

The Parke Society

Promoting Fellowship, Genealogical Research, and the Preservation of our Heritage
Clearing-House for research on all Park/e/s immigrants from the British Isles.

JOHN PARK OF VIRGINIA AND JOHN PARKE OF N.J.

Cecilia Parke Kasberg #535

John Park of Hampshire Co., Va., (1750) and John Parke of Hopewell, Hunterdon County, N. J., have been determined to be the same person. Deeds and documents naming the sons of John Park of Va., as well as other pertinent information found in the Hunterdon County records seem to verify this.

John Park was born about December, 1676 to Roger Parke and Ann Patison of Northumberland County, England (Marriage record of Roger and Ann - 2nd mo. 10 day, 1676 recorded in Holmes Monthly Meetings, Digest of Cumberland and Northumberland Counties, England.) One New Jersey researcher suggested that John and Ann might have been twins, but no research has indicated this thus far. Being the first

child born to Roger and Ann, it is possible that he was named after his maternal grandfather, John Patison.

The second confirmation of John Park is the baptism record of John, Ann and Roger Jr., in 1703/04 found in the baptism records of "The First Episcopal Church" in

John Park of Hampshire Co., Va., (1750) and John Parke of Hopewell, Hunterdon County, N. J., have been determined to be the same person.

Burlington County, N.J. Roger Sr., evidently had been baptized in England or he would not have been able to have his children baptized in the Episcopal Church. Perhaps we will find this record in the near future.

Roger Parke Sr. wanted to be sure that his children owned property in the new world so he had property surveyed for his daughter, Ann in 1697; deed received 9 August, 1698. Ann would have had to be 21 in order to own land in her own name. Roger also had 300 acres of land surveyed for his son, John, in Feb. 1696/97. The age of majority would apply here equally for son or daughter.

John Park started to improve his 300 acres of land, preparing for the day that he would marry. John married Sarah Smith, daughter of his neighbor, Andrew Smith, of Hopewell, about 1700. Sarah Smith signed as a witness to a deed for Roger Parke in 1697, indicating she was not married. However, it was inevitable that John and Sarah should marry. Sarah was born in Nov., 1675 in England, therefore, establishing the possible birth date for John about the same time. No research has come forth to prove that John, Ann

or Roger were of a previous marriage.

John Park was becoming a man of prominence in the community. By 1721, he had six children, four of whom are verified; John Jr., Roger, Andrew and George. Two daughters named were Ann and Abigail. In 1721, John served on the Grand Jury with his brother, Roger Parke Jr. (Ralph Ege- POH)

By 1725, John witnessed the purchase of land for the First Presbyterian Church of Hopewell. (History of 1st Presby. Church - . 974.965). This indicated that he and

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In Memory

#11 Brainerd Peck - Past President of the Society and 11th generation descendant of Robert (MA 1630). Founder of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Recipient of highest awards presented by the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a recipient of the Parke Society's Dedicated Service Award. An avid researcher and genealogist. He was preceded in death by his wife Grace four years ago. (see v33p8)

Leslie Phelps, PS#549 reports that she has lost three relatives within the span of one week. **#237 Ruth (Phelps) Jacobs** died 17 Mar 1996. She had joined 18yrs ago. She was a descendant of Robert thru Thos, Nathaniel, Joseph 4, 5, Daniel, Sally 7. She was a 1st cousin of Betty Lawrence #288 and Florence Mott #295. Ruth was born in Schenectady NY 5 Sep 1912 and later lived in Camden NY. She married Ward Earl Jacobs in Elmhurst NY 1937. Within the week, cousin **Betty (Francis) Lawrence, #288**, died. Another cousin, Albert Leslie Phelps -Leslie's father, then died. Funerals for Betty and Albert were held on consecutive days, the former in San Jose, the latter in Camden, NY.

#411 Marguerite (Stevens) Parke born 1921 San Diego CA. She was the wife of Reuben Hatch Parke #103 whom she married in 1942 in Yuma AZ.

#800 Mildred Viola (Parks) Rost born 1923 in Orchard Park NY and married there in 1947 to Howard Charles Rost Jr. She was the descendant of her gt grandfather Horace Parks.

#921 Dr Arthur Ewart Parks MD born 1907 in Toronto ONT died in 1993 in Toronto ONT. Dr. Parks married in 1939 Natalie Alice Drake. Dr. Parks was a descendant of Robert (MA 1630) thru Thos, Nathaniel, Joseph 4, James 5, Cyrenius 6, James Cyrenius 7, George Dyer 8, to his father William Arthur 9. (see v33 p17)

#930 Douglas Lyal Parks born in 1918 at Prince Edward Island and married in 1942 at St Johns NB to Hazel Aileen Maybee. He was a resident of Picton ONT. He was a descendant of Christopher, Gilbert, to his father Thomas Oscar.

#156 Robert Parke died peacefully 15 Oct 1996 in his 94th year. He was a recipient of the Society's Dedicated Service Award indicating the great esteem in which he was held by those of us who knew him. He was a strong researcher in family history and supplied articles for the Newsletter on several occasions. At the last Convocation he attended he was jokingly introduced as the Immigrant of the Robert (MA 1630) line!

His lineage started with Robert to Thomas (2), ~~John (3)~~, Robert (4), Hezekiah (5), Rev Paul (6), Elisha (7), Ephraim (8), Sidney (9), Andrew George (10), to his father Fenton Marion (11). In 1976, Robert and his wife Mary Bradford Boynton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They had three sons who gave them 10 grandchildren. Bob worked in his dad's company, Parke, Hall & Co, a Buffalo NY Realty firm. They served as director of the student union at the Univ. of Buffalo. During WWII he was

a training and safety officer for a local company. He then went to Parke, Hall as a broker and appraiser serving as a director and secretary of the firm.

#648 We have had word of the death of **George Edwin Parks** of Anna IL last June 2nd. Coming from a long line of Druggists he served in this capacity until his retirement in 1967. Though he had no children he was an active member of the Southern Illinois Genealogical Society. David and Jill Parke (#13 & #14) visited with him, following lengthy correspondence. He explained that his research reached a "stonewall" in western PA. Following the visit he packed up voluminous records and sent them to the Parke Society (over 750 pages). What his grandfather told him was that his forebear John Parks lived in Uniontown, Fayette Co PA. He never found the right John.

#173 Florence Mabel Pascawis Hammond of St. Louis, MO, formerly of Richmond, VA died 23 Mar 1996, age 94. She was born at Meehan Station, WI, daughter of Frank Martin and Emily (9) Parks Pascawis. She is survived by two sons, Robert and Harley Hammond and a daughter, Bessie E. Hope #169 and nearly 60 grand, great, and great great grandchildren. In addition to the Society, she was a member of the DAR and the Shady Grove UMC. Her lineage was Robert (MA 1630), Thomas 2,3,4 Josiah 5,6 Moses 7, Silas 8.



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The
Parke
Society
1996



The Parke Society serves as a clearinghouse for research on all Park/e/s immigrants from the British Isles. Regular membership is open to any descendant. Associate membership is open to any interested person. Inquiries and requests for membership should be directed to the Registrar.

Application Fee	\$ 15.00	Mrs. Marjorie Isaac #825
Annual Dues	\$ 15.00	202 Meadowbrook Dr.
Life Membership	\$150.00	Clarks Summit, PA 18411

John Park and John Parke (continued from pg 33)

his family had left the Episcopal Church in which he had been baptized and had joined the Presbyterian Church. Many of the Park/e/s of New Jersey did the same thing.

