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Parkes Family News

Vol. XIII No. 2
March 1976

Promoting Fellowship, Genealogical Research,
and the Preservation of our Heritage.

1976 Reunion to honor William Williams in Lebanon

Signed Declaration of Independence

The Bicentennial celebration wouldn't be complete without our Society's recognition of William Williams, signer of the Declaration of Independence. And we have many other Parke descendants who played important rolls in the Revolution. The annual meeting, on Saturday August 21st at Lebanon CT, will have as its central theme the sharing of stories of our illustrious ancestors. If you have an interesting story of your Parke ancestor write it up now and send a copy to Stuart Park, Wells VT 05774.

The meeting will again be at the beautiful pre-Revolutionary Congregational Church in Lebanon. A short walk up the road is the home of William Williams and, if you missed it last year, the Gov. Trumbull House is across the street. But these are only two of the multitude of historic sights in eastern Connecticut. (see page 10 for a check list to help you plan your visit.)

The morning activity provides a choice - visiting the houses or ancient cemetery, or if you are genealogically minded you will find an opportunity for viewing genealogical material and sharing information with one another. You are encouraged to participate by bringing your own records and books. A luncheon will be served at the church at noon followed by a brief business meeting.

The afternoon will be given over to a presentation about Parke Descendants and the part they took in the Revolution. This will be led by the Society's president, Stuart Park.

Excellent Accommodations

Since most of America will be on the move this Summer it is vital that you make plans NOW. Arrangements have been made for members to stay at the new luxury Sheraton Norwich Motor Inn, only 20 minutes away from Lebanon. This is centrally located at Exit 80 on the Connecticut Turnpike so that you can cover the wealth of things to see and do in eastern Connecticut. A complete packet of literature awaits you at the motel.

Reservation Card

A special reservation card is enclosed, giving a discount to society members at \$35 for a double (reg \$45). To take advantage of this you MUST return the card before MAY 1st. An excellent seafood buffet will be served on your arrival Friday evening. Don't miss it!

Fill out the enclosed addressed post card and return it to Wilfred Park. Check off each item so that your committee can anticipate your needs and make your visit a real success. Do it NOW before you forget.

To find out more about William Williams turn to page 3.

COME TO ANNUAL MEETING EASY AS 1-2-3

Where: Lebanon, CT
When: Saturday, August 21

1. Reserve Room Now - Card to Sheraton
2. Return Card to Society for luncheon
3. Reserve Date on your calendar

Park/e/s Family News

Published sporadically for members of
THE PARKE SOCIETY, Inc.

Editor: William G. Cook
295 Summer St.,
Buffalo, NY 14222

News items and history of your Parke
Family line are welcome.

Distributed free to all members.

Those who are interested in joining
should fill in the Coupon on page 9
and send to the Secretary:

Miss Priscilla C. Parke
125 Amity St.
Amherst, MA 01002

Any change of address should be
forwarded to the Secretary promptly.

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New Members - WELCOME!

- 36 Philip L. Knoll, 2215 E. Adams Ave.
Orange CA 92667
- 38 David L. Parke Jr, 3835 Prospect St RD 2
Oneida NY 13421



NEW TRUSTEE

At the winter meeting of the Trustees,
Mrs. Nancy L. Poole of Norwich CT was
elected a trustee to fill the vacancy
left by the death of Douglas P. Adams.

NECROLOGY

Mrs. Marion Woodward Turner, age 80
years died suddenly at the home of her
sister, Mrs. Amelia Shears, in Olathe,
Kansas. Mrs. Turner will be remembered
from one of the annual meetings held at
Preston.

Mrs. L.M. Rich of Sioux Falls S.D.;
daughter of the late S. Whitmore and
Mrs. Whitmore, passed away since the
last Family News.

Mrs. Katherine Hazzard Schaeffer of
Winthrop Me., died October 4, 1975.
Mrs. Schaeffer and daughter had attend-
ed The Parke Society meeting on Septem-
ber 20., at Lebanon, Ct.

Mr. John McCullough Turner of Bethany Ct.
died Feb. 26, 1976, Mr. Turner was a form-
er member of the board of Trustees of The
Parke Society.

Who was William Williams?

He married 14 February 1771 Mary, daughter of Gov. John and Faith (Robinson) Trumbull. Two sons and a daughter were born to them. He died at Lebanon 2 August 1811, his tomb being in the Trumbull Cemetery.

The imposing home in which he was born is located in Lebanon; a description of which will be in the next issue of the Family News.

