

SSWDA Quarterly Newsletter Special Reunion Edition: July 2026

**Society of Stukely Westcott
Descendants of America**

**45th Biennial Reunion
July 9th-12th, 2026**

**Hilton Garden Inn
Watertown, New York**



For the 45th time, the descendants of Stukely Westcott gathered for a reunion of cousins in Watertown, New York. Getting together began on Thursday July 9, 2026 with a stop by the hospitality room to register for the weekend. That evening a board meeting was held for officers and directors of the SSWDA Society.



Friday July 10th was filled with group activities. A bus full of Westcott's toured the Sacketts Harbor historical site, learning about the battles of the War of 1812. The cooling breeze off Lake Ontario allowed everyone to enjoy the BBQ picnic on Westcott Beach. Everyone ate chicken, beef and macaroni salad finishing the picnic with cookies. The kids got in the water first and stayed the longest but wading was an activity enjoyed by most. Cousins still had plenty of time to chat and catch up on all the news from the past two years. Pleasantly tired, the group returned to the hotel in time to prepare for the evening banquet.



Before leaving Westcott Beach State Park everyone gathered for a couple group photos. It was a bit of a production to make them happen. The first is a picture on the beach, a 2026 version of an SSWDA photo taken 90 years ago at an earlier reunion on Westcott Beach. The second is a photo of Westcott's taken at the entrance sign to the park, thanks to the cooperative bus driver.



A lot of eating takes place at these reunions. Friday dinner was a banquet of salad, lemon chicken and/or beef with mushrooms. Strawberry shortcake was served for dessert. The real treat of the evening was the performance of the [Westcott Jugsuckers Band](#).



The group got its name from an area of Syracuse known as the [Westcott neighborhood](#). The group has been playing together for years. Here is a link to the group. [Enjoy listening](#).

Saturday arrived early with the general membership meeting, held every 2 years at reunions.

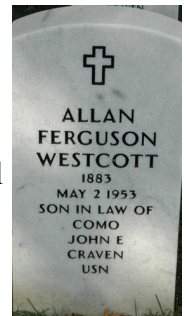
- President Bart Westcott called the meeting to order. After the Pledge of Allegiance, service members were honored. A memorial was given for those members who died since the last reunion. Attendees shared family deaths.
- The 2026 Barlow Miles Westcott Scholarship winner was announced: Shelby Rose Long of Salem Oregon, attending Boston University.
- The business of electing officers and directors followed.
- After discussing locations central for traveling to the reunion, Minneapolis was chosen as the location of the 2028 reunion.
- Not on the agenda, but a great addition to the meeting, members shared how their family became involved with SSWDA, from parents to grandparents to great grandparents. One

member told the story of how the middle Westcott T was dropped from the family name spelling and then added a generation later.

The rest of Saturday was open for individuals to tour on their own. The Watertown area offered many choices including summer festivals. [Alexandria Bay and Bolt Castle](#) were visited by many. Others attend the [Cape Vincent French Festival](#).

Everyone gathered Saturday evening for a more formal banquet. The evening entertainment was Genealogist Jeff Westcott sharing an example of how his research is done through pulling threads. He used the example of Dr. Allan F. Westcott. He found Allan Westcott through a grave search.

He is only one of four family members buried in the Naval Yard. The next thread to follow became, “what did he accomplish to make him qualified to be buried in the Naval cemetery?” Research said he was not a member of the Navy. He was an author. More research showed he was an instructor at the Naval Academy. Instructors are not usually honored with burial in the Navy Yard. His historical work in his books is still being honored today with a [naval award](#), given in his name annually to a midshipman from the graduating class.



Allan F Westcott was a member and Director of SSWDA, found in the first genealogy written by Roscoe Whitman.

Another reunion of this association was held at Oneonta, N. Y., in 1933, when 140 were present, including a number descending from other branches of the family, among them Dr. and Mrs. Allan F. Westcott of Annapolis, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Haydn B. Westcott of Ridgefield Park, N. J., William Mar Westcott of Apponaug, R. I., and William C. Driver of New Rochelle, N. Y. At this gathering, interest was manifested in the organization of a National society of Westcott descendants, and later, Harris Lee Cooke, esquire, then president of the Milford association, appointed a committee to have the matter in charge

The evening closed with the Westcott Cousins posing for the traditional biennial photograph.



Sunday morning breakfast allowed time for one last conversation before departing for home. This reunion Westcott cousins attended from Rhode Island, California, Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, Texas, North Carolina, Illinois and New York. Westcott cousins will gather again in 2 years for the 46th Biennial SSWDA reunion in Minneapolis, Minnesota. See you there.

Ubetcha.

Quarterly editor
Connie Westcott Stirling