In 1722, the Hunterdon County tax roll indicated that Roger Parke Sr., paid no tax. Roger Jr. paid tax on 200 acres of land (probably originally belonged to Roger Sr) and John paid taxes on his 300 acres. ("Hist. of Hunterdon and Somerset Co., -Snell, p. 186).

The year 1731 brought bad news for the Parke family, as well as many others, for this was the year that they all received the "Ejectment Notice" which meant that they would have to pay for their land again or

• Ejectment Notice

• Tar & Feathers

lose it. No doubt this would have been a tremendous blow to the settlers. They had spent 35 years improving their land and raising their families on the land with hopes of leaving their property to their children only to see their dreams destroyed in their advanced years. Some of the settlers paid for their land again in order to save it, but others elected to take the matter to Court. Fifty settlers signed a petition and the Ejectment Suit until 1735, when a jury of twelve Quakers tried the case, and gave their verdict for the plaintiff. The case was carried to the



Court of Errors, but it was to no avail. The records of the Supreme Court, with many judgments on parchment rolls are among the archives of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. This event was distressing as well as an embarrassment to the settlers.

John Parke with 300 acres of land, and well established in the community, had more to lose than some. John and his neighbors, Thomas Smith (his brother-in-law), and Bartholomew Anderson became so angry over the decision they resolved not to pay twice for their land. Instead they took matters into their own hands. They refused to vacate the property and were forcibly evicted from their homestead by the local Sheriff. Their homesteads were then rented to two people by the name of O'Gulloon and Collier. By this time, Parke, Smith and probably Anderson, as well as several others committed to the cause, prepared their revenge on the two renters, with what was called a "Tar and Feathers" action which lead to bodily assault. The end result was the local Sheriff ordering a warrant for the arrest of Parke, et. al. To avoid arrest and further anguish, John Parke and Thomas Smith prepared to leave the area rather hurriedly. John and Thomas were at least 60 years of age, as were their wives. Their children were grown and probably already settled in the area, so it is doubtful that they left. In fact, Roger, John Jr., and Andrew are still found in the Hopewell Township Meetings after 1735; Andrew as late as 1758.

A John Parke Jr., was named Overseer of the Poor in 1735 and also in 1737. In 1738, the Poll List shows Roger Park, son of John, Hopewell

and Roger Park, Jr. (History of Hopewell, Snell, p. 192). By 1741, Roger Parke (11), William Parke (Roger's son) and John Parke, Jr., are named as "Freeholders" of Hopewell. I doubt that Roger Parke (11)'s grandson, John Jr., would have owned land, so John Parke, Jr., named, must have been the son of John Parke I, who fled to Virginia.

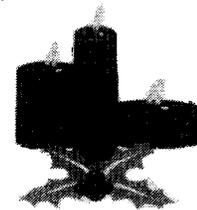
There is no further mention of John Jr., in Hopewell after 1741, so it was about this time that John Jr. might have left New Jersey to join his father in Virginia. Mrs. Evelyn Potter Park's "John Park of Virginia" explains the John I line of Hampshire Co. Va. John Park and Thom as Smith eluded the arrest warrants

• Moved to Virginia

• Descendants OH, IN, NC

by crossing the Delaware River into Bucks County, Pa., where they probably had friends as well as relatives. Other records indicate that they were in Fairfax Co., Va., until about 1745 or later. John Parke obtained a warrant for land in the Capon Valley, Hampshire Co., Va. in 1750, which he later assigned to his son, George.

The saga ends with John Park and his many descendants, some of whom remained in the Virginia area and others ventured into open Ohio and Indiana. Smith is said to have settled in the New Jersey Settlement in Rowan Co., N. C.



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The Parke Convocation at Orlando was very interesting. As always, I learned something new. Several of us had the opportunity to spend time at the Orlando Public Library which has a large genealogy research center.

Our speaker, Ann Parker Whitewolf gave an interesting talk on her family history. She is the granddaughter of Quanah Parker, last Chief of the Comanche Indian Nation. She suggested the book RIDE THE WIND by Lucia St.Clair Robson for those interested in learning more. It is classified as fiction but the information is correct, except for a smidgen of romance.

NOTE: Please do not send me cash through the mail. Make your checks payable to "The Parke Society". Otherwise, I must write a personal check in order to keep my library account records straight. The Book List (rules, loan fee, etc.) is available for \$1.00. After purchasing your book list, please remember to keep it up to date by adding the new books listed in each Parke Newsletter.

BOOKS ADDED TO OUR COLLECTION:

000 BOOK 6 page photocopy (loan fee: \$1.00)
BOOK NEW JERSEY MARRIAGES (Colonial Era) PARK/E/S

000 Kasberg, Cecilia Parke Oct.5,1993
KASB THE WANDERING PARKES OF WEST NEW JERSEY JOSEPH & MARGARET PARKE (Their Descendants)

000 Kasberg, Cecilia Parke Oct.23, 1993
KASB ROGER PARKE 'IMMIGRANT'

920 Shipton, Clifford K. 1963/1995, 626 pg.
SHIP NEW ENGLAND LIFE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

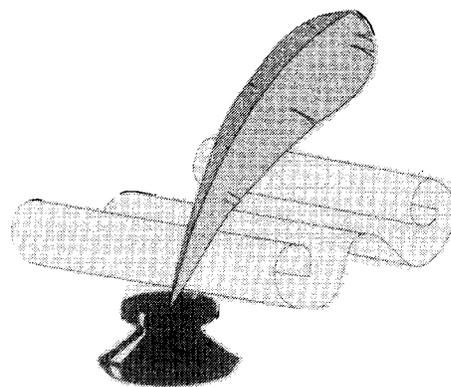
929.2 Sawyer, Eleanor Grace 1995, 718 pg.
SAWY SAWYER FAMILIES OF NEW ENGLAND 1636-1900

929.7 Tilton, Robert S. 1994, 254 pg.
TILT POCAHONTAS THE EVOLUTION OF AN AMERICAN NARRATIVE

929.7 Ward,Susan & Smith,Michael 1989, 96 pg.
WARD BILTMORE ESTATE HOUSE*GARDEN*WINERY

THE SAWYER FAMILIES OF NEW ENGLAND is a very well documented genealogy, primarily concerned with the Sawyer families. Her Sawyer index lists a date by each given name which is very helpful. She also has an Other Name Index, but only three Park/e/s are listed. Letitia Blood (1834-1903) m. Lowell MA Robert Park. Hazel Seeley Clayton of Canada, b. 1896, dau. M. & Della (Parks) Seeley. Mary L.Parsons b.1823 m.1844 Gardner Parks.

NEW ENGLAND LIFE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY contains 60 short biographies from Sibley's Harvard Graduates from the years 1690-1750. POCAHONTAS is part historic, part legendary literature. Both of



these books were donated by Mrs. L.D.Parks #1124.

The Library is very fortunate to have two books from the Lineage Leader for Roger (NJ 1682): Mrs. Cecilia B. Kasberg #525. I am not reviewing these two books in depth at this time because I am sure that Cecelia's article will cover the most important highlights.

ROGER PARKE 'IMMIGRANT' is well documented and easy to follow. I like the way she clearly differentiates between facts, probabilities, theories, etc. It was interesting reading, especially the early history of New Jersey. She has included several maps which help in understanding the area. This is an excellent book for those interested in New Jersey. She also lists other Parkes, probably related to the Roger Parke line. There are copies of wills, Parke documents, Parke family charts, and a bibliography.

