

Please pass this news to others who might be interested

Parkes Family News

11/21
Vol IX #1

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

FUTURE NEWS LETTERS

The News Letters have been possible by voluntary contributions as the dues have been insufficient to support it.

It is planned to send four News Letters each year, possibly six. To do this, it will be necessary to (1) mimeograph a part of them to reduce the cost and (2) to limit the mailing mainly to the people from whom current dues have been received.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE NEWS LETTER, please send dues for the current year to be on the mailing list.

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1971 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1971 annual meeting was held in the Congregational Church in Preston City, Conn. Thomas Parke, who came from England with his father, Robert, in 1630, was the first named of the twelve founders of this church.

Following the social hour, and excellent luncheon, and very short business meeting, Douglas Adams, historian, talked of the importance of people knowing their community and family and told what Winthrop and Robert Parke found when they arrived and why those conditions existed.

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BY-LAWS CHANGED MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Based upon the experience of the Society and others after much work over two years by Kathryn Parke, new by-laws were unanimously adopted,

making for less cumbersome meetings and an enlarged Board of Trustees with increased responsibilities.

One other change of interest to many, the original concept of the Society was that its members be descendants of Robert Parke, who arrived in 1630. However, due to the great interest in the Society by people whose folks came at a later date, or had reason to believe they were descendants of Robert Parke but could not authenticate it, the by-laws have been changed to read that anyone whose ancestry can be traced to before the American Revolution can be a regular member. Any interested person may become an associate member.

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LET'S HEAR FROM YOU--YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

"Bits and Pieces" is possible because of the material which has been sent. There are several ways you can make the Society and what it does worthwhile:

1. Financial support by membership.
2. Voluntary contribution.
3. Suggestions or recommendations to improve the Society and its service.
4. Send material, including pictures which can be used in the News Letter.
5. Send names of people to whom the News Letter should be sent because of possible interest.
6. Encourage membership by others.

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QUESTIONS

We are starting to obtain questions concerning Park/e/s families. We are going to include these, as space permits, in the hope that anyone having any answers will write directly to the questioner.

I am seeking any information on Abijah Park (6th generation) born at Preston, Conn. He and his wife, Mary Tracy, moved from there to a Red Hook, but I don't know which state. I would appreciate any information I could get on the, also on the wife of his son, Abijah. Her given name was Clarissa, but we don't know her last name.

Thank you. Mrs. Richard Poole
62 Donahue Drive
Norwich, Conn. 06360

AVAILABLE BOOKS

"PARKE SCRAPBOOK" #1 and #2 on Robert Parke (1) family, \$10.00 each from:
Mrs. Raymond Ruppert
6801 Retchie Marlboro
Rd.
Washington, D.C.

"PARKE SCRAPBOOK" #3, \$21.00 from the authoress: Mrs. Ruby Parke Anderson
The Millhouse
North Stonington, Conn.
06359

"PARKE HOUSES IN PRESTON", book on old houses in Preston including several Parke Houses, only a few left from authoress,
Mrs. Sidney Hall
RFD #1 Preston
Norwich, Conn. 06360

"PRESTON IN REVIEW", 200 pages, 18 chapters, with lots of pictures, (beauts) on highways, politics, Preston men of the sea, (Many Captains) slavery in Preston, etc., including six Preston families: Park, Cravy, Avery, Fitch, Meech. From authoress, Mrs. Sidney Hall.
(Now on press)

for 7-73

TRUSTEES:

Mrs. Dorothy Bowden, Glen Falls, N.Y.
Mr. Stuart Park, Wells, Vermont
Mrs. Elizabeth Ruppert, Wash., D.C.
Mr. John Bindloss, Stonington, Conn.
Miss Kathryn Parke, Cobleskill, N.Y.
Mrs. Nancy Poole, Norwich, Conn.

OFFICERS:

President:
Mr. Brainard Peck, Lakeside, Conn.
Vice President:
Mrs. Van Spangle, Newington, Conn.
Secretary:
Mrs. Helen Bell, Ledyard, Conn.
Treasurer:
Mr. Wilfred Park, New London, Conn.
Historian:
Mrs. Ruby Parke Anderson, President Emeritus, No. Stonington, Conn.

