

NEWS LETTER OF

1983 - VOL. XX, No. 3

The Parke Society

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

William Parks 1698-1750 father of Journalism in MD & VA Evelynton Plantation

by David L Parke #13

The name of William Parks is closely identified with Williamsburg. He was active in several businesses, all vitally important to the life of the Colony. Among these were printing, publishing and editing the Virginia Gazette, and running a paper mill - the only one south of Pennsylvania in the 18th century.



Parks' printshop in Williamsburg

Parks was born in 1698 in Shropshire, England (west of Birmingham, bordering Wales). Having already learned his trade, he came to Annapolis in 1725 and started a public printing business, publishing the Maryland Gazette. In 1730 he brought a press to Williamsburg and six years later started the Virginia Gazette. Thus he has been dubbed the "father of Journalism in Maryland and Virginia."

A printer's basic need is paper. Finding it very costly bringing it in from England, he determined to make his own. With the technical and financial support of Benjamin Franklin he built a paper mill in 1742 near Williamsburg.

The quality might not have been up to English standards but was quite acceptable for his business. In fact, Franklin was one of his best customers.

Book publishing was an important activity in Parks' print shop. One of the first books he produced was A Collection of All the Acts of the Assembly Now in force in the Colony of Virginia in 1733. In 1734 he published the first sporting book in America: A Complete System of Fencing, and in 1742 the first American cookbook: The Compleat Housewife, by E Smith. The History of the first Discovery & Settlement of Virginia appeared in 1747.

As a responsible member of the Williamsburg community, he served as an alderman and was a churchwarden of the Bruton Parish. He had a daughter Eleanor who married John Shelton. Their daughter Sarah, born in 1738, became the wife of Patrick Henry (1736-1799). The death of William Parks occurred while on a voyage to England in 1750. His valuable library was passed on to the Sheltons and later to Patrick. William would no doubt have been very proud of his grandson-in-law's accomplishments which culminated in his becoming the first Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1776.

An official state map of Virginia is available from the Newsletter Editor for those attending the Reunion or anyone else that might find it useful. Please send \$1 to cover cost of mailing and handling.

'Evelynton' is a white-columned Southern mansion named for Evelyn Byrd. The tract of land on which 'Evelynton' stands was given by her father, Col William Byrd II (founder of Richmond) to his wife, Lucy Parke, in the early 1700s. Lucy and her sister Frances, wife of John Custis, were the daughters of Daniel Parke II & Jane Ludwell.



The great home, built of brick over 200 years old, is of Colonial architecture. It is situated on a high knoll known as Evelynton Heights overlooking the winding waters of Herring Creek which flows into the James River. This will be one of the many points of interest for those attending the 1984 Reunion in Williamsburg

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NEWS LETTER of The Parke Society

Incorporated in Connecticut
—1964—

Editor:

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

Regular membership open to a
descendant of a Park/e/s born in
the British Isles or North America
before the Revolution. Associate
membership open to any interested
person.

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Application Fee \$5, Annual Dues \$6.
Life Membership \$75

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Any CHANGE OF ADDRESS
should be forwarded to the Editor
promptly to assure delivery of the
News Letter.

#425 (Historian) BENJAMIN PARK
SIMPSON, s of William Simpson &
ANNA PARK. Benjamin b 3 May
1833 Ligonier PA, married to
Lucy Hargnett 1855, d 9 Apr
1921 Pittsburgh PA. Parents
known but little else. William
Simpson d of logging accident,
no guardian proceedings found.
Anna also died early. Benjamin
lived with an uncle Benjamin
Park. He may be the sawmill
owner in Ligonier 1829-1840.
There were two unnamed children
and a brother Joseph, a teacher
in Chariton, Lucas Co IA c1883.
Believe Anna's father was
Benjamin. Can you supply
solutions to this puzzle?

Congratulations!

Ed Witter Jr #170, a desc-
endant of Richard¹ (Vol XIV
p 29), married 2 Apr 1983, as
his second wife, Eleanor (Von
Flue) Pauls. She is a desc-
endant of Robert¹ and they both
have the royal lines through
Alice Freeman (Thompson) Parke,
mother of Dorothy, wife of
Thomas², and of Bridget, wife
of Capt. George Denison.

In Memoriam

Grace Park Cross #191, aunt
of Trustee Fred Youngren #99,
died on December 3rd at Wesley
Manor, Frankfort IN. She was
buried in Brook IN where she
was born 18 April 1891, the
daughter of Byron and Mary
Theodosia (Steele) Park. She
married Clarence Cross in 1922.
Grace was a 9th generation
descendant of Robert.

Word has been received that
Philip A Johnson #23 of Norwich
CT died on 12 January 1984 in
New London. He has resided at
the Camelot Nursing Home for
the last five years.

Philip was a charter life
member of the Society. He
leaves his wife Edith, a son
Peter of Schenectady NY and a
daughter Ann (Mrs Edward)
Stevens of Andover MA.

Queries

(refer to membership list
for name and address of
member.)

#210 Need info on parents of
Joseph⁷ Parks (Rbt¹, Thos², Nat³,
Joseph⁴, James⁵, Cyrenius⁶) his
will dated 22 Mar 1823 Warrens-
burg NY. ch John, Charlotte
Hubbert, Anne Green, Polly Knapp,
Clarissa Barton, Lucinda Hendrix,
Almira Hendrix, Prudence, Betsey
Perkins, Amanda Morrison, and
4 Thomas gch.

#587 Need info on SARAH⁵PARK
(Richard¹, Thomas², Jonathan³⁻⁴)
m 7 Sep 1743 Asaph Putnam (1724-
1796); ch Abijah, Asaph, Jonas,
Ephron and Park(s), b Sutton MA
before 1760.

Welcome New Members

601. Mr William Nelson Parke Jr
602. Ms June O'Brien
603. Miss Lesa Leann Lewis
604. Mr Earl F Arnett
605. Mrs Lois M Parks
606. Mr Lyle Glen Orem
607. Mr John Lee Lillibridge Jr
608. Mrs Gloria Baker Howard
609. Mrs Rosalie T Parks
610. Mr Gerald Michael Parks
611Jr Miss Jennifer Cawley
612. Mr Byron Dwaine Bovey
613. Mrs Beatrice Ann Kabler
614. Mr Murrill D Parks Jr
615. Mr Anderson Bowers III
616. Mrs Emily Bowers Welyczko
617Jr Miss Anji Michelle Kern
618Jr Mr Jonathan Scott Kern

Do the Queries work? Yes,
from time to time they do.
In Vol XX p2, Elizabeth Moore
Parks #353 was looking for the
parents of Emeline Park. Bess
Hope #169 identified them as
Joshua & Susan (Cooley) Park
of Robert¹, Thomas² line.
We thank Bess for giving
aid and doubly so for forward-
ing the info on to the His-
torian so he could add it to
the Society's records.

#403 Wish to correspond with
anyone researching SOUTH CARO-
LINA PARKS, especially JOHN
PARKS family.

#210 Where were James⁵ and
Sarah Parks during Rev War. What
was Sarah's maiden name? Grand-
parents of Joseph⁷.

#210 Need copy of will of
Joseph⁴ (Nathaniel³, Thomas²,
Robert¹), will pay costs and
postage for document.

#587 Wish to correspond with
anyone with data on family of
Jonathan⁴Park (Jonathan³,
Thomas², Richard¹) and Abigail
Smith. They had Sarah⁵ m
Asaph Putnam 1743 Sutton MA.
Ch Abijah, Asaph, Jonas,
Ephron and Park b Sutton MA
prior to 1760.

#403 Looking for any leads
on early South Carolina Parks.

Letters to the Editor:

Anita G Sorensen #569

Enclosed is some material on Parks. When I think of these biographical books with all this information just sitting on shelves it saddens me to think that someone somewhere would just love to read about their ancestors and know something more than vital statistics, which are needed, but so cold.