THE WANDERING PARKES OF WEST NEW JERSEY JOSEPH & MARGARET PARKE

(Their Descendants) begins with the history of the Roger Parke family in England who decided to leave England for religious reasons. Cecelia carefully explains the theories regarding

the birthdates of Roger Parke Sr and Jr, and that more research is being done in this area. She thanks

Lee R. Christensen, Evelyn Park, Percival Park, Margaret Joss and The Parke Society for all their research

material. This well-documented book follows her family history from New Jersey to Indiana.

The Library is planning to purchase a genealogy workbook for beginners. The title is **MY FAMILY TREE WORKBOOK** BY Rose-



mary A. Chorzempa. This is a 57 page softcover workbook designed especially for the younger generation - a beginner in the field of genealogy. Used with the right age group, it should definitely promote an interest in family history.

Before suggesting an age group, I consulted with my cousin who has taught a genealogy class at her local elementary school. She strongly suggested the 4th - 6th grade age group.

ents wrote to her expressing their appreciation and also mentioning how much family history they were learning from their children - who were visiting relatives for stories about their lives, roots, etc.

She gave this book her seal of approval. It contains an excellent preface which explains what a family tree is, various family relationships, some common abbreviations. Accuracy is stressed. There are special sheets for family members, a family tree, immigrant ancestors, ethnic heritage, etc. Sample pages showing notebook charts, pedigree charts, correspondence, other sources of information, along with a glossary are included. Chorzempa also gives a sample autobiography along with her family tree.

It is my opinion that we have to develop an interest in genealogy among the younger generation in order to keep the Parke Society active. By starting early, even if they lose enthusiasm, it is more likely to resume in later years. In her teaching, Sherry stresses 'my story' rather than genealogy. Some questions she asked were: Why are your eyes blue, your hair blond, etc.? Was your grandfather in World War II? She

tried to bring up questions that the children would relate to.

This book is for sale to interested members.

The cost is \$5.00 payable to the 'Parke Society' which includes postage and handling.

Murphy's Fundamental Laws

If anything can go wrong invariably it will.

Nothing is ever as simple as it first seems.

By making something absolutely clear, someone will become confused.

More than 80% of her groups were interested enough to follow through with it at home. Several of the par-

ROGER PARKE DESCENDANTS IN HARRISON CO., W. VA.

Cecilia Parke Kasberg #535

Harrison County, Virginia, later became part of West Virginia and became a place to settle for many descendants of the Roger Parke line of Hopewell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

Relationship is known and it is exciting to see how close the Parke clan was in that they seemed to follow each others footsteps and knew where other members of their family were. Cousins seemed to be very close and children would often follow their parents in settling in new areas.

Some of the following settled in the Harrison County area:

1. JOHN PARKE (1) LINE:

a. Ruth Parke, daughter of Andrew Parke, son of John I. Ruth married Francis Patten.

b. Sarah Parke, daughter of Andrew Parke, married Jonathan Shinn (Sheene).

c. Anne Parke, daughter of John II, married James Smith.

2. JOSEPH PARKE (II) LINE : (Roger 1. Roger 2. Joseph

3. Joseph 4) Not confirmed.

a. Theodosia Parke daughter of Joseph and Sarah Parke of "The Village of Asbury" Mansfield-Woodhouse, Sussex Co., New Jersey. Theodosia married Archeleus Dunham in 1784 in Hackettstown, New Jersey. Theodosia and Archeleus moved to Harrison County, Virginia soon after.

b. Rebecca Parke, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Parke of Mansfield-Woodhouse, Sussex County, New Jersey, married William Hall in 1795, in Washington Co., Pa. They also removed to Harrison Co., Va. soon after. Theodosia and Rebecca were sisters.

Note that Andrew Parke and Joseph Parke I of Hopewell, Hunterdon Co., New Jersey were probably close cousins. Andrew signed a bond for Joseph Parke in Hopewell. Some of these could be fourth and fifth generation cousins but they were all in the area about the same time period. Coincidence!!?? JOSEPH PARKE II, SOLD OUT ALL HIS PROPERTY IN NEW JERSEY AND WENT TO LIVE WITH HIS DAUGHTER, THEODOSIA. JOSEPH DIED THERE IN 1815.

Sorting out Park/e/s in Pennsylvania

David L. Parke #13

In the Spring of 1980 (Newsletter v17p17) I outlined what we were learning about many Park/e/s families in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. That was 16 years ago, and many new members have joined to help in the research.

In this issue we will look at the first four generations of John Parks who was of Scotch-Irish origin settling in Cumberland Co around 1758 (PA c1758). John is known to have served in the Revolution and is noted in DAR records. He and his wife Isabella Galbraith, married in 1759, lived in a part of Cumberland Co that became Mifflin Co in 1789.

Of his six children we have records of two sons: James (1763-1836) also served in the Revolution, married Jane Entrekin in 1787 and soon moved to Nicholas Co in north-eastern Kentucky where all but the first child were born; Robert (1769-1858) married Jane Bratton in 1790 and stayed in what was now Mifflin Co and reared their ten children. In 1814 they moved to southern Armstrong Co where they built a log house on a 300 acre farm.

Three members working on this line are: Betty G Rosenberger #1211 of Fort Sumner NM, a descendant thru James; also C Carson Parks #745 of Waynesville NC and Robert G Keefer Jr #1173 of Keego Harbor MI (whose wife Virginia is the researcher). Both Carson and Robert are descendants thru Robert. Another researcher, Mary Parks Blackson of Rigby ID, has also provided much helpful information.

I had hoped to visit the area this year, but it hasn't been possible. However I was in touch with Chris

Contino, the County's Project Manager for the Armstrong Co Fall Festival in 1993 held at the Parks' "Farmers Delight" Dairy Farm near Leechburg. Now I will leave it up to the members to tell you about this family.

In the next issue we will share what is known of a family of another John Park that settled in Butler Co bordering Armstrong Co to the west.

Comments from descendants of John (PA c1758)

Clarence Carson Parks #745

I started my research about 25 years ago. While in Los Angeles in the '60s, I used the LDS Temple records. They didn't seem to mind a Methodist defiling the place! My lineage is thru Robert (2), James Bratton (3), Jacob Hill (4), Clarence Carson (5) for whom I was named, to my father Richard Hill (6) who married May Joy Alter.

The original Parks farm I visited, called "Farmers Delight", is sited on a lovely curve of the Kiskiminetas River. I tried to buy it in 1967, but was two weeks late when I found it was to be sold to Atlantic-Richfield. The original house still stands with walls two feet thick. At the top of the brick eaves is a triangular marker that says simply "1807". This would predate Robert's arrival in 1814.

There was a spring house to keep milk cold, and a huge 3-story barn with two foot thick chestnut beams. This has since been bulldozed and torched! The cemetery on the farm was primarily Parks people, but also was used by the Hill family, who were neighbors. The children intermarried some, as the name Hill is all through my side of the tree. I am unhappy about the condition of the cemetery and hope to do something about it.

I have two family Bibles in storage. One may be the Robert Parks

Bible. I'll check on it next spring. Also I have a portrait of Robert and his gold headed walking stick. There is a matching pair of Knights Templar swords that have come down through the family.

Virginia White Keefer (husband #1173)

Genealogy is my hobby so I have researched the John Parks line as best I could. My husband, Robert Gordon Keefer Jr is descended from Robert (2) to John (3), Rhoda (4) who married David Gourley, Harriet Gourley (5) who married Arlington Olin Keefer the father of Robert Sr (6).

