

# 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.

## War of 1812 Veteran - Michigan Pioneer Robert Parks (1776-1863)

J. Douglas Park #749

The subject of this piece is Robert Parks (1776-1863), a sixth generation descendant of Robert Parke (MA 1630). His life had military bookends, since two wars which define this great nation occurred at its beginning and at its end. More fitting, however, we find this is a man who volunteered for service, and even led troops, during the War of 1812. What made up the fibre of such a man? Perhaps, a brief look at his life, his family and his words will be helpful.

Robert (6) was born in Voluntown CT on 12 February 1776. He removed to Cayuga County NY in 1794 and commenced an apprenticeship to a tanner and currier. In 1800, at age 23, he married Mary (Polly) Smith who lived until 30 June 1844. With a wife expecting a child within a couple of months and a family of four children

already in the household, Robert (6), on 2 March 1810, enlisted in the New York State Militia and became a member of the 158th New York Infantry in the War of 1812. He was made a captain of the company and served as such until the end of the war. His officer's commission contains interesting information and sheds light on the documentary style of the day. It is included here:

“THE PEOPLE of the State of New York, by the Grace of God, Free and Independent:

TO ROBERT PARKS, Gentlemen, Greeting: WE, reposing official trust, confidence, as well in your Patriotism, Conduct, and Loyalty, as in your Valor, and readiness to do us good and faithful service, HAVE appointed and constituted, and by these Presents, DO appoint and constitute you, the said ROBERT

PARKS, Ensign of a Company in the Regiment of Militia, in the county of Cayuga, whereof John Harris, Esquire, is Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant: You are therefore to take the said company into your charge and care, as Ensign thereof, and duly exercise the officers and soldiers of that company, in arms, who are hereby commanded to obey you as their Ensign, and you are also to observe and follow the orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from Our General and Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of our said State, or any other superior officer according to the Rules and Discipline of the War, in pursuance of the

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## Congratulations!

### Vice President Harrison Assumes SUVCW Webmaster Position.

Parke Society Vice President **Keith G. Harrison (#710)** was appointed January 1, 1998 as the National Webmaster for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) World Wide Web site (<http://suvcw.org>). The SUVCW is a Congressionally-chartered Corporation created in 1881 by the Grand Army of the Republic (Union Civil War Veterans). It is composed of descendants of Union Civil War soldiers and currently has over 5200 members. The SUVCW website is a large (10 megabyte) site and is accessed by over 60 countries including the United States. According to Keith, the hardest thing for any webmaster to do is to keep a site updated. Consequently, one of the first things he did upon his appointment was to update the entire site. Apparently this has paid off. During the first month of Keith's ap-



pointment as webmaster, the number of hits increased from 15,700 to over 25,500 hits per month, and during the last week of January, the site was averaging over 3,200 hit per day. Keith is a Past Commander in Chief of the SUVCW.

Keith also serves as the Webmaster for the Sons of Veterans Reserve within the SUVCW, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (Commandery-in-Chief and Michigan Commandery), Office of Special Environmental Project within the Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Environmental Science Board - the last two being work related within Michigan state government.

*Ed. Keith is also involved in early discussions regarding a possible web site for the Parke Society.*

### Notes: A Found Indenture

While researching land records on her Hummel line in Chester Co PA, Betty Jane Mason PS #738 came across an Indenture of Abiah Parke and wife Ruth to William Parke dated 23 Dec 1799. The citation is LDS film SL#20, 871, PA Chester County Land Records-Deeds 1800-

1805 V2-W2, Vol 44. Robert Parke and Robert Miller are witnesses to the indenture which involves some 247 acres "more or less" and an amount of 5 shillings. William Parke is noted as being from the same place. A copy of the Indenture was forwarded by Betty to this office.

## Disclaimer:

The information presented in this Newsletter is drawn from a variety of resources and from the interpretations of data by a variety of professional and amateur genealogists. Consequently, the primary sources for all the information presented may not be readily available. However, by presenting this material in the Newsletter, additional opportunity for scrutiny is afforded to many other researchers both within and outside of the Society.

As a matter of course, all genealogical records presented in this Newsletter are open to correction. The Society encourages all readers when an error is found to share this finding with the editor. The editor will in turn share this with the appropriate lineage leader for review and subsequent correction or update in the Society's records.

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YET?

If your mailing label has something like "A1997" to "Z1997" on the top line, then our records do not reflect your 1998 renewal. Please send in your check for \$20 to the Secretary as follows:

Mrs. Arlene Callahan, Sec.  
The Parke Society  
324 Sullivan Rd  
Schenectady, NY 12304-

3625

If you HAVE sent in your check in the last couple of weeks, the processing time lag is showing. We do thank you for your renewal.

Published by the Society for its members three times per year. Copies sent to libraries and genealogically oriented societies on request. Articles on research, historical records as well as news items and queries always welcome.

### Notify Co-Editors of Change of Address

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**The  
Parke  
Society  
1998**



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	\$ 20.00	202 Meadowbrook Dr. Apt. 4
Life Membership	\$200.00	Clarks Summit, PA 18411-9245

## Robert Parks (1776-1863)

Continued from page 1

trust reposed in you; and for so doing, this shall be your commission, for and during our good pleasure, to be signified by our Council of Appointment.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused the Seal for Military Commissions to be hereunto affixed: Witness our trusty and well beloved DANIEL D. TOMPKINS, Esquire, Governor of our said State General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same, by and with the Advice and Consent of our Council of Appointment, at our office in Albany, the Twelfth Day of March, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ten, and in the Thirty-fourth Year of our Independence.'