I read one story about a "Drummer Boy" Johnnie Walker, who enlisted in the Civil War from Wisconsin. He lied about his age to get in. He had come from Susquehanna PA. I just had to send the story to the local historical society there. They were very pleased to receive it. For the past several years they had been trying to find this family for a Dr Leslie Walker who was working on the Walker Genealogy. Needless to say he was elated. This also made me feel good that the little "Drummer Boy" was found by someone looking for him.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that perhaps this is what you mean by having members helping out. It takes such a short time to look in these books and make a Xerox copy.

Ed. What Anita sent was very helpful! One sketch was of Linus H Park, nephew of Linton Park (see Vol XIX p 42) and uncle of Martha Park #117. The other sketch was of Gilbert L Park, a ninth generation descendant of Robert and brother of Andrew James Park (see Vol XIX p 31). I hope others will follow her lead.

George W Hoagland #290

"I recently wrote and published The Dirck Jansen Hoogland Family History (1657-1976) hard cover - 374 pg. It includes Hoogland, Hogeland, Hoagland, and Hoaglin, all descendants of Dirck Jansen Hoogland. I am also publishing my second book on the Hoogland Family, including many wills and another 3000 descendants. This should appear later in 1984. We have

never attended a Parke Society function. However, we hope to attend in the near future. Very proud to be part of the Parke Family.

Margie Ellis Howell #88
(author of Kinsfolk of William Parke & Synah Perry 1967)

"I wanted to tell you that I've given my library to the Powell Memorial Library in Troy, MO. This is in Lincoln Co., MO, to which my Parke and other families came when they left Kentucky in the early 1800's. Of course this includes all my Parke files ... there are still many of the Parke descendants (my line) in that county. I will send the Parke Society NEWSLETTER on to the Powell Library for filing after I have read it.

Now I am looking forward to the Williamsburg Reunion ... and hope I can urge my brother to come with me. I think your choice of Williamsburg was a wise one."

Shuttle ride didn't affect plant seeds

GREENWOOD, S.C. (UPI) — Researchers say seeds sent into orbit aboard the space shuttle Challenger by the George W. Park Co. last spring have sprouted normally and "not even the insects can tell the difference."

"This means that it is possible to send seeds into space for short duration flights of low orbit, without any harmful effects," chief researcher Jim Alston said Tuesday.

Park Seed Co. spent \$25,000 on the Space Agency's Get-away Special program, hoping to cash in on food services for future manned space flights.

An 8-by-24-foot space-seed garden contains corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, okra, lemon basil, peppers, beans, peas, marigolds, dahlias, petunias and zinnias.

Are your lineage papers complete?

Several members have been remiss in sending their lineage papers to Tad Parks, Historian. He has been lenient in processing applications so that the new members will receive the Newsletter and other mailings.

However, until the papers are complete the designation is 'associate' rather than 'regular'. If you are one of those who has not completed lineage papers please send Tad what you have. There's a good chance he may be able to help you. Among those he is looking for are:

#453, #459, #473, #490, #516, #530, #533, #534, #536, #545, #551, #552, #558, #573, #592 and #599.

There are questions on the lineages of some earlier members as well. See what you can do to complete your lineage

National Archives & Record Service - new forms issued

Anyone requesting copies of Veterans' records or passenger arrival records should write for new forms NATF-Forms 80 or 81:

Reference Services Br (NNIR)
Nat. Archives & Record Service
8th & Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20408

re: Street names

Correction: Vol XX page 16.

Janet Snyder #366 says that Park Rd was named for Smith⁸ Parks. He was her gt gt grand father who, with his uncle Davis⁷, made application for a road "commencing at NE corner of Sec. 27 and running thence one mile on section line to the NW corner of Sec. 26." This grew into the east & west road known today as Parks Rd. Two miles south of state route M-21 it extends the width of the county of Clinton.

Capt. Hervey⁷ Parke surveyed the south tier of the county. Park Lake was named in his honor.

Jack K Gray #577 is offering to do research at the ARKANSAS History Commission on Park, Parke and Parks lines for

members of the Society. And he'll do it without charge. The Society certainly appreciates this support.

Companies founded by Park/e/s: Parke, Davis & Co., Inc.

Parke, Davis & Co. carries a family name throughout the world and is recognized as a leading pharmaceutical and biological manufacturer. Its history spans more than a century, a time when the medical profession has seen its greatest technical growth.

Prior to the Civil War pharmaceutical preparation was largely a matter of individual compounding by local physicians or pharmacists for their patients. The Civil War and the opening of the West created a need for large quantities of uniformly prepared medicinal agents.

A physician-pharmacist in Detroit Michigan had a dream of building a manufacturing laboratory as a source for medicines of high quality and efficiency. Dr Samuel P Duffield began his operation in the back of his drug store. He soon found himself seriously hampered by a shortage of capital, equipment and business knowhow.

In 1866 Dr Duffield met Hervey Coke Parke, an 8th generation descendant of Robert (in Winthrop fleet in 1630). Parke had recently arrived in Detroit from Hancock in the upper peninsula where he had operated a mining

supply business. His father Ezra Smith Parke was among the first doctors to practice in the Michigan Territory having settled in Bloomfield, north of Detroit, in 1823.

Hervey Parke was impressed by Duffield's dream and invested his capital and business acumen. He soon realized the need to develop a sales force to handle distribution on a wide scale. George Solomon Davis was brought to his attention. Although only 22 he already had several years of successful selling experience in the wholesale drug field.

In 1871 the name Parke, Davis & Co. was adopted. Despite the unprofitable early years and the depression of 1873, a new plant was built on the site of the present headquarters on the banks of the Detroit River. It wasn't until 1876 that a profit was finally turned. Dividends were paid continuously thereafter, a record held by few other firms in the United States or elsewhere.

Research has always been a vital part of the company's strength. Extensive search was made throughout the world for ideas and ingredients to develop new and to improve

existing products. As technology unfolded, new skills were needed in chemistry, physics, pharmacology, pathology, toxicology and microbiology.

Results of this relentless research have brought many basic discoveries of vital importance to the medical profession. Among the early preparations were Cascara Sagrada, a laxative from plant sources, Cocillana bark, an ingredient in cough preparations, and Adrenalin^R, the first hormone isolated in pure form. Later came Benedryl^R, the first antihistamine marketed in the US, Promin^R, the first drug used with marked success in the treatment of leprosy, and Chloromycetin^R, the first broad spectrum antibiotic commercially produced by chemical synthesis.

Production and research are carried on around the world in 25 countries as well as several plants in the United States. Within the last ten years Parke Davis has been merged into Warner Lambert, a corporate giant. The name Parke, Davis, however, still appears on numerous medicines, biological and surgical supplies in common use today.



Hervey Coke Parke, front center, with his staff ca 1895.

Rain on Ancestral Safari

The Joan de Harley Connection

Edwin D Witter Jr #170

Newsletter Vol XX p21 contains a brilliantly written article by William G Cook #66 entitled ANCESTRAL SAFARI - The Bruce Connection. Being a descendant of Dorothy Freeman (Thompson) Parke it is with some sadness that attention must be invited to the apparent invalidation of this line as presented by Mr Cook beyond his #36, "Sir Robert de Harley married Joan de Corbet".

Mr Cook has every reason to have believed the line to be intact, as presented as Line 29A in Ancestral Roots of Sixty Colonists etc. Fifth Edition 1979, by Frederick Lewis Weis and Walter Lee Sheppard Jr. Mr Cook's #36 coincides with Weis and Sheppard's #32.

