

The Parke Society

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

Parks Women Homesteaders in Nebraska

WELLS, VT TO VENUS



Sylvanus Llewellyn Whitmore
1840 - 1923



Octavia⁹ Parks
1842 - 1911

X NO
The story begins nearly a hundred years ago in the Vermont hamlet of Wells. The Parks family had been living in that town before the Revolution after Simeon⁵ moved his family from Canterbury, CT to land owned by his father. Now we come down through the generations to Elijah⁶, Elijah⁷, and to the children of Robert⁸ (see chart on page 47). Of Robert's seven children, four were to make the big transition, leaving the settled area around Wells and venturing forth to the plains of Nebraska.

The first to leave was Octavia (1842-1911), who had married Sylvanus Llewellyn Whitmore following his discharge from the Union Army in 1862. He had been born in Ira, VT, between Wells and Rutland. To develop his farm, Sylvanus had found it necessary to borrow some money, and had been able to meet the payments satisfactorily. Then misfortune struck. His barn burned down, a total loss. Despite this, he rebuilt, but was unable to meet the next payment - so he lost the farm, situated in Middletown Springs.

Having heard that homesteads were available in the West, he packed the wagon and with his family headed for Nebraska. Today this would be quite an undertaking, even on the Interstate highways. In 1879 (1500 miles on the muddy trails) it meant more than a month on the road. Leaving as soon as weather permitted, they arrived
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Members approve emphasis on research

Those attending the 14th annual gathering of the Parke Society were in full agreement that it was the best we've had to date. Stuart Park was ably assisted by President Frances Ross of the Park-McCullough House Association in

planning and coordinating the program. Members began gathering on Friday, August 19th, and were able to visit the Bennington Museum, with its Grandma Moses paintings and many other interesting exhibits.

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NEW LIFE MEMBER

Welcome new members!

NEWS LETTER of
The Parke Society

Incorporated in Connecticut - 1964 -- published Winter, Spring and Fall for members of the Society.

Dorothea B. Cogswell, Editor
83 Carver Rd
Newton Highlands, MA 02161

News items, history and queries always welcome on any Park/e/s or their descendants.

Distributed free to members
Libraries - \$2 annually

Regular membership open to those with a Park/e/s lineage.

Associate membership open to any interested person.

Annual dues \$3, Application fee \$5, Life membership \$50.

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

Any change of address should be forwarded to the Secretary promptly to assure delivery of the NEWS LETTER.

Elisabeth Cushman¹¹Parke, #200, new life member of the Society, is a Registered Nurse on the Staff of St. Luke's Hospital, New Bedford, MA. As a 2nd Lt., she is in the Army Reserve, a member of the 399th MUST Hospital at Taunton, MA. Within the Society she has already been a great help in preparing the NEWS LETTER for the mail. Her father is David L. Sr. #13, and her brother, David L. Jr. #38.



Elisabeth C. Parke, RN

WERE YOU FORGOTTEN ?

With the growing number of applications received it is possible that someone has not received a certificate, an address list or the By-laws. Please notify the Secretary if this includes you!

- 187. Mr. Arthur H. Parke
- 188. Ms. Leta Berkan
- 189. Miss Millicent J. Allen
- 190. Mrs. Donald A. Davis
- 191. Mrs. Grace P. Gross
- 192. Mr. Edward Breed
- 193. Mrs. Edward Breed
- 194. Mr. Clarence A. Stevens
- 195. Mrs. Jane S. Parke
- 196. Mrs. Clifford J. Park
- 197. Mr. Gerral T. Foster
- 198. Mr. Gary W. Fangboner
- 199. Mr. John G. Killam Jr
- 200. Miss Elisabeth C. Parke
- 201. Mrs. Marjorie B. DeYoung
- 202. Mr. James R. Marsh
- 203. Mrs. Elizabeth W. Marsh
- 204jr Albert J. Marsh
- 205jr John T. Marsh
- 206. Miss Marilyn M. Park
- 207. Mrs. Bonnie L. Jacobsen
- 208. Mrs. Mary L. Hitt
- 209. Ms Jean Kershaw
- 210. Mrs. Margaret Pridmore
- 211. Mr. Gerald R. Neff
- 212. Mr. George Stephenson
- 213. Mrs. Harley Dudley
- 214. Mr. Charles R. Burton
- 215. Mr. Douglas P. Adams
- 216. Mr. Jay B. Wright
- 217jr Christopher A. Quidort
- 218jr Sara M. Quidort
- 219. Mr. Floyd C. Parke
- 220. Mr. John A. Wheeler
- 221jr Jennifer C. Adams
- 222. Miss Phyllis L. Griswold
- 223. Mrs. Mary H. Brengel
- 224. Mr. Edwin J. Hill
- 225. Mrs. Gertrude E. Lanman
- 226. Mrs. Donald M. Rice
- 227jr Thomas R. Parke
- 228. Mr. Keith E. Stauff
- 229. Mr. Willard A. Harshman
- 230. Mrs. Arthur F. Lyster
- 231. Mrs. Hugh Reid
- 232. Mrs. Cora H. Bartholow
- 233. Mr. Gabriel P. Rumble Jr
- 234. Mrs. Frank Bicha Jr
- 235. Mr. John R. Park
- 236. Mr. Roy H. Park

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

- 104. Dr. Sonny E. Parke
- 155. Mr. Theron T. Anson
- 200. Miss Elisabeth C. Parke

OFFICERS 1977 - 1978

- President Mr. Stuart N. Park
- Vice President Dr. James G. Parke
- Treasurer Mr. Wilfred A. Park
- Secretary Miss Priscilla C. Parke
- Historian Mr. David L. Parke Sr
- Chaplain The Rev. John H. Parke
- Ex Officio Miss Dorothea B. Cogswell

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- 1978 Mrs. Elizabeth H. Ruppert
- Mr. Brainerd T. Peck
- Mrs. Betty Thurber
- Mr. William G. Cook
- 1979 Mrs. Lisa Matthews
- Dr. Sonny E. Parke
- Miss Kathryn E. Parke
- 1980 Mrs. Nancy L. Poole
- Mr. Clifford J. Park

Necrology

The Society was saddened by the death of one of its charter members, Marian Leona (Ewers) Park #9, wife of our Treasurer, Wilfred A. Park of Preston CT. She was born in Angola, IN, 18 Mar 1901 and died at Uncas-on-Thames, CT in August.

She was a member and past president of the Fair Harbour Club, a member of the Preston City Congregational Church, the Preston Historical Society, and past Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star of Angola. Marian was hostess to the several Society meetings in southeastern CT and graciously opened her home for Trustees' meetings.

Surviving, besides her husband are two sons and two grandsons. Those who knew her may wish to join the trustees in providing a memorial to Marian at her church. (donations to: Stuart Park, Box 3, Wells, VT 05774)

Colin Inglis Park, a professor in the Graduate School of Business Administration of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, died in New York City on September 24th. He was 59. His application for membership had recently been received,

Dr. Park, a certified public accountant, had previously been a partner in the accounting firm of Haskins & Sells in New York from 1956 to 1973. During World War II he served as a captain in the Army Air Force. His undergraduate work was at Pace College. He received his master's degree from the University of Buffalo, and his doctorate from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

He was the son of Stanley Walliker & Jean Hamilton (Inglis) Park, born in Finchley, England, in 1918, came to the US in 1919, and was naturalized in 1927. His survivors include his wife, Mildred Lane (Fraser), a son, Andrew Fraser, a daughter, Sally Joy, his mother, a brother and sister.

Editor of NEWSLETTER Resigns

Over the last two years the Society has been fortunate to have William G. Cook #66 as editor of its NEWS LETTER (formerly the Park/e/s Family News). Those of you who have been members and received the thrice yearly publication will agree that it has been full of all sorts of Parke lore. Especially popular are the tales of our



William G. Cook

early royal forebears that Bill has researched during his trips to the British Isles and the Continent.

