

Please pass this news to others who might be interested

Park/e/s Family News

"That we may more clearly appreciate and cherish our rich heritage"

5/71
VIII-2

2 of 2 issues

MAY 1971

NOTICE

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, August 1, 1971

Congregational Church

Preston City, Connecticut

(At Junction of Routes 164 and 165)

Social Hour 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Luncheon 1:00 p.m.

Program 2:30 p.m. preceded by
a short business meeting

The ladies of the church are serving baked chicken, vegetable, salad, cranberry, dessert, coffee, childrens punch. \$2.50 per plate, children - \$1.25

Professor Douglas P. Adams, writer, lecturer, historian will discuss "Journal of John Winthrop Esquire" while aboard the ship "Arabella", 1630 voyage to America.

Professor Adams is Vice President of the Bunker Hill Association and President of the Charlestown Restoration Community among his many activities. This promises to be extremely interesting.

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NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS from now on...the Secretary will be sending Membership Cards as dues are received. Dues received now are for August 1, 1971 to July 31, 1972.

..._____...

MANY PLACES TO SEE

Several people coming to the August 1 meeting have requested directions for interesting things to see. It's not possible to include directions here to all the many places in the immediate locality, however, a package of information will be mailed to anyone attending requesting it.

Many Places To See (Cont.)

Old houses in Preston including old Parke houses, old Whitehall Cemetery (Robert I), Old Avery Cemetery, Fort Griswold (in many ways of more interest than Bunker Hill), Submarine Base and Electric Boat, builders of submarines, (can be seen from boat), Coast Guard Academy (the square rig "Eagle" can be toured), Connecticut College for Women, rehabilitated Old Town Mill (built by Winthrop), Ancientest Burial Ground, Mohegan Indian Museum, old New London Lighthouse, Stonington Village, (old village not much different than when they were bombarded by the English in 1812 War), Mystic Seaport (a working early Colonial village with ships including last whaler), and many others.

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OTHER MEETINGS

In September, 1969, Society members were invited for the weekend to the Mc Cullough-Park mansion in Bennington, Vermont, a state designated and being nationally considered historical location. The pleasantness of that weekend suggests the desirability of some kind of a meeting (in addition to the annual meeting) to be held in various other places.

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RUBY'S BIRTHDAY

To make it possible for people to visit Ruby Parke Anderson, President Emeritus and Historian, on her birthday, in addition to attending the Society's meeting, the meeting has been delayed until 2:30 p.m.

Ruby was the innovator and prime mover in organizing the Society. It has long been a cherished dream of Ruby's, for which she has worked hard, to have a Parke Library, Museum

DUES ARE NEEDED FOR CONTINUATION OF PARK/E/S FAMILY NEWS

and place for visiting Parkes to stay on the site of her home, and she has a large collection of books, papers and documents for it. Though the Society has no part whatever in this endeavor, regretfully it does not have sufficient funds to aid in her efforts nor does it expect to be able to.

Ruby has not been well and may not be able to be at the meeting. She will enjoy hearing from friends and members--The Mill House, North Stonington. Many happy returns on your birthday, Ruby, and may you soon feel better. Ruby lives in the village just off Route 2, a short way from Preston.

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SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1972, NORWICH MOTEL

Last year, ten people stayed at the Norwich Motel the Saturday night before the meeting, had dinner together and enjoyed the evening.

This year, nine people have already made reservations there and others have indicated they plan to.

Anyone wishing to make reservations should make them directly with the motel as soon as possible, as that is their busy time.

Norwich Motel
151 West Town Street
Norwich, Connecticut
Tel.: 203 889-2671

This adjoins the Connecticut Turnpike, Route 52 Exit. Reservations do not need to be made for Saturday evening dinner.

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PRESTON LOGICAL

Though Robert Parke was the first immigrant (1630) to this country, he lived 15 years in Wethersfield, Conn., then in New London and finally in Mystic, Preston, Connecticut, can well be considered the original home in this country to thousands of Park/e/s because the residence there of Thomas Park (one of Robert's eight children) who was involved in purchase of the town and starting the Congregational Church there in 1698 and his grandson, Paul Park, who was

for 50 years pastor of the Separate Church in Preston, and other early Parks involved in that town.

Preston is a logical location for Park/e/s society meetings, and the Congregational Church a logical building. Preston is in the center of history, beautiful country having many historical places and beaches.

But Robert had seven children besides Thomas. Wouldn't it be as logical to have some meetings where their homes (or descendents) were? Wouldn't someone like to arrange this? Possibly a mid-year meeting? Brainard Peck, President, Lakeside, Conn., would like to hear from someone on this.