In the Spring of 1980 a new genealogical periodical was launched entitled The Genealogist, edited by Neil D. Thompson. Vol. 1 No 1, contained an article entitled "Ravens or Pelicans: Who was Joan de Harley?" by John G. Hunt and Henry J. Young PhD. The authors pointed out that "in the last half century a number of genealogists have been seriously misled by an interpretation of that character proposed by Charles Wickliffe Throckmorton (1868-1941)". "Over the years he amassed a collection of data (on the Throckmorton family) which he generously placed at the disposal of George Andrews Moriarty Jr FASG before 1927, when Moriarty, on the basis of his own findings, published a pedigree of the early Throckmortons. -- Despite this association and mutual awareness, Moriarty never accepted what we perceive to be the basic error of Throckmorton's thesis, namely, that a certain Joan Harley was the mother of Alexander Besford. Through Alice Freeman Thompson, who emigrated about 1644, as well as through others, this Alexander Besford is ancestor to thousands of Americans."

"Moriarty based his skepticism upon unspecified grounds

of chronology. However, when the whole problem is examined an additional number of significant objections present themselves." (The chronology problem is presented) -- "If the lineage is correct, at the birth of each successor the average age of the parent in the direct Corbet line can be but sixteen years."

The authors examine in detail the coincidence of two Harley families -- "The crowning coincidence is that in each of the two manors named Harley there resided a dowager named Joan whose respective husbands, though not related, had been named Robert de Harley." -- "Once the main point is conceded, is it possible to deny the coincidence that there lived in 1376 an otherwise unknown Joan de Harley in one county and a well known Joan de Harley in another whose circumstances seem so similar? Certainly such a coincidence might be denied if some more probable explanation harmonized with what is known, but in this case we believe that the coincidence is inescapable, and Throckmorton's claim of a descent from the Shropshire families of Harley, Erdington and Corbet loses its last feeble hint of a defense."

"Well, almost the last. -- Relying on a superficial knowledge of seals and coats of arms, (Throckmorton) saw what he wanted to see, and so imposed upon his readers an altogether erroneous description of the seal that Joan had appended to her charter. His words 'Seal, Two Ravens' were patently intended to imply that the grantor was Joan Corbet, as Corbet (Latin corvus) means 'raven'. But (Throckmorton) blundered when he claimed the seal as supporting evidence because he read into it the wrong coat of arms. Joan Corbet, wife of Robert de Harley of Shropshire, belonged to the senior line, the Corbets of Moreton, whose device was a single raven. Two ravens were borne by certain cadet lines only distantly related to Joan Corbet."

"This anomaly in itself made it necessary to verify (Throckmorton's) description of the

seal -- an expert in the Search Department of the Public Records Office has informed us that, although about half the seal was lost, 'enough of the device remains to show that the seal was not heraldic but represented a pelican in her piety, that is, a pelican tearing at her breast to feed her young with blood, a device not uncommon on the seals of women around this date'."

"Possibly some genealogical link actually existed between Joan Harley of Worcestershire and the Besfords, but proof of such a link is yet to be discovered."

Upon reading the article, I called Lee Sheppard and asked if he accepted the demise of the Harley-Corbet connection. He did.

The same initial issue of The Genealogist contains an article entitled "The children of Joan, Princess of North Wales" by William Addams Reitwiesner, in which the proposition that Margaret, who married first ca. 1219 John de Braose, was the granddaughter of King John is destroyed, or made so unreliable that the presumption should not be made (referring to Weis and Sheppard's Ancestral Roots, line 29A, #26, 27, 28).

Before rendering breasts asunder, there is considerable to be salvaged from the line of Alice Freeman (Thompson) Parke. The following charts depict what I interpret to be the line that is thus far unchallenged. Alfred 'the Great', the Dunbars, and Cerdic are intact, as given by Weis and Sheppard. As indicated on the charts, a number of dangling ends exist that invite interest for further research; for example, see #88 on page 39 who was this Edmund? Was he the son of Edmund "Ironsides"? If so, a further rich ancestry opens up. Lee Sheppard told me recently that he does not know.

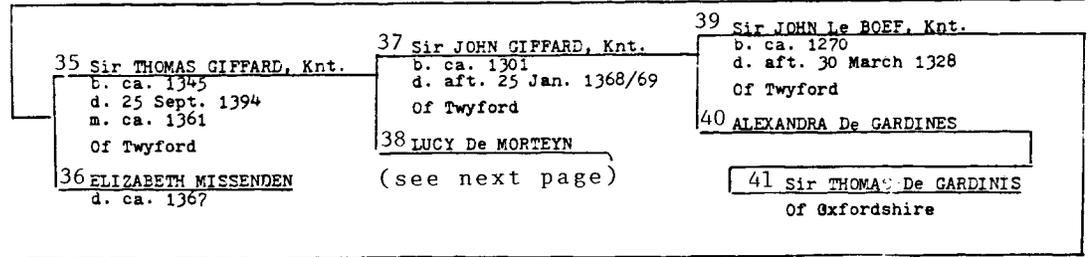
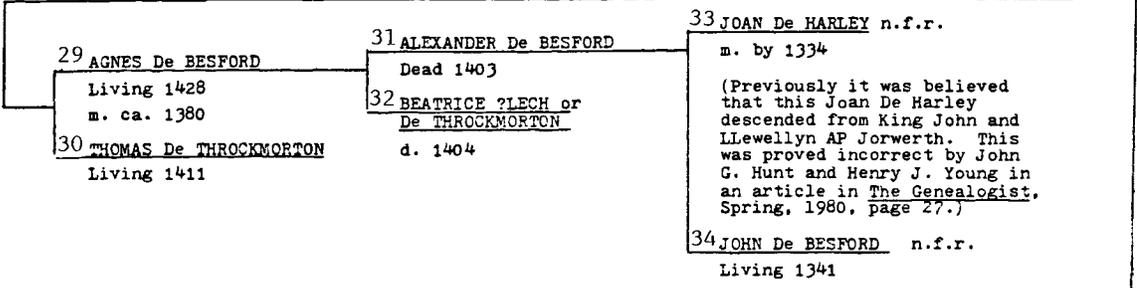
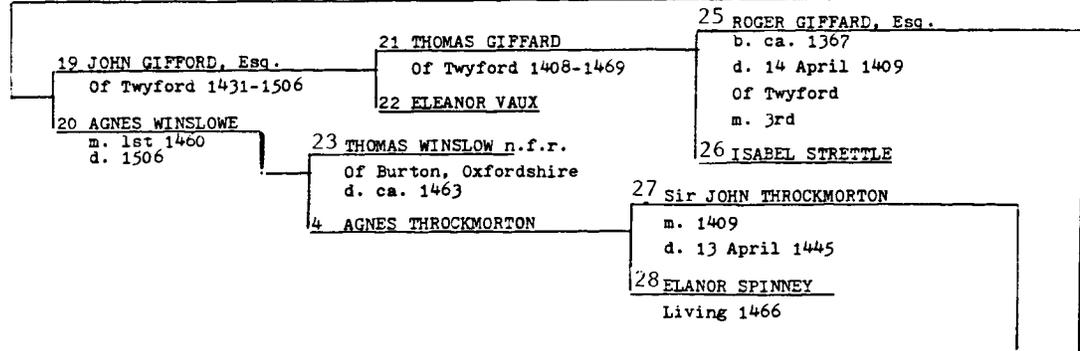
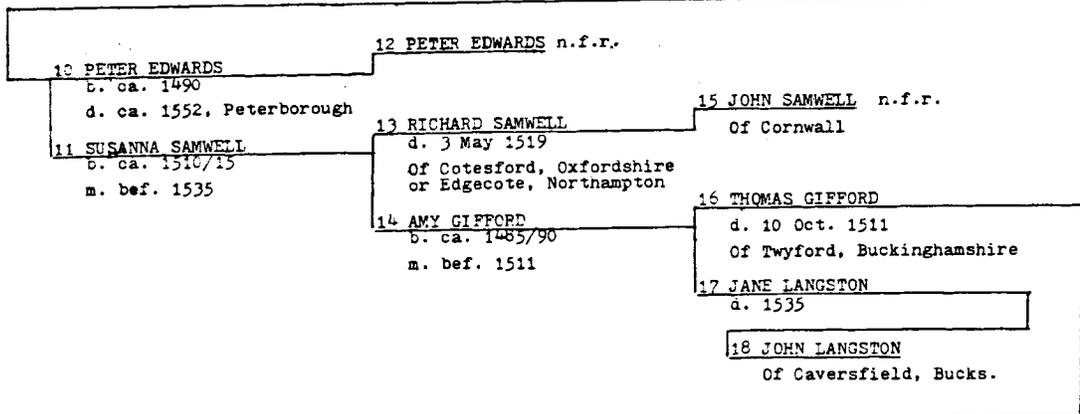
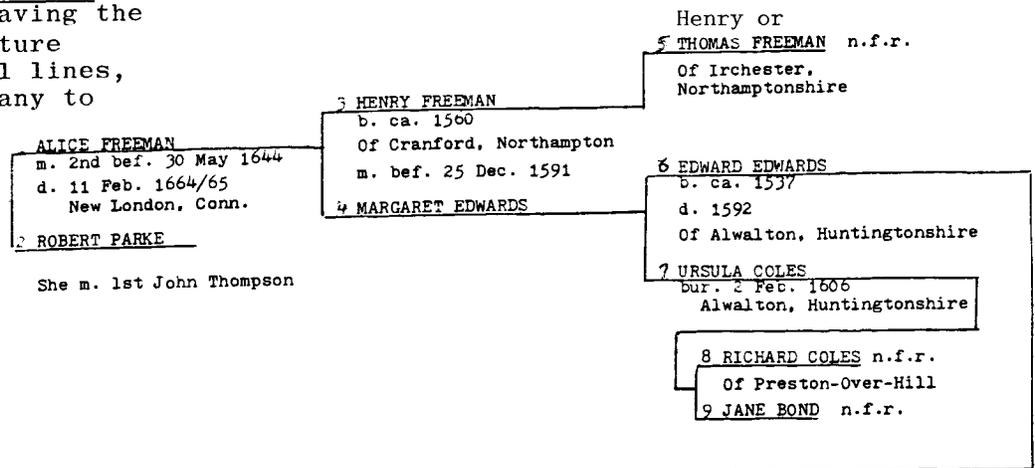
Editor's Note: A letter has also been received from Grahame Smallwood CALS #519 quoting the same source as evidence of the error.