So it is with much regret that the trustees accept his resignation. Miss Dorothea B. Cogswell, a long time trustee, has consented to take over the duties.

For two years (1973-1975) Bill served as President of the Society. On two occasions he has given illustrated talks, described as "Ancestral Safaris". It is hoped that he will find time to share more of his wealth of stories. He and his wife, Jean, expect to move to Florida in the next year where they have a condominium awaiting them. The only things holding them up now are their duties as trustees and directors of a multitude of civic organizations! There is no doubt that they will be missed in the Buffalo area as they will be by the Parke Society.

Query —

The parents of ROBERT W. PARKE born 7 July 1869 Cavan Ireland were James and Eliza (Brown) Parke. They are believed to have come to America. Son, Robert, eventually settled in Concord MA. Member #100 needs information on the parents.

-DUES-

Dues envelopes are mailed each year to members with the Fall Issue of the NEWS LETTER (except to life members). Payment of dues for the following year should be received by the Secretary before December 31st.

Membership cards will be included with the Winter Issue (or a reminder if you have not yet paid!)

New members joining at any time during the year up to Nov. 1st will receive all three issues of the NEWS LETTER for that year. They therefore pay the full \$3 dues. After Nov. 1st the dues are applied to the following year. The new member may, of course, order the three issues of the current year for \$3 additional.

Origin of Stonington

What is now Stonington, CT in the southeastern corner of the state was, in 1658, called Southington in Suffolk County in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay. By court order in that year the following were appointed to manage the area: Robert Parke, George Denison, William Chesebrough, Thomas Stanton, and Walter Palmer *of John Miner*

Robert had been one of the first settlers in New London and was a representative to the court as early as 1652. Having moved to the East near the Mystic River he had been elected selectman of "Southertown" in 1658.

In 1662 King Charles II gave a new charter to Connecticut that included Southington. Part of the land was designated as Mystic in 1665, the year of Robert's death. Two years later the remaining area was named Stonington.

A Hill town that moved to the valley lock, stock, and (rum) barrel.

(located between Brattleboro and Bellows Falls)

All that is left of a flourishing 18th century village on the summit of Newfane Hill is the old Common, on which swamp maples and birches are crowding, one red house built in 1786 and the "Lord's Acre", the old burying ground.

Once there were 20 frame houses, two hotels, a county court house, a gaol, and an academy - for this was, since 1787, the shire town of Windham County. There was also a whipping post to discourage crime. The last time it was used was in August, 1807, when an elderly woman from Wardsborough was punished for petty theft.

The town's origin dates back to three young men from Worcester, MA, Jonathan⁶ Park (Jonathan⁵⁻⁴⁻³, Thomas², Richard¹), Nathaniel Stedman, and Ebenezer

Dyer. Ignoring the bewildering legal situation, in which the area was claimed by both New Hampshire and New York, they came upon sightly Newfane Hill in May, 1766. That summer they cleared a few acres, and reluctantly returned to Massachusetts for the winter.

Young Park, then 22, returned the following spring with his bride, 18 year old Elizabeth "ffletcher", some livestock and some tools. The first child born in the new settlement was Elizabeth Park, during the howling snows of February 1768. ~~The place of her birth is marked by a stone monument north of the Common on the Hill.~~ She died young, as did her sister, Lucy, born the next year. But seven other children were to come in the next ten years before their mother died at the age of 37. *See ltr from Hazel Potter*

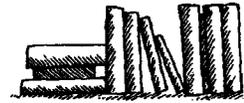
After clearing some 80 acres on the hill, Jonathan made an exchange of land with Judge Knowlton, who had settled at the site of the present village. He then proceeded to build the first frame house in Newfane, still standing on West St.

It is recorded that Jonathan

Park, Ward Eager, and perhaps others of the early settlement answered the alarm to the Battle of Bennington on 14 August 1777.

What of the village on Newfane Hill whose land Jonathan worked so hard to clear? For a while it prospered as stages brought legal gentlemen and their clients to the court house, and to the inns that served excellent food and drink. But alas, the 19th century dawned with a different need. The industrial revolution brought an absolute necessity not foreseen by Jonathan - for water power for the wheels of industry.

So in the momentuous year 1824-25 the exodus began to the present site of the Newfane Common, which had for some years been dubbed "Park's Flats". Some ten miles to the East, on the East bank of the Connecticut River is a town of Parkhill! It would be interesting to learn what other enterprising Park settled there!



BOOK REVIEW

continued from page 39

is devoted to the progeny of these intermarriages.

Although both John and Richard Benjamin came to America on the Ship Lion arriving in Boston in 1632, there is no proof yet found that they were closely related. Each was listed as a head of household even though Richard was then a minor. Some researchers have supposed them to be father and son while others thought them brothers.

The present authors reach the conclusion that neither are likely since no mention was made of the other in their wills. The names commonly used, John & Joseph, were far too commonly used to consider them evidence of relationship.

This genealogy, a helpful resource, is now in the Parke Society Library.

David L. Parke



First frame house in Newfane, VT

Interesting Ancestors

OSWELL PARK 1807 1869

West Point grad., educator, clergyman.
(Avery⁷, Roswell⁶, Roswell⁵, Robert⁴⁻³, Thomas², Robert¹)

This 8th generation Park was truly a man of many talents. He was born in Lebanon, CT where our Society has met to honor patriot William Williams. So it is significant that Roswell's early childhood was spent in a town noted for producing many learned men. At the age of 12 his family moved to Burlington in Otsego Co. NY (only 10 miles to the West of the proposed 1978 Society meeting in Cooperstown). For two years he was a student at Hamilton College. Then in 1827 he received an appointment to West Point and was graduated at the top of the class of 1831. That summer he took the senior examinations and received an AB from Union College. His military life was spent in the Corps of Engineers, serving at Ft. Adams-Newport RI, Ft. Warren-Boston MA, and in 1836 he was put in command at the Delaware Breakwater.

Now his career took a turn, for he wanted to seek a greater opportunity for his varied talents. Resigning his commission, he was appointed professor of chemistry and natural philosophy at the Univ. of PA. Six years later came another change - to enter the ministry!

He moved to Burlington, VT to study under Bishop G. W. Doane. His first pastorate was at Christ Church, Pomfret CT. During this time he was also headmaster of a preparatory school which evidently brought him considerable fame. For it was in 1850 that he was invited to become president of Norwich University in VT. This he declined, but two years later, after six months in Europe, he became the first president of Racine College, Wisconsin.

His emphasis at Racine was

to provide a program that included scientific studies for those who didn't want the usual classical course. No doubt he was one of the principal lecturers. Teaching and administering the college would seem to have been a full time job. But no, for in 1856 he became rector of St. Luke's Church in Racine. He also found time to write.

Among his published works were Selections of Juvenile and Misc. Poems, A Sketch of the History and Topography of West Point, Pantology - or a Systematic Survey of Human Know-

ledge, and Handbook for American Travelers in Europe. Finally, we find even in today's hymnals the words of a hymn attributed to him. Certainly a wide variety among his writings indicated his broad interests.

While in the Army, Roswell had married Mary Brewster Baldwin of Woburn MA. They had five children, among whom was the famous Dr. Roswell Park, founder of the giant Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo. (see Park/e/s Family News Vol XII No 2 for his story.)

AUTUMN 8s. 7s. D.

LOUIS VON ESCH

1. Je - sus spread his ban - ner o'er us, Cheers our fam - ished souls with food;

He the ban - quet spreads be - fore us, Of his mys - tic flesh and blood.

Pre - cious ban - quet, bread of heav - en, Wine of glad - ness, flow - ing free;

May we taste it, kind - ly giv - en, In re - membrance, Lord, of thee. A - MEN.

2 In thy holy incarnation,
When the angels sang thy birth;
In thy fasting and temptation,
In thy labors on the earth,

In thy trial and rejection,
In thy sufferings on the tree,
In thy glorious resurrection,
May we, Lord, remember thee.