Passed by the Secretary's-Office, the 27th Day of April, 1810.  
DANIEL D.  
TOMPKINS  
DANIEL HALE,  
Secretary"

During their early years, Robert and Polly lived on a farm

near Fleming, NY and remained there until about 1 May 1823. At that time, Robert moved his family to Troy, Oakland County, MI where he had previously purchased land. The journey from NY to MI entailed a first leg to Buffalo NY, a distance of 175 miles, by teams as there was no railroad and the Erie Canal was only a dream at this time. They and twenty other families then chartered a vessel called the "Red Jacket," commanded by a Captain Wilson, and completed the second leg of the journey from Buffalo to Detroit by 23 May 1823. Due to an almost impenetrable swamp for fifteen miles around the city of Detroit, Captain Parks' family were obliged to spend three days moving from Detroit to Troy, a distance of only twenty miles. Early on, they lived in a small log house, the floor of which was covered at night with burrs. In due time, a comfortable house was built; then a fine one; and a large productive farm was cleared and improved.

In politics, Robert (6) was a Democrat and in the practice of his faith, he was a Baptist. His family was large, consisting of fourteen children, all products of the union between he and Polly. After Polly's death in 1844, however, Robert took Elizabeth Irish for his second wife in 1845. Of the fourteen children, several were noteworthy and their travels indicate the father's wanderlust was not lost on the children. More is known of the sons' lives and these are recounted here.

The oldest son, Calvin C. Parks (7), was born 5 April 1805. Following a common school education, he studied law in Pontiac, MI. He was admitted to the Bar in 1842 and afterwards became a prominent lawyer in MI. In 1849, he moved to

Waukegan, IL and practiced law there for many years. At the time of his death, he was traveling and financial member of the firm of Ferry, Williams and Parks, and had an office in Chicago and one in Waukegan.

A second son, Allen, born in 1807, died young, apparently in his first year. Another son born the following year in 1808 was also named Allen (7). This son may have been seen as the replacement for the first Allen. The second Allen married Sarah Martin in 1829. He died in 1852.

The third son, Captain Robert S. Parks (7), was born 13 May 1810 and received his education in the schools near his home. In 1836, he was a prominent speculator in Michigan; and about the year 1844 moved to Grand Rapids. He engaged, among other things, in running steamboats on the Grand River and thus derived his title of Captain. The Indian name, "Nawbeck," which means "he bear," was given him in 1836 while he was looking for land and speculating.

The fourth son, George Parks (7) born 17 October 1817 in Fleming, Cayuga County, NY, was the eighth child<sup>1</sup>. He attended the district school in MI and worked on the farm until he was twenty years old. After marriage in 1840 in Troy, MI to Permelia Wattles, late of Binghamton, NY, he and his wife moved to Berlin, Ionia County, MI. For a time, he kept a public house in Ionia called "The Cottage." In August 1844, he settled in Grand Haven, which was then a small town of only two or three hundred inhabitants. He was principally engaged

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# DANA PARKS JR. MEMORIAL CIRCULATING LIBRARY

Jean Churchill #934, Librarian

221 S. Wyomissing Ave, Reading PA 19607-2535

phone 610-775-3292, email - churchill@talon.net

The Library Book List (books, rules, loan fee, etc.) is available to members for \$1. Please use your Parke Society # on your correspondence and make all checks payable to "The Parke Society".

"THE PARKS FAMILY" compiled by Edward Augustus Parks (000/PARK) in 1909 is entirely handwritten with beautiful penmanship. Edward was the great uncle of Virginia Zadorozny (PS #567). We thank her for the book and for her letter with interesting information on other members of this family. I have also added a lineage chart from Volume 22, Issue 3 of our Newsletter.

This ancestry traces from Edward (CT c 1669) (1), Nathaniel (2), Nathaniel Jr. (3), Elijah (4), Samuel (5), Samuel Orlando (6), Edward Augustus (7), to the compiler. "The History of Guilford, CT" mentions Edward Parks, a tailor from Killingworth, CT who was admitted as a planter in 1671. Edward married Deliverance French in December 1669. Among their children was a son, Nathaniel b.1678 who married Abigail Hughes in 1703. Their son, Nathaniel Jr. and his wife, Abigail Clark, were the parents of seven children. The second son, Elijah was the author's great grandfather.

Elijah, b. about 1742 at Guilford, CT later moved to Bethlehem, CT where he married Anna Beaumont in June, 1772. Elijah died in 1790 leaving his widow with nine young children, one a baby to care for with little material means. Edward feels that

Anna "must have been one of nature's noble women and worthy of our veneration".

About 1801, the family moved to Schoharie County, NY where in 1803, Samuel (eldest son b.1776) purchased 50 acres in the town of Middleburgh. He married Cynthia Sprague of Windham, CT later that year. Several years later Samuel, Cynthia, their three daughters, his mother, and perhaps other family members moved westward to Livonia, Livingston Co, NY purchasing a small farm. Other children,

cluding Samuel Orlando (b.23 Apr.1818), were born while the family was living here.

In 1832 they moved again, living in Pembroke, Genesee Co for five years before moving to "The Parks Homestead" at Pearl Creek, NY. The author remembers his grandfather as small man, crippled with rheumatism, who kept busy with the garden and woodpile leaving management of the farm to his sons: Samuel Orlando and Beaumont. His grandmother was an excellent housekeeper, a hard worker but always ready to help a neighbor. He points out the amount of

physical work involved in raising a family of nine children during this time period. Their children were expected to help and "were brought up to respect and to obey their parents without question".

