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NEWSLETTER OF:

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# The Parke Society

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

## Hugh Parks (1716-1780) of Rowan County, North Carolina

By Percival D. Park #140

Much attention has been paid to the various Park families who settled in the eastern part of old Rowan County, NC, around the time of the Revolution, and who are believed to have been descended from Roger Parke (NJ 1682) (LK=K). It is time to focus on a family in that area which has no known connection with the Roger Parke lineage, that of pioneers Hugh, Sr., and Margaret Young Parks. Little has been written about them and their family until recently. Former Newsletter Editor David L. Parke #13 prepared a short article with a chart and a list of burials which appeared in 1991 Vol. 28 No. 1, pp. 12-13. The present writer included a little information about Hugh and Margaret in Park Origins (1994), pp. 9-12. Finally, however, a serious beginning has been made through the publication of a history of the family by a Hugh Parks descendant, Mrs. Betty Jo McDowell Garrett #1028 of Salisbury, NC (Hugh 1, John 2, Hugh 3, David M. 4, William H. 5, Daisy P. McDowell 6). The history emphasizes Mrs. Garrett's line. Of special interest, she has collected evidence suggesting that Hugh was a native of Ireland, and thus the immigrant ancestor for his lineage. The book, Hugh Parks (1716-1780) of Rowan Co., N.C., First Five Generations (2001), is available in the Parke Society Library (No. 000/GAR). (Ref. Newsletter 2001 Vol. 38 No. 3, p. 36.)

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## Elijah Parks Update (LK=K)

By Cecilia Kasberg Parke #535

Elijah Parks (1832-1890) spent his life in the states of Indiana, Iowa, and Kansas. This sketch of his life and activities is dedicated to the many members of this family line in Indiana and elsewhere. Elijah was a first cousin of the author's great-grandfather Micajah Park.



Elijah Parks (1832-1890) at Garnett, Kansas

Elijah Parks (John, Sir John [II], Allan, Roger [immigrant] 1, Roger 2, Joseph 3, Joseph 4, Micajah 5, Elijah 6) was born May 14, 1832, in Linden, Montgomery Co., in west central Indiana. He grew up in Montgomery County with his brothers, Thompson, Oliver, Omer and Oscar, and his sisters, Elizabeth and Mary Ann. Orren, a younger brother, died as an infant, and Mary Ann died when Elijah was twelve years old. During his childhood, Elijah learned to read and write. He possessed a copy of Adventures of Celebrated Travelers (1855), by Henry Howe, which the present author's cousin Judy Landauer has in her home along with other books from Elijah's family. The title page of Howe's book has a beautifully hand-painted picture of a traveler with the caption, "The children pointed at me and cried: 'See there! HE is from America!' and the men took off their hats and bowed." We can only speculate as to the motivations behind Elijah's later movements throughout the Midwest. But what young man would not want to explore the vast American wilderness if he read such a book?

Elijah met Elizabeth Ann Stoddard (born April 26, 1841) in Montgomery County, and they were married on March 11,

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## In Memory

### David LeRoy Parks #854

Word has been received that David LeRoy Parks #854 died in October of 2001. He was a descendant of Thomas Parks (VA 1728) (LK=C). While not an immigrant ancestor, Thomas was the earliest known progenitor of a large family, some of whose members are shown in a chart published in the Newsletter at 1995 Vol. 32 p. 29. David LeRoy Parks was born on February 11, 1925, a son of Noble Phippen Parks and Jewel Beatrice Winter Parks. Mr. Parks joined the society in 1988, at which time he lived at Tucson, Arizona. Subsequently he moved to Nebraska. He leaves behind a widow and other relatives.

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## Welcome New Members!

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1390 Catherine Ann Easton<br>Marsh, Niles, MI      | 1394 Steven Harvey Belton<br>Blairstown, NJ |
| 1391 Rita Gayle Kelley Louk<br>Emporia, KS         | 1395 James Lee Parks<br>Felton, DE          |
| 1392 Arlys Jane Reitz LaFehr<br>Grand Junction, CO | 1396 Dena Rae Piercy<br>Portland, OR        |
| 1393 Nancy Jane Parke Finney<br>Visalia, CA        | 1397 Beverly Ann Park Peavler<br>Denver, CO |
| 1398 Randolph Lyle Park<br>Springcreek, NV         |   |

## Some Thoughts from Your Editor

Our faithful readers may have wondered when or if there would be a No. 1 for 2002, but here we are, at last! Your editor takes responsibility for the delay.