ROSSELL PARK

Interesting Contemporaries

Deciphering the scrawl of the history's famous and infamous, pricing each document and selling it to the growing number of autograph hounds has been Mary Benjamin's profession for over half a century. Now in her seventies, Miss Benjamin is America's foremost autograph dealer and scholar.

In 1925 she graduated from Barnard College with majors in

that autographs, as distinct from mere signatures, are by definition documents in the author's handwriting, preferably signed by him, or documents to which the author has affixed his signature.) Their value, then, depends upon the writer's eminence, the rarity, and the content's historical significance. "A handwritten letter," quotes this expert, "is worth four times what a document is worth and a secretarial-written letter is worth half what a handwritten is."

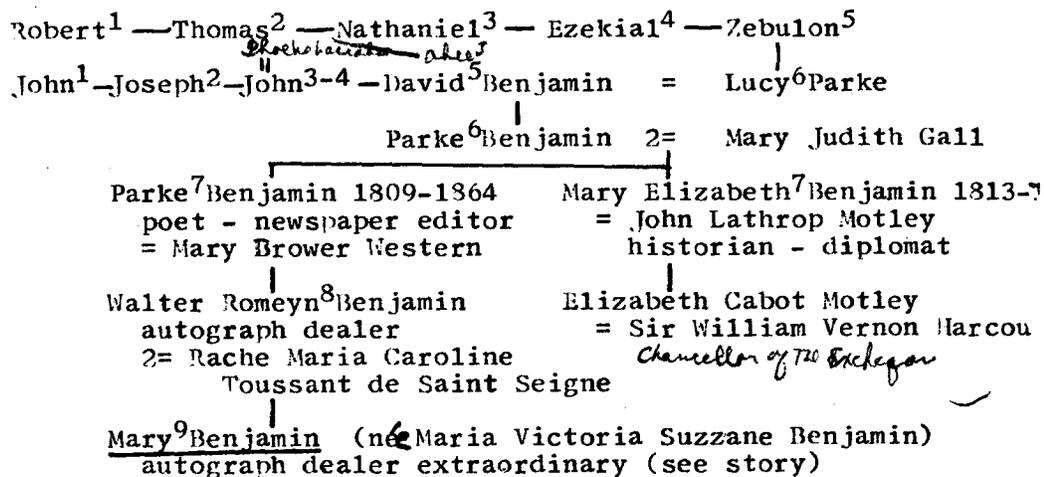
Undaunted by archaic language, obsolete calligraphy and almost any foreign language (she's fluent in English, French and Italian and has a working knowledge of Spanish, German and Latin), Miss Benjamin can identify the author of almost any manuscript. If it has been penned by one of 10,000 notables, she can instantly reel off his name, significant events in his life, and tidbits of personal gossip, known only to those privy



Mary Benjamin

French and Greek. In that year she joined her father's firm, Walter Benjamin Autographs Inc., the oldest such American business, founded in 1887. Through the years this singular woman, the only woman in the trade and the only specially trained dealer in the entire autograph business, has developed the knowledge that makes her word law when it comes to authenticity of documents.

Not only must she be able to peg a personality in historical context, but also determine the historical importance of a document to assign a value. (It should be pointed out



Book Review

BENJAMIN FAMILY IN AMERICA compiled by Gloria W. Bicha & Helen B. Brown being a comprehensive genealogy of the John & Richard lines. 1977 Cloth, 1118 p. indexed, references. \$20 from: Mr. Homer S. Brown, 909 Fair Oaks St., Oak Park, IL 60302.

There have been at least four genealogies on the John line and one on the Richard line. As Mrs. Bicha points out each dealt with only one particular branch and was carried down to a particular individual.

This new compilation presents each line through the 8th generation with sources well noted. Many descendants of Robert and Richard Parke will find this book of special interest. The Benjamin Connections are outlined on page 39 of this issue all through John¹. Perhaps a fourth of the genealogy

continued on page 36

to his private letters! These pieces of personal correspondence are a big part of her stock.

The "stock" is housed in more than 40 file drawers. Her office, for many years a fixture in Manhattan, is now located in the small Catskill Mountain village of Hunter. From behind her desk in the Oriental carpeted, leather chaired office she recalls with annoyance the day she was subpoenaed to appear at a trial in Detroit. It seems that the National Archives had been robbed. The culprit was on trial, and she had been flown out there to attest to the fact that what he had made off with was indeed \$5,000 worth of manuscripts.

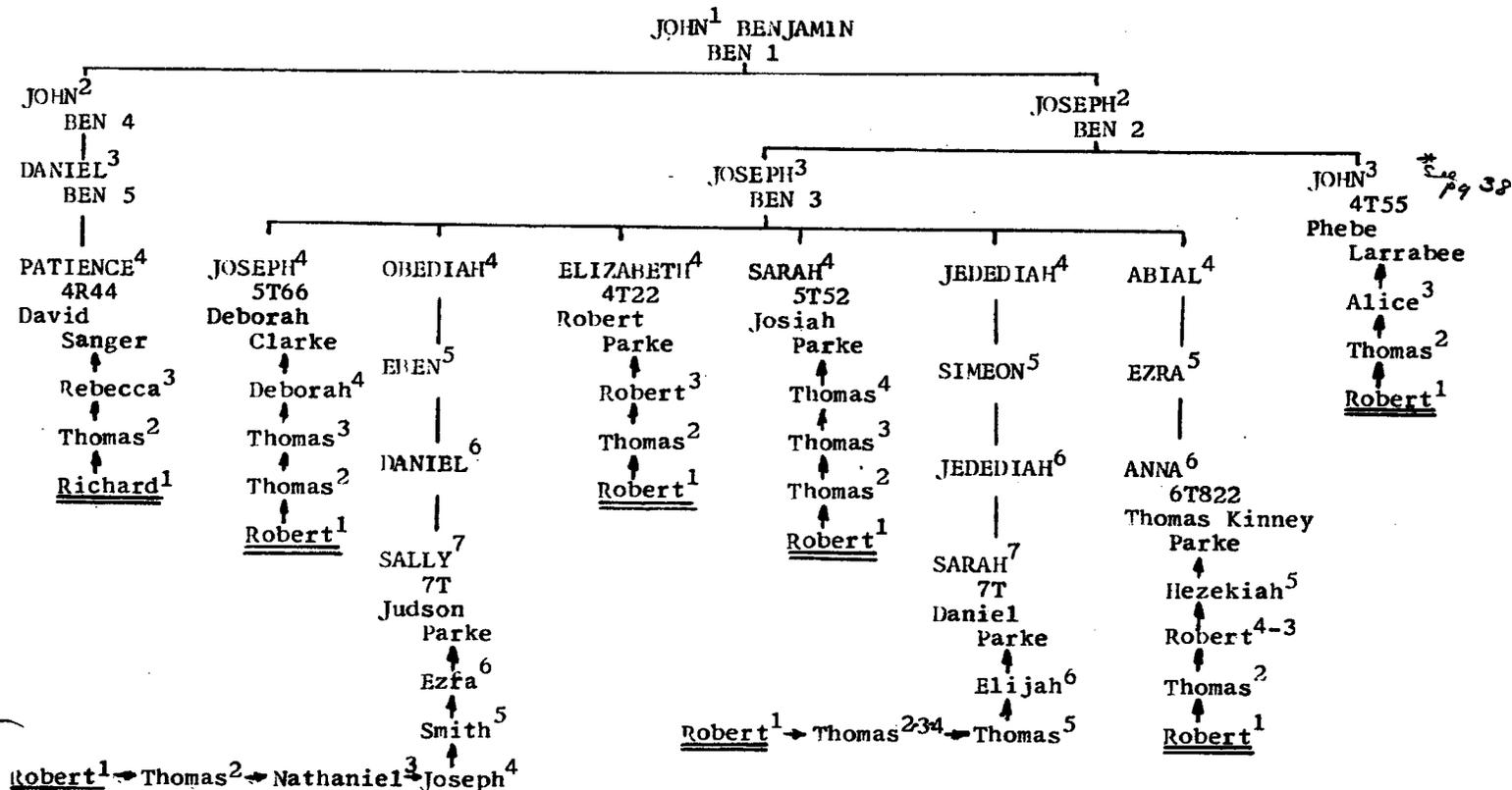
"Why the first letter I looked at was one Lincoln had written the day before his death. That alone was worth \$10,000!" Accuracy is this perfectionist's trademark. Without a moment's misgiving, she can attest to a document's authenticity and

often, if it's a hoax, can name the forger responsible for the fraud.