Unfortunately, Bill Cook #66 had not been aware of the

article in The Genealogist and he appreciates having the new information. Future articles on the royal lines, of which there are many to

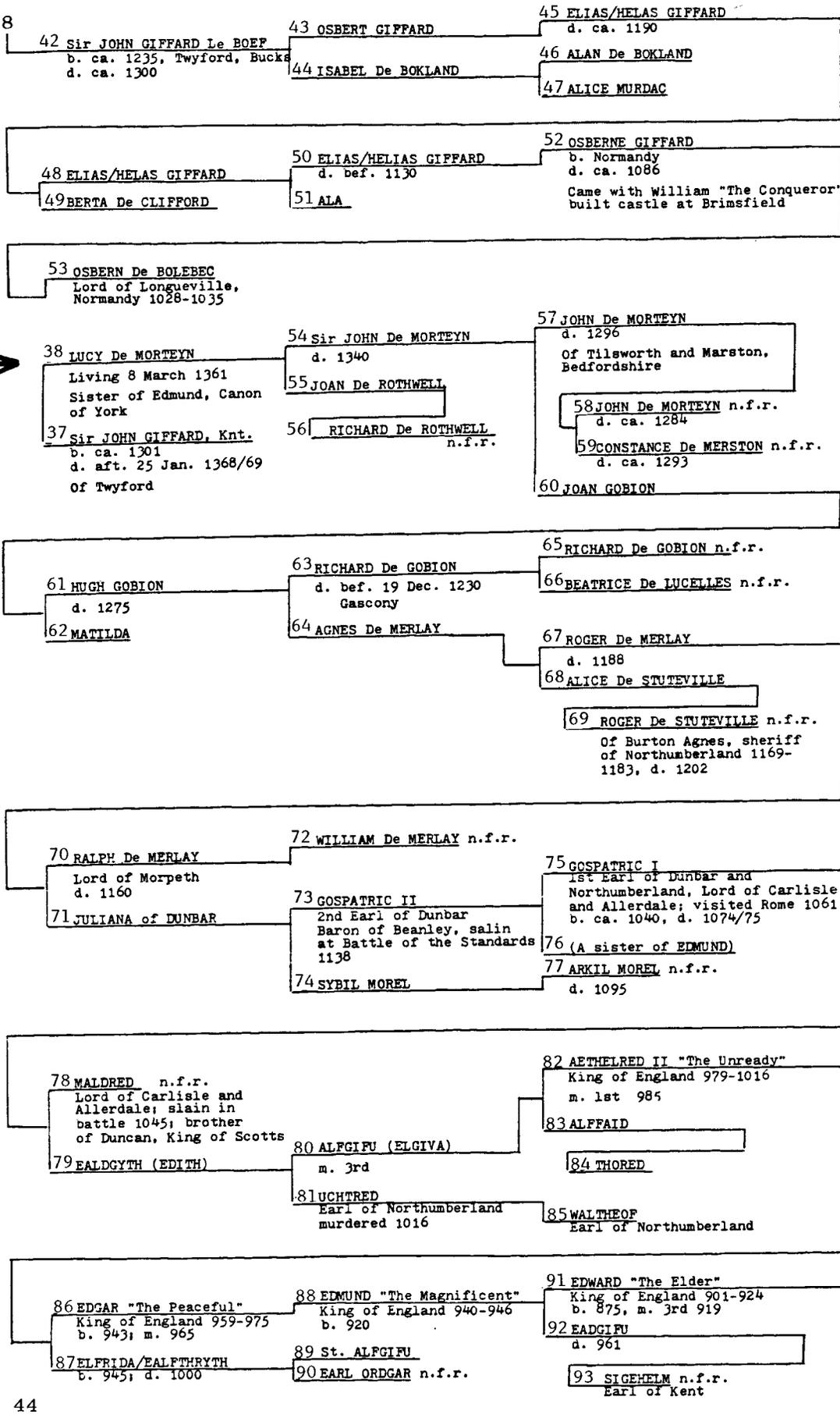
trace from Alice Freeman, will reflect this correction.

The article by Ed Witter is much appreciated.



Cont'd
next page

From page 38



Cont'd page 44

Three White Houses: historic links or intriguing coincidences?

by Ruth Bourne #412

Early in the Civil War, when the Lees fled from Arlington on the Potomac, the Custis-Lee home, Mary Anne Randolph Parke Custis Lee, wife of Robert E Lee, went to New Kent (Co. VA) to live with their son and heir, William Henry Fitzhugh Lee (called "Rooney") and his wife, the former Charlotte Wickham. General Lee wrote to Mary to remain there as long as it was practical. He addressed his letter to the 'White House', on the Pamunkey (River) in New Kent.

The 'White House' was originally a typical colonial frontier cottage of six rooms, perhaps not even painted. It stood on the banks of the Pamunkey River, across from an Indian settlement, where the Pamunkeys had been dwelling since long before the English appeared at Jamestown. It is not known when or by whom the house was built. But it was known as the White House when George Washington went, in 1759, to live there with his bride, Martha Dandridge, widow of Daniel Parke Custis, until they moved to Mt Vernon. There may still be a station along the Southern Railway, some thirty miles east of Richmond in New Kent, called 'White House', as there was in the 1930's, when Minnie Kendall Lowther wrote Mount Vernon, its Children, Its Romances, Its Allied Families and Mansions. (1)

Mrs. Lowther was tempted to imagine that Col. John Custis IV took his bride, Frances Parke, daughter and heiress of Daniel Parke II, Governor of the Leeward Islands (Vol XVI p33), to live in this romantic wilderness abode, when he married her in August 1705. And some of the Parkes were prompted to speculate that it was Frances who named it and perhaps transformed it into

the White House, in honor of the Gestingthorpe Parkes of Essex, England, whose coat of arms her father had adopted. (2)

As early as 1521/2 the Visitations of Essex recorded that "William Parke of the White House" had paid a fine for eight acres of land "late his father's in Gestingthorpe." This William was the scion of the original Roger att Parke, son of William de Parca of the time of Edward III. There seems to be no record of the Gestingthorpe White House after 1553.