In this issue we are including a "Queries" section. Most of the requesters are seeking genealogical information. With increasing use of the Internet by more and more people, this may not seem an efficient use of space. However, for now, the printed word is still the most practical means of reaching all active members. Also, once a query is in print, it exists indefinitely, and readers can respond years after publication. For queries that remain active and open for a prolonged period, requesters should submit updates for address changes.

In the last issue, 2001 Vol. 38 No. 3, we announced initiation of the use of a corrections box, "Corrections and Additions." This is actually being done in the present

issue. Included are corrections for both No. 2 and No. 3 from last year.

In some writings and charts in the present and past issues, you will see references such as "(LK=K)." These are lineage keys, an internal genealogical bookkeeping system that David L. Parke #13 originally developed, and Tad Parks #425 and others have expanded and refined down through the years to show succinctly who is descended from which immigrant ancestor. The example above is for Roger Parke (NJ 1682). For Robert Parke (MA 1630), the designation is (LK=T), supplemented by a chart number identifying a particular branch. Families whose immigrant ancestor has not yet been identified do not have a lineage key as such but may have a provisional identifier. Some changes to the system are under consideration. Tad has discussed lineage keys in "Historian's Corner" in the past, and more will be presented on this subject in the future.

PDP

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.

#### Editor Emeritus and Publisher:

David L. Parke #13

#### Send Change of Addresses to:

Tad Parks, PS#425

Editor: Percival D. Park #140

P.O. Box 590

P.O. Box 5464

Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590

Charlottesville, VA 22905

(414) 332-9984 (evenings)

Email: [alcedona@aol.com](mailto:alcedona@aol.com)

Email: [70741.2122@compuserve.com](mailto:70741.2122@compuserve.com)

The Parke Society serves as 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.

#### Registrar

Mr. Lyle C. Orem, PS#606

3217 SW Hailey PL

Pendleton, OR 97801-3631

Application Fee \$15.00

Annual Dues \$25.00

Life Membership \$250.00

Website: <http://www.parke.org> (Keith Harrison #710, Webmaster)

## Ethel Boyd Collins #642

The Society has received word that Ethel Boyd Collins #642, a twelfth-generation descendant of Robert (MA 1630) (LK=T) in the line of Thomas 2, Robert 3, Hezekiah 4, died in 1993. Born in Newburgh, New York, Miss Collins was a daughter of John Thomas Collins, a professional musician, and Carolyn LaSears Boyd Collins 11. Miss Collins' brother was John William Collins #643, whose memorial notice appears below. Miss Collins worked as a registered nurse and was retired at the time she joined the Society in 1984. She never married, and lived with her brother for several decades in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, New York. Miss Collins was advanced in years at the time of her death.



John W. Collins #643 and Ethel B. Collins #642

## John William Collins #643

John William Collins #643, a twelfth-generation descendant of Robert (MA 1630) (LK=T) in the line of Thomas 2, Robert 3, Hezekiah 4, died in December of 2001. Born on September 23, 1912, at Newburgh, New York, he was a son of John Thomas Collins, a professional musician, and Carolyn LaSears Boyd Collins 11. Disabled from birth, Mr. Collins was confined to a wheelchair, and was privately educated through elementary school, and self-educated thereafter. His sister was Ethel Boyd Collins #642, whose memorial notice appears above. Mr. Collins was a nationally recognized chess player and instructor, ranking No. 17 in the United States at one time, with the title of Life Master. As a teenager, he learned chess from a neighbor, and founded the Hawthorne Chess Club, a group of boys interested in learning and playing the game. In 1943 Mr. Collins became the United States correspondence chess champion, and in 1948, he was the United States representative in the final round of the first world correspondence chess championship. Mr. Collins won the New York State championship in 1952, and the Marshall Chess Club championship in 1954, which offered some of the toughest competition available at the time. He taught many chess prodigies, the best known of whom is undoubtedly World Champion Bobby Fischer. Chess aficionados may also