Today her multi-thousand-item cache contains a number of autographs by Signers of the Declaration of Independence, as well as Abraham Lincoln, a musical notebook of George Gershwin with 11 or 12 complete melodies and threads of others --- "all very popular today" says Miss Benjamin. The source will never dry up. Librarians from coast to coast constantly contact her about collections for sale and it isn't unusual to find her at Southby Parke Bernet auction sales in New York.

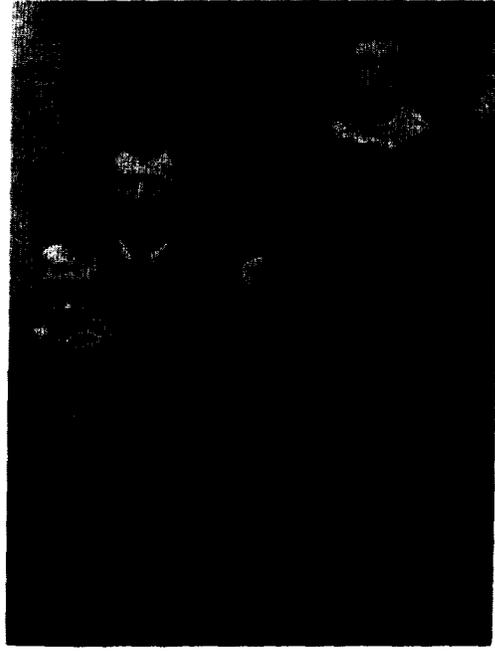
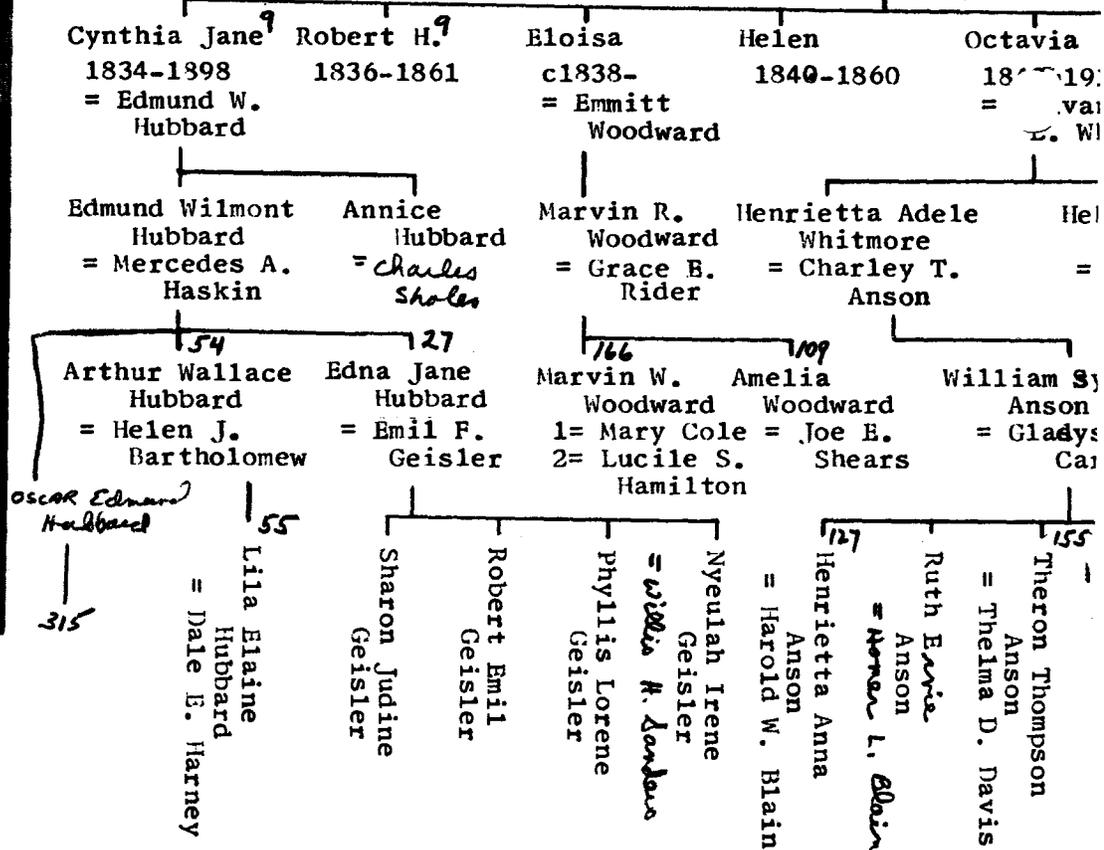
In Mary Benjamin's melange of talents is her business acumen. While she's regal, affable and cultured, she is also "tough as nails. She won't take any guff from anyone," describes her nephew and business partner, Christopher Jeachel. "Her standards of ethics is high. and everyone knows it."

The Benjamin Connections



Robert¹, Thomas²⁻³, Eleazer⁴, Simeon⁵, Elijah⁶⁻⁷, ¹⁷⁸⁸

Robert Parks = Lucy Brookin



Charley T. Anson and
Henrietta A. Whitmore
with
William Sylvanus Anson
(taken about 1890)



Walter M. Anson Theron T. Anson #155 Henrietta A. Anson #127 Ruth E. Anson
William Sylvanus Anson Sarah E. Anson #184 Gladys A. (Carson) Anson

continued from first page
in April at a place they named Venus in honor of the Goddess of Beauty. The southwest corner of Knox County was beautiful, level prairie land, stretching to the Missouri River, 25 miles to the north.

The next settler to arrive was Octavia's youngest sister, Sarah Ann Parks (1848-1940), who had married Alonzo A. Strope. This was in August. Her home was built to withstand the intense winter cold and strong winds. The roof was covered with sod and thus gained the name "soddy". "One unusual thing about Aunt Sarah's," reports her Gt-grand daughter, Henrietta Blain (#127), "was that mossroses grew in the sod on the roof! Another thing I remember about her was that she had a remarkable memory. She could tell you almost anyone's birthdate."

Aunt Sarah taught school in her soddy beginning in the spring of 1881. It is interesting to note how many of the Robert Parke

15

	Florence	Sarah Ann
11	1845-1898	1848-1940
us	1= F. Cook	= Alonzo A.
Whitmore	2= L. Riley	Strope

Ben A. Whitmore	Sylvanus Bertrand Whitmore
Henry W. Wellman	= Nanna Carson

Sylvanus	Quentin Robert Whitmore
Wm Ayrton	= Marjorie Parry Hook

184	Sarah Esther Anson	Robert Llewellyn Whitmore
	= Howard E. Clay	
	Walter Melvin Anson	Beverly Jane Whitmore
		= Gilpin
		Gregory Stephen Whitmore

children when her daughter Henrietta died prematurely, until the father, Charlie Anson, married again. Several of the grandchildren stayed with her during the winters to be near their school.

Two other daughters of Robert⁸ were to make the trek to Nebraska. The eldest, Cynthia Jane (1834-1898) who married Edmund Wilmont Hubbard of Middletown, VT, and Florence (1845-1898) with her husband, Franklin Cook of Granville NY. A third, Eloisa - or Louisa (1838-) stayed in Vermont. Her son Marvin settled in Kansas City.

The lineages of many of the descendants of Robert⁸ have been recorded and sent to the Society's Historian. There are presently nine members representing this line.