John Parks, I found, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His parentage has not been found, but he is believed to have been Scotch-Irish and arrived near the time of his marriage in 1759 to Isabella Galbraith in Cumberland Co PA. An Orphan's Court Docket in Allegheny Co referred to "John Parks dec'd". The court appointed John Galbraith to be the guardian of James Parks, until he becomes 14. Then, in a later Docket, the court appointed Robert Vance to be the guardian of James "son of John Parks, Dec'd, late of Moon Twp, during James minority".

Whether this is the right John or the right James is in question. If John died by 1777, his children would have been William aged 16 to Arthur 3. There is no indication why James, not

yet 14, would be singled out. In "Abstracts of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots" Vol 3 shows a John Parks buried in the "family cemetery in Leechburg, Westmoreland Co". If he died by 1777 and Robert didn't come to the Leechburg area until 37 years later, this doesn't make sense to me. Anyway, the DAR Patriot Index has "John b c1733 dp1788 m Isabella Galbraith, Pvt PA". That death date is more likely.

Our early Parks were buried in the private Parks Cemetery off the Leechburg/Airport Rd. Robert and his wife Jane are buried under separate 6 ft concrete covers. They were married in Cumberland Co by the Rev Matthew Stephens. William Frew #1180 of Texas states that Jane was born on a large estate in England. Robert moved to Armstrong Co in 1814 in the Kiskiminetas Valley, leaving his three brothers, two settling in 'Kentuck' and the other in Indiana or Illinois. "He brought his six children and their entire earthly possessions in a covered wagon, drawn by one horse!" So says the "The History of Armstrong Co", quite a load!

The family were members of the First Presbyterian Church, strong Democrats, and actively supported the schools, including teaching and serving on the school board. The above History devotes several pages to the family.

John (PA c1758)

JOHN PARKS DAR
 b c1733 Ireland
 d b1777 Moon Twp Allegheny Co PA
 m 1759 Isabella Galbraith

William
 d bpt 1760 Cumberland Co PA
 m

Agnes (Fannie)?
 d bpt 1762 Cumberland Co PA
 m

James DAR
 b 1763 Cumberland Co PA
 d 1836 Nicholas Co KY
 m 1787 Jane (Jenny) Entrekkin

Robert
 b 1769 Cumberland Co PA
 d 1858 Parks Twp Armstrong Co PA
 m 1790 Jane Bratton 1769-1847
 art 1814 "Farmers Delight"
 Margaret
 d bpt 1772 Cumberland Co PA
 m
 Arthur
 d b 1774 Cumberland Co PA
 m

PA County	Created
Chester	1682
Lancaster	1729
York	1749
Cumberland	1750
Bedford	1771
Westmoreland	1773
Armstrong	1800

Margaret
 b 1792 Mifflin Co PA
 d 1871
 m 1820 Joseph Shields

Isabella
 b 1794 Mifflin Co PA
 d 1879
 m 1818 Andrew Arnold
 1795-1861

Phoebe
 b 1796 Mifflin Co PA
 d 1864
 m 1819 James E Brown

Elizabeth
 b 1798 Mifflin Co PA
 d 1833
 m 1821 George Thompson Crawford

John
 b 1800 Mifflin Co PA
 d 1885 Armstrong Co PA
 1m 1830 Sarah Gourley
 2m 1842 Elizabeth Shriber

Jane Maria
 b 1803 Mifflin Co PA
 d 1877
 m 1825 James Fitzgerald

Sidney Galbraith
 b 1805 Mifflin Co PA
 d 1871
 1m 1828 Samuel Lefever
 2m Robert Paul

Sarah Edmiston
 b 1808 Mifflin Co PA
 d 1890
 m 1836 Alexander Gordon

James Bratton
 b 1810 Mifflin Co PA
 d 1842 Armstrong Co PA
 m 1840 Lucinda Catherine Hill

Jane Bratton
 b 1831 Armstrong Co PA
 d
 m 1853 John Hill

John Galbraith
 b 1833 Armstrong Co PA
 d
 m

Arthur Alexander
 b 1843 Armstrong Co PA
 d
 m

Sarah Gourley
 b 1844 Armstrong Co PA
 d
 m

Henry Schriber
 b c1846 Armstrong Co PA
 d
 m

Mary Catherine
 b 1847 Armstrong Co PA
 d
 m

Elizabeth Crawford
 b 1850 Armstrong Co PA
 d
 m

John G
 b 1788 PA
 d 1862 KY
 m x

Elizabeth Hall
 b 1790 Nicholas Co KY
 d 1834 KY
 m 1817 John Carter 1785-1865

James A
 b 1792 Nicholas Co KY
 d 1811 KY
 m x

William
 b 1792 Nicholas Co KY
 d 1814 KY

Robert E
 b 1793 Nicholas Co KY
 d 1821 LA
 m x

Joseph S
 b 1795 Nicholas Co KY
 d 1868 KY
 m 1825 Elizabeth Frank 1809-1880

Arthur Lee
 b 1797 Nicholas Co KY
 d 1874 KY
 1m 1832 Ann Crenshaw -1845
 2m 1846 Elizabeth Ann Kincart

John G
 b 1829
 d
 m

Joseph S
 b 1835
 d
 m

James E
 b 1838
 d
 m

Richard S
 b 1840
 d
 m

Martha T
 b 1842
 d
 m

Martha T
 b 1845
 d
 m

Nancy C
 b 1848
 d 1834
 m

Belle
 b 1850
 d
 m

James N
 b 1836
 d 1875
 m

Ellen E
 b 1840
 d
 m

Ann E
 b 1843
 d
 m

Mary J
 b 1845
 d 1864
 m

Frances T
 b 1847
 d
 m

William George
b 1813 Mifflin Co PA
d 1872 Armstrong Co PA
1m 1839 Rhoda Thompson
2m 1860 Ellen B Parr

James Bratton
b 1840 Armstrong Co PA
d 1863
m x

Robert
b 1843 Armstrong Co PA
d
m 1873 Sara E Ralston

John Thompson
b 1845 Armstrong Co PA
d 1861
m x

William Findley
b 1847 Armstrong Co PA
d 1861

Jane Bratton (Janie B)
b 1841 Armstrong Co PA
d 1865 Armstrong Co PA
m x

Robert Galbraith
b 1845 Armstrong Co PA
d
m 1865 Margaret Jane Cline

Hannah Ulam
b 1847 Armstrong Co PA
d 1910
m x

Jacob Hill (druggist)
b 1849 Armstrong Co PA
d 1918 Armstrong Co PA
m 1875 Mary Caldwell Taylor

Isabella Catherine
b 1849 Armstrong Co PA
d Armstrong Co PA
m T J Elwood

John Waltz
b 1850 Armstrong Co PA
d 1933 Armstrong Co PA
m 1889 Enna Marle Bladen

Phoebe Brown
b 1852 Armstrong Co PA
d
m 1885 Samuel C Boale

Robert Fitzgerald
b 1852 Armstrong Co PA
d
m

William George
b 1854 Armstrong Co PA
d 1929 Westmoreland Co PA
m 1890 Emma Grinder