Almost all of the author's uncles and aunts taught school at some time. Aunt Carrie taught Edward one winter when the school trustees decided they needed someone with a firm hand. It was not an easy task to teach in a district school with forty students, many of whom were boys of sixteen and older. Later in the book he mentions the courses he was taught at the district school: Robinson's practical arithmetic, Brown's grammar, McNally's geography, Davies' elementary algebra, a term or two in Parker's natural philosophy, also a term in single-entry book-keeping plus daily spelling, reading and writing.

Both his father and uncle were very honest individuals. An example is their contracting to try out a horse from a neighbor. At the end of the two week period, they informed the neighbor that his estimate of the horse was not as high as it should have been so they not only gave him the money asked for but also a pig "to balance the trade".

His Uncle Beaumont was a gentle, religious bachelor who at the age of sixty fell in love with a young intellectual, excessively plain school teacher. In 1882, they were married and soon it was obvious that this was not a 'marriage made in heaven'. Uncle considered it the biggest mis-

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## Dana Parks Library continued

take of his life and soon his wife began the study of medicine, later moving to Philadelphia. However, she came back to nurse him through his final illness.

His Aunt Augusta and cousin Sarah Goodrich were teaching in a seminary near Murfreesboro, TN when Lincoln was first elected President. As time passed, they questioned whether they should return north or not. "In February, 1861 the Principal, in his morning prayer, prayed that every bullet moulded might find a resting place in a northern heart." They quickly packed and left for the north.

He also mentions that Norman Robinson, Samuel Robinson, Jr. and others purchased land in Florida and named the town Orlando, after his father.

Life was more difficult during this time period of the later 19th century, but there was still time taken for family get-togethers. Edward tells of going to Castile by wagon to visit Uncle Bishop's and Letchworth Glen (now Letchworth State Park), along with other recreation at home. Family ties were close and although many of the younger children moved to different states, they still kept in touch.

I greatly enjoyed reading this family history. Some of the other surnames mentioned are: Sprague, Cameron, Matthews, Bishop, Robinson, Owen, Wylie, Hand, and Potter (includes section of "Genealogy of the Potter Family and Their Descendants in America" by Charles E. Potter, 1888).

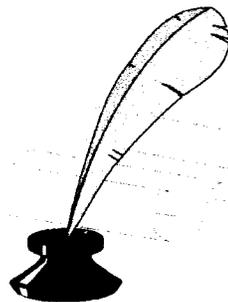
*Ed. Additional information on this family can be obtained by referencing Vol. 22 No. 3, pages 36-37 of the Parke Society Newsletter. This*

*includes a group sheet for some members of the family referenced but not all.*

### InterLibrary Loan

Many books not found in your local Library, our Library, or the Internet are available through InterLibrary Loan (ILL). One distinct advantage of the computer age is that more and more libraries (public, private, and college) now offer the researcher greater access to information that was not formerly avail-

a b l e .



This can include maps, journals and books.

The reference librarian at your local public library will assist you with your request. There may be a fee which varies according to which Library has the book that is wanted. If the fee is high, then ask for the charge for photocopying the particular pages that you need.

"DELAWARE DIARY EPISODES IN THE LIFE OF A RIVER" by Frank Dale was published by Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1996. It is filed under 974.9/Dal and should be available through ILL.

Frank Dale is a professional writer and historian who has spent many years near the Delaware River.

In his preface he acknowledges the help that he received from local libraries, Museums, historical societies, National Park Service, New Jersey Historical Commission, and several amateur historians. This research has helped him put together an excellent history of highlights of the Delaware from the time of the Lenni-Lenape Indians to the present day. An excellent bibliography is included.

There are four Park/s mentioned. JOSIAH PARKS who was a crew member under Daniel Skinner, a former sailor who was the first to try timber rafting down the Delaware to the naval shipyards at Philadelphia about 1764. Daniel didn't succeed very well on his first attempt, but made a successful second trip (however, losing one crew member) with Josiah. "Pleased British shipbuilders dubbed Skinner "Lord High Admiral of the Delaware" and named PARKS "CHIEF BOSUN". (Bo'son Parks: 6th generation from Robert MA 1630. Our own Library has Bessie Hammond Hope's PS# 169 book "DESCENDANTS OF BO'SON PARKS 1744-1829" available for loan).

This was a hazardous trip and became even more so in 1829 when the Delaware and Hudson Canal with a dam was opened. The purpose of the canal was to carry PA coal from the mines over to the Hudson River and then down to NYC. The heavy canal boats moved across the Delaware very slowly, whereas the lumber rafts were traveling down during the spring high water season at a swift pace. This led to many accidents.

In 1846, the canal company

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## Robert Parks (1776-1863)

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until 1852 in the woods among Indians, looking up land and timber. Beginning with the election of 1852, George became the Ottawa County Treasurer, a post he held for twelve consecutive years, save one two year term. This was at a time when the county boundaries encompassed the present day county boundaries of Ottawa, Manistee, Mason, Oceana and Muskegon and required arduous hours keeping up with all the land sales of the day. Although a Democrat, George continued to be reelected by small majorities in a staunchly Republican area. In the Fall of 1864, George won election as Probate Judge. In 1867, Mr. Parks was elected the first Mayor of the City of Grand Haven. George held business interests with a partner, E W Barnes of Grand Rapids in a forwarding enterprise, a partnership with his brother-in-law, Captain J. Ganoe, in steam boats, and with his son, Byron W. Parks in a sash, door and blind factory. He spent the years 1876 and 1877 in Tennessee dealing in black walnut. He was a Protestant in faith, a member of the Odd Fellows, and recipient of the Past-Master's Jewel, Grand Haven Masonic Lodge.