"BIT'S AND PIECES"

Trenor W. Park (1823-1882) was one of the pioneer railroad men of America. In California, as manager of J. C. Fremont's Mariposa estate, on which there were five gold mines, he built his first railroad. He helped build the Western Pacific road which was sold to Laland Stanford and E.P. Huntington. In 1864 he bought the Western Vermont railroad and connected it with Vanderbilt's Harlem road by building the Lebanon Springs road, which made a through line from New York City to Montreal. He obtained a controlling interest in the Panama railroad, which he sold to the French de Lesseps Canal Company. He began building the first tunnel under the Hudson River, which he intended to be the starting point of a trans-continental railroad. His death, at the age of fifty-nine, prevented him from completing his railroad "empire".

Trenor Park, born in Vermont, and commencing his new practice in Bennington, was helped in his career by his early marriage with Laura

van der Spiegel Hall, that daughter of Hiland Hall who for ten years represented southern Vermont in Congress, and then became a Vermont Supreme Court Judge. It was the appointment of Hiland Hall to be chairman of the California Land Commission, in 1852, which took the family west and enabled Trenor Park to branch out from the law into the world of big business.

Trenor and Laura Park had two daughters and one son. Their daughter, Eliza, married John G. McCullough, and the other daughter, Laura, married Fredrick Jennings. The son, Trenor Luther Park, married a niece of Chauncey Depew and moved permanently to New York, London and Paris.

The main branch of the Hall/Park McCullough family still makes its home in North Bennington, Vermont.

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In the same year that Robert (1) came to this country (1630), he went back to England carrying an order by our Governor (Winthrop) to his son, John, in England, to pay money, probably the first bill of exchange drawn in America.

Robert Parke (1) married a second time at Wethersfield, Conn. about 1644 to Mrs. Alice Thompson. Some time later Alice's daughter, Dorothy, became the wife of Thomas Park (2). Dorothy and her parents came from England on the Arabella at the same time as Robert and his sons.

In the first book of the town of New London the two Winthrops, John and Dean, are entitled "Mr." as are also Johnathan Brewster and Robert Parke, when they appear in the records of the plantation; but all others are styled "Goodman" or mentioned by Christian and surnames without any prefix.

Thomas Parke (2) came to America at the age of fifteen, with his father, Robert, and one of his brothers. He married

Dorothy Thompson, who also came on the Arabella from England. About 1650 Thomas moved to the Pequot Plantation (New London, Conn.) where he became a Deacon in the church of which his brother-in-law, Rev. Richard Bliman, was pastor. He lived in Pequot for about six years and then moved to Southertown (now Stonington), where he became a Selectman.

Thomas was one of the first proprietors and a landowner in Preston, Conn. Thomas, along with his son, Thomas, Nathaniel, and John, were among those who petitioned the General Assembly in 1686 for the incorporation of Preston. The petition was granted in January, 1687. In 1698 Thomas with eleven others, including his sons, Robert and John, organized the Preston church, becoming one of its first deacons, which was a great honor. It is believed that the town of Preston, Conn. is so named because Thomas came from Preston, England, near Suffolk County, Eng.

Eleazer Park (4) was a farmer and lived in Preston all his life. He became a large landowner in Preston, Groton and Canterbury. In 1720 he was a sargent of the trainband. This was something like the reserves we have today. All able bodied men would meet at certain times and practice marching, etc.

In 1733 Eleazer Park (4) was a tythingman. A Tythingman was a church official, his job was to keep an eye on the congregation during the service. If anyone acted improperly, such as sleeping during service, or children misbehaving, he would be sure to bring them before the church for punishment.

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NEW DUES STRUCTURE

Regular--\$3.00 annual, \$50.00 life. Any person who can trace his ancestry to before the American Revolution.

Associate--\$1.50 annual, \$25.00 life. Any person interested in the Society.

Contributions or Family--\$5.00 annual or \$75.00 life. Any family or organization.

Dues are from August 1 to July 31.

Please send to:

Mrs. Helen Bell, Secretary
Parke Society
Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Conn. 06339

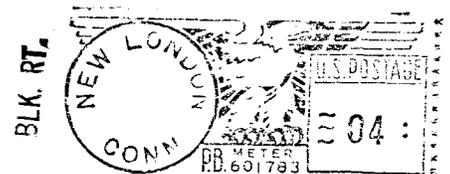
Enclosed is \$-----for dues.

PARK/E/S FAMILIES

Robert had eight children. In each issue we would like to highlight the families of one or more of these eight children, where they dispersed to, and information which will be of interest to other readers. Also, we would like the same highlight information concerning other Park/e/s families.

Regular---- New----
Associate---- Renewal----
Contributing---- Family----

Park/e/s Family News
c/o Mrs. Nancy L. Poole
62 Donahue Drive
Norwich, Connecticut 06360



Mrs. George Hitchcock