Sylvanus Bertrand Whitmore (Bert)
(taken about 1965)

In the picture below he is being held by his mother in the doorway.

descendants were teachers. That Robert was educated is evident in that he served as secretary to John Winthrop on the voyage to America in 1630. This knowledge was evidently passed down through the generations, and was of vital importance as the families moved West.

Mrs. Blain also passes along the story of Octavia's husband, who was caught some distance from his home when the blizzard of January 12, 1888 struck. "He tried to head in the direction toward home. He knew that if he stopped walking he would freeze to death. Finally, he bumped into a building, not knowing where he was. He followed the wall until he found a door. What a happy surprise to open the door and discover that it was his own home!"

Octavia is reported, by those who knew her, to have been a wonderful person - very patient, kind and understanding. She cared for several of her grand-



This picture was taken in Nebraska around 1886 on the farm of Sylvanus & Octavia (Parks) Whitmore. He is seated on the mower at the far right. She is standing in the doorway holding their son Sylvanus (Bert). Daughters Henrietta & Helen are in the foreground right. Cynthia Jane (Parks) Hubbard, sister of Octavia, is seated in the middle with daughter, Annice and son, Edward is at far left on the horse.

Our 26th Gt-grandfather, KING JOHN and the MAGNA CARTA

To mark the Bicentennial year, the British Library has been exhibiting in our national Capital one of the four surviving copies of the historic MAGNA CARTA 1215. Hopefully some of you will have seen this great charter of King John, the outcome of the negotiations with the barons at Runnymede in the Spring of 1215.

The Magna Carta is considered the historic foundation of the most cherished liberties of all English-speaking peoples throughout the world - freedom from arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, the right to a fair trial, security of property and, generally, the principle that government is itself subject to the laws that it enforces on the governed.

Feudal custom in the 13th century gave the king many rights over the barons' families and properties, including control of the marriages of their widows and minor heirs and the right to exact special taxes. It was King John's abuses of these rights that caused

the barons to become rebellious. So, much of the Magna Carta is devoted to defining and limiting the King's powers.

As our ancestors came to this country in the 17th century, they were acutely aware of their rights and liberties as Englishmen, as guaranteed first and foremost by the Magna Carta. Where other European colonies were treated as private possessions of their monarchs, the English colonies in America, by contrast, were jealous of their liberties and were ready to resist any attempt by King or Parliament to whittle them down. The tax on tea and the Stamp Act were a direct violation and aroused the colonists to take up arms and ultimately win their war of Independence.

Descendants of Thomas² Parke, son of Robert, are direct descendants of King John through 29 generations! Here is the lineage:

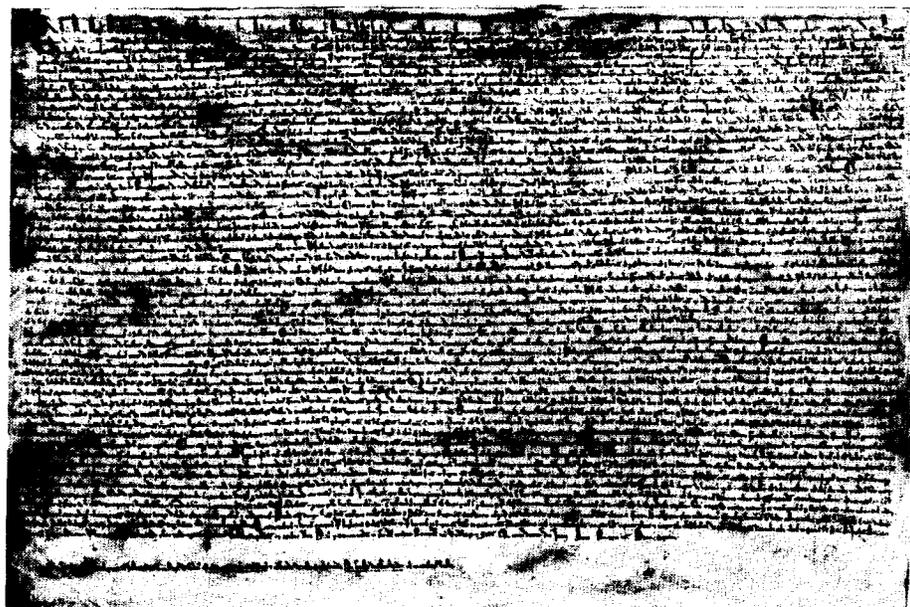
- 1 King John 1167 - 1216
- 2 Joan, Princess of Wales



STUART'S 16th Gt-grandfather Sir John Throckmorton and his wife Alianore de la Spine.

A reproduction of a brass rubbing from their tomb at the Church of St John the Baptist, Fladbury, Worcestershire, England.

approximately 1/8th actual s (courtesy of William G. Cook #66)



MAGNA CARTA 1215

- 3 Margaret c1208 -
- 4 Maud de Clifford c1236 - 1285
- 5 Eleanor Gifford c1267 - 1324
- 6 Elizabeth le Strange
- 7 Joan Corbet c1308 -
- 8 Joan de Harley c1327 - a1341
- 9 Alexander de Besford - 1403
- 10 Agnes de Besford c1364 - a1428
- 11 *Sir John Throckmorton - 1445
- 12 Agnes Throckmorton - 1463
- 13 Agnes Wynslow c1440 - 1506
- 14 Thomas Gifford c1465 - 1511
- 15 Amy Gifford c1488 -
- 16 Susanna Samwell c1515 -
- 17 Edward Edwards 1537 - 1591
- 18 Margaret Edwards 1570 -
- 19 Alice Freeman c1595 - 1664
- 20 Dorothy Thompson 1624 - a1709
- 21 Thomas³ Parke 1648 - b1699
- 22 Eleazer⁴ Parke c1682 - 1768
- 23 Simeon⁵ Parke 1730 - 1812
- 24 Elijah⁶ Parke 1756 - 1821
- 25 Joseph⁷ Parke 1784 - 1868
- 26 Darius⁸ Parke 1820 - 191'
- 27 Alva M⁹ Parke 1851 - 191b
- 28 Leon¹⁰ Park 1883 - 1938
- 29 Stuart¹¹ Park 1909 -



CONNECTICUT - 1758

It is sometimes confusing to locate a town mentioned in family records or a genealogy. Many old-time town names no longer exist. As an example Chatham CT is mentioned as the birthplace of several descendants of Robert¹. Yet on a map of today it doesn't appear. Nor does it appear on the map above of 1758. It was the part of Middletown on the East side of the Connecticut River, named in 1767 after Chatham, England where the Royal Dockyards were located.

It is supposed that those who chose that name hoped that the new town with its budding shipbuilding industry would one day rival the English city, but it was not to be. Today the northern part of the town is East Hampton and to the south, Middle Haddam. The shipbuilders are gone!

On this map are names that have disappeared: Ripton, New Fairfield, New Cambridge, Dover. And part of Massachusetts is now Connecticut, just south of Springfield. So this is the Connecticut of the fifth generation Parkes.

Northeast, NY located

Where Northeast NY is no longer mentioned on maps it is most helpful to find out where it is. A note from Mrs. Arthur Lyster #230 addressed to the Historian states, "I was interested to note you have an ancestor in Millerton NY (formerly Northeast, Dutchess Co) Their historian may be reached c/o The News, Millerton NY and can probably help you. Spencer's Corner Cemetary is the old one and about 2 1/2 miles above the town." (see map upper left corner)

Meet Two Parke Genealogists

Two people responsible for the major research of the Robert¹ and Richard¹ lines are Frank Sylvester Parks and Charles Wellman Parks. Yet how many of us who are descendants of these lines know who these men were? Some of you may have seen the picture of Frank in his Parke Families of CT published in 1906. It is doubtful whether you turned to the page that gave his 'thumb nail' sketch. It's usually our own lineage that we looked for and stopped there!

Both Frank and Charles spent many years in Washington, DC, both were connected with the Navy, and both had a consuming interest

in Park genealogy. There are signs that they occasionally became discouraged, as many of us have who have searched in vain for the elusive ancestor. To quote Frank, "this publication . . . could have been made much more complete if those to whom personal letters were sent had kindly paid more attention and replied more fully." (In the last year your Historian has a record of 37 letters not answered at all!) Here, then, is a sketch of two dedicated men.