The fifth son, William H. Parks, was born 22 November 1819<sup>2</sup>. He was educated in county schools with the rest of the family and studied law with Messrs. Hanscom and Struyer, of Pontiac. In May 1843, he was admitted to the Bar, a year after his older brother Calvin. He practiced law in Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, and various places on the shores of Lake Michigan. He removed to Marquette, in the Upper Peninsula, afterward and established a successful law practice on the shores of Lake Superior.

The youngest son, Edward W. Parks, was born in 1825. When he was in his mid 30's and the Civil War broke out, he enlisted as First Assistant Engineer of the iron-clad steamer "Ozoca" (Mississippi Squadron) and remained there until after the Red River expedition. While at the mouth of the river waiting for the rest of the fleet, he learned of the death of his nephew, Charles P. Parks, son of Captain R. S. Parks. Charles was Chief-Engineer of Commodore Porter's flagship and was killed by a twelve-pound shot from a confederate battery while standing at his engine, descending Red River. Edward was so enraged he determined to take matters in his own hands. He went out with a foraging party with the intent to engage some rebels. However, he and his party were quickly surrounded by the enemy and Edward only escaped by jumping into the river. He was ultimately found by his own boat, the only survivor of the party. From the exhaustion and exposure, he apparently contracted a chronic disorder for he never recovered. He returned home to die; his remains were taken to the old family cemetery<sup>3</sup> where his father is buried.

The father, Robert Parks (6) could be proud of his family but the records illustrates how many of them had moved away to find their own personal fame and fortune. The veteran of the War of 1812, with roots in the Revolutionary War and his twilight years nestled in the Civil War, was always quotable. Even an article in the local paper, which appeared after his death on 29 June 1863, used some of Robert's own words to recount his passing. To wit:

"Robert Parks was a veteran of the war of 1812 and died at Captain Ganoe's<sup>4</sup> in this city, at the age of eighty-seven years. Mr. Parks was a Democrat from the time of the organization of that party to the day of his death, but on the breaking of the Rebellion, he was a War Democrat of the most thoroughly loyal stamp, and ardent in his support of the Government and the measures adopted to carry on the war and put down the Rebellion. When his grandson Captain C.P. Parks, enlisted and started for the front, on the Western Gunboat Expedition, from which, with so many other gallant boys he was destined never to return, the old gentlemen gave him his blessing, with the injunction to remember the valor of his Revolutionary sires, and permit no stain upon their loyal fame. When asked if he thought the country would 'stand the draft,' the first of the war, he answered: 'Stand it! Of course it will. The government is our govern-

ment; the nation is our nation; they must be maintained and saved.' He ardently wished to live and see the triumphant close of the war, but he passed away in 1863. He was born on the day of the battle of White Plains, in 1776, his father being in the Army of the Revolution, and at the time engaged in that battle."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tenth child

<sup>2</sup>Bible records date as 22 November 1822. Since the birth of John was recorded 5 Feb 1822, following William's, and the birth of George is 1817, 1819 is more likely the correct date.

<sup>3</sup>Family Cemetery - Beach Road Cemetery, between Long Lake and Square Lake Roads, Troy Twp. Robert Parks (tombstone d. 1864 in error), Polly and a second wife were buried there, along with daughter Lucy and one unidentified, probably Polly Ann. The 1824 death is the first of those buried there (1821 incorrect). Edward Parks and family are also buried there. (Oakland County, Michigan Troy Twp. Cemeteries - D.A.R. reading 1927; Genealogy Research Society Magazine 1961, O.C.G.S. reading Oct. 1985)

<sup>4</sup>Husband of Beulah Parks Gano, Grand Rapids.

<sup>5</sup>The most noted battle near White Plains, NY, was 28 Oct 1776. Perhaps another state. Bible also records birth date as 12 Feb 1776.

*Ed. Marjorie O'Brien Ward #1112, Gaylord, MI provided the basis for this article. She is in possession of the original Bible records. Marjorie is an 11th generation descendant from Robert (MA 1630) through Robert's (6) daughter Olive. See chart.*

**Robert Parks (6) (1776-1863)**

Robert (MA 1630), Samuel (2), Robert (3), Joseph (4), Robert (5)

**Robert (6) Parks**

b 1776 Voluntown CT to New Albany Cayuga Co NY  
d 1863 Oakland Co MI  
1m 1800 Mary Smith d 1844  
2m 1845 Elizabeth Irish

**children**

Betsey	b 1801 Cayuga Co NY		m 1825 Calvin Webster 1v Oakland Co MI
Lucy	b 1803 Cayuga Co NY	d 1824	
Calvin Chapin	b 1805 Cayuga Co NY	d 1860	1m 1828 Harriet Thomas 2m 1843 Marietta Lyon 3m 1846 Experience Warner
Allen	b 1807	d young	
Allen Minor	b 1808	d 1852	m 1829 Sarah Martin
Robert Smith	b 1810	d 1878	m 1831 Sarah Pearsall 1v Ionia Co MI
Polly Ann	b 1812	d 1831	
Olive	b 1813		m 1832 Nelson Madden
Beulah	b 1815		m 1845 Jesse Gano
George	b 1817		m 1840 Parmelia Wattles 1v Oakland Co MI
William	b 1819		m 1844 Welthy Thompson
John	b 1822		m 1844 Lovinia Wattles
Emma	b 1823	d young	
Edward W	b 1825		m Marcia Martin

(census records 1810,1830,1850)

**Dana Parks Library**  
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authorized the building of a viaduct to carry canal boats over the Delaware, but the dam was still there and now the timber rafters had to avoid the three large piers in the river. Other innovations were implemented to try to improve the situation. BILL PARKS, thought to be relative of Josiah Parks, also captained timber rafts down the river in the 1860's. "In April 1861 he captained a timber leviathan 60 feet wide and 190 feet long that contained more than 120,000 board feet of lumber. He stopped at Walpack Bend in Sussex County, NJ and put aboard additional cargo of three thousand five hundred railroad ties of unfloatable green oak. This monster craft, which required a thirteen-man crew was not unusual on the river at this time." (p.26).