recognize the names of William J. Lombardy, the 1957 world junior champion, and Robert E. Byrne, a United States champion, world championship contender, and longtime chess columnist for The New York Times. In 1977, Mr. Collins founded "Collins' Kids," a group of youngsters ranging in age from 7 to 17 years who came to the Collins apartment in New York to learn about and play chess under his guidance. The group traveled to foreign countries for tournaments, and had an annual match against the West Point cadets. Mr. Collins was author of a book, My Seven Chess Prodigies (New York: 1974), and served as co-editor for the ninth edition of Modern Chess Openings. For many years he wrote a column for the

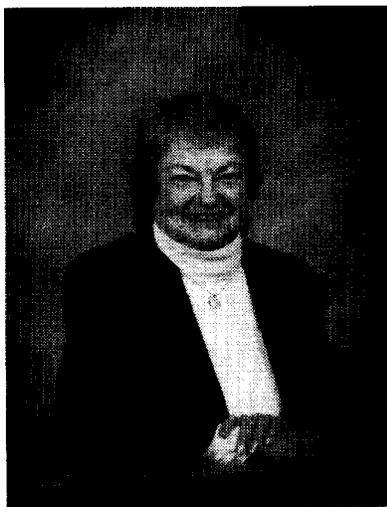
magazine Chess Life. Mr. Collins was the first postal chess editor of Chess Review. At a ceremony in Iceland in 1983, the World Chess Federation awarded him its Medal of Merit. In 1991 the United States Chess Federation named him chess teacher of the century, and inducted him into the Chess Hall of Fame at Washington, D.C. Mr. Collins never married and lived with his sister in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, New York, for several decades until she died in 1993, and then alone until his own death.

## Dues Increase

This information is for anyone who may see the Newsletter who is not yet a member. It is also a reminder to those who may have overlooked the information in the last issue of Closed Circuit to Members. At the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation in Fort Wayne, IN, in July of 2001, the Trustees voted to increase annual dues from \$20.00 to \$25.00 per year, and the Life Membership fee from \$200.00 to \$250.00 (in one payment). These changes were effective January 1, 2002. They were necessitated by increased costs of production for the Newsletter, and increased postal rates. Ed.

## New Member Profile: *Rev. Betty A. Hornback #1207*

The Rev. Betty Ann Parke Hornback #1207, a minister of the United Church of Christ, is a direct descendant of **James W. and Phoebe (Hand) Parke** through their son **Samuel Reed Parke**. James was born in New Jersey about 1816. In 1851, he married Phoebe Hand, Quaker, born about 1820. A swarm of unanswered questions



Rev. Betty A. Hornback #1207

surrounds them. Who were their parents? Was James descended from Roger Parke (NJ 1682) or another immigrant? James was 35 years old, and Phoebe, 31, when they married. Was this a second marriage for one or both? If they were married before, did they have any children? Was Hand Phoebe's maiden name or previous married name? When did James and Phoebe die, and where were they buried? Was Samuel's middle name, Reed, an ancestral family name?

We do know that after their marriage, Phoebe, and presumably James also, moved to Philadelphia, PA, where their son Samuel was born on July 16, 1852. On September 3, 1871, he married **Mary Jane Wiatt**, or **Wyatt**, who was born on May 25, 1854, also at Philadelphia. Mary died on April 17, 1890, at Camden, N.J. Samuel married again and lived on until October 30, 1928, when he died at Camden. Their son **William Clinton Parke** was Betty's grandfather. Born on October 29, 1872, at Camden, he married **Grace Anne Louise Howlett** on October 26, 1891, at Camden, and died on January 7, 1953, at Hartford, Connecticut.

Betty earned her B.A. from Sangamon State University and her M.A. in Human Development Counseling from the University of Illinois, both located at Springfield, Ill. After serving as a Licensed Minister in the United Church of Christ for fourteen years in several central Illinois churches, she was ordained to Christian Ministry on June 24, 2001, at Pekin, Illinois. Betty is currently serving as Interim Minister of the Federated Church of Paxton, Illinois. She lives at Pekin with her husband Richard D. Hornback.