Frank Sylvester⁹Parks (1861-)
Alonzo H⁸, Sylvester⁷, Reuben⁶,
Robert⁵, James⁴, Robert³, Thomas²
Robert¹.

Frank grew up in Palmer, MA and Washington, DC, completing his schooling at the Spencerian Business College. His first endeavor was at

the Washington Sun, where he learned the printing trade. Later he joined an insurance company, and studied law on the side. In 1894 went to Boston as an accountant and actuary. While there, one day he visited the Boston Public Library and noticed a history of his home town, Palmer. Thumbing through it, he discovered his own name together with that of his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. That it aroused his curiosity is an understatement, for this was the beginning of four volumes on all the Parke lineages he could find! To quote Frank, "At the time, it was not realized what a stupendous undertaking it would be." From 1899 he was employed by the Navy Department both in Washington and in Boston. It was probably through this connection that he met Charles.

Charles Wellman Parks (1863-1930)
Granville⁹, Leonard W⁸, Leonard⁷,
Leonard⁶, David⁵, Joseph⁴,
Richard³⁻²⁻¹.

Charles was born in Woburn MA. His higher education was unusual in that he graduated from Renasselaer Polytechnic Institute as a Civil Engineer, and later from Columbia University College of Law with an LLB. For several years he taught physics at his first alma mater, at the same time serving as an electrical engineer for the Electric Mfg. Co. in Troy, NY.

In 1897 at the age of 34 he was commissioned in the US Navy, and by 1918 had risen to the rank of rear admiral. Among his responsibilities were the construction of the drydocks at Boston, Portsmouth, and Pearl Harbor. Also he was in charge of building the largest dirigible hanger in the world at Lakehurst, NJ. As a flag officer he was appointed chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

So these are the men who, for over 30 years in their spare time, wrote an untold number of letters and poured through hundreds of volumes to put together the Parke Families Genealogy, still a basic resource.



1829 MINTWOOD PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 8, 1925.

Rev. Hervey C. Parke,
50 Main Street,
Amherst, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I am collecting data relative to Parke genealogy to be published in volume 4 of Parke records and will appreciate all assistance that you will be kind enough to give me.

The record of Hervey Coke⁸Parke, No. 1363 on page 201 of "Parke Families of Connecticut" is very incomplete. It does not give place and date of his death, dates and places of marriage to Frances A. Hunt and Mary M. Meade, dates and places of death of wives, and Parents of Mary M. Meade.

On the next page the record of his children is even more unsatisfactory as it consists of names only with the numbers assigned by the genealogist Frank Sylvester Parks, as follows:

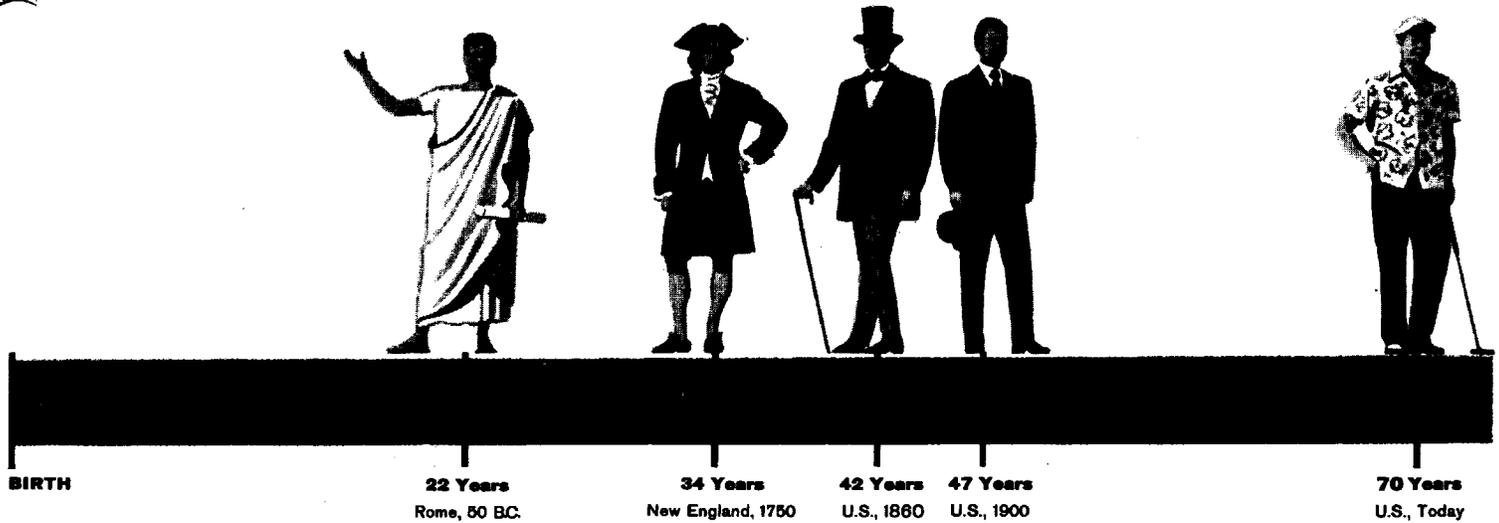
2515 Sarah, 2516 Mary, 2517 Annie, 2518 Frank,
2519 James Hunt, all by first wife.
2520 Willard, 2521 Lyman, 2522 Bessie, 2524 Ira,
2525 Marie, 2526 Louise, all by second wife.

Will you kindly furnish dates of birth, marriage and death of these and their families or let me know where the family bibles are to be found?

I do not understand the record of the marriage of Marie L. Parke Jan. 31, 1917 which indicates that you are a son of Hervey Coke⁸Parke but your name does not appear in the list of printed names of children.

Yours very truly,

**Increases In the Average Length of Life
Since Ancient Times**



We'd like you to know-

Gloria Wall Bicha #234 is a name that will be found elsewhere in this issue under Book Reports. Published this year is her BENJAMIN FAMILY IN AMERICA, a tremendous accomplishment which she compiled in association with the late Helen Benjamin Brown. Perusing the over one thousand pages, one would suppose that she had time for little else!

She says, "I began genealogy in the days of 'boredom' when the children (two daughters) were small and constantly ill . . . as a hobby that could largely be accomplished at home. When I asked my grand-

father Benjamin what nationality the Benjamin side was all he ever said was 'Yankee'. After much research, I have found that he told the truth."

But Gloria does find time for other things. The Racine Journal-Times reported on September 7th that she had been elected to the school board. This is a group responsible for administering a budget of \$5 million, no mean task for one who lists herself as a housewife. For five years she taught school on the elementary level in Racine County, and the paper noted that she was "a frequent critic of school policies".

For 25 years Gloria has been married to Frank Bicha Jr whose ancestry is stated as half Dutch and

The Hardy Parkes!

If we compare our ancestors to the above chart giving the life span it appears that we come from one of the more hardy lines!

Robert of CT - 85, Richard of MA - 63, Samuel of PA - 65, James of VA - 45, Ebenezer of KY - 92, William of VA - 83.

half Bohemian. In her 'odd moments' she has qualified as a certified director of Duplicate Bridge Unit #222!

Her lineage: Robert¹, Thomas², Thomas³, Deborah⁴, Deborah Cook, Josiah⁵ Benjamin, Thomas⁶⁻⁷, William⁸, Thomas H⁹, Uriah C¹⁰, Thelma Mae¹¹.



Gloria Wall Bicha

Robert Parke Tablet

Tucked away in the small Whitehall Cemetery a few feet from Route I-95 in Mystic CT is the memorial Tablet erected in 1930 to Robert¹ Parke. An 8 x 10 retouched picture of this was available to members at the recent reunion. Other descendants of Robert might like to have one of these pictures, suitable for framing. Send your order with 25¢ to the Secretary, 125 Amity St. Amherst MA 01002.