On page 74, a WILLIAM PARKS is mentioned as a river expert who explored the upper Delaware in a Durham boat in 1859. Years earlier this type of boat was used by General Washington in crossing the Delaware. Mr. Dale has included photos and descriptions of these boats.

Before I read this book, I had never heard of Pea Patch Island where Confederate captives were kept during the Civil War. Much has been written about the terrible con-

ditions at Andersonville, GA where Northern soldiers were imprisoned. The even worse conditions under which the Confederate prisoners existed at Pea Patch was not well known until after the formation of Fort Delaware Society. "The death rate at Fort Delaware for October 1863 was 12 1/2% of the prison population, the highest of any prisoner-of-war compound, North or South." (pp.89,90) One of those prisoners was CAPTAIN ROBERT PARK of the Twelfth Alabama. (p.89) Fort Delaware has been declared a National Historic Site. Delaware has turned it into a State Park with ferry service to Pea Patch Island (except in winter), and there is a monument at Finns Point, New Jersey marking the graves of the over 2400 soldiers who died while imprisoned at the fort. (p.95).

There are anecdotes covering other years and experiences on the river, including canoe races, and finishing with the ice jams, particularly the one on Valentine's Day in 1981 which affected the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. On November 10, 1978, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed a bill which proclaimed much of the Delaware River to be a "wild and scenic river." (p.X).

**"CLEANING HOUSE??"**  
Jean Churchill, Librarian #934

It is that time of year when we think about going through all those old magazines, newsletters, etc. and deciding if it's time to discard a few. David #13 and I have been doing this at the Library. We find that we have quite a number of extra Parke Newsletters in certain issues, but lack others which we need to make up the numbers for both the forthcoming indexed bound volumes and my loose-leaf copies with table of contents. So if you're housecleaning and are planning to discard Parke Newsletters, please think of the Library for the following issues: Vol. 26, 1989 #1; Vol. 27 1990 #1; Vol. 28 1991 #1; Vol. 30 1993 #2. Please send them to my address: 221 S. Wyomissing Ave, Shillington, PA 19607-2535.

**Call to all Lineage  
Leaders and Re-  
searchers:**

This is your newsletter and reflects the earnest searching and hard work of all members. The editorial staff endeavors to publish all relevant materials meeting standards of the Society. We, however, need you to participate by contributing to the work of the Society. So, put down that TV remote and get your contribution written and mailed. Without you there is no Society and no Newsletter.

Thanks!  
The Editors

**1998 Parke Society Convocation**  
**Lansing, Michigan**  
**July 22-26, 1998**

**Holiday Inn South-Hotel and Conference  
Center**

# THE EMILY DICKINSON HOMESTEAD & ITS PARKE CONNECTION

[Robert (MA 1630) > Thomas > Nathaniel>]  
Edited by Jean Churchill

Priscilla Parke (PS #41) moved back to Amherst, MA after her retirement from the staff of Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital, New York City where she was in

charge of the Premature Nursery, Pediatrics Division. She lives on Amity Street in the area where she, her sister, and brothers spent part of their growing years and has the distinction of being the only resident in

Amherst who can call the Emily Dickinson's house 'home'. Her parents moved to Amherst with three young children when Hervey C. Parke became Rector of Grace Episcopal Church. He met his wife, Ethel Cushman, while studying at New York City's General Theological Seminary.

They purchased the house in 1915 before Emily Dickinson became widely known. It was large and comfortable, very suitable for the growing Parke family. Two younger brothers, John (PS #62) and

David (PS #13) were born in the house joining Mary (PS #61), Priscilla, and Hervey (PS #162).

Naturally, the family made several changes in the house. Ac-

spent vacations there and in 1935 returned there permanently when Rev. Parke retired. By this time, interest in Emily Dickinson had grown and more and more visitors appeared

on the Parke doorstep and were graciously given a tour by Mrs. Parke.

When Mrs. Parke decided to sell her house in 1965 she had several offers but decided upon Amherst College because the family felt

that the college would have the best perspective about preserving and maintaining the house.

Priscilla and her sister, Mary, gave guided tours of the house in earlier years; and now she enjoys occasionally acting as guide once more since she lives only 3 blocks from the home.

(Edited from original article titled "Priscilla Parke and a Magnetic House" by Mary Elizabeth Kromer Bernhard which appeared in the November/December 1996 EMILY DICKINSON INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY BULLETIN.)



ording to Priscilla, her mother would not have made so many had she realized "how famous Emily was to be". Emily's bedroom became a nursery while the cupola of the house was the favorite 'clubhouse' for the younger generation.

In 1924 the family moved to California because of Rev. Parke's illness. He spent time in a sanitarium near San Diego and upon recovery became Vicar of the Church of the Angels in Pasadena. Although the family lived in the west, they did not sell their home in Amherst. They

# PRESTON PARK, ST. PETER CHURCH SUFFOLK, EAST ANGLIA, ENGLAND

Geraldine Hewes Thompson #955

**A first time glimpse:** On our first exploring trip in 1994 to Great Britain, we rented a car to do our exploring. Each day we ventured out into the countryside to find one of the last land marks of the Parke Family. Alas, we were not always lucky due to difficulties with map reading, navigating, and then finding locked churches.

