been for at least two years, with all dues up-to-date.

This scholarship is named in honor of **Barlow Miles Westcott**, a veteran and long-standing member, officer, and director of SSWDA. If the recipient is a veteran or a child of a veteran, an additional \$500 will be awarded.

The award will be paid directly to the Registrar of the institution where the recipient is enrolled.

Winning essays will be published in the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America Quarterly Newsletter.

Scholarship Application Packet – New Applicants

Scholarship Application Packet – Returning Applicants

**THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION, ESSAY
AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIALS IS APRIL 1, 2025.**

Please contact the Scholarship Committee at Scholarship@SSWDA.ORG with any questions.

Thank you for your interest in building the Westcott legacy.

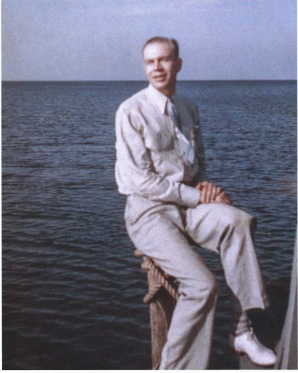
Corrections from last newsletter:

- SSWDA life member's name is spelled incorrectly in the fall quarterly, correct name is Emory J Westcott from Ankeny Iowa.



[The Saint Paul Winter Carnival](#) has been a January event in Minnesota since 1886. Westcott siblings, Paul Westcott, Jeff Westcott and Connie Stirling have enjoyed family time together at the carnival. They are not the only Westcotts to enjoy the cold icy event.

Film Salesman and Photographer was on a Mission.



William Snell was a direct descendant of Stukely and Juliana Westcott in the tenth generation: William Wescott Snell¹⁰, Anna Wescott⁹, Ira Wescott⁸, Ira Wescott⁷, Joseph Westcott⁶, James Westcott⁵, Thomas Westcott⁴, Jeremiah Westcott³, Jeremiah Westcott², Stukely Westcott¹.

This feature in the January 2023 [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) tells the story of William Snell's efforts to popularize color photography before there was Kodachrome:

Earliest color photos of St. Paul Winter Carnival make their way back to Minnesota

By Richard Chin

In 1940, William Wescott Snell was a young man on a mission: to make color photography accessible to amateur photographers. The Minneapolis man was a salesman for the Dufaycolor, an early color film promoted by a British company and based on a film process invented by a Frenchman, Louis Dufay. Snell traveled from city to city in his sales territory, which included Minnesota and the Dakotas, selling Dufaycolor film and processing to drugstores. To demonstrate "natural color film," he often took snapshots of local events. And in January 1940 he aimed his Voigtländer camera at the most colorful event of the month – the St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade.

1940 St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade, one of eight photos shot by William Snell using Dufaycolor, an early color film process (Minneapolis Star Tribune).



Snell shot eight frames, capturing ornate floats, protesters in fanciful costumes, Winter Carnival royalty, and crowds in thick wool coats and zippy fedoras. Background buildings that survive today show that the

1940 parade moved along Summit Avenue, up to the Minnesota State Capitol, and then downtown on Cedar Street.

Despite Snell's best intentions, Dufaycolor was ultimately not a success. Like dozens of other color film processes promoted in the early 20th century, it was eventually eclipsed by the technically superior Kodachrome, according to film historian Robert Shanebrook, a former longtime Kodak employee of Rochester, N.Y.

Being unemployed, Snell started selling floor cleaning machines. Eventually he moved to California where he started his own business selling commercial cleaning supplies and machines. "He was always kind of a salesman for something," said Snell's daughter, Diane Snell Freiburg.

Snell died in 1993 at the age of 86 [in Anaheim, California]. And the photos he took of the colorful parade so long ago are forgotten to this day. Freiburg recently came across her father's film. "I'm 82. I kind of wrap things up," said Freiburg, who lives in Oregon.

Born in Minneapolis the same year her father took the photos, Freiburg was Snell's only child. She has no children of her own or other relatives who would want the film. So she sent the film to the Star Tribune because she thought someone in the Twin Cities might want to see the pictures. It turns out they do.

Snell's winter carnival photos came with the newspaper in an old Dufaycolor cardboard tube that was used to send the film to a developer. Inside was a tightly rolled 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 inch #20 strip that had already been developed. There was also a tiny note on which Snell had written: "Winter Carnival – St Paul Jan '40."