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BITS and PIECES concerning PARK/E/S,
PRESTON and its CHURCHES

Thomas Park with seven others petitioned for the incorporating of Preston, Conn., as a town; he was one of those named in the deed (for 50 English pounds) from Mohegan Chief Owaneco dated March 17, 1687 for most of what are the towns of Preston and Griswold; he was the first named of the 12 people forming the Congregation Church in Preston on November 16, 1698, indicating the esteem he was held in by his associates.

The town of Preston at that time included what is now the town of Griswold. In 1716, in order for the northern part to set up its own church for greater convenience, the town was divided into two "societies".

Thomas was son of Robert who immigrated from England in 1630. After living in Wethersfield, Conn., for 15 years, they moved to New London, Conn., where Robert was involved in starting the first congregational church; six years later after moving to Mystic, Robert purchased 1,000 acres for his son, Samuel. Before his death and burial in Whitehall (Old) Cemetery, Mystic, in 1664, he also purchased 1,000 acres near present Avery's Pond in Preston for his son Thomas who lived there after 1681 until his death on July 30, 1709. Thomas was a deacon and tax collector in New London and one of the first deacons in Preston.

On March 17, 1747, six persons including Paul Park (grandson of Thomas), Robert, and Hezeiah Park organized outside sanction of the law (an extremely serious offense) the Separate Church of

Preston. They maintained churches should be free from governmental control, were opposed to paid ministers, denounced established churches in unmeasured terms as hypocritical, were grieved at the admission into churches of persons not professing conversion, believed in the privilege of baptizing their own children, were against compulsory rating and were against seating by prestige.

Neighbor and brothers were arrayed against neighbor and brother without animosity. The separation membership expanded rapidly, lasted two generations, and then gradually drifted back to original church.

Paul Park, then 26 years of age, was chosen pastor of the new church and ordained. He brought to his work neither education nor theological training, lead his strong church as its pastor for over 50 years and never received a penny of compensation. He never wrote a sermon, large audiences came to hear him, and his 50th anniversary sermon required several Sundays.

The last official record in this church was the baptism of Benjamin Park.

Preston town meeting records show Captain John Parke (a son of Thomas) as one of the five men appointed by the town meeting to fairly divide the town in two parts for the separation into "the societies", one of which is now Griswold.

The First Congregational Church of Preston records of November 16, 1690, show its 12 original members included Captain John Park and Robert Park (sons of Thomas), as well as Thomas. (Incidentally, Thomas' brother, William, was deacon in Roxbury, Mass.; Robert of New London and Mystic had eight children, including Thomas, all who married).

On "27 March, 1782, voted that ... attempt to unite with congregation of Mr. Paul Parke ... confer with Mr. Paul Park ... Mr. Parke requested to preach to whole society and become one meeting until further ordered", this the vote of the church he separated from, gives some indication of the respect held for Paul Park by his fellow townsmen.

From town meeting records, "The same day, January 13:1768 by a vote the whole town manifested their willingness to contribute to the charge at the ordination and by a free and full vote chose a committee, Ensigne Parke, ...". This was for the new minister (I have not yet found any other mention of ensigne Parke).

It is interesting that old church and town records spell the same person, "Park" and "Parke".

This was 250 to 340 years ago. These were the people who held strong opinions and worked for them from which sprang people now nationwide and scattered over many of world areas.

They came from Priests town, afterward called Preston, England, occupied by the Phoenicians a thousand years before the Christian era, seat of Druid worship. Their sons went northward from Preston into Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, then westward to New York and on and on to the Western sea and beyond.

They held strong convictions, whether religious faith, conception of social order, or theory of government, they stood forcefully and aggressively for positive and vitalizing principles; religious, political, personal freedoms. They were accomplis-ers leaving the imprint of their ideas and personality wherever they went.

As with other New Englanders, hardships and privations drew rather than expelled; they had a touch of restlessness, a fondness for adventure, a keen relish for conflict and struggle.

Chief Justice John D. Park was great grandson of Paul Park who in turn was great grandson of Deacon Thomas Park through his son, Robert.

Professor Park and his great grandson, Dr. Roswell Park of Buffalo were decedents of this branch of the family.

Moses Park, 1787 in Norwich, the record said that he was "supposed to be deceased".

Elijah Parke, revolutionary soldier in battle of Saratoga, at surrender of Burgone, taught school at Wells (Vt.) 20 years, was town clerk for 9 years.

"Thomas Kenney Park ... man of jovial disposition ... married three times and 20 children were born to him."

For several years, a committee has been looking into how Parke family records could be safely stored and available for any to see. It is reported that Leffingwell Inn, Norwich, Conn., (Philip Johnson, president) Mc Cullough-Park Foundation, Bennington, Vt., Conn. Historical Society, Conn. State Library, all have facilities for this.

Mrs. Helen Bell, Secretary
The Park Society
Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut.