However, we had some measure of success, nonetheless, when we came upon St. Peter Church in Preston Park. Robert Parke (MA1630) and Martha Chaplin lived here in the 16th century. In a small wooded churchyard adjoining the 18th century Manor House, now part of the Brighton Museum, this simple 13th century flint church makes a pleasing medieval contrast with its suburban surroundings. It is notable mainly for its substantial area of 14th century wall paintings. Those on the east wall of the nave depicting the Martyrdom of St. Thomas of Canterbury on one side and St. Michael weighing souls on the other are particularly impressive. (Reference - "The Churches Conservation Trust Surrey & Sussex.")

I was taken by the sign in the grass which was surrounded by grave stones: "Butterfly Preserve, grasses will not be mowed." As I entered through the porch, the baptismal font caught my attention because it is so ornate. It is Early Norman with pillars and caps at angles - interlaced ornaments - supported on four draft columns. After our visit, the church came under the above noted Trust and I hoped to return for more photographs and to visit the Brighton Museum.

**A second glimpse with a different set of wheels:** The second time around. . . since trains are not our thing, we decided that we would hire a driver. Graham Withycombe not only was an excellent choice but he also recommended Tarquins Guest House, 26 Inglis Rd, Colchester, Essex, CO3 HV, U.K. Mrs. P. M. Hudson, proprietor.

Our first goal was to visit the Semer Church in the heart of Semer and about three miles from Preston. This was Martha Chaplin's childhood church. She was baptized there on 4 Feb. 1583/4 and was married there to Robert Parke (MA 1630) on 9 Feb. 1601/2.

This is a small Norman church with the Norman round arches. The interior is simple with an aisle to the south side only. The chancel, originally square, was extended in the Early English period; it has several monumental brasses fixed to the wall. The aisle has a 13th century piscina. Monuments of various periods are on the walls. I found a few plaques with the Chaplin name. Also a plaque given by Thomas Cooke, Rector, in memory of his wife in the 17th century. (Could this be the same Cooke family that settled beside the Parke family in Preston, CT?)

Churches were very important to people in the 16th century. The Sabbath began at sunset on Saturday. At that time all unnecessary work ceased and strict religious observances filled the waking hours until sunset the following day. Everyone attended the Sabbath services. Social rank determined the

seating; the elders and deacons sat close to the pulpit in the front, the men on one side and women on the other. Children and servants sat in the back seats. Each person had an assigned place and was expected to be there. The services were long with sermons that stressed the struggle between the forces of good and evil.

When we stopped for a key to the church, the church warden's wife also put us in touch with Semer's Historian, Michael Thorogood and his wife, Jill of Drakestone Farm. Michael is familiar with Robert and Martha (Chaplin) Parke and asked if I was aware that there are still Chaplins living in the area. More of their ancestral papers have been discovered and Michael very kindly put a package of them together for me.

Once I returned home to America, I took time to study my English find in depth and was able to compare them with our American sources. This find included the Chaplin papers, an accurate survey of the boundary of the Semer parish taken in 1744 by Thomas Cooke, Rector, and a second survey taken by Mr. Thorogood along with a map of the parish. Now I know what I want to see on our third trip to Semer-Whatfield Manor Hall or hamlet.

According to Suffolk Manorial Families - Chaplin of Semer, & C, we have the following family reference, "William Chaplin of Tarnes Farm, Long Melford, Suffolk. Held

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## Robert (NC/GA 1775)

When Roy Park #1197, Lineage Leader for Robert Park (NC/GA 1775) -Lineage Key "U"- described the family ancestry in Vol 33. No. 1, pg 14, we were able to trace a family with roots in Scotland and branches in Utah and beyond. Here now is a group sheet that illustrates many of the principal family ancestral roots.

Emigrants from Scotland  
to America pp87  
by V R Cameron

ROBERT PARK (GA 1775) 1U1  
b Scotland  
d GA  
m

James (2) first born 2U1  
b Scotland  
d 1803 GA  
m Sarah Miller

John Miller (3) only son 3U1  
b 1802  
d 1845 Gibson Co TN  
m 1824 Matilda Stewart

William Asbury (4) 4U1  
b 1826 Bedford Co TN  
d 1915 Johnson Co MO  
1m 1849 Matilda Wilson  
2m 1852 Mary Ann Beilby  
3m 1862 Priscilla Court  
4m 1865 Martha Court Hazel  
5m 1906 Mary Ann Spaulding  
6m 1910 Mary Schwentker

children born in:

1850 Savannah MO  
1851 Provo UT  
1856-67 Payson UT  
1868-74 Spring Lake UT  
1876-80 Fountain Valley CA  
1882 Payson UT  
1884 Pleasant Valley UT

Samuel Wallace (4) 4U2  
b  
d  
m  
(no children)

William Asbury Park (4) 4U1  
b 1826 Bedford Co TN  
d 1915 Johnson Co MO  
1m 1849 Matilda Katherine Wilson  
b 1824 Bedford Co TN  
d 1851 Provo UT

5U1 Martha Jane (5) b 1850  
5U2 John Miles b 1851

2m 1852 Mary Ann Beilby  
b 1827 Weldrake ENG  
d 1860

5U3 William Christefer b 1853  
5U4 Mary Matilda b 1855  
5U5 Thomas Asbury b 1856  
5U6 Esther Ann (d 1864) b 1858  
5U7 Jesse Charles twins b 1860  
5U8 James Robert(d 1860) b 1860