## New Member Profile: *Charles John Parks #1332*

By Cecilia Kasberg Parke #535

Charles John Parks #1332 was born on June 23, 1951, in Cortland County, New York, son of Alvah Ray Parks and Catherine McCallen Parks. Charles is descended from Roger Park (ca. 1746-1813), born in New Jersey, who should not be confused with the



Andrew Jackson Parks (1833-1907)  
great-grandfather of  
Charles J. Parks #1332

immigrant Roger Parke (NJ 1682). Lee Christensen #957 wrote an article about this later Roger Parke which was published in the Newsletter, 1998 Vol. 35, No. 2, at pages 25-27. An update of this article will be published in a future issue, showing Roger's possible connections with other Park/e families from Hunterdon County, New Jersey. For now it will suffice to say that a connection with the family of the immigrant Roger has not yet been found, but research is continuing.

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Betty's interest in genealogy was sparked by her father, **William Amos Lovekin Parke**, while she was still a teenager. She has letters from older family members which list the names of great-grandfather Samuel's many children. Betty joined the Society in 1996, and has made contact with a previously unknown cousin, also a member, George Walter Parke #1385, of Oaklyn, NJ, who is descended from Samuel by his second marriage. Betty's sister Nancy Jane Parke Finney #1393, of Visalia, CA, became a member in January of 2002.

Betty enjoys reading light mysteries, and views genealogy as a personal mystery which, despite multiple clues, will never be completely resolved. Any information or suggestions about James and Phoebe Parke or other connections will be welcome. Betty may be contacted at: 11 Windsor Court, Pekin, IL 61554 (e-mail: [lovekin@bitwisesystems.com](mailto:lovekin@bitwisesystems.com) ).

Charles married Marlene Bilodeau, and they have four children and three grandchildren. He is a maintenance manager for PallCorp, in Cortland, N.Y., by whom he has been employed for 29 years. Marlene is a postal clerk in the McGraw, N.Y., post office. In September of 2000, they moved to McGraw from Pitcher, N.Y. Both have been very much interested in researching their family history, and Marlene has traced Charles' family back to the New Jersey native Roger Parke mentioned above. It should be noted that members of this family ended their names with an "e," an "s," or neither, as shown on various legal documents and military records. Whether these variations were their own choices or the vagaries of clerks is not known. The original spelling was "Parke."

Roger Parke probably was born between 1746 and 1756 in New Jersey, and was married twice. By one of his wives whose name has been lost, he had eight children. He served in the United States forces during the War of 1812, and died as a British prisoner of war in 1813.

Among Roger's eight children were Dr. George W. Parks (1790-1864) and Joseph Park (1791-1861). Dr. George, great-great-grandfather of Charles, was born in Maryland according to the 1850 federal census for that state. He married first, about 1819, Margaret Morris, and they had two children, Roger and Elizabeth. Dr. George married second, about 1832 in New Jersey, Maria -?-. They had one son, Andrew Jackson Parks, born June 4, 1833. Andrew in turn married Elizabeth M. Wyant (1843-1908), and they lived in Putnam Co., Ohio, and had eight children. Andrew died in 1907. A son of Andrew and Elizabeth, George Washington Parks (1866-1937), married Rosa Belle Cosner (1880-1966). They moved from Ohio to Cortland County, N.Y., where the family has been ever since. George and Rosa were Charles' grandparents. Cortland County is in south central New York State, east of the Finger Lakes area, between Syracuse to the north and Binghamton to the south.

## AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHER SEEKS CONNECTION IN BRITAIN WITH NORTH AMERICAN FAMILIES

David Parke of Victoria, Australia, is looking for American cousins. His great-great-grandfather **George Parke** left England for Tasmania in 1849, and later moved to Victoria Australia. George was a son of **Robert Parke**, mariner, who lived in Essex.

On November 29, 1842, George Parke, farmer, of Buttsbury, and **Jemima Clarke** of Heybridge were married in the Parish Church of St. Andrew, Heybridge, in the Diocese of Rochester, County of Essex. They left Essex and sailed from London in 1849, arriving in Tasmania in 1850, and moved to Victoria Australia in 1852, in time for the Victorian gold rush. David does not know if his ancestor found any gold, but at least he tried.