Its location seems to be in Gestingthorpe Parish, Hinckley Hundred, in Essex. North of Colchester and near Halstead, it was about four and a half miles south of Sudbury, County Suffolk. (3)

Mr Harwood Eliot Park #415 of Los Angeles, a descendant of the Gestingthorpe Parkes, has endeavored to trace the history of the Gestingthorpe White House, partly, of course, because the name has special significance to all citizens of the United States and because of the intermediate link in New Kent. Mr Park, through persistent queries to knowledgeable local genealogists in Essex, elicited some fragments of information which he gathered together in 1971. He found no White House at Gestingthorpe now but did locate "a White House Field."

In 1961 the Rev A R Woolby of the Gestingthorpe Parish found a document dated 1840, which listed the White House Field on the tithe rent charges for that year. The field, Mr Woolby wrote, was in 1961 "a part of Delvyn's Farm."

In 1966, Mrs Phyllis Overill, a resident of the area, found in the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford, an "old map," undated, of which she said:

"If you look on your Ordnance Map, (see Vol XVI pp8-9) about a couple of hundred yards south of the church, you will find a farm called Delvyn's. It is almost opposite a foot path to a group of trees known locally as "The Basin". Whether this is the location of the original White House I wouldn't know, but that is certainly where the White House stood when the (old) map was made. It shows quite clearly."

In 1967 another resident of the area commented, "I very much doubt that the house on Delvyn's Farm, while it is a conspicuous white house, could be as much as one hundred years old." As far back as 1768, the Rev Philip Morant in his History of Essex, on a map included, showed a red house but no White House at Gestingthorpe.

Possibly the conclusion in 1952 of Mr F G Emmison, archivist of the Essex Record Office, that the White House of Gestingthorpe disappeared (at least from the records) about "150 years ago", is an over-optimistic calculation. Nevertheless the evidence is conclusive that there was a White House in Gestingthorpe belonging to the Parkes as late as 1553, and a White House Field four centuries later. (3)

The importance of the latest date of the existence of this first White House, in Essex, is the possibility or temptation of connecting it with the old White House in Virginia, which has a much more substantial and colorful record and an historic one. How romantic for Frances Parke Custis to refurbish the old cottage along the Pamunkey in New Kent and call it the White House, when John Custis took her there as a bride in 1705.

(1) Mrs Lowther's book published by John C Winston Co, 1930 pp 271-282

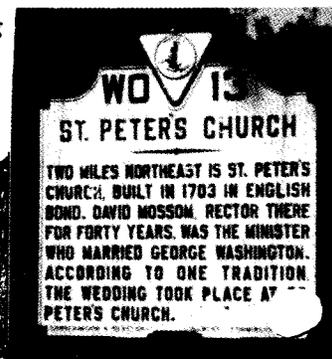
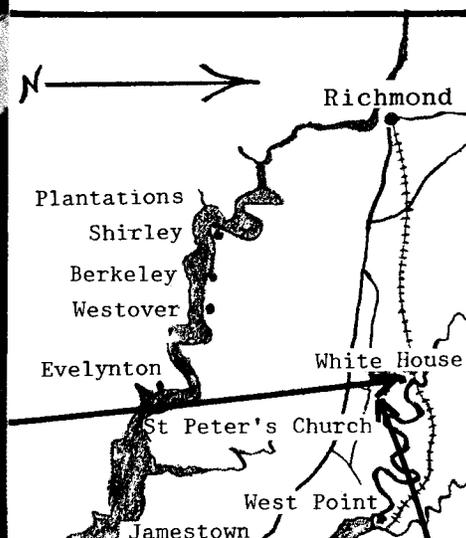
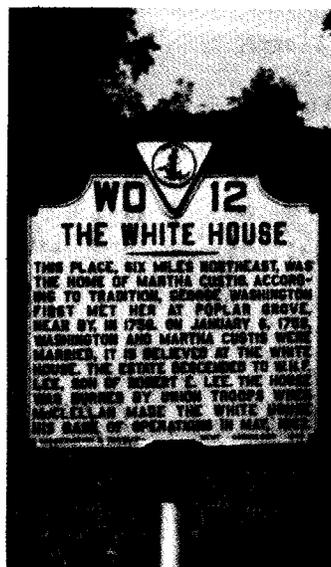
(2) The Visitations of Essex (1552-1634 by Walter C Metcalfe, Harleian Society Pub, London 1878 XIII; County of Essex compiled from the best and most ancient Historians .. and Manuscripts by the Rev Philip Morant London 1784 II, 309; The History and Antiquities .. of Essex - Morant.

Unfortunately, the facts do not bolster either fantasy. The elder Mjr. Gen John Custis had established his home at the first Arlington on the Eastern shore and died there in 1696. The "White House" in New Kent was probably never a permanent residence of John Custis of Arlington, husband of "the haughty Frances Parke" as Mrs Lowther unkindly calls her, with the usual Virginia animus against both father and daughter. "The long-suffering Frances Parke," she might well be called, afflicted as she was with such a father and a crabbed, downright neurotic husband, an equally unfatherly father to their children.

The facts are that John Custis, twenty-seven, and Frances, nineteen, were married at Queen's Creek, York County, her father's family home, where she was born and grew up and where their children were born, Fannie Parke Custis in 1710, Daniel Parke Custis in 1711. Frances herself died of smallpox at Arlington on the Eastern shore, just ten years after her marriage. She was first buried at Arlington and later reinterred in Bruton Churchyard in Williamsburg. So she spent very little if any time at the Pamunkey "White House", if, indeed, it had yet been built. (4)

The theory that Frances Parke lived in the White House or named it is not bolstered by consideration of the father and daughter relationship. One must remember that after Daniel Parke II sailed for England in 1697, to win fame under Marlborough at the victory of Blenheim and a post of governor of the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean, he never again set foot in Virginia. His legitimate Virginia family never saw him again and probably knew little of his disputed Gestingthorpe lineage and coat of arms which he presumably appropriated after Blenheim. It is unlikely that they knew of the Gestingthorpe White House.

Mrs Lowther finally concludes that it was Frances's



son Daniel Parke Custis, who transformed the cottage. "We are almost certain that he rearranged this little cottage and painted it white," when at the age of thirty-eight, he married Martha Dandridge, 18 years old, of New Kent, and brought his bride, "on that fair day in June, 1749" to the White House.

In the next eight years Martha and Daniel Parke Custis had four children, two of whom died early. Then her husband died. Martha continued to live in the White House as a widow for two more years, until the future 'Father of His Country' appeared upon the horizon. Some think that Martha Custis and Washington were married in the White House but there is more evidence that they were married at St Peter's Church nearby. After the lengthy honeymoon, they went, with the two children, to live in Mount Vernon.

Martha's son, John Parke Custis, inherited the great

landed fortunes of his father and of his grandmother, Frances Parke Custis. His son and heir George Washington Parke Custis (see Vol XIX p1), whom Washington had adopted, built the Custis home, 'Arlington' on the Potomac, in 1802. The Parke-Custis fortune passed from his daughter, Mary Custis Lee, to the heir to the Parke estates, who did not have the name of Parke, as required by the will of Daniel Parke I.