3m 1862 Priscilla Court  
b 1843 ENG  
d 1900

5U9 Albert Alma b 1864  
5U10 Clara Zillah b 1866  
5U12 Ada Irene b 1868  
5U13 Samuel Horace b 1870  
5U14 Linette Bertha b 1871  
5U15 Alice Delcena b 1874  
5U16 Louis Alonzo b 1876  
5U17 Arilla Mae b 1878  
5U18 Joseph LeRoy b 1882  
5U19 Elsie Pearl b 1884

4m 1865 Martha (Court) Hazel  
b 1825 ENG  
d

5U11 Agnes Elizabeth b 1867

5m 1906 Mary Ann(Goodwin)Spalding  
b 1841 IN  
d 1908

6m 1910 Mary (Durand) Schwentker  
b 1839 NY  
d

**Sources for Genealogical Books and Research Material**

Goodspeed's Book Shop  
18 Beacon St., Boston MA 02108

Southern Historical Press 803 233 2346  
PO Box 738, Easley SC 29641-0738

Genealogical Publishing Co, 1001 N Calvert St.,  
Baltimore MD 21202

Clearfield Company Inc. 410 625 9004  
200 E Eager St., Baltimore MD 21202

Ancestry Inc. 800 531 1790  
PO Box 476, Salt Lake City UT 84110

A Press Inc. 803 233 8358  
PO Box 8796, Greenville SC 29604

University Microfilms International  
300 N Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor MI 48106

Edward C Fales (Rare Americana Genealogy) 603 648 2484  
Turnpike Rd, Salisbury NH 03268

Polyanthos  
Drawer 51359, New Orleans LA 70151

Charles E Tuttle Co Inc.  
Rutland VT 05701

Heritage Quest 800 442 2029  
PO Box 40, Orting WA 98360-0040

Picton Press and New England History Press  
PO Box 1111, Camden ME 04843

Southwestern Pennsylvania Genealogical Services  
PO Box 253, Laughlintown PA 15655

Hearthstone Bookshop 703 360 6900  
8405 Richmond Highway, Alexandria VA 22309

Smithsonian Books & Recordings  
Washington DC 20560

Frontier Press 409 740 0138  
15 Quintana Dr., Galveston TX 77554

Jonathan Sheppard Books  
Box 2020 ESP Station, Albany NY 12220

Everton Publishers Inc. 800 453 2707  
PO Box 368, Logan UT 84321

**Sources for Genealogical Books and Research Material**  
**continued**

- Higginson Book Co  
Derby Square, Salem MA 01970
- Mountain Press 615 886 6369  
PO Box 400, Signal Mountain TN 37377-0400
- Genealogical Books in Print  
6818 Lois Dr, Springfield VA 22150
- Madigan's Books 217 345 3657  
PO Box 62, Charleston IL 61920
- Family History Educators  
PO Box 510606, Salt Lake City UT 84151-0606
- Tidewater Virginia Families  
PO Box 876, Urbanna VA 23175
- Genealogy Booksellers 703 373 7114  
208 George St., Fredericksburg VA 22401
- Family Line Publications (DelMar Va & PA) 410 876 6101  
Rear 63 East Main St., Westminster MD 21157
- Iberian Publishing Co 706 546 6740  
548 Cedar Creek Dr, Athens GA 30605-3408
- Pipe Creek Publications Inc. (MD, NY & PA)  
PO Box 42, Finksburg MD 21048
- D&H Publishing Co  
9171 Kennedy St., Riverside CA 92509-5904
- The Dietz Press 804 733 0123  
930 Winfield Rd, Petersburg VA 23803
- Heritage Books Inc. 301 390 7709  
1540 Pointer Ridge Pl, Bowie MD 20716
- General Services Administration (census microfilm)  
National Archives & Records Service, Washington DC 20408
- Superintendent of Documents  
US Govt. Printing Office, Washington DC 20402  
(where to write for birth, marriage, divorce, death records)  
Birth & Death DHEW Pub No (PHS) 78-1142  
Marriage DNEW Pub No (PHS) 78-1144  
Divorce DNEW Pub No (PHS) 78-1145
- Oxford University Press (British & European History)  
200 Madison Ave, New York NY 10016

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

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### RAISON D'ETRE :

In the 1920's, they said that newspapers were done; the new medium of radio would surely be their demise. Read a newspaper lately?

In the 1940's, they said that radio was surely done; the new medium of television would surely make that an obsolete technology. Heard the radio lately?

In the 1960's, it was said that the advent of powerful computers was going to bring us the paper less office. Did you throw away your pen and paper?

As someone said, "The rumors of my death are greatly exaggerated."

Now in the 1990's, we are being told that the advent of the Internet and the World Wide Web will do away with the need for libraries and books as we have known them. Do you expect we will have book burnings soon in your local libraries?

In each of the situations cited above, each succeeding technology has taken up its niche in the market place, not replacing but rather complementing and supplementing prior technologies. I really believe that it will not be any different with the Internet or the WEB versus libraries.

Books and magazines may be low tech, but these serve an essential purpose. These are satisfying to read and handle. You can curl up on the easy chair, sofa, or bed and read to your heart's content. Some, such as family bibles, have been handled by our ancestors, offer actual proofs of handwriting

styles, contain mementos, hair samples, and further documentary proofs. No computer technology now available offers such amenities. I really have a hard time picturing one that will in the future. Call me an old fuddy-duddy on this but I still very much like that feature.

And, frankly, I don't particularly enjoy reading text material from the computer screen; nor do most people I know. Many still print off and then read the text. So much for new technology.