George and Jemima had nine children. Their son Frank Parke married Christina Arbuthnot in 1875. They in turn had a son Alexander, and he married and had a son Harold Parke, who married Margaret Power. Harold and Margaret, both now deceased, were David's parents. David, 63 years of age as of last November, and his wife Gloria have three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandsons. David and Gloria are retired and live 75 kilometers (45 miles) east of Melbourne.

As David's family is Australian from George to the present day, any connection with a North American family would have to be through a sibling or more distant relative of George in Great Britain. David can be reached at: [zebra0410e@hotmail.com](mailto:zebra0410e@hotmail.com) Until May 6, 2002, his postal address is: 22 Campbell Street, Garfield, Victoria Australia 3814.

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## Searching for Information about Joseph Parks (b. 1826) of New York

**Joseph Parks** was born in September of 1826 in New York, of parents who according to the 1900 census were both born in New York also. On January 14, 1849, at Hannibal, Oswego Co., N.Y., Joseph married **Sarah Ann Langdon**. She was born in 1830, a daughter of Joseph Langdon and Ann E. Burdick Langdon. Sarah Ann died in 1894. She and Joseph had a daughter, Ann Eliza Parks, born at Hannibal. Other children of Joseph and Sarah included: Hannah, Nathan, and Frank (all three born in Wis-

consin). The family moved from New York to Wisconsin in 1850. The 1860 census shows them living in Fond du Lac Co., WI, in the same household with Francis and Catherine Bassett, also from New York.

Any information, or suggestions on how or where to obtain information on this family would be greatly appreciated by Ronald L. Zimmerman #872. He can be reached at: [zimnero@tds.net](mailto:zimnero@tds.net) or by postal mail at: 17620 Nero Rd., Two Rivers, WI 54241.

# Dana Parks Jr. Memorial Circulating Library

Jean Churchill #934, Librarian

221 S. Wyomissing Ave., Shillington, PA 19607-2535

e-mail: [churchill@talon.net](mailto:churchill@talon.net)

The Harvard University Library has a collection of documents on John Winthrop (1606-1676). This consists of over 85 different entries including 53 reels of microfilm. This is an opportunity for an active researcher.

Miss Kathryn "Kay" Parke #10, Mrs. Dana Parks, Jr. (widow of Dana, #44), and Robert Parke #755 have sent donations to our Library. One of Kay's donations was her collection of Parke Society Newsletters, which included several early ones that we did not have. They provide interesting reading.

The pamphlets: *Roger Parke 1648-1737 Immigrant from England in 1682 to West Jersey*, and *Robert Parke 1580-1665 Immigrant from England in 1630 with the Winthrop Fleet*, are still available. The price is \$7.50 each.

Books from our Library are available for loan to all active Parke Society members upon payment of the loan fee. Please make all checks payable to "The Parke Society." Be aware that some of these volumes contain the Park/e/s name but without much information. I suggest that you ask before borrowing, and I will check over the requested item for you.

## Book Additions:

Boas, Norman F.; 1990; 195 pp., index, bibliography (loan fee, \$3). **Stonington During the American Revolution.** Park: **Benjamin.** 929.7/BOAS

Brown, Mary; 1980; Everton; Vol. 1, Eastern States (loan fee, \$3). **Handy Index to the Holdings of The Genealogical Society of Utah.** 050/BROW

Cache Geneal. Library; 1974/1978; Everton; 274 pp. (loan fee, \$3). **Handbook for Genealogical Correspondence.** 026/CACH

Dana, Elizabeth E.; 1956; 685 pp., surname index (loan fee, \$3) (LK=R2). **The Dana Family in America.** 929.2/DANA

French, J.H.; 1860/1998; Place, Frank; 1962/1983 (loan fee, \$5). **Gazetteer of the State of New York with an Index of Names.**

This volume was recommended by our historian Tad Parks #425 as well as the Orange County Genealogical Society. The original had a listing of geographical names and an index of subjects. An index of names originally compiled by Frank Place (1962) with supplementary additions and corrections by Dorothy Raymoure (1969), plus a supplementary index of places compiled by the Monroe County NY Historical Office, with modifications by the Cortland County Historical Society

(1983), was published by the Cortland County Historical Society. Addition of these tools to the original makes the Gazetteer an excellent resource. The following Park/e/s are listed as early settlers in the named counties.