William Parke, son of Robert, came to America on the ship LYON, arriving at Massachusetts Bay February 5, 1631. He settled in Roxbury where his father then lived. Two of his daughters married brothers; Theoda, born 2 May 1637, married Samuel Williams; Martha born 2 March 1641 married Isaac Williams. They were the sons of Robert and Elizabeth (Stalham) Williams. Among Theoda's descendants was General Joseph Warren of Boston and Bunker Hill note. Martha was the ancestor of William Williams, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

William Williams was born in Lebanon Ct., on the 8th of April 1731; the son of the Rev. Solomon and Mary (Porter) Williams. At the age of sixteen he entered Harvard, graduating with honors. He studied for the ministry under the direction of his father.

In 1755 he became a member of the staff of Col. Ephriam Williams and took part in the battles in the Lake George area. (French and Indian War) When he returned home he became a merchant and took an active interest in politics, becoming a selectman. In 1756 he was elected Clerk of Lebanon which position he held for forty-five years. In 1757 he became a member of the State Legislature, serving in both houses. He was named to the Governor's Council in 1788.



Tomb of William Williams .

Lineage:

Robert ¹ Williams = Elizabeth Stalham		Robert ¹ Parke
Capt. Isaac ² Williams	=	William ² Parke
Rev. William ³ Williams	=	Martha ³ Parke
Rev. Solomon ⁴ Williams	=	Christian Stoddard
		Mary Porter

William⁵ Williams

English Churches of the Parkes

DONALD GILBERT & FAMILY VISIT CHURCHES OF THEIR ANCESTORS

Readers of Ruby Parke Anderson's Parke Scrapbooks 1 and 2 will recall family data concerning the Parkes in Essex and Suffolk, gathered by Elizabeth Hunter Ruppert, now a Parke Society trustee, and pictures of the Gestingthorpe area taken by her husband, Raymond R. Ruppert, and by L. Warner and Lois Brown.

Latest Parke cousin to visit the locality is Donald G. Gilbert of Dunedin, Fla., who made the pilgrimage with his wife and small son.

They drove about 50 miles northeast of London through rolling fertile farm lands. Upon nearing Gestingthorpe the 66-foot-high red brick tower of the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin signaled the site of the village, which consists of rural homes. They "shot" the late 14th Century font where many Parkes were presumably baptized from the 1300's into the 1600's.

According to the Domesday Survey, "Ghestingethorp" existed at least in the time of Edward the Confessor (1042-66) and it is possible that there was a church there before the Norman Conquest.

The most ancient portion of the existing church, says Cousin Gilbert, is the 13th Century blocked-up lancet window in the north wall. Most of the rest of the chancel, nave and aisle portions date from the 14th Century. During some restoration work in 1895 the original stairs to the rood loft were discovered, but were bricked up again. The church roof is called "one of the finest in Essex". It was built in 1498 and is of the double hammer beam type. The tower is of the same period as the roof. The west door is the original and is secured only by an oak bar.

Five miles northeast, in Suffolk, is Sudbury, where the Gilberts viewed the chancel where Robert Parke of Acton and Alice Chaplin were married in 1575. Alice was daughter of William Chaplin of Tarnes Farm, Parish Long Melford. They probably frequented the huge and impressive church there.

Nine miles west is Poslingford, another farmland village. Robert¹ Parke, the immigrant ancestor, was baptized in the church of St. Mary's which stands on a hill in the center of the village. There is, of course, a baptismal font. Alice Chaplin had a modest piece of land in Acton by her father's will, dated 1579.

Six miles eastward they visited the Hitcham church where two of Robert's¹ children were baptized. Two others were consecrated in the small Ringshall Church. Another five miles took them to Bilde-stone where the youngest child was baptized. And at Semer they saw the church where Martha Chaplyn, Robert¹'s first wife was baptized, and where they were married and had their first children baptized.

(Why so many different churches? It is surmised by some that the family was merely following favorite clergymen in their perigrinations about East Anglia, even as their modern descendants in America do today.--Ed.).

Members all!

Have you sent in the name of your favorite Aunt Mamie and other relatives and friends who are eligible for membership in the Parke Society, Inc.? And who should be on the mailing list for the Park/e/s Family News? Why not jot them down (don't forget Zip Codes) on a government postcard addressed to:

Miss Priscilla C. Parke, Secretary
125 Amity Street
Amherst, MA, 01002

NOW!

START YOUR OWN BICENTENNIAL PROJECT



STIMULATING!