Mary Custis Lee and Charlotte Lee remained for some months at the New Kent White House, as the general urged. Although it was still called "a cottage" and seemed a safe, rural refuge it was considerable enough that in May, 1862, General McClellan, as he began the siege of Richmond, took it over as a base of supplies because it was the nearest point to Richmond. It was the seat of a magnificent 3000 acre plantation, half cultivated, half in forest.

A war correspondent wrote

that when Mrs Lee fled to Richmond on May 10th she took with her one hundred slaves and left under an overseer about one hundred and fifty. The Union troops found in outbuildings 7000 bushels of wheat and 900 bushels of corn.

The correspondent described the 'White House' as "a commodious, neat-appearing dwelling" of two stories. The captain of the Union gunboat Chocura, removed the furnishings, books and portraits and paintings left behind, to safe keeping, and gave the overseer a list of them. On the panel of an inside door the invaders had found a note: "Northern Soldiers, who profess to reverence Washington, forbear to desecrate the house of his first married life, the property of his wife, now owned by her descendants."

(signed) A Granddaughter of Mrs. Washington

Beneath the inscription was penned the following:

"Lady - A Northern officer has protected your property in the light of the enemy, and at the request of your overseer." (5)

The White House itself was used as private headquarters of Sister of Charity, who were assisting in caring for the sick and wounded in tents on the White House lawn and in the nearby Union ship State of Maine, which was in touch with the Fortress Monroe at Yorktown. Every effort was made to preserve the house.

However, on June 27, 1862, the Confederates advanced to within six or seven miles of the base at the White House. A hasty evacuation by the river began, so massive, as a New York Times reporter described it from shipboard, that "as numberless schooners, barges and crafts of every description were seen coming down the river with tugboats" the scene gave the idea "of approach to the port

of New York or Liverpool."

At four-thirty PM a passenger on deck drew attention to a heavy cloud of smoke on the horizon. Shortly after, a vessel came rushing down the river, the people on her shouting, "Go back! Go back!"

The captain of a following vessel told them the White House was on fire. Soon it was a thing of the past, the house, tents, stores, ammunition, sheds. In the general confusion it was not clear how the catastrophe happened, but apparently by accident - a sad and dramatic end to the White House where Washington had spent the first months of his married life with Martha. (6)

The loss of the Pamunkey White House deeply affected General Lee and his wife. She was given a box of old letters "with some other debris," she said, "of what the Yankees had left of a once happy and well-filled house." So she destroyed the whole. When someone in New York offered to sell Lee a painting of the White House as it had been before the Federal troops burned it, he, unable to buy it, replied, "The White House of Pamunkey, as it lives in my memory must suffice for my purposes."

The fact that Washington spent his honeymoon with Martha in the Custis White House on the Pamunkey naturally leads to the question: Was this the reason why the Executive Mansion of the United States at Washington came to be called the White House? If it was not the reason it is surely a strange coincidence. Mrs Lowther was pleased to consider the name an historic connection. She concludes: "It is generally accepted, though not authenticated, that the national home of our President, the White House, took its name

from this cottage in honor of the first Lady of the Land. (7)

Again, there seems slim basis for this pleasant connection. It is true that the site for the executive mansion was chosen by George Washington. It was designed by James Hoban and the cornerstone was laid by Washington in 1792. "The palace" was the first public building in the emerging capital city and, a three-story edifice, the only imposing one. However, it was not white, but made of Virginia freestone, it was pale gray.

The Washingtons never lived in it, for it was not finished until 1799 and President John Adams and Abigail were the first occupants. It was not painted white until after the British burnt it in 1814. On the other hand, it was called the White House as early as 1809, just how much earlier is not known. It is therefore possible though unlikely that Martha Washington did call it the White House. The reason usually given for its cognomen is that the pale graystone English manor stood in contrast to the red brick public buildings about it and became a landmark as "the White House." It was Theodore Roosevelt who made the name official. (8)

There are thousands of white houses - myriads of them - throughout the world. But connected with the Daniel Parkes of Virginia there were three, of historic location, each formally named "the White House" in Gestingthorpe, Essex, in New Kent County Virginia, and in Washington DC. If the link is purely accidental, it is an intriguing coincidence which continues to stir nostalgic fantasies.

(5) Mrs Lowther's book pp 276-282.

(6) Douglas S Freeman, R. E. Lee New York 1935, IV 387, 460.

(7) Mrs Lowther's book p 282.

(8) J. F. T. & B.M. McConnel, The White House (1954); Perry Wolff, A Tour of the White House with Mrs John F Kennedy (1962); Charles Hurd The White House a Biography (1940).



We'd like you to know -

Wheaton Park District Senior Center for her contributions to the community.

Martha was graduated from Wheaton College in 1924 and from the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in 1927. For over 40 years she practiced her nursing at the Presbyterian St Luke's Hospital in Chicago, the last 22 as assistant Director.

When color photography first became available to the amateur Martha took great interest in it. She joined the Chicago Color Camera Club and won many ribbons and medals. A cup was presented to her for the "Slide of the Year".

Now Martha is active in the Christian Business Women's Club, serves as a driver for "Meals on Wheels", prepares her church's weekly bulletin, and transports senior citizens as needed. On receiving her award this year,

she was introduced thus: "Her life is a fragrance of beauty as she has given totally of herself in loving, caring a complete unselfish concern for others."



Margaret Alma (Davis) Ellis #371 born 19 July 1941 is the only child of Sproles
Cont'd page 45

Martha E. Park #117 is a descendant of Robert¹ from Ballywalter, Co. Down, Ire., who came to Philadelphia in 1784. It was she who supplied material about her gt. uncle Linton Park, the primitive artist. (see Vol XIX p39) Martha lives in retirement in her home town of Wheaton, IL where last May she was named VIP "Woman of the Year" by the

From page 39

94 ALFRED "The Great"
King of England 871-901; b. 849 Wantage, Berkshire; m. 868;
One of the greatest men in history. Seat of government was Winchester, where he is buried.
Founded British Navy; organized the militia; compiled a code of law; built schools and monestaries; invited scholars to his court; a good scholar himself, translated many books.

95 EALHSWITH/ALSWITHA
d. ca. 905

97 AETHELWULF
King of England 839-858

99 EGBERT
King of Wessex 802-827
b. 775, d. aft. 19 Nov. 838
First king of all England
827-836

96 Earl AETHELRED n.f.r.
Earl of Mercia and Eadburh

m. 1st
98 OSBURH

100 RAEDGURH
101 OSLAC n.f.r.
The royal cup bearer

102 EALHMUND/ELMUND
King of Kent 784

103 EAFU

104 EOPPA

105 INGILD
d. 718

106 CENRED

107 CEOLWALD
Visited Rome 688

108 CUTHA/CUTHWULF

109 CUTHWINE
Killed in battle 584

110 CEAWLIN
Governed West Saxons 560,
reigned 30 years; driven from
his kingdom 593 by Britons

111 CYNRIC
King of West Saxons
534-560; fought Britons
at Sarum 556

112 CERDIC n.f.r.
King of West Saxons
519-534; invaded with
son and 5 ships; founded
settlement on Hampshire coast
495; king 519; fought Britons;
conquered Isle of Wight 534;
first king of West Saxons;
d. 534

Bible Records

You will find in many of the larger libraries copies of Bible records that have been found by members of the DAR. If you come across any that includes a Park/e/s please make a copy and send it in to the Historian. The following were found in the State Library in Albany NY. At this point we can't identify them, but they may prove important for someone's research at a later date.