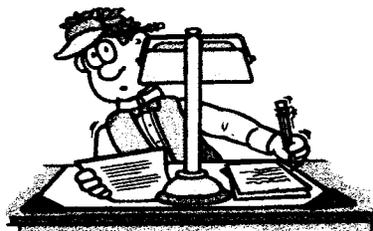
In the world of genealogy, the Internet and WEB have variously been called the savior, the total source, and the end-all of genealogical research. It is alleged by enthusiastic proponents that soon there will be no need to go to cemeteries, visit court houses, or libraries, or to actually search archives or census films. This will result because all this data will shortly be on the WEB, free for the taking. Genealogy will be available at the push of a button or the click of the mouse; which brings me to my main point. What about the existence of societies such as ours? With all of this information freely available on-line, should we serve any useful function anymore? With the existence of on-line news groups and chat rooms, what need will there be for societies such

as ours in the future? To hear a few cyberspace proponents, we should be folding our tent and the sooner the better. At first glance, that proposition does look inviting. With a virtual organization, there is membership, no constitution, no officers, no meetings and best of all, no dues. We sweep away all the extraneous stuff, so we can do just plain 100% genealogy. Obviously, I don't particularly agree with this (or I wouldn't be wasting my time on a column on the subject).

While there certainly is a lot of information out there on the Internet, one has to wonder about its quality. Just as there were books published that were incorrect or outright fabrications, so it is with some of the material we find on the WEB. Publishing does not the gospel make, whether in book or cyberspace. In the "old" days, when someone wanted to publish, they had to find the financial backing and an available printing press. Now with the WEB, everyone is a publisher, with little or no cost, and no control.

I do not think this bodes well for our avocation. As it is, true red-blooded historians tend to hold their noses in the presence of confessed genealogists. And it is all over the matter of standards, proof, and evidence; or lack thereof.

This is the role I see organizations such as ours performing. We can help to set standards of research and documentation; to be the coordinated reviewers of, and the clear-



Continued on page 15

ing house for, genealogical information. We would and should be the data warehouse, hopefully separating the chaff from the wheat. To do this does take structure (member collaboration, peer review, by-laws, meetings, administration, and dues) but it also brings a level of stability absent from WEB sites (here today, gone tomorrow) and, in turn, a level of credibility. That credibility may just explain why nearly 300 genealogical societies and libraries worldwide seek out our publication.

In doing genealogy, nothing will ever replace the collecting and testing of data, weighing of evidence, and the holding forth of a compiled work for the critical analysis of others. Nothing.

Must we stay in business? Yes, we must. We are as complementary as radio is to television. We will continue to provide essential services to PARK/E/S researchers, helping to coordinate research on the various immigrant and fragment lines and to be the clearing house of that data. We will continue to be the certifier (insofar as we are able) of what we as an organization, after careful and measured analysis, believe to be the correct information. Do I see us going out of business any time soon? Not hardly. In fact, with more on-line researchers, the need may be greater than ever.

While we know that the Internet can play an important role in our genealogical research, through free intercourse with other researchers, we also know that not everyone is enamored with new technologies, and hence we will not in any foreseeable future abandon those who do not care to surf the WEB. We will continue to publish in hard copy form, continue to an-

swer snail mail, and continue to do real live one-on-one research and review of facts and circumstances to produce as much as possible the true and correct picture.

Good research means doing your homework. It means checking and verifying facts, noting discrepancies, always keeping a jaundiced eye over purported 'facts' discovered in any and all places. Case in point- our Editor, Doug Park, can relate a recent discovery which clearly refutes material published by a highly respected authority-the DAR Patriot Index. Just because material is in print, *or on the WEB*, does not make it fact. Regardless of the media we explore, remember a it is our duty to separate fact from fiction. Additionally, just because the media is more available, more time sensitive or inexpensive, let us not drop our guard and accept material at face value.

This, then, brings us back to our roots, our meaning, our cause, i.e. to work together to ensure our ancestral roots are accurately discovered, collated, shared and published. Regardless of the media used we will not falter if we keep these essentials in the forefront.

PAX

Historian Tad

P.S. We are still looking for someone to take on the post of Coordinator of Publicity. Don't be shy. It is a real need- right now.

Also we are still looking for INTERNET INTERLOCUTORS. We now have the mail lists covered, but really want an "official" representative to watch over PARK/E/S type traffic on the four (or more?) major Internet Service Providers.

messuages called Lyons in Whatfield jointly with his son Edmund (Semer Manor Rolls) Will P.C.C. 3 Holney, 15 Nov. 1575, proved 25 Jan. 1577-8." (Message means houses, out buildings and land.)

Later in 1609, Robert Parke/Martha Chaplin's fourth child, Richard, was bap. 8 Aug. 1609 in Whatfield ("Robert Parke 1580-1665"). My error was that I didn't know that there was a Whatfield Hall Manor and also a hamlet two miles away called Whatfield. What is certain is that the Chaplin family was associated with Whatfield Manor or hamlet for over 60 years (1550-1609).

Next we want to visit Semer Manor. Martha's father, William Chaplin of Semer, was a farmer and bailiff on the manor of Semer. He was buried there 15 Oct. 1629- "Suffolk Manorial Families", Chaplin of Semer. The Manor was in Jacob Brand's name until his death in 1756. The manor passed on to his daughter, Jane who married Rev. Thomas Cooke, rector of Semer, who appears as lord in 1764. The manor afterwards passed through many generations of Cooke's from 1756-1896. Rev. F. J. Eld, rector of Polstead, holds the manor today. ("The Manors of Suffolk")

I know I have my work cut out for me to find if these Cookes' are the same ones who lived as neighbors of the Parke family in CT. We plan to go back next year for more research and to visit with Historian Michael and Jill Thorogood. AND we will again use a taxi!!

*Ed. See map on page 16 for areas referenced in this article and others, such as Gestingthorpe, associated with Parke ancestral families.*