Rhoda
b 1857 Armstrong Co PA
d 1951 Mercer Co PA
m 1876 David Bartley Gourley

James Chesterfield
b 1859 Armstrong Co PA
d
m

Edda Margaret
b 1863 Armstrong Co PA
d
m

Thomas Jefferson
b 1854 Armstrong Co PA
d 1927
m 1880 Sarah Martha Thompson

William F (Dentist)
b 1856 Armstrong Co PA
d
m 1884 Mary I Pinkerton

Ella Agnes
b 1857 Armstrong Co PA
d 1860 Armstrong Co PA
m x

Sidney Paul
b 1859 Armstrong Co PA
d
m Albert Strum

Ellis Caruthers
b 1861 Armstrong Co PA
d 1865 Armstrong Co PA
m x

Mariah Blanche
b 1863 Armstrong Co PA
d 1865 Armstrong Co PA
m x

Edmiston Bratton
b 1865 Armstrong Co PA
d 1895
m

Isabella Galbraith
b 1798 Nicholas Co KY
d 1861 KY
m 1820 Horace Metcalfe 1799-1829

Lancoff Watson
b 1800 Nicholas Co KY
d 1841 KY
m x

Mary Steele
b 1802 Nicholas Co KY
d 1860 IA
m 1825 Judah Davidson 1798-1828

Thompson Steele
b 1805 Nicholas Co KY
d 1898 KY
m 1838 Elizabeth I Dorsey -1847

Martha M
b 1807 Nicholas Co KY
d 1882 KY
m 1824 Greenberry Ross

Esther Elvira
b 1809 Nicholas Co KY
d KY
m 1830 Robert J Carter

Edward Hall
b 1813 Nicholas Co KY
d 1839 KY
m x

Horace M Carter
b 1831
d
m

Arthur P Carter
b 1833
d
m

Jane E Carter
b 1835
d
m

James E Carter
b 1837
d
m

Laura F Carter
b 1838
d
m

Mary E Carter
b 1841
d
m

Rachel E Carter
b 1843
d
m

Martha L
b 1849
d
m

Robert Parks Davison
b 1826 KY
d 1909 IN
m 1849 Jane S Claybaugh

James Thomas Davidson
b 1828 KY
d 1902 IA
m 1851 Nancy Ann Glenn

Mary J
b 1839 KY
d
m

Nancy Pickett
b 1841 KY
d 1934
m Joseph M Scott MD

Cora B
b 1844 KY
d
m

John S
b 1846 KY
d 1894
m

James P Ross
b 1829
d 1897
m

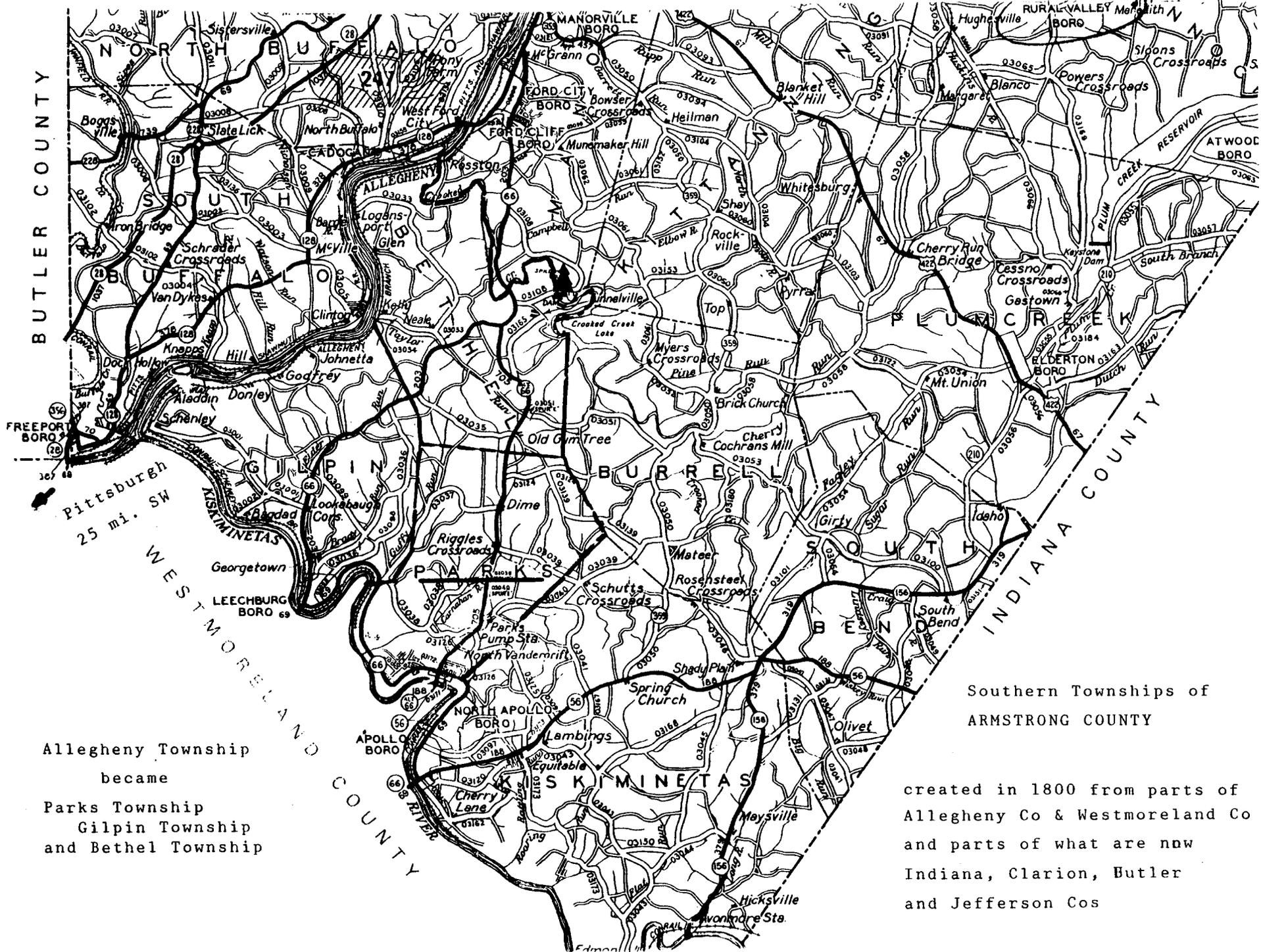
Jane Ross
b 1831
d
m Edsall

Ellen Ross
b 1840
d
m

John Ross
b 1843
d
m

Mary Ross
b 1849
d
m

William P Ross
b 1825
d 1900
m



Allegheny Township
 became
 Parks Township
 Gilpin Township
 and Bethel Township

Southern Townships of
 ARMSTRONG COUNTY

created in 1800 from parts of
 Allegheny Co & Westmoreland Co
 and parts of what are now
 Indiana, Clarion, Butler
 and Jefferson Cos

Computing and Your Family Momentos

by Curtis Parks, #1166

The article below had been written to introduce the idea that your PC can be used to bring the "World Wide Web" home to include your own family momentos. Then some of you saw the files displayed interactively during the Symposium at the Orlando Convocation. It is easier, and more fun, to "show" this work toward documenting my family history, but it is my hope that there are enough ideas here to help you with your related family projects.

When we think of genealogy and computers, we tend to think of our records database. This is the one task that a computer handles with ease. Now we can browse the whole family tree, and print out those charts that had been so hard to draw and keep updated with only paper and pencil. But what about some of the other things which relate to the family history?

Over the last few years a lot has changed in computer capability. But which changes help us with our family history? Well, multi-media seems like a possibility; but how can we use it without wondering if we can really share it?