DAR Bible Records - NY Vol 6 p170, Copied by Edith B Swancott Jan 1926, Oneida Chapter DAR Utica NY

Bible published by American Bible Society, inst. 1816 Property of Mrs Cora Parkhurst, West Winfield NY

Births:

Chester Park	30 Apr 1784
Hannah Burgess	22 Jun 1782
Nancy Burgess	26 Apr 1796
Mary Park	21 Dec 1806
Urania Park	21 Dec 1806
John Park	8 Jul 1808
Sally Park	4 Mar 1813
Hannah Park	26 Feb 1816
Phebe B Park	9 Dec 1818
David N Park	24 Nov 1820
Almeda J Park	28 Sep 1828
Ann Maria Park	5 May 1828
Sarah A Park	9 Nov 1834

Deaths:

Chester Park	22 Jun 1837
Hannah Park	26 Feb 1816
Nancy P Brainard	4 Jun 1877
Mary Park	Apr 1846
Urania Park	2 Feb 1836
John Park	30 Apr 1887
Sally Park	22 May 1833
Hannah Park	7 Apr 1900
Phebe B Park	11 Mar 1837
David N Park	22 Jan 1889
Almeda P Holdridge	21 Jul 1910
Ann Maria Park	24 Mar 1848
Sarah Park Bay	28 May 1912
Chauncey Brainard	25 Mar 1852

Marriages:

Chester Park & Hannah Burgess	11 Dec 1805
Chester Park & Nancy Burgess	24 Jun 1816
Urania Park was married	
John Park	13 Sep 1831
Mary Park was married	
Almeda Jane Park & Holdridge	24 Jun 1841
Ann Maria Park	30 Jul 1844
David Nelson Park	9 Sep 1846
Hannah Park	11 Oct 1837
Sarah A Park & Bay	1 Jan 1856
Nancy Burgess Park & Chauncey Brainard	25 Mar 1852

DAR Bible Records - NY Vol 96 p150, Copied by Edith C Jinks of Rochester NY. 1957. Found in an old note book owned by Mrs Nellie Dolbeer Kennedy, resident of the Presbyterian Home in Rochester NY. It was written on faded yellow paper in a fine hand.

Amaziah Park was born March 13, 1739 or (1731)
Hanah Mansfield was born Oct. 15, 1733

This couple were married on an unknown date and had one daughter -(Ed. they were married ca 1758, Voluntown CT)

Polly Park born Sept 19, 1772
married John Dolbeer on Sept 6, 1798

Amaziah died May 10, 1824
Hanah died Jan 9, 1811

Polly Park Dolbeer died Nov 4, 1825

(1 : Amaziah's lineage - Robert¹, Samuel², Robert³, Benj⁴)
(There were at least 3 other children: Amaziah b 1759, Benjamin b 1766, John b 1776.)

From page 44

Walter Davis and Virginia Frances Park of El Paso TX.

Maggie is a school principal at a residential treatment facility for emotionally disturbed teenagers. She and her husband Richard Humphrey Ellis Sr live in Alpine TX. They were married 9 Jun 1973 both having been previously married. Their combined family includes 3 daughters and 4 sons and there are 4 grandsons to date.

Dick and Maggie are interested in amateur radio. Dick (W5YCK) has been a ham for 30 years while Maggie (WD5ACE) is a novice hoping to upgrade soon. Dick is an electronics technician with the Harvard Univ. radio astronomy lab at Ft Davis TX.



Willa Deane Pike Gates #537 has spent most of her life in Texas. She was born near Pringle, Hutchinson Co. in the panhandle, her father dying the next year. Her widowed grandmother, Lorena Adella (Dansby) Parks, lived nearby, so Willa and her mother moved in with her.

In 1938 the family moved to Waco to be near Baylor University, where Willa attended for two years. Charles Emmett Gates and Willa were married in 1942 prior to his entering the service. She then moved to Baytown to work for Humble Oil Co. Charles

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Historian's Corner

Theodore E. (Tad) Parks
PO Box 590, Milwaukee WI 53201
Phone: 414 445 8894 (evenings)

In my last piece we talked about the Family Group Sheets in general, what they are, and what they can do for us as genealogists. In this segment I will get down to the basics of how best to fill out the Family Group Sheet (FGS). You may want to refer back to the sample sheets shown on page 31 of the last issue as you read this article.

The first thing to point out is that the rules for preparing a FGS have not been necessarily cast in stone. In many cases there is no one right way, but there are preferred ways of doing things. For example, take names of individuals. Some authorities would have you list husband and wife showing last name first, first name and middle name last. Others would have you do it conventionally. So there is room for variations. The important thing is to adopt a specific FORMAT and use it throughout. Then when one comes up against a name like JOHN PAUL HENRY, one doesn't have to wonder which name is first, middle, or last, and whether a comma was omitted. This may not be a problem for you, the compiler of a FGS, but often our sheets circulate and to some one else this may be a real question. We tend to prefer (and use consistently) the conventional format, with the surname in capitals (if typed) or printed (if handwritten).

As for children, we like to list their surnames in full. Again this is more for the eventual reader of the form, but it also helps if you are scanning your own sheets for a particular name.

The subject of variant spellings arises here. How this is handled depends in part on the room that the form allows. Usually that is not much, so variant spellings of names (given or surname) must be referred to the comments/remarks section of the sheet (by an asterisk). The principal form on the sheet itself

should be that preferred by the individual, or most often used in connection with that individual. For example: The surname PARK has several acceptable variants, and many persons used more than one (especially before, say, 1850). If in the majority of the references you find PARK, but you have also found PARKS and PARKES, you should list on the sheet in the principal placement PARK, and in the notes, "Also found as PARKS (M.I.) and PARKES in his will and estate administration papers." If you have the same surname,

OUR ANCESTORS

by Quincy



"I realize your descendants will be disappointed, but there just isn't any more room!"

be alert to avoid the temptation of imposing your present-day spelling on your ancestor. His/hers was right in their time, yours is right today. (PARK/E/S surnamed descendants take special note.)

The same rules apply for given and middle names. Biblical names will be little problem (they had the Good Book to guide them there) but watch out for Russell (several variants found), Roger (Rodger), Phoebe (Phebe) and Ann (Anne, Anna, Annie). Middle names were not used until the early 1800s, and often we now find only the initial. If there is any doubt as to this middle name, we list it only with qualification. One form might be: H(enry?), meaning that you

have good reason to believe that it is Henry but can find no documentary proof of it. Good reason should imply lots of circumstantial evidence; for anything less than that, refer to your comments section.

Dates can be everybody's headache. First, this is one rule "carved in stone". Always list dates as DAY/MONTH/YEAR. This is a standard practice in genealogy. Always abbreviate the name of the month. Be careful in recording any and all dates. Check each 3 times, and then again. And finally, is it logical? That is, a child can't be born when the mother is only aged 3. Nor can a person die before they are born!

Submitted dates sometimes drive us up a wall. If writing in longhand, be very careful in forming your numbers, 1's and 7's, 4's and 9's and so on. In writing months, be extra careful to distinguish between January, June and July, also May and March. We prefer that the latter four months be written out in full to avoid confusion, and that January be abbreviated. When transcribing, especially if it is all numerical. (3-5-43 could imply March 5 or May 3.) Examine the source for clues as to the correct interpretation. Do not assume anything. Always write out the year in full (not 09, but 1909 or whatever). Avoid all possible points of confusion.

Another problem is Old Style/New Style dating and double dating. Prior to the late 18th century, dates are not always what they seem, and many errors have crept into print because a researcher did not understand this point. We will go into this at length in another article. For now, remember: the year did not always start 1 January. Before 1752 (legally) and probably much later in general, the new year began on 25 March. Hence "in the first month of the year" before 1752 and a go "y time thereafter, probably referred to March not January. Sometimes authors have, free of charge, converted dates from

old style to new style, but have failed to tell us so, hence another source of confusion. Our advice to you is to use the actual date given, with interpretations in the remarks/comments section, or at least to inscribe beside the date whether OS or NS (old style, new style) if known. Nevertheless be wary of dates in the 18th century. More on this later in this series.