To be shown digitally, the film had to be scanned at West Photo in Minneapolis, one of the few places in the city that still processes film. Tom Barrett, a longtime collector of Winter Carnival memorabilia, has looked at Snell's photos and is convinced they have historical value. "These images are amazing for two reasons," said Barrett, the Vulcanus Rex of the 2004 Winter Carnival. "They are over 80 years old and appear to be the first color images ever taken of the St. Paul Winter Carnival, which began in 1886. "

The Minnesota Historical Society has 16-millimeter color film in its collection from the 1938 or 1939 Winter Carnival, according to Jennifer Huebscher, the Historical Society's curator of photography and moving images. But the earliest color photographs it has of the event are some Kodachrome slides of the 1941 Carnival's Ice Palace. "The Dufaycolor images from 1940 would certainly be among the first color photos of the 137-year-old winter carnival," said Schreiner. "I really want this in our collection." (The Star Tribune is currently working with the Minnesota Historical Society

to accomplish this.) Huebscher admits that the quality of the Snell photographs is not the best. Images aren't as bright or sharp as later color snaps. But they do give a sense of the colors of the floats and the clothing of the participants in 1940 that didn't exist before.

"Although the color is muted, it has held up better than the Kodacolor prints that were introduced just a few years later," Huebscher wrote in an email. "I think it's really cool." For her part, Freiburg said her father would be happy to see his decades-old photos today.

"He would be so tickled," she said. "He was so proud that he had helped introduce color film." The 2023 St. Paul Winter Carnival will take place from January 26th to February 5th. Visit wintercarnival.com for more information.

Posted April 10, 2023

David Wescott Smith, SSWDA Historian

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The Minnesota Star Tribune also found this incident that involved the Westcott name.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

HIS IDEA WAS ALL WET

A Florida man was rescued late on Sept. 23 after he apparently attempted to swim across the Detroit River from Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit, CBS News reported. The U.S. Mail Boat J.W. Westcott II was launched after hearing of the swimmer, who was using a life ring to help support himself. "There's a very strong current, and the water temperature is about 73 degrees right now," said Capt. Neil Schultheiss. "Even with the life ring, he was struggling." When the boat picked up the swimmer, crew members said he seemed disoriented and under the influence. "He just kind of kept pacing around the front deck, saying, 'Is this boat U.S.? Are we going to the U.S.?' " Schultheiss said.

From the website: <https://www.jwwestcott.com/westcotthistory>



While established in 1874, the J.W. Westcott story begins December 19, 1848 with the birth of John Ward Westcott to a prominent Michigan shipping family. John's uncle, Eber Ward, founded Ward's Central and Pacific Line as

well as Ward's Detroit and Lake Superior Line with the purchase of Ste. Huron. Following the purchase of Ste. Huron John's father, David H. Westcott, served as a fireman aboard the vessel. Through John's formative years his father and uncle continued to make a name for themselves in the shipping industry which no doubt piqued John's interest.

As a boy, John worked in his father's boat yard and went on to be a cabin boy on Ste. Forester by 1861. By age 20, John earned his master's papers, becoming (at the time) the youngest captain on the Great Lakes.

As a Master, Westcott understood the challenges that shipping vessels faced including lack of ship to shore and shore to ship communications. At the time, a common practice of the shipping industry demanded that destinations of cargoes be closely guarded. Westcott had first hand knowledge of the problems surrounding this practice as even the ship's masters were unaware of where their journey would end. With a lack of reliable forms of communication between shipping companies and their vessels, ever-changing weather conditions, congestion in ports, breakdowns in equipment and other unforeseen complications anywhere along the Great Lakes could spell financial disaster for a company. Westcott sought to remedy this communication problem by establishing our company in the Port of Detroit circa 1874.

The marine reporting agency John founded would field destination and dock information from shipping companies and deliver them to passing vessels from his dock on Belle Isle. The modern marvel of engineering - a line tied to a bucket - would be thrown over the side of the passing vessel. Westcott would place communique inside and the bucket would quickly hoist back up. This string of events would come to be known as 'mail in the pail'.

Over the years, the business grew and services expanded to more than just company reporting. In 1948, the J.W. Westcott became an official U.S. Postal Service mail boat and soon would earn the world's first non-military floating postal ZIP code—48222.

Today, J.W. Westcott continues to serve the Great Lakes marine community providing everything from mail and sundries to your latest delivery from Amazon.

Only a year away, plan to attend the SSWDA biennial reunion in the summer of 2026.

To stay up on the Society of Stukely Westcott descendents, share family events or contact the board of directors, check out the SSWDA website <https://www.sswda.org/>