That problem of sharing family information (other than the family tree and individual's notes) has been of interest to this author, especially now that there are some rather sharp grandchildren in the family with computers. In fact, it is becoming rather commonplace that grandchildren are learning with computers and using computer-aided tools in school. Well, these days, it seems to be the "World Wide Web" that opens the door (or computer screen) to vast amounts of knowledge. Earlier in this century the Carnegie Library in town was everyone's depot of worldly knowledge. When you suggest that to the young student in your family, the response is often "no problem, even the library is on-line!" Hummm, can we use the same technology for our own family things?

Let's see; there are some letters from the 1820's, old photos, and a page from an old Centennial book. Per-

haps the newspaper clippings of a long-ago golden anniversary which had been carefully saved. There seems to be some new tools that have become popular and widely used for knowledge exploration, perhaps offering a new medium for enjoying those family items. The key is that the "browser" of knowledge-over-Internet, called a Web client, is widely available. More important, these browsers can also open files we can keep on a disk or hard drive and even *link* the files together.

To explore the Web as a way to send family information seemed to require learning how to write a "Hypertext Markup Language" (HTML) file. That sounded worse than learning to program in COBOL. But in fact, it turned out to be rather simple. No wonder all those students have "home pages" of their own and even resumes on Web. One way was to find something neatly composed on the Web, and select "open source" from the menu. By replacing the text between the HTML commands with whatever is desired in that style, the result was saved as a file for my own Web use. The HTML commands were easy to find because they are enclosed; like this: `<HI>Ellen's Treasures</HI>`. The browser made "Ellen's Treasures" the largest available size of heading on the page when my own file was opened. The anchors needed to open other pages or "in-line" pictures were a bit more complex, but these added the really useful linking together of all these things. Which suggested using the Web itself for the second way to get started, as the Web itself includes a lot of tutorials on writing HTML for the Web.

Now it was time to try to use this new capability. With copies of the circa 1820 letters, the top and bottom few inches were scanned as "grayscale" artwork so the Web page could actually include the letter's greeting and signature. These images were converted to "duo-tone" (a very dark brown and a tan) to make them look as old as the originals

really were. This artwork was saved in a "GIF" format. The really hard part was carefully reading the letters (sometimes the letter s looked like a cursive f) and typing them into the HTML file. Then the anchors added above and below the typed text to call up those GIF figures so the resultant page included the greeting and signature images.

Then I noticed there were bonds of indenture, and marriage licenses in the collection. These could be scanned and kept as separate files. Last an index page file was written, with a short description of each item in the collection. Not all items were typed or scanned, but for those that were now in a separate file, an anchor was added as part of the index's entry. The index, when opened in the Web browser, brought the files together so that it is really easy to use the collection. The directory full of files were ready, and in a form that could be shared (on one floppy disk) using this new technology.

It did indeed take a couple of weeks of evenings, but it was worth all that time and more when the younger ones in my family took time from Internet Surfing and became deeply interested in exploring a bit of their own past.

The real test is yet to come; to see if these files remain useful many years in the future. I don't have the original documents, and have been told that they will quickly crumble if opened much more. So I am carefully saving my copies, opening instead the Web editions to answer a specific question. That way, I also have the use of the Web "Find" feature to quickly locate a name or some piece of text. Will I continue this pursuit? You bet, because it has helped share the past with my family. In fact, next time it will be easier because now those young computer wizards want to do "something like that" for their History Class project.

“I CONFESS... :” THE CONFESSION OF DANIEL PARKS

Larry Arthur Mitchel #1213

On Sunday, 18 December 1768, Daniel Parks made one of the hardest public speeches of his life. He stood up and confessed before his fellow members in the First Church of Lincoln, Massachusetts, a most grievous sin.

In the 18th century New England church, good standing in “the Covenant” meant everything. Without that good standing, members were cut off from the most important rituals and services of the church. And since, as in Lincoln from the beginning, the Town Meeting and the church occupied one and the same building, discipline from the church carried with it social and political consequences beyond the obvious consequences to religious fellowship.

It is in this context that the following “confession” needs to be understood. By attempting to say too much I would betray my lack of precise knowledge about 18th century New England church piety and polity. However, as a sketch suffice it to say that when a serious sin—a “breach of y^e Covenant” came to public light the sinner was effectively cut off from the church.

What was required for restoration in these instances was a demonstration to the church of a satisfactory sense of contrition, humility and penitence. And the primary evidence of such contrition was the public confession.

There exists in the archives of the Library Public Library a file of ten such written confessions. Based on the evidence of five such documents, these confessions were very formal—and formulaic—creations. A rhetorical

order is observed, and phrases recur from confession to confession.

Of these surviving documents, several confessions of different penitents appear to be written in the same hand. It is probable that this hand was the pastor’s. And several of these written confessions have notations on them that suggest they were destined for a safe filing place. Obviously they were saved: they survive to this day.

And I suspect that the act of confession itself was ritualized to a large degree. After the confession had been satisfactorily scripted, and possibly rehearsed, it was read out in public worship. Having heard the confession, the church body then determined whether or not to accept the sincerity of the act, and grant restoration. Such a record exists (apparently) in the case of this confession of Daniel Parks.

It must surely be an accident of history or of preservation, but (as Jack MacLean, the author of an extensive history of Lincoln, pointed out) of the ten confessions preserved in the Lincoln archives, six are from members of the extended Parks family. And the sin being confessed in most (if not all) cases: “Y^e sin of Fornication,” or more delicately, “y^e breach of y^e 7th Commandment.”

Now what about Daniel Parks himself? Daniel Parks was the twelfth child, seventh son, of Richard³ Parks (Richard² Parke, Richard¹ Parke) of Newton and Concord (abt 1667-1725). Daniel was born around 1710, in Concord, Massachusetts, and died 15 January 1800 in Lincoln, Massachusetts. He married Lydia Priest on 29 December 1763. Between 1764 and

the mid 1770s he fathered eight children.

With the other sons of Richard³ Parks, Daniel lived in the southwest district of Concord. After several abortive attempts, this area was successfully divided off as the Second Precinct of Concord in 1746, and a new church established. He and his close brother Zaccheus⁴ Parks in fact exempted themselves from the petition for a new church precinct. And while two other of Richard³ Parks sons made pew selections in that first Lincoln church (Joseph⁴ Parks, the eldest, and Josiah⁴ Parks), Daniel was not among the first members. According to church records, on 11 August 1754, just months after Lincoln became an independent town, Daniel Parks “owned the Covenant.”

While each of these simple documents can seem almost trivial—or at best a curiosity - from the perspective of more than two centuries, clearly each held a human drama—and a potential human tragedy.

This document is written in a legible hand on both sides of a piece of thin paper about 9.6 cm wide by about 15.7 cm high. Significant bleed-through and several line-outs mar readability. There are 32 lines of text, and a signature line, on the obverse (face), and two lines at the top of the reverse. This hand is in all respects identical to the hand that wrote similar confessions of Benjamin Parks, Zaccheus Parks and Huldah Dudley (and probably that of Lydia Parks as well).

Continued on page 45

Daniel Parks Confession (continued from page 44)

In content, this confession has many phrases, line after line, that are identical (or nearly so) to a like confession by Zaccheus Parks (dated 9 May 1765). It appears to have been signed (Line 30) by Daniel Parks himself: at least the signature is quite similar to his signature on a 1752 "warning out" warrant signed by him and Zaccheus Parks.