Yes, it can really be stimulating. Unfortunately for years people have gone to great pains to make up fan charts of their family tree. They end up with nothing but a skeleton! Now, in your Bicentennial Project, you can "bring it to life." Offered here is a "How To" Kit designed to put into your hands the basic items needed for your successful venture into preparing a family history, a history that you and your family are best qualified to write!

FASCINATING!

When relatives hear that you are gathering information about the family they will dig out letters, pictures, documents and perhaps even books about your early ancestors. Better results are realized if your parents and even grandparents are still living. They will have a wealth of interesting tales that should be recorded. But you must act now before your loved ones die.

EDUCATIONAL!

Not only will you learn about your family, but a great deal about the history of our country and the part your own ancestors have played in its development. Once you start your project you will be amazed at how much material is available. After you have sorted and arranged it, you can proceed to put it into permanent and useable form. Copies can be made for your family and for historical and genealogical libraries where they will have lasting value.

YOU CAN DO IT

Organizing and assembling the mass of records may seem an impossible task. But it can be easy if you let those who know how to help you. The "How To" Kit has been assembled with you in mind. Dr. Gilbert H. Doane, Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, in his book **Searching for your Ancestors** (included in the Kit) will lead you step by step and he does it in a most entertaining way.

HOW TO START

Once you have the Kit you can begin collecting family stories, records, pictures, newspaper clippings etc. Libraries and homes of your relatives are full of all sorts of interesting facts about your family. Traveling to other localities as you look for data can be an exciting adventure. Most research is well within your reach. Additional supplies and books are available from our price list. Parke Genealogical Research can help you with your research, preparation, and ultimately, the printing of your history.

THE "HOW TO" KIT PROVIDES:

1. The basic book, **Searching for your Ancestors** by Gilbert Doane now in its 4th edition—212 pages full of important information.
2. Best quality Ring Binder—holds over 150 pages, has metal hinges.
3. Clear, simple Charts and Indexes—27 reinforced durable forms.
4. Family Group Sheets to organize your family records, easy to understand.
5. Storage Envelopes for collecting pictures, notes, newspaper clippings.
6. Sturdy Portfolio for trips to the library—complete with pad and pockets.
7. Easy to follow instructions and suggestions.
8. Continuing assistance as needed by the Parke Genealogical Research.

**\$40 VALUE FOR ONLY \$30
SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER**

Parke Genealogical Research, Box 49, S. Dartmouth, MA 02748. Show Me! Yes, I want to start my own Bicentennial Project. Send me a Kit today for which I enclose \$30 (Mass. residents add \$.90 sales tax) I understand that I may return the Kit within 30 days for full refund if I'm not delighted.

Order Now \$30 Postpaid. Hurry! This is a limited offer. Enclosed is my check money order Sorry no C.O.D.'s

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escendants of Dorothy² Thompson Parke, wife of Thomas², are derived from good King Stephen of Hungary, according to one group of genealogical researchers. G. Andrews Moriarty, well known historian-genealogist, concludes that Agatha of Hungary, unquestionably, through a Scottish connection, ancestress of King John of England, was indeed the daughter of the Magyar king who became a saint.

Moriarty bases his conclusion on a statement to that effect by Dr. Sandor Fest, a Hungarian scholar. If it is a correct conclusion, the line derives from migrant Magyar chieftains who settled down in the Danube basin around 907 A.D. They became the scourge of Europe but were gradually defanged by German leaders. The process was aided by conversion to Christianity and the marriage of King Geza's son Vajk to Gisela, daughter of Henry II the Quarrelsome, Duke of Bavaria.

When the Magyars adoped Christianity, Vajk was baptized under the name of Stephen. Under the banner of his Hungarian compatriot St. Martin of Tours, the now King Stephen organized his kingdom along efficient German

lines, sponsored tithing and church-building, promoted agriculture, safeguarded private property with strict laws and welcomed foreign knights and liegemen. For all this and much more he was canonized in 1035.

According to Dr. Fest's theory, Agatha was King Stephen's daughter. From here on the record is sound. When King Edmund II Ironside of England died in 1016, Canute, the Danish invader, became King of England. He sent Edmund's two infant sons, Edmund and Edward to his half-uncle Olav, King of Sweden. When Olav died in 1024, they were protected by a successor until 1028, when they were taken via Russia to Hungary. Soon thereafter Edmund died, but his brother Edward "the Atheling" lived long in Hungary and married Agatha. In 1057 the couple with their three young children returned to England where Edward soon died. The widow and children remained under the protection of King Edward the Confessor, but on his death in 1006, on the eve of the Norman Conquest, they took ship for Hungary. They were driven by a storm to the coast of Scotland where King Malcolm III Canmore met and married the young princess Margaret, who herself was proclaimed a saint after her death in 1093.

