

Please pass this news to others who might be interested

Parke's Family News

Have you sent the Society your lineage for permanent record?

5/73
X-3

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

May, 1973

TRUSTEES' MEETING

The meeting of the Trustees and Officers of The Parke Society was held on Feb. 17, 1973 at the Noah Webster House in West Hartford, Ct.

The following attended: Vanda Spangle with her husband, Van, William Cook, Wilfred Park, Stuart Park, Nancy Poole and Betty Thurber.

It was decided that the annual meeting date should be changed from the first Sunday in August to the second Sunday in August, so as not to conflict with Ruby Parke Anderson's meeting at the Mill House.

The president will look into the possibility of using the house owned by The Stonington Historical Soc., "Whitehall" in Mystic, as headquarters and depository for the Parke Society. Since this house will not be able to accommodate a large group, it was decided to hold both the Trustees' meeting, the evening before, and the annual meeting on Sunday, at a local motel. The president will see to the arrangements.

Our vice president, Bill Cook, very graciously offered to speak at our annual meeting. He will be going to Europe in the Spring, and will show us his slides and tell us of his genealogical "finds" about the Parks in old England.

Wilfred Park moved that each year, any former member, who has not paid dues, is to be reminded by a notice.

Dorothea Cogswell's letter was read and reviewed and it was decided that this should be discussed at the annual meeting. Wilfred Park moved that any action on changing the by-laws be tabled till next board meeting when all will attend.

Vanda C. Spangle

ANNUAL MEETING:

Place: Ramada Inn, Mystic, Conn.

Time: August 12, 1973, 1:00 p.m.

There will be a tour of "Whitehall" from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., followed by dinner at the Ramada Inn.

Dinner:

Fruit Cup

Country Fried Chicken

or

Baked Ham with Fruit Sauce

Salad

Vegetable

Dessert

Beverage

\$2.95 + 15% for tax & gratuity

Arrangements have been made for the Trustees to hold their meeting Sat., August 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Ramada Inn. Dinner will be served in the dining room.

To get to the Ramada Inn, take the Mystic-Stonington Business Exit off I95, and go under the bridge. The Inn is right off the highway. To make reservations, write (or call 536-4281)

The Ramada Inn

P.O.Box 427

Mystic, Conn. 06355

Double room--\$27.00

Single room--\$18.00

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mrs. Wallace Carrow is searching for descendents of Julianna Parks, born 1787. She married David Henderson, Dec. 22, 1803, probably at Scipio, N.Y. Please send information to:

Mrs. Wallace Carrow

Rt. 2

Clare, Michigan

Anna Park Miller is looking for a surname for a Sarah⁴? She⁴ was the wife of Jacob⁵ Park (Jacob⁴, Nathaniel³, Thomas², Robert¹). She was probably born near Groton or Preston in 1724-30. Please send information to:

Anna Park Miller

6784 North Manlius Rd.

Kirkville, N.Y. 13082

WITCH FORETELLS FUTURE PARKES

(Taken from 1966 News Letter)

Your reporter asked a local witch, "Will Parkes go on crusade? Sign the magna Carta? Fight the War of the Roses?"

"Those questions took a crystal ball, Mac", said the witch. "Keep outta my act...I can tell you Parkes will spread. That happens to anyone, of course. But I mean--to Scotland, Ireland...one Parke branch will even be among the first to go to America."

"A-what-ica?"

"Would you believe Vineland?"

"You are putting me on!"

"No. There'll be scads of them there. Nice people, too. Like to try a seance? We'll contact the Parke Society. They'll know lots about Parkes exactly 900 years from now."

Gena Shores is looking for information on the Harris family. Martha Parks married James (the son of Daniel Harris and Lydia Hill). Daniel married twice, first to Lydia Hill on March 7, 1738-9 in Preston, Ct. Second to Hannah Benjamin of Plainfield, Ct. in Feb. 1771. Lydia died in 1767. Daniel died Nov. 25, 1791 in Preston. She is looking for information on Daniel's parents. Send information to:
Gena Rae Shores
6004 N.22 St. Terrace
St. Joseph, Mo. 64505

Enclosed with this News Letter is a chart which we would like to have you fill out and take to the meeting with you. It will be interesting to determine how closely our generations coincide with others.

MEMBERSHIP

- Regular: \$3.00 Annual dues or \$50.00 lifetime membership. Any person whose Park/e/s ancestors go back before the American Revolution.
- 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 antedate 1700, and any other member of any active member's family is eligible.
- 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.

Dues should be sent to:
Mrs. Nancy Poole, Acting Secy.
36 Case St.
Norwich, Conn. 06360

Enclosed is \$ _____ for dues.

_____ Regular _____ New _____

_____ Assoc. _____ Renewal _____

_____ Contributing _____

_____ Family _____

Please respond by August 1st indicating your choice of meal for the Annual Meeting:

- Country Fried Chicken _____
- ✓ Baked Ham with Fruit Sauce _____

"BITS AND PIECES"

According to the very interesting lengthy research of our vice-resident, William Cook, those of us descending from Thomas² have a few drops of Royal Blood in our veins. Some comes from such names as King John of England, Henry I and II, William the Conqueror, Eleanor of Aquitaine, King Duncan of Scotland, (who was murdered by Macbeth) and more. Let's hope that Mr. Cook will tell us more about them at our annual meeting.