Historian's Corner

The By-law changes made at the annual meeting have great significance. We have indicated that the emphasis is to be placed on "historical and genealogical research and the dissemination thereof" This does not mean that the Society's Historian should do all the work. This would not be a healthy situation even if he were equal to the task. Rather, we must all accept part of the responsibility to be on the watch for any material that could be of significant value in preserving our American Heritage.

The founder of our Society evidently intended to limit membership to descendants of Robert who settled in southeastern Connecticut. Some may feel that we should have followed this approach. The more I delve into the research of Parke lines the more I believe that the Trustees were right in opening membership to all Park/e/s lines.

Some societies like the Pilgrim John Howland Society won't even permit a descendant of John's brother Henry to join. They have a strong organization and have done excellent research, and are preserving the Jabez Howland House in Plymouth.

Yet I believe that the Parke Society has the opportunity to provide something far more useful not only to the present generation but, more important, to generations to come. Many with the name Park, Parke or Parks have come to this country from Europe. (It seems logical that we limit our search to those - leaving out the arrivals from Korea!) The progenitors that we have traced to date can be divided into two main categories.

It appears that most of those arriving in America during the 17th century from England had English ancestry for several hundred years back to William the

Conqueror (1066). Those arriving in the 18th century are said to have emigrated from northern Ireland and Scotland, and logically were described as Scotch-Irish. On closer study we find that these were of Huguenot ancestry, having fled France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. This edict had protected the Protestants who, for the most part, made up the educated gentry of that country. They settled in the northern part of the British Isles, some for a generation or two, before coming to America.

I hope that we can institute some serious research into the records of both groups prior to their move across the water. This effort will be costly, and for this reason we will need to raise funds. A tax-exempt status will be vital if we are to achieve meaningful results. At the same time we must collect all possible information in this country. Opening membership to descendants of ALL lines will give us the widest coverage. It will give us an opportunity to find all the pieces to the puzzle - not just a small corner of it.

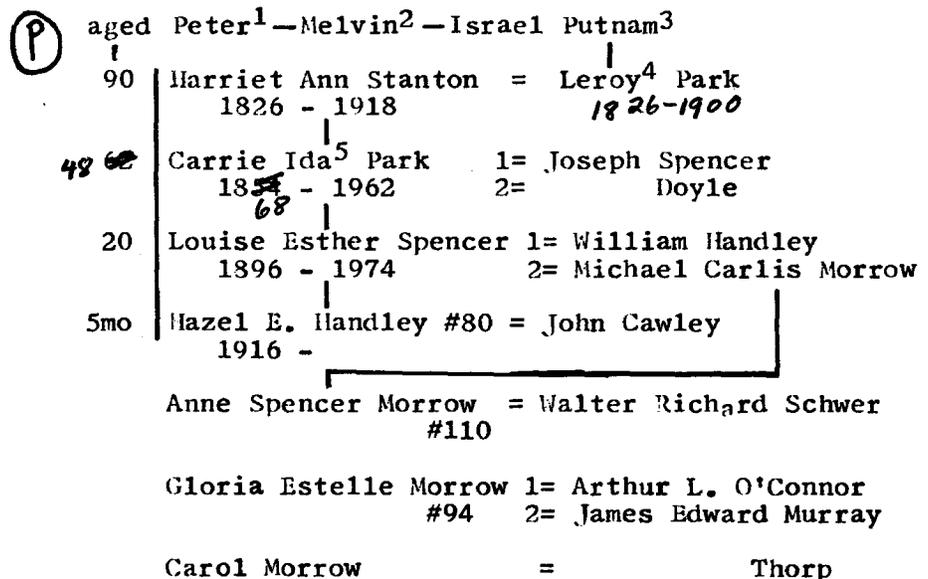
Those who would like to take part in this venture should let me know as soon as possible. I can give them a lot to do right now!

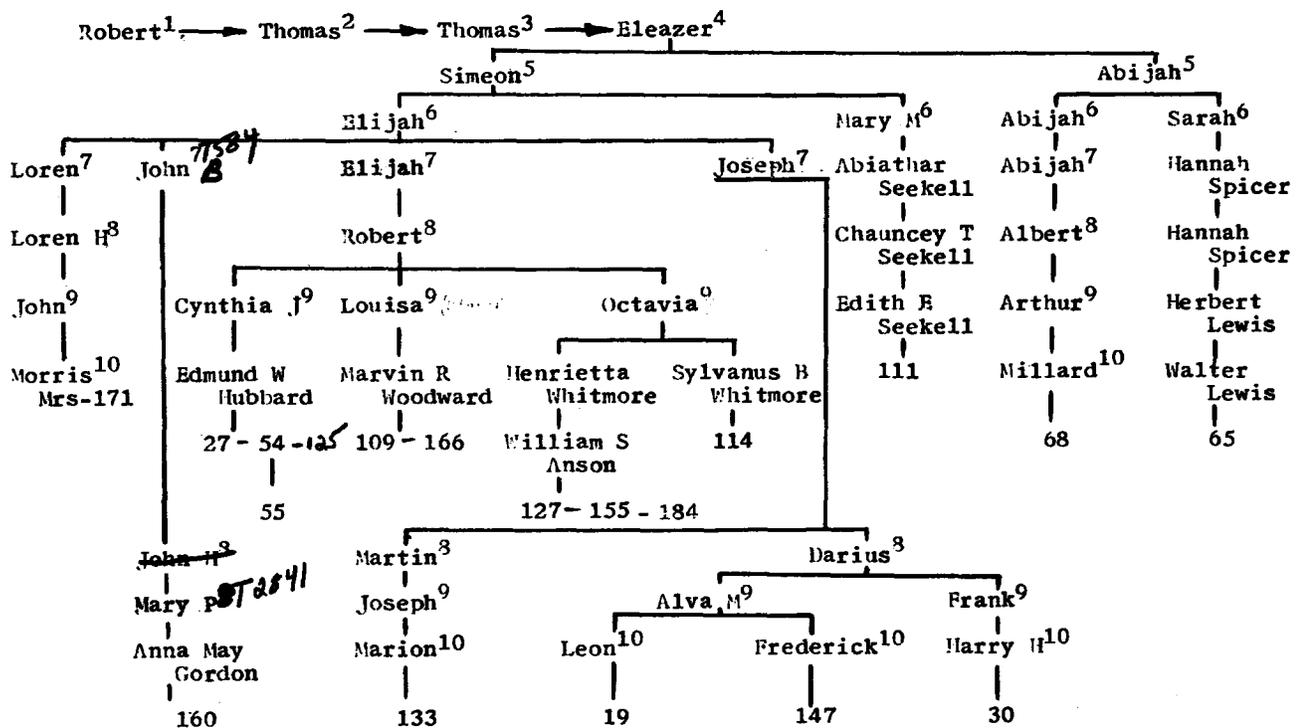
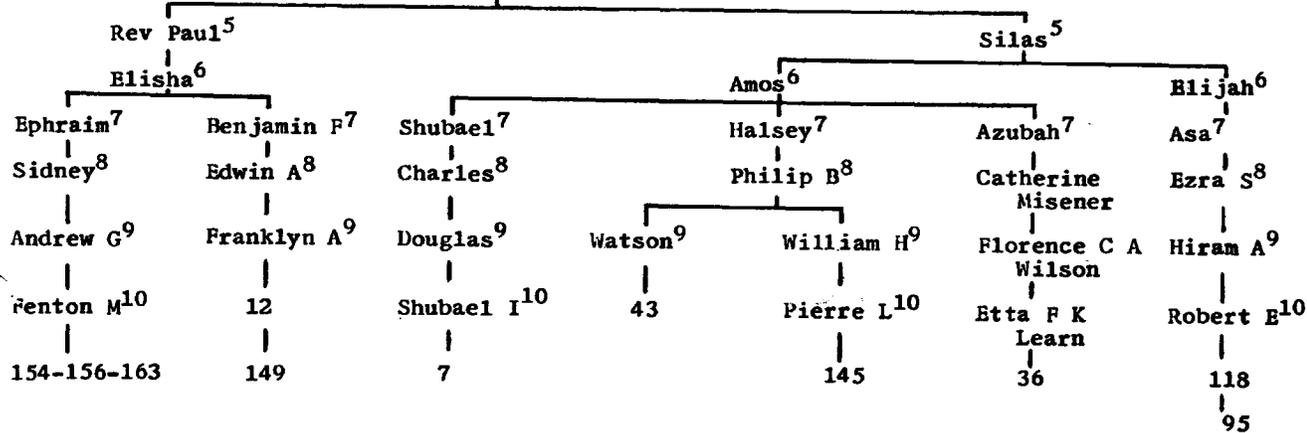
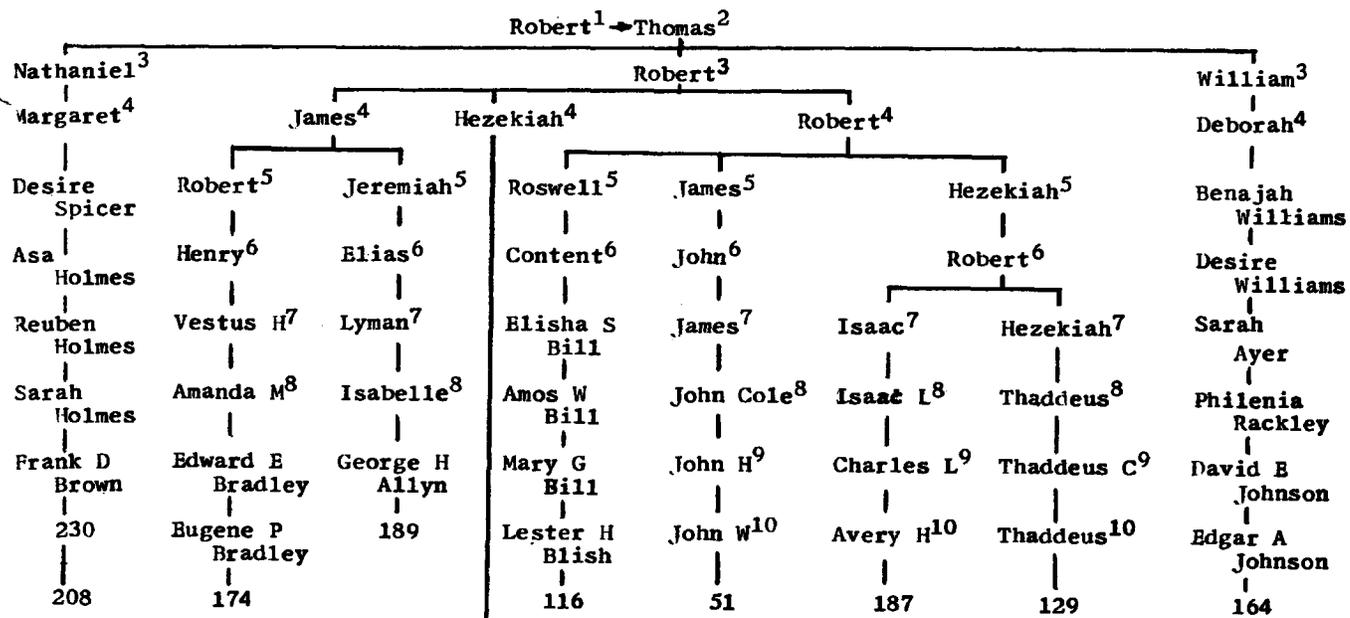
In the following lineages of members, those whose name was Park/e/s have a generation number from the immigrant thus: Martha³. The name of her child will be followed by her married name as; Richard Wheeler. The member's name appears at the bottom of the column.



