

The Parke Society

August, 1975

ANNUAL FAMILY REUNION

Our annual reunion will be held on Saturday, September 20, 1975 at the Lebanon Congregational Church, Lebanon, Conn. This is a small rural town which has contributed five governors to Connecticut. The church had its origin over 270 years ago. In 1804-9 a brick Meeting House was built from plans drawn by John Trumbull, son of Connecticut's first governor. The hurricane of 1938 almost completely destroyed the church, and it appeared as if the religious edifice that had dominated the Lebanon Green for over 130 years was gone forever. However, out of the ruins arose a church constructed as originally designed by John Trumbull. The high pulpit and slave gallery typify the church architecture of the period immediately following the Revolutionary War.

We will visit Trumbull House, which is on the Green near the church. This was built between 1735 and 1740, and is remarkable for the construction of its chimneys, wide open spaces in and around which provided secret ways of escape through trap doors in the attic and at the rear of a closet in the Governor's bedroom.

Adjacent to the Homestead is the Wadsworth Stable, originally located in Hartford. This housed Washington's horse, Nelson, when Washington met with Wadsworth, Lafayette and Rochambeau when they laid plans for the victory at Yorktown.

Near the stable is located Washington's War Office. This is a small building used for storing supplies for the soldiers and also used as a meeting place for Washington and his officers.

The charge for viewing the Homestead is \$1.00, except for Conn. DAR members, for whom there is no charge. There is a 25¢ fee for going through the War Office.

We will meet at the church as soon after 9:30 a.m. as possible. During the social hour we will view each other's family memorabilia, so don't forget to bring along any letters, Bibles, pictures, etc. which may be of interest to others.

Luncheon will be served by the ladies of the church, will be \$4.00 for: Ham, fruit cup, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, tossed salad, rolls, homemade dessert.

Our speaker for the meeting will be Gary Boyd Roberts, Reference librarian, New England Historic Genealogical Soc., Boston. He has specialized in the study of the royal ancestry of immigrants to this country. He has traced the lineage of many notable Americans, included in the Dictionary of American Biography. Special work has been completed on the descendants of Alice Freeman's three daughters

BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

Three proposed amendments to the By-Laws of the Society will be offered for consideration in the brief business portion of the reunion.

Article II, Section 1, 1st. paragraph, which provides regular membership for those descended from Park/e/es born before the Revolution, would require that those forebears have been born "in the British Isles or North America".

Article III, Section 4, which specifies a quorum of 15 members, would add, "at any meeting".

Article VI, Section 2, which describes the duties of the President, would add, "He shall not hold office consecutively for more than five years".

For those who will be staying overnight, we suggest making reservations at The Norwich Motel, 181 West Town St., Norwich, Ct., 06360, Tel. 889-2671. Rates: 1 person, 1 double bed, \$16 & tax; 2 people, 1 double bed, \$20 & tax; 2 people, 2 double beds, \$22 & tax; 3 people, \$24 & tax, 4 people, \$26 & tax.

There will be a Trustees' meeting at The Norwich Motel Friday, Sept. 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Please make reservations for the Ham dinner at Lebanon on Sept. 20 with: Mrs. George Thurber
58 Turnbull Rd.
Manchester, Conn. 06040

ELEANOR AND THE 4 KINGS

A bright blossom on the family tree of those descended from Dorothy² Thompson Parke is the talented, beautiful and passionate Eleanor of Aquitaine who lived from about 1122 to April 1, 1204.

When her father, Duke William X of Aquitaine died in 1137, Eleanor became ruler of vast lands extending from the Loire to the Pyrenees. As Countess of Poitou and Duchess of Aquitaine, she was twice a queen and mother of two kings. At age 16, she married Louis le Jeune, later Louis VII of France, bore him two daughters but no sons, and accompanied him on the Second Crusade with a bevy of cultured women who were supposed to offset the harsh and dirty business of war.

There are two stories about the estrangement which developed between Eleanor and Louis during that adventure. One is that she was too fond of other male companionship, the other that Louis was vexed at the lack of a male heir. At any rate, the marriage was annulled in 1152 on grounds of consanguinity.

Two months later she married Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Normandy and Count of Anjou, who two years later became Henry II of England. Thus, by far the greater part of modern France came under English rule.

Eleanor was 11 years older than Henry and had too much spirit to tolerate his persistent infidelity. She supported their sons against him in 1173; in consequence she spent most of the period 1174-83 in confinement, but then resumed her public role.

After Henry's death in 1189, she supported their son, King Richard the Lion Heart against the youngest son, John Lackland, but after Richard's death, she rallied to John, who became King of England. After John lost Normandy to the French in 1204, it was essentially Eleanor's lands that remained loyal to the English crown, and became the casus belli of the Hundred Year War.

She was an able and forceful queen patron of troubadours and inspiration of many love poems. Dorothy² Parke derives from her through King John.

BUNKER HILL'S 200th ANNIVERSARY PARADE AS PARKE SOCIETY UNIT

As part of our Society's Bicentennial celebration, a group of Park/e/es assembled in Charlestown, Ma. for that town's 200th Anniversary Bunker Hill Day parade on June 15th. Two Park soldiers, of whom we are aware, were killed in that battle. To commemorate these heroes, the Society placed a wreath on the statue of William Prescott at the foot of the Bunker Hill Monument.

Later, following a delightful buffet luncheon at the home of Douglas P. Adams, some 15 stalwarts of the group took part in the 3½ mile parade, said to be the largest in the town's history. An estimated 175,000 lined the streets. More than 200 colorful units took part coming from many states.

The Parke Society contingent displayed a placard naming the two Park soldiers in the battle. This was flanked by two American flags carried by Roger Cogswell and his son, Christopher. Behind them other Parks supported a flag from the collection of David L. Parke, Jr., measuring 12 feet by 23 feet. The Boston Herald American the next day reported it as "the biggest flag of the day" and pictured the Park Family delegation in action.

A surprise to the participants came in the first block when bystanders started throwing coins into the flag. As it turned out this continued all along the 3½ mile route. A gathering at the Adams home after the parade counted the "take". Would you believe it came to over \$270, in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters - even dollar bills! Half of this was donated to the Preservation Society of Charlestown, who sponsored our part in the parade, and the remainder was turned over to our Society.

It was quite an experience for all who came to Charlestown that day. Much appreciation goes to Doug Adams for being such an outstanding host, and for his having invited the Parke Society to take part in this important event.

Among those present were: Douglas Payne Adams, Eugene Lundin, Douglas Park Adams, Robert A. Park, Evelyn F. Burroughs, David L. Parke, Marion S. Adams, Dorothea B. Cogswell, Hope Adams Franz, Eleanor Cogswell, Ann McG. Cogswell, Fred R. Youngren, Evelyn M. Youngren, Roger W. Cogswell, William P. Burroughs, Stuart Park.