Park: **Ebenezer** (Broome Co.); **Edward A.** (pub. *Bibliotheca Sacra & Theological Review* 1844-1849); **O.** (Otsego Co.); **Robert** (Chemung Co.); **S.W.** (Otsego Co.); **Sage** (Oswego Co.); **no given name** (Monroe Co.).

Parke: **Elisha** (Oneida Co.).

Parks: **Benjamin** (Monroe Co.); **Rev. Benjamin M.** (Genesee Co.); **Edward** (Monroe Co.); **Elijah**, first child born (Sullivan Co.); **Jehial** (Saratoga Co.); **John** (Monroe Co.); **Polly**, marr. Samuel Montgomery (Genesee Co.); **Rufus** (Monroe Co.); **William** (Sullivan Co.).

The Gazetteer is an excellent reference work for anyone whose ancestor lived in New York State before the Civil War. It describes each particular village within a county and also names other early pioneers. Inclusion of a short account of your ancestor's locale will add interest to your family history. 927.7/FREN

Harper & Brothers, Publishers; 1860; small hardcover book, 248 pp. (loan fee, \$2).

**The Life & Travels of Mungo Park.** This includes an account of the explorer's death from the Journal of Isaaco, and information about later discoveries relative to his fate and the headwaters of the Niger. 920/PARK

International Biographical Centre; 1977; Vol. I & Vol. II (loan fee, \$3 each). **Dictionary of International Biography, 1977, Vol. I, A-K; Dictionary of International Biography, 1977, Vol. II, L-Z.**

Vol. II: Park: **Edward Cahill, Jr.** b. 1923; **Frank B.** b. 1921; **Helen** b. 1925.

Parks: **Arnold Grant** b. 1939; **D.C.** b. 1913; **Dana, Jr.**; **Donald L.** b. 1931; **Jesse L., Jr.** b. 1923. 929/BOOK

Roser, Susan E.; 1989/1995, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.; 158 pp.; reference list; index (loan fee, \$3). **Mayflower Increaseings.** Short mention of Parke, **Richard**; Parkes, **Hannah (Witter)**; Parks, **Thomas.** 369/ROSE

Sperry, Kip; 1980; Everton; 112 pp.; large softcover (loan fee, \$3). **Connecticut Sources for Family Historians & Genealogists.** 026/SPER

Thomas Rogers Society, Inc.; 1980; 662 pp.; index (loan fee, \$3). **Thomas Rogers, Pilgrim, & Some of His Descendants.** 929.2/ROGE

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## THE DAVID LIBRARY

Nestled along the Delaware River near New Hope, Pennsylvania, is the 500-acre Washington Crossing Historic Park. This park is dedicated to the memory of George Washington and the 2,400 soldiers who crossed the Delaware on Christmas night in 1776 to attack and capture Trenton, New Jersey. Just on down River Road (Route 32) is the David Library, a privately endowed, nonprofit foundation devoted to the study of American history circa 1750-1800. This library was founded in 1959 by Sol Feinstone, who donated to the institution his extensive collection of Revolutionary war manuscripts, his farm on which the library and auxiliary buildings stand, and an endowment. He named the library "David" as a tribute to his grandson.

The Library is primarily a microform archive of approximately 10,000 reels, which is supported by a reference collection of 40,000 books and pamphlets. The main focus is on the American Revolutionary period but the staff has expanded the Library's holdings to include materials on the French and Indian War and the early national period. The collection is particularly strong in British materials. It has documents from the Public Record Office and other British repositories, also from various Canadian and German archives. There is a large collection of early American government and military records from the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and other institutions.

