

The Westcott Story: The Enduring Spirit of an American Family Spanning 400 Years

Volume I: 1588-1940

Volume II: 1889-2024

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Self-published, 2025

380 pages and 372 pages


Paperback \$15.99

Reviewed by Cassandra Maas

As the United States approaches its 250th birthday, not every family can say that it's been around since even before the country was established. However, the Westcott family sure can. *The Westcott Story* shares the history of 14 generations of the Westcott family, spanning the years 1588–2024. It includes the family's roots in Europe, their immigration to the New World, and the family's experiences during the establishment of the United States and the different phases that the country has experienced.

The Westcott Story is an interesting blend of biographic, demographic, and social history. There are references to well-

The author's grandfather, Dan Broderick, was the son of Irish immigrants and a native of Pittsburgh, born on the North Side, raised in Dormont, and founder of the family business — D.T. Broderick Lumber Company. The author herself was raised in Pittsburgh, attending school at St. Bernard's. The author's sister, Patricia Broderick, and her sister's husband, Frank Cappelli, created children's songs under the Peanut Heaven record label. Cappelli also created the popular *Cappelli & Company* children's show on WTAE-TV.

The two volumes of this book provide an interesting way to learn about the Westcott family. They also provide a different way to look at the cultural and social history of different areas of the country, including Pittsburgh, through the story of a family that is both unique and yet also relatable in many ways to other families' stories. 

Cassandra Maas has been a volunteer with the History Center since 2018.