Locations are another problem area. Places have not always kept the same name, and borders of townships, counties, and states have been known to change over the years. The word is: Record place names as they were when the event occurred, with further comments modern location names, etc., in your remarks/comments section. If someone died in, say Moreau, New York in 1760, it would be recorded as Albany County, not Saratoga County which came into existence in 1791. Positive point here: Everyone's record will agree, and you know that the records (cills or administrative papers) will be found in the

Albany County Court House, as papers are not transferred upon creation of a new county out of an existing one. Certainly you will want to list supplementary information on where this stated location is in relation to today's boundaries, but that is supplemental data.

Finally: Sources. If your form allows, each item should be keyed as to the source of that piece of data. Most forms don't allow this privilege, so the best you can do is to list the source documents as carefully as possible and leave it at that. Source citation is another whole area which we will deal with at some length in a later article, but for now always include for books, Author, Full title, Date and place of publication, and page references. Be sure to check those references. (I had a master's thesis put on 'hold' once for a page reference error; the advisor got frustrated and decided to wait it out a couple of months before checking back with me for the correct reference.) Good work is accurate work, and that

includes citations.

Even if the form doesn't indicate a place for the compiler's name, address, and date of compilation, do include these. It may become a secondary source for someone else. If so, they need to know by whom and when it was compiled.

Key points are:

- a) Names, use principal variants on forms, referring to remarks for other versions.
- b) Dates, be very careful in transcribing, rechecking several times. If there is any doubt as to interpretation, refer to remarks section.
- c) Places, record as it was at the time of the event, refer to remarks for modern locations.
- d) Cite your source materials accurately and completely.
- e) Take your credit as compiler with your name, address and date of compilation.

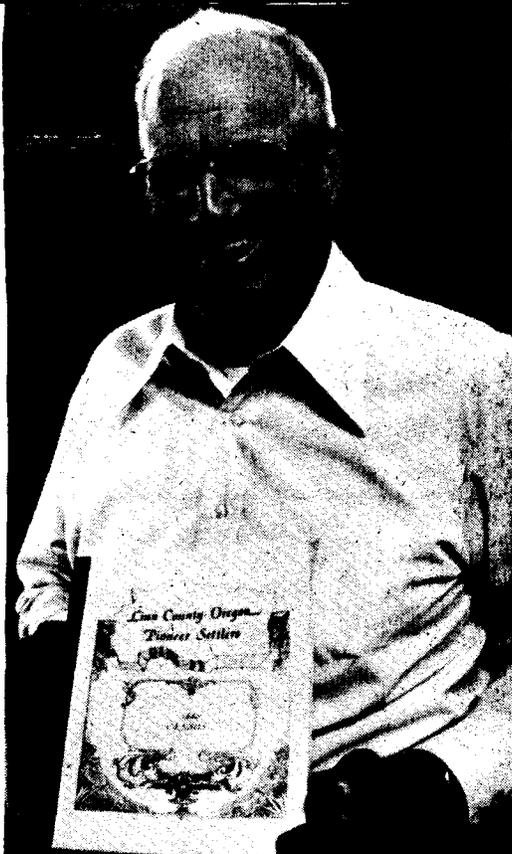
In the next article we will wrap up our discussion of Family Group Sheets and move on into some related topics.

From page 45

joined her at the company following his discharge, and retired three years ago.

Willa is active in the Memorial Baptist Church, where she serves as librarian, Sunday School teacher, and in the Women's Missionary Union. The family of her grandfather, William Henry Parks, has a reunion every year in August. Research is in progress to locate her earlier forbears.

Richard R Milligan #389, a new Trustee of the Society, has also been elected President of the Linn (Co. OR) Genealogical Society for 1984. Dick is in the middle of a tremendous project that will, when completed in 1987, provide his community with the most extensive record of pioneer settlers of any county west of the Mississippi River. There are over 15 of these families in Linn County. Each settler has several pages, including family group sheets, obituaries, quo-



tations from genealogies and other sources. There are also interviews with descendants made by the Works Progress Administration during the '30s. Volume 3 has just been completed. Dick estimates that there will be about 20 if all goes well.

"I have a vast amount of information regarding the Willamette Valley in Oregon territory," reports Dick, "If any of the Society members had relatives who travelled in this area and were here before the end of 1855 I would appreciate their contacting me. Hopefully they could furnish some information for me as well." Dick's address: 2492 S E Moraga St Albany OR 97321.

Incidentally, Dick has sent the Society the first three issues of a Newsletter that he is editing for The Milligan Society. This is for the descendants of William H Milligan (1821-1893), Dick's gt-grandfather, who came from Tyrone, Ireland to Macomb MI.

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Book Review

ALLEN PARK, 1745-1805.... 1970, by Evelyn Potter Park
300 pages plus addenda. Out of print

Recently I received from Phyllis Hughes #402 information about this book. By a fortuitous coincidence the author's husband, Warren R Park #565 had affiliated with the Society. I forthwith contacted Mrs Park concerning her book. Although it was out of print she loaned me her loose sheet copy to reproduce.

This book covers the Allen Park line in North Carolina and continues into Madison Co KY. The Virginia and North Carolina lines are closely tied together. There are many instances where I believe a relationship exists. Thus far I have been unable to document the connection. The author discusses this problem in the opening pages listing various names found in and around the Yadkin River area of North Carolina.

Mrs Park also includes a 20-page section on Timothy Parks as his family is closely intertwined by several recurring marriages. However, her work on Timothy was completed prior to the discovery of the Charles Parks Bible of 1817 received by the Society.

Documentation and maps are excellent and well worth checking should your research go back to North Carolina.

TEP #425

CHARLES PARKS Bible of 1817

Charles Parks, born 1789 in Rowan Co NC, was the son of Timothy & Esther (Shipton) Parks. It gives details concerning the children of both Timothy and Charles.

The pages from this bible were forwarded to the Society by Doris Roney Bowers, past President of the Illinois Genealogical Society. They had been part of a notebook of records transcribed and preserved by Miriam G Eads, a Kansas resident. Mrs Eads relinquished the records with the stipulation that they be placed with someone who would continue the research.

The original owner of the Bible, Margaret Parke Lucas, was born in Scott Co KY in 1825 and lived at Mt Zion, Woodford Co IL. Her father was Charles Parke; her husband was William P Lucas. Mrs Eads' notebook has family group sheets on descending lines as follows: Sparks, Jennings, Williams, Baldwin (Baldon), Stone, Dozier, Rogers, Carter, Fox, Fleming and Wagner.

PARK FAMILY HISTORY 1981 by Billie Joyce Petty #321
82 page booklet

This recent acquisition records the descendants of William Muir Park 1843-1899, born in Scotland and died in Jefferson Co AL. This work is nicely done and gives good details on all of the descendants of this Scottish line.

Additions to the Library:

Warren R Park #565
ALLEN PARK 1745-1805
(see book review)

Billie Joyce Petty #321
Park Family History
(see book review)

Doris Roney Bowers
Charles Parks Bible of 1817
with notebook of Miriam G Eads.
(see bible records)

David L Parke #13
DAR Bible Records from NY



Margaret Jackson (Stephenson) Quinn #486 is the 4th in the family of Kenneth & Charlotte Jenkins Stephenson, born in Springfield NJ. Like so many of Robert's descendants she studied to be a teacher, graduating from Oswego State College. In 1937 she married and now has three sons. Later she went back to teaching, specializing in reading skills. In retirement she has found more time for hiking, taking trips, playing bridge and working on a history project for Camden NY.

Betty Jane Gay Polhemus #526 lives in Ventura CA with her husband of 42 years, David Charles Polhemus. There they enjoy raising roses, parakeets canaries and poodles.

Betty was graduated from East Denver (CO) High School as a member of the National Honor Society.

Betty and David have five children, the first born shortly before his father went off to war in 1944. When it became time to face college tuitions, Betty went into real estate, achieving the highest score on her examination. Later she got her broker's license and opened her own office. This expanded to fifty salesmen. She and her husband built their own home from the ground up, a four bed-room house no less! Betty has three lines back to Robert¹ through Thomas²⁻³ and Dorothy³.