There is no date given in this document (some of the existing confessions are dated). However, as noted in the First Lincoln Church records, Daniel Parks on 18 December 1768 made such a confession:

"Dec' 18. 1768 Daniell [sic] Parks made satisfaction for his breach of Cov' by committing y^e Sin of fornication & was Restored to y^e Charity of y^e Church & his former privile[d]ge."

My working hypothesis is that these two references are to one and the same confessions, although see lines 8-10 which clearly refer to a prior sin and confession (The above quotation is based on a typed transcript of the church records from the Lincoln Public Library Archives).

The following transcription is literal and verbatim. It follows the document line for line. I have provided some description of the document itself, and where appropriate have added explanatory notes.

And so on that Sunday in 1768 Daniel Parks made his difficult speech. In a way that nothing else can, this act captures the character of the times. It gives us a small window into the soul of 18th century rural Massachusetts.

Daniel Parks Confession

1. I confess that I have given way to y^e
2. Lascivious Inclinations of my
3. Corrupt heart and violated the

4. Seventh Commandment by
5. Committing y^e sin of fornicati
6. on—When I consider that I have
7. committed this offense after—
8. having made publick profession
9. of repentance for y^e same Evil
10. heretofore and after after laying
11. my Self under Cove' obligation
12. to conform to y^e holy and righte
13. ous law of God; I am filled with
14. Shame & sorrow for my Sin and
15. folly herein and begging forgive
16. ness of God and his people I de-
17. sire
17. that I may be restored to y^e Char-
- ity
18. of this Church and all the privile[d]g
19. in it which I was before my
- 20.
21. I likewise desire your Earnest
22. prayers to God for me
23. that he would bestow his par-
- doning
24. mercy upon me and give me
25. grace to Show forth y^e sincerity
26. of my repentance & humili-
27. ation by a Sober modest
28. circumspect carriage for the
29. Future
30. [signed] Daniel Parks
[Reverse:]
31. Dan Parks
32. Confession

Notes

Lines 1-6 The first lines specify the subject of this confession, sometimes obliquely ("y^e breach of y^e Seventh Commandment") or as here also more explicitly stated.

Lines 6-10 As noted above, this was apparently not the first such offense.

Lines 14-24 In words addressed both to God and to the congregation, the penitent makes "satisfaction" for his covenant breach by contrite language: "filled with shame and sorrow," "begging forgiveness," "desire that I may be restored," "shamefull offense," "desire your earnest prayers."

Lines 24-29 The confession closes, as is typical, with a promise of future faithfulness.

Line Line 30 As noted above, this appears to be the live signature of Daniel^l Parks himself. This signing by the penitent is consistent with other signed confessions (for example, that of Zaccheus Parks).

Peace
On
Earth

Next Issue:

More on Park/Crockett

NJ Marriages

A Killing in Preston, CT

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Tad Parks, Historian

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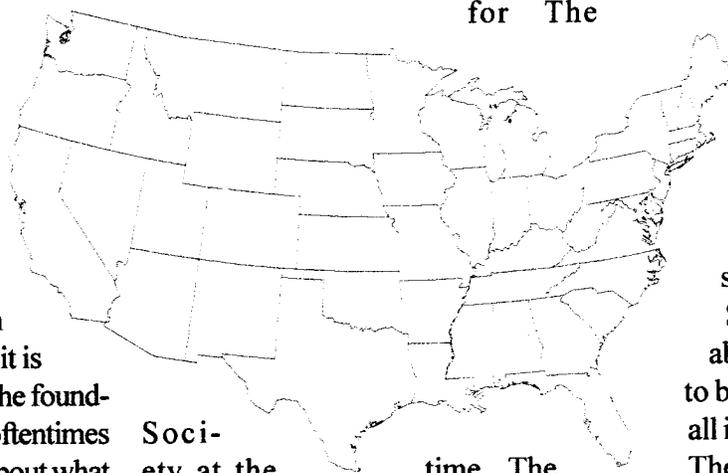
With this column, I complete sixteen years of writing on the art and science of Genealogy for the NewsLetter. It's not always been easy. As Robert Samuelson has said, "Writing is the grinding process of discovering the right flow of words to convey a story, feeling, explanation or an argument." Sometimes words flow like water, and sometimes they are more like ice. Having something worthwhile to say is a value judgement. In the eyes of the reader-members, it depends on what they need and expect of the Historian. The perception of the Historian's job and what he actually does may not always coincide. So, perhaps, I should clarify that before we go any further.

The title itself has been problematic for years. While it is one of the original titles from the founding of The Society in 1963, it oftentimes conveys the wrong message about what the Historian actually does in The Society. From time to time we have debated this particular office title. As yet we have not found a concise title that can adequately describe the present duties without taking a minute or more to enunciate. To me, it makes no difference what I am called. This title is as good as any and it provides some level of historical continuity (pun not intended).

For your general information, the Historian is one of the five constitutionally elected Officers of The Society, elected by the Trustees at each year's Annual Convocation. The term

of office is one year (or until a successor is elected) with no term limit. This is a practical manner, as you will see. (The only term limit imposed by our By-Laws is on the Office of the President, and that is five years.) According to those same By-Laws, "The Historian shall be the genealogist of the Society." Period. That is all it states about the duties of the Historian.

With that general foundation, it has been left up to each of the incumbents to determine what was best for The



Society at the time. The Historian (also Founder and sometime concurrent President), Ruby Anderson, PS#1, (1963-1975) was mostly focused on the Robert Parke (MA, 1630, STW) lines and the production of her "PARKE SCRAPBOOKS", produced under the auspices of The Society. Her successor, David Parke, PS#13, (1976-1980) who concurrently served as Editor and Registrar, put a great deal of effort into the development of our present Lineage Binders of family group sheets (FGS). It was he who put into place the wishes of the Board of Trustees attempting to make The Society the

"Clearing House" of ALL PARK/E/S information, no matter who the antecedent.

Since my election in 1980, I have continued to further David's efforts and, in general, try to get my hands around that whole body of available data concerning PARK/E/S in North America. It is not an easy task. Unfortunately, the PARK/E/S name is fairly common and quite a few by this surname crossed the Atlantic to these shores. Additionally, it should be noted that there is a lot of bad information out there that continues to be incorporated into documentation and new works. It is, therefore, particularly important to check submittals for accuracy.

Specifically, to accomplish the above goal, I view myself first, to be a cataloguer and indexer of all information that is collected by The Society. In that process, I have spent much time writing FGSs and entering data into the GIVENAME INDEX (the pathway into the group sheets of the Lineage Binders).

Secondly, I am the certifier of lineages for members of The Society. I compare what is presented, together with any supporting evidence, with what we already have in the record. A weigher and evaluator of evidence. Primarily, my purpose in this regard is to keep members from getting off the beaten path, not necessarily to grade their work! Differences are noted, and hopefully followed up by the submitting member. Our record is certainly not

Continued on page 47

infallible, and we are always open to new findings and additional original research. However, we also feel that for the most part we have some of the lines pretty well deduced. As the "Chief Genealogist" of The Society, I would be remiss in my duties if I did not attempt to set and uphold standards of research and evidence. While everyone may not agree, it really is my fiduciary duty as an Officer to The Society and one which I take VERY seriously.