The following has been submitted by Kay Parke: ANCESTOR: THOMAS⁶
(Josiah⁵, Thomas⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², Robert¹)

The first settler of Litchfield Township in northern Pennsylvania, my gr-gr-gr-grand sire, was a man of many parts, it seems - surely of much endurance; the kind of person around whom legends gather.

It was natural, for a boy born in Preston, Conn., almost within smell of the sea, that his early manhood was spent before the mast. A story is told of an epidemic of yellow fever, which he survived evidently because he broke the doctor's orders. Forbidden a drink of water because "it will kill you," he took a mighty drag out of a nearby bucket, broke out into a sweat, and recovered.

About the beginning of the Revolution, Connecticut settlers moved west to land supposedly owned by their colony, and built a village called "Forty Fort," near the present site of Wilkes-Barre, Penna. A number were apparently Parks from the Preston vicinity. This place, in the Wyoming Valley, was much exposed to Indian raids throughout the war. In the most serious of these, Thomas Park's young wife and her three-day old child were carried away, and the

husbands of at least two of his aunts were killed. Thomas himself was not home (with Washington at Valley Forge is the version I've always heard), but got leave to return home to find out about his family, and was shot in the hip by one of the last skulking Indians. He evidently carried the bullet the rest of his life, but this doesn't seem to have prevented a great deal of activity.

His daughter Elizabeth Park Wolcott later told one of the classic stories about fooling the Indians by marching and shouting, so that two men were supposed to be a garrison too large for a band of fifteen savages to handle. The extra twist in this story is that it was carried out (under Thomas' direction, it seems, as the less able-bodied but more resourceful of the two men) not only in an enclosed cabin, but later on in an unprotected escape through night woods to a more settled area.

Most of the colonies attempted to pay off their Revolutionary soldiers with land, and this gave rise to the bitter Pennamite war between neighbors in the region around Wilkes-Barre, as Pennsylvania claimed the same land as the Connecticut settlers. While Thomas and other Yankees were jailed for being on the losing side of this quarrel, his second wife, Abigail Nesbitt Park, was unable to defend her little property from her former friends, who took everything they could carry, in order to force the family out. So Thomas and his wife, four children from six weeks to six years of age, and his old father, Josiah, traveled, by canoe a hundred miles up the Susquehanna to land they thought was unassigned. But Thomas was again unlucky, built on "the Gore" between New York and Pennsylvania resulting from a surveyor's mistake, and had to pay again to extinguish titles to this wild land.

(Concluded in next News Letter)

FENTON PARKE PAPERS

Fenton Parke Papers at the Library of the State University of New York at Buffalo. A recent issue (Fall, 1972) of the Tie Line, published by the Office of the Director of Libraries of the State University of New York at Buffalo reports that:

"The Archives has completed a register of the papers of Buffalo Centenarian, Fenton M. Parke (1866-1967), whose son, Robert, was the first director of Norton Union. The collection which occupies 16 linear feet, pertains to family and local history and to Parke's activities as a civic leader, commercial realtor, and collector of Lincolniana and clocks. Of particular interest are records of the Buffalo City Planning Assoc., of which Parke was a founder and first president, and some fragmentary material on the Public Education Assoc. of Buffalo, a forerunner of the Board of Education. Correspondence includes an A.N.S. from Booker T. Washington to Parke concerning Tuskegee Inst."
 We shall all miss our former secretary, Helen Bell, who passed away the day after our trustees' meeting.

Park/e/s Family News Letter
Mrs. Nancy Poole
36 Case Street
Norwich, Conn. 06360

NATHANIEL PARKE³

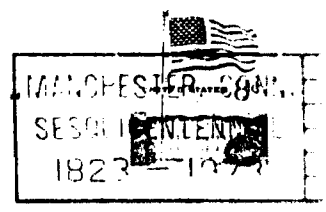
In looking over the lineage charts sent back to me, I have found a difference in opinion as to the birth date of Nathaniel³. Some have his birth as 1651, some 1650, and one says 1659. I'll see if I can find out for sure from the Vital Statistics. Everyone seems to agree that he died in 1718.

THANK YOU, MR. PARK SPICER:

I would like to thank a new member of the society for his help in making the arrangements for the annual meeting, the trustees' meeting and the tour of "Whitehall". We are looking forward to meeting such an interested new member. Thank you.

NEW BOOK:

The Preston Historical Society has reprinted their book containing all the names on the tombstones in all the cemeteries in Preston. This book can be obtained from the Preston Historical Society, by writing to:
Mrs. Steffenson
c/o The Preston Town Hall
Preston, Conn.
The cost of the book is \$3.00.



Miss Dorothea Cogswell
13 Career Rd.
Newton Highlands, Mass.

02161