Four Generations - Desc. of Peter¹

The above picture, taken in 1916, was supplied by Mrs. Anne Schwer #110. It shows her half sister, Hazel Handley Cawley #80 being held by her Gt-grandmother, the wife of Leroy Park.





MEMBERS APPROVE ...
continued from first page

Seminar well received

Registration was in progress Saturday morning, along with our first genealogy seminar. Leading the well-attended gathering for the first hour was Dorothea Cogswell, who presented some of the basics one needs to know when searching for ancestors.

During the second hour, the Society's Historian, David Parke Sr., gave an explanation of the origin of the Parke families in America. On display and available for members' research were the many volumes of Parke Family Group Sheets and those of Allied Families. David explained how the records were set up so that each participant in the seminar could utilize them to the best advantage. (following this article you can learn how to obtain group sheets of your family line.)

Tours of the Park-McCullough House were conducted both before and after the annual meeting. The meeting was brought to order by President Stuart Parke with 28 members present. The Historian reported that the total membership had nearly doubled in the past year and that several of the new gift and junior memberships had been received.

Society's purpose changed

Reporting for the By-Laws Committee, Dorothea Cogswell presented the changes that had been listed in the Spring issue of the NEWS LETTER. These pertained to the basic purpose of the Society. David Parke explained that at present the Internal Revenue Service recognized us as a purely social group. He stated that it was the feeling of the Trustees that we should rather put our emphasis on research of historic and genealogical matters and the dissemination thereof. The new status would give the Society an opportunity to solicit tax-exempt funds from individuals, trusts and foundations to further the program. The vote

was unanimous for the By-law changes as presented.

The newest Life Members were presented with their beautifully engraved certificates. They were Dr. Sonny E. Parke and Theron T. Anson, both of California. Elisabeth C. Parke, RN of South Dartmouth MA was unable to be present to receive her certificate. The payments of life memberships (\$50), it was explained, go into an endowment, of which only the income may be used for current expenses.

Five receive Awards

President Park then announced the recipients of the Society's 1977 ~~Distinguished~~ ^{Dedicated} Service Award. The engraved certificate reads:

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

Those so honored were: Mrs. Dorothy West Bowden, the Hon. Kingman Brewster, Mr. Edwin Avery Park, Mr. Wilfred A. Park, and Dr. Wilford E. Park.

Trustees elected at this meeting were Mrs. Nancy Poole, Miss Kathryn E. Parke, and Mr. Clifford J. Park all to serve until 1980. The Chaplain, the Rev. John H. Parke, then offered a prayer for those members who had died. This was followed by the benediction.

A social hour preceded the banquet held in the main hall of the house. It was noted that it was almost 100 years to the day since Treanor Park had entertained President Benjamin Harrison in the same hall.

Following dinner, the membership was entertained by some local musicians. Mrs. Ira Barrows, formerly researcher in residence at the House, spoke on some interesting anecdotes of Treanor Park and his family. Culminating the program was a fascinating talk by Judge Frederick Elwert, Chairman of the Rutland Historical Society.

Family Group Sheets Available

On display at the annual meeting this year were the Historian's files of Family Group Sheets, some 1400 of them, as well as the lineage papers of the members. For those who had the time to peruse these, it was most helpful.

However, many of you will never be able to attend a meeting, yet would like to use this material. You may order copies at 25¢ each for any family group. That is, you will find the parents listed at the top - who their parents were, their birth, marriage and death dates, and where - then the same information on each child, with their spouse if they married.

On the accompanying Benjamin Connections you will see the notation 4T45 under John³ on the extreme right. The 4 refers to his wife, Phebe Larrabee, who

was the fourth generation from Robert¹. T indicates that she was descended from Thomas². And the 45 identifies her particular group sheet in that generation. The BEN 1 under John¹ Benjamin notes that his group sheet is included in the Allied Families collection.

If you want a set of your own lineage, you need only specify the name of your ancestor in each generation. At present the sheets are completed up through the fifth generation, both male and female, (showing the sixth generation children) of Robert's three sons, William, Thomas, and Samuel, the Richard and Arthur lines, as well as several from the Southern Park families. In addition, there are over 80 allied families, including the Averys, Benjamins, Brewsters, Denisons, Gallups, Geers and Killams. All are 25¢ per page.