From them was descended King Henry II of England, whose son, John, is the last royal ancestor of Dorothy² Parke's line.

Interesting sidelight: For the opening of Budapest's German Theater in 1812, the composer Beethoven wrote the "King Stephen" Overture and eight other incidental pieces to help chronicle the life of the Magyar warrior who became a saint.



"Good news. We've traced your family tree. That will be \$5,000, your majesty."

--Saturday Review--

THREE PRESTON PUBLICATIONS

If you are sight seeing around Preston this Summer you will find three publications issued by the Preston Historical Society very helpful. These are on sale at the Preston Town Hall.

1. A Listing of all graves in Preston
2. Pictures and story of Preston Homes - several of them Parke Houses
3. The Story of early Preston Families.

8 PARK/E/S PEOPLE

How would you like to be ninth cousin to a real, live, genuine, famous poet? If you're descended from Robert¹ and Martha (Chaplyn) Parke, then you are so related--and you may be even a closer cousin if you share later ancestors with Archibald MacLeish.

The American College Dictionary tersely describes him as, "b. 1892 American poet". There's more to it than that.

Cousin MacLeish was born in Glencoe, Ill., 11th generation of Robert¹ Parke. His listing in Who's Who in America attributes more than 20 degrees to him--some honorary, all well deserved, and ranging from arts and letters to the law.

Beside composing some of the outstanding poetry of our time, he has

Nelson Rockefeller Honored

Last Summer at a meeting of the Trustees the first "Dedicated Service Award" was made to Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller, Vice President of the United States.

The engraved certificate reads:

Recognizing the Achievements, the Dedicated Service and the vital part this distinguished Park Descendant has played in the development of mankind ...this Society bestows this certificate and hereby does salute

A formal presentation will be made by President Stuart Park.

Vice President Rockefeller's lineage from Robert¹ Parke:

- Dorothy Thompson =₃ Thomas² Parke
- Dorothy Parke = Lt. Joseph Morgan
- Dorothy⁴ Morgan = Ebenezer Witter
- Dorothy⁵ Witter = Joseph Brewster
- Elizabeth Fitch = Elijah⁶ Brewster
- Isreal Morgan = Elizabeth⁷ Brewster
- Amos Chapman = Amy⁸ Morgan
- Francis Morgan⁹ Chapman = Lucy Anne Truman
- Abigail Pearce Truman¹⁰ Chapman = Nelson Wilmarth Aldrich
- John Davison Rockefeller Jr = Abigail Greene¹¹ Aldrich
- Nelson Aldrich¹² Rockefeller

been on the faculties of Cambridge, Harvard and Amherst; librarian of Congress; assistant secretary of state; a founder and first American member of the Executive Council of UNESCO; a commander of the French Legion of Honor for overseas service in World War I (during which he rose from private to captain) and president of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

He holds two Pulitzer Prizes--one in poetry, one in drama and has written prose on such subjects as the American scene, literary criticism and Eleanor Roosevelt--the latter a book which was made into an Academy Award movie. The long list of his published works even includes a ballet.

Query from Alaska

Mrs. Jean Burt Grube of Fairbanks, Alaska, seeks information about the descendants of Nathan Spicer, (1735-1811) son of Margaret Parke and Jabez Spicer. Nathan was descended from Dorothy (Thompson) Parke. So far Mrs. Grube has discovered that through 10 of Nathan's 12 known children, he had 76 known grandchildren. She is hoping to publish her study this year or next. She may be addressed at 2534 Ruby Ave., Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701.

Since becoming interested in her family history a few years ago, Mrs. Grube has been very active in the field, has become a Certified Genalogist, teaches courses on the subject at the University of Alaska and was instrumental in the formation of the Fairbanks Genealogical Society.

Anyone heard of "C. W. Parks"?

We'd like you to know:

Among the records of David L. Parke of South Dartmouth MA are three letters written 50 years ago to this Father by a C.W. Parks. In his first letter dated 8 Aug 1925 he said, "I am collecting data relative to Parke Genealogy to be published in volume 4 of Parke Records".