I expect to be at Norwich Motel July 31

Enclosed is \$ _____ to cover _____ luncheons on Sunday, August 1 @ \$2.50 each

Enclosed is \$ _____ for dues

Regular New
Associate Renewal
Contributing
Family

* Dues received now will be for year starting August 1, 1971

MEMBERSHIP

REGULAR: \$3.00 Annual dues or \$50.00 lifetime membership
Any person whose Park/e/s ancestors arrived in this country prior to 1700.

ASSOCIATE: \$1.50 Annual dues or \$25.00 lifetime membership
Any person of Park/e/s lineage whose family immigration to the now United States does not anti-date 1700 and any member of an active members family is eligible. Associate members do not have voting privileges.

CONTRIBUTING

OR

FAMILY: \$5.00 Annual dues or \$75.00 lifetime membership
Any person or organization may be a contributing member.

Any person qualified for regular membership may have a family membership instead including spouse and children under 18 years of age.

ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE NEWSLETTER

(A proposed change in By-Laws to be presented to the 1971 meeting qualifies anyone for regular membership whose Park/e/s ancestors arrived in this country prior to the American Revolution).

Rufus Park, born 1761, was a master of music in the Revolutionary War, was manufacturer of all kinds of musical instruments. After the war, he moved to Rennsalaer County, New York, where he owned a tannery.

Among the first settlers in Vermont were Simeon Parks and his wife who rode behind husband on a horse from Connecticut.

When Paul Park was ordained a minister, he was solemnly charged not to premeditate or think beforehand what he should speak to the people but to speak as the spirit should give him utterance.

Edwin H. Park of Denver, Colorado, in 1902 wrote that one of the oldest people corresponding with him wrote that he hoped Edwin Park would support a Republican for president, that he "never heard of a Park who was a Democrat."

George Park, 1811-1890, walked from Vermont to Ohio when he was 15, taught school there, in Illinois in 1828 and in Missouri in 1834. He was one of the three who by strategy survived the annihilation of the armed forces sent to relieve the Alamo; in 1875, crystallized plans for Park College; senator from Missouri; founder of the fruit industry in Missouri Valley; ran newspaper; started railroad and active in the C B & Q R.R.; and had a wide range of talents.

John Wait Park, 1830-1879, emigrated to Wisconsin via Erie Canal, lakes to Detroit, ox team to Chicago to 15 miles from Milwaukee.

Eugene Park, 1845, appointed physician at Mardin, Turkey, Asia in 1874, founder of American Hospital there, Sulton conferred second degree on him in 1901.

Rev. Joseph Park, 1705-1772, having cared for a woman sick with smallpox was driven away by town authorities and tried for contempt.

It is said that the Puritans in Connecticut once upon a time passed these two resolutions:

"Resolved

(1) That the Saints should rule the earth

(2) That we are the Saints."

Robert Park, Preston, 1697-1779, had 7 sons in Revolutionary War at one time.

Few did more for the education of the youth of South Carolina than Dr. Thomas Park, 1765, Uxbridge, Mass. -- 1844, Winnsboro, South Carolina.

Mylo Parks, 1812-1900 born and died Hay Bay in wilderness of Canada.

In May, 1664, Richard Park "sold a horse to James Keebe valued at 26 pounds for which Keebe was to build a frame house."

Stuart Park of Wells, Vermont has been appointed by the Society's Board of Trustees as its representative to the Mc Collough-Park Foundation, Bennington, Vermont.

Hezehiah Park was "grand juryman in 1717, listman 1720, tighing man 1725, graineryman 1727, constable 1729, legislative representative 1736-1737, 1739, 1741-1742.

In New London, 1680, "one hundred acres of land in one piece was voted to Mr. Thomas Parkes, Sr., to remunerate him for furnishing cedar clapboards, nails and work for the parsonage house."

... _____ ...

Thanks to the people who have sent material for the News including Bits and Pieces ...

with such help, we will have an interesting piece -- it can be of current interest as well as of the past. Please send more for future use.

... _____ ...

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

1970-1971

THE PARK SOCIETY

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 Mrs. Stuart Park, Welles, Vermont
 Mrs. Elizabeth Ruppert, Washington, D. C.
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 Treasurer Mr. Wilfred A. Park, 199 Thames Street, New London, Connecticut
 Historian Mrs. Ruby Anderson Parke, North Stonington, Connecticut

ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 1971

CONTINUATION OF THE PARK/E/S FAMILY NEWS DEPENDS UPON INCREASED MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE SEND ADDRESS OF ANYONE YOU WISH A COPY OF THIS NEWS TO BE SENT TO

REMEMBER RUBY'S BIRTHDAY --- AUGUST 1, 1971

Park/e/s Family News
c/o W. A. Park
199 Thames Street
New London, Connecticut 06320