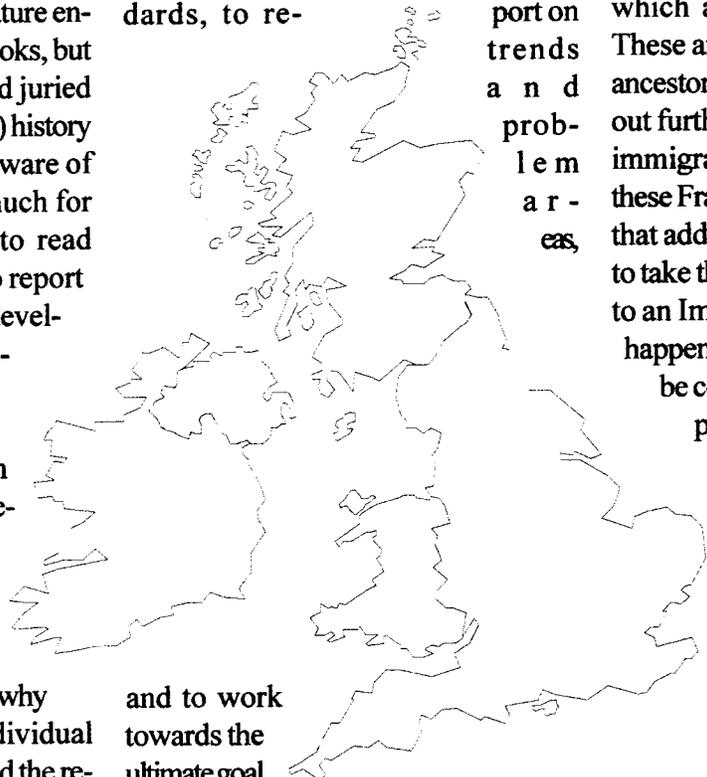
Finally, genealogy is an academic field of endeavor, though perhaps not always accepted as such. It does have a fairly wide field of literature encompassing not only how to books, but technical texts, periodicals and juried journals. Most amateur (family) history researchers are generally unaware of these resources. I do try, as much for myself as for The Society, to read widely in the literature, and to report on trends, problems and new developments in the field. (Genealogy is not my vocation; I earn my living as a CPA).

A common perception remains that I am the resident researcher for The Society. Not so. As much as we would like, we(I) do not have the time or resources to engage in that endeavor. This is why we are so dependent upon individual members reporting findings and the results of their work. I then evaluate and incorporate as necessary.

Neither do we(I) conduct original research for others, either as the Historian for The Society members, or as a private individual for others for gain and profit. We can not do your genealogy for you. Starting with whatever you have, we try to find further connections for you, hopefully back to an immigrant ancestor. We share what we have, sug-

gest different avenues to pursue, and we might refer you to a particular Lineage Leader for more specific processing. We do need, however, to know where you are and what you have for us to be of assistance to you. As a matter of policy, the Historian has never engaged in genealogy for gain or profit while holding this office. Frankly, I do not have the time.

These, then, are my guidelines and the framework within which I write my columns. This will not change anytime soon. I will continue to explain and promote standards, to re-



and to work towards the ultimate goal of indexing and cataloging PARK/E/S materials wherever found. Developments will be reported under this by-line.

Can we clarify a couple of other misconceptions? First, a common misunderstanding found among beginning family researchers relates to the desire to trace back to a common ancestor. Simply stated, we do not all trace back to a common ancestor (other than Adam and Eve). The only thing all

PARK/E/S really have in common is the surname. It is possible the surname could have been taken by any number of different individuals with no close blood kinship at all.

Second, as for The Society, we currently are tracing many different and distinct PARK/E/S lines on these shores. We currently have in excess of 100 IMMIGRANT LINES; i.e. lines that we can definitely trace back to a specific immigrant ancestor, and which have no provable blood kinship to any other Immigrant line. Besides these, we have over 200 FRAGMENT LINES which are currently being tracked. These are lines where the first known ancestor is found in some locality without further trace of his/her ancestry or immigrant status. We fully catalogue these Fragment Lines. Everyone hopes that additional evidence will be found to take that line farther back, hopefully to an Immigrant ancestor. When that happens, the documentation will then be consolidated with that of the appropriate Immigrant ancestor.

At this time, it is not possible to determine from the Lineage key alone whether a certain line is IMMIGRANT or FRAGMENT. We will be working towards that objective in the future.

Thirdly, there is the perception that that we can indeed achieve our aim and goal to catalogue all known PARK/E/S immigrants and surnamed descendants. This is a tall order. Sometimes I think we may set our goals too high in this regard. On the other hand, the alternative, to try to limit our work to only a certain few known lines, is not very appealing at all. At least we are trying.

'TWAS THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY

by Linnie Vanderford Poyneer
26243 196th Place SE, Kent WA 98042-5064
<eapii@ix.netcom.com>

'T WAS the day before yesterday, and all through the branches, NOT a name could be found, not one of my ancestors.

THE Journals and Bibles were dusty and worn, WHY should we care, these kinfolk are gone.

THE pictures of children and family, long ago dead, ARE scattered, crinkled, and crammed under beds.

DAD in his chair, and I with a book, HAD just settled back to give TV a look.

WHEN out on the street there arose such a clatter, I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.

ON the way to the window I tripped with a crash, I tore open the curtains and looked through the glass.

THE sun in the sky was nowhere in sight, THE clouds were so gray, it could have been night.

WHEN what to my wondering eyes should appear, THE Mailman with packages, letters, and cards of good cheer.

THE driver was grumbling while sorting his letters, I knew in a moment, things had to get better.

THE size of one letter stood out from them all, A distant cousin was asking about family, one and all.

THE names of Grandpa and Grandma, Great Grandparents all,

NEXT came my Father, my Brother, and my Uncle Paul.

FROM cousins and uncles to aunts and nephews, NIECES and in-laws, just to name a few.

SO thru the many journals and photos, and stuff I possessed, MY search for my ancestors has slowly progressed.

UP the family tree I have gradually climbed, MY ancestors names, I am seeking to find.

UPON that tree I have carved many a name, THE branches of which will ne'er be the same.

THE tree is now filled with many I've found, BUT in the search for others, I now am bound.

THE ancestors whose names I have written with love, THE Lord has gathered totake to His Father above.

WITH so many names yet to be carved on that tree, I have little time to waste on games and TV.

GATHERING names, photos, histories, and places, REQUIRES a lot of love, patience, and God's good graces.

SOME were Farmers, Soldiers, and such, Mothers and Fathers who struggled much.

SOME were Settlers, who traveled far, SOME Adventurers, who followed the stars.

SOME were rich, but most were poor, THEY came by ship, seeking more.

SOME died young, while others were old, MANY their stories remain yet untold.

I cried when I thought of those brothers and sisters, FOR I am who am, thanks to my ancestors.

MY family is but one branch on the Tree of Life, A tree that grew strong through toil and strife.

ALONE, I'm just a bare twig — or a stub, TOGETHER we build a Family Tree of Love!

(written late one night after a long day of research)

(Thanks to Robert & Kathleen Duggan, Atlanta, GA for sharing!)

Merry
& Happy

Christmas
New Year

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me a partridge in a pear tree; on the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree; on the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me three french hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree; on the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me four calling birds, three french hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree; on the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me five gold rings, four calling birds, three french hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree; on the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me six geese a laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three french hens and a partridge in a pear tree; on the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three french hens and a partridge in a pear tree; on the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me eight maids a milking, seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three french hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree; on the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me nine ladies dancing, eight maids a milking, seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three french hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree; on the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me ten lords a leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a milking, seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three french hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree; on the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me eleven pipers piping, ten lords a leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a milking, seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three french hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree; on the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords a leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a milking, seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold rings, four calling birds, three french hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.