As we know Frank Sylvester Parks put out 3 volumes some 25 years before this. In his books which, of course, include his family no mention is made of "C.W." as a brother, son or other relative. F.S. Parks' books were published at Washington DC. C.W. Parks' letter gave an address as 1829 Mintwood Place NW, Washington DC.

If you have any information about this gentleman or know of his having published the 4th volume please communicate with David Parke at Box 49, South Dartmouth MA 02748.

PRISCILLA CUSHMAN PARKE, Secretary (Hervey C⁹, Hervey C⁸, Esra S⁷, John⁶, Joseph⁵, Joseph⁴, Nathaniel³, Thomas², Robert¹) b New York NY, 6 Apr 1911; Episcopalian; attended Smith College, Merrill Palmer School-Detroit, Yale School of Nursing; retired - Amherst, MA; formerly Supervisor-Premature Intensive Care Unit-Presbyterian Hospital-New York; member Companions of the Holy Cross, Bronte Society; served as Army Nurse in South Pacific, World War II.

MARGARET McECHRON BOWDEN KRARUP, Trustee

(Dorothy (West) Bowden, Julia Amelia¹⁰ (Parks), Solomon A⁹, Barzilla⁸, Solomon⁷, Daniel⁶, Daniel⁵, Joseph⁴, Nathaniel³, Thomas², Robert¹) b. Grand'Mere, Quebec, 29 Jan 1927; grad Miss Hall's School, Pittsfield, MA, Connecticut College, New London CT; emp Glens Falls, New York City - asst to free lance photographer Leslie Gill--traveled Europe; m 27 Jun 1953 Ove Thure William Krarup, Paris France, five children - Priscilla, Peter, Johannes, Anne, Suzannah; active in League of Women Voters, Mayor's Citizens' Advisory Comm., Am. Diabetes Assn.; hobbies - restoring & cropping 200-yr-old farm in Adirondacks.

The Parke Scrapbooks

No. 1 and No. 2

Only authoritative books published on Robert¹ Parke in fifty years.

Still available! \$15. each
Order from & make check to:

Mrs. Raymond Ruppert
1515 Ritchie-Marlboro Rd.
Washington DC 20027

1 9 7 6 MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

- Regular: Any person whose Park/e/s ancestor was born in the British Isles or North America before the American Revolution. Annual \$3.00.
- Life: \$50.
- Associate: Any person or organization my become an Associate Member \$3.00.
- Life: \$25.
- Family: Any person qualifying for Regular Membership may have a Family Membership instead, including spouse & minor children. \$5.00.
- Life: \$75.

Send dues with this form to:
Miss Priscilla C. Parke, Sec'y
125 Amity St.,
Amherst, MA 01002

10 New Book has Thompson ancestry

Volume I of Ordway and Allied Families, compiled by Robert J. Wilson; 8½ x 11, photo-offset, 113 pp., plastic binder, cross-indexed. Volume contains extensive research material on the ancestry of Dorothy (Thompson) Parke, and covers the years from 1346 BC to the present day; \$12.00. Order from and make checks payable to: Robert J. Wilson
169 Melody Lane
Tonawanda, NY 14150

APPLICATIONS

The official applications were mailed to all members in February. You should have received THREE copies. ALL THREE are to be returned to the Registrar. If you have any questions regarding the filling out process, Brainerd Peck will do his best to assist you. Associate members should fill in the first page for our file.

Please send yours in as soon as possible.

Visiting in Eastern Connecticut

All the following places are less than 30 miles from the Stratton-Norwich Motor Inn.

MYSTIC SEAPORT - a large maritime village of the nineteenth century with buildings and activities exactly as they were. Included is the famous whaling ship CHARLES MORGAN.

FORT GRISWOLD - captured under Benedict Arnold as traitor.

STONINGTON VILLAGE - beautiful homes that have changed little since the days the British attempted to capture the town.

AQUARIUM - has performing dolphins and seals and other aquatic life.

GILLETTE CASTLE - the unusual home built by one of the great figures of the American stage, overlooking the Connecticut River.

STEAM TRAIN - a romantic turn-of-the-century train ride up the rural Connecticut valley.

BOAT RIDE - ride up the Thames River past the Navy's Submarine Base, pier and construction.

OPERA HOUSE - Victorian Goodspeed Opera House still being used.

SCHOOL HOUSE - see the old school where Nathan Hale taught.

SUBMARINE BASE - in New London see the atomic submarines.

US COAST GUARD ACADEMY - also in New London

Park/e/s Family News

Box 49
South Dartmouth MA 02748

address correction requested

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