Admission to the Library is free. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; closed Sunday, Monday, and holidays. The collections are non-circulating but reader-printers are available capable of copying microfilm documents, as well as a CD-ROM computer and printer, and photocopying facilities. The library staff will answer routine questions but does not do extended research. They suggest making an appointment to insure availability of the machines. They may be reached by phone: 215-493-6776, or FAX: 215-493-9276, or e-mail: [dlar@libertynet.org](mailto:dlar@libertynet.org) Postal mail: P.O. Box 748, Washington Crossing, PA 18977. The Library's website is: [www.dlar.org](http://www.dlar.org)

I visited this library to acquire more information on my Revolutionary War ancestors, particularly Silas Wolcott, Thomas Park, and Benjamin Brink. I already had documented proof of their service, but I had never seen their complete records. In recent years a question has arisen as to the birthplace of Silas Wolcott. I now know that he stated on his pension claim that he was born in New Hampshire. It was also interesting to read his statement of how he lost his discharge papers. As for Benjamin Brink, he finally did get his pension but it took several affidavits, which seemed odd because the individuals giving depositions served in the same company as he did.

## Thomas Park, Revolutionary War Veteran and Pensioner

Thomas Park 6 (Robert MA 1630, Thomas 2, 3, 4, Josiah 5) has a very complete record, including the date and circumstances of his wound and amount of his pension. However, what I found more interesting was Abigail Park's application for her widow's pension. I am setting forth this information as a graphic example of the offerings of the David Library, and for the benefit of anyone interested in Thomas and Abigail Park.

Abigail stated that, after her marriage, Thomas continued in the service as a volunteer until the end of the war by going out on scouting expeditions in pursuit of the Indians and guarding the frontier in the neighborhood of Wyoming. She remembered his going out four different times armed in pursuit of Indians. Abigail recalled that one time after her marriage Thomas went in pursuit of Indians who had burnt the house of Roswell Franklin at Nanticoke on the east side of the Susquehanna River and carried his family away captive. The pursuing party liberated and brought the family back, except for the wife of Franklin who was shot in the skirmish with the Indians, and her infant child which had been killed by them.

Abigail's brother, Abram Nesbit, deposed that he remembered the occasion of the marriage of Thomas and Abigail in 1781. He was not present at the event because of being sent out on a scout after Indians, but on his return, his parents informed him of the marriage. Abram also remembered being with Thomas in pursuit of Indians after the marriage.

James Nesbit also swore an affidavit, as did Benjamin Bidlack, Clergeyman and brother of my ancestor Captain James Bidlack. Their names on these documents provide further evidence of the relationships among these families living in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania.

The file also included a deposition from Ebenezer Parks of Cayuga County, New York. His statement included the information that he served in the same company with Thomas and under Thomas who was corporal of said company. He also stated that Thomas and Abigail were husband and wife before the service of said Thomas was ended.

I should point out that this much information is available only if either the soldier or his widow applied for a pension. Records are available which list the soldier's service and the state he was from, but other information would probably vary a great deal depending upon what he did after the war was over. I did find several of my other ancestors on the list but did not have the time to thoroughly research their records in the library. Maybe another time!

# Learning About My Father: Part 1

David L. Parke #13

My father, Hervey Willard Parke, was a ninth generation descendant of our immigrant Robert Parke (MA 1630) who first arrived with the Winthrop Fleet in 1630 at Salem, Massachusetts. His descent was through Thomas 2, Nathaniel 3, Joseph 4 and 5, John 6, Ezra Smith 7, to Hervey Coke 8. A summary description of his family, beginning with his father, will be set forth in Part 2 of this article.

My grandfather, Hervey Coke Parke 8, son of Ezra, was born in 1827 at Bloomfield, Michigan, near Detroit. At the age of 18 years, he was teaching thirty-two students, many of them older than himself, in a one-room schoolhouse. Hervey later clerked in the village stores. However, recurrent sickness during those years encouraged him to seek relief far to the north in the Upper Peninsula wilderness. There he took his young wife, Frances Anna Hunt Parke, and regained sound health. Hervey took an office position at the Cliff Copper Mine until the operation was closed. He then became a partner in a hardware store in the village of Hancock. Well regarded, he was elected the town's president (i.e., mayor). During his years on the Upper Peninsula, Hervey gained some capital and a wealth of business experience.

Unfortunately, although Hervey benefited from his stay in the north, the extremely cold winters there became too much for his wife's health. In 1865 they decided to move back to Detroit. Their troubles were not over, however. They sailed on the steamer Pewabic. In dense fog on Lake Huron, their ship collided with its sister ship and quickly sank. Many passengers were lost, but Hervey was able to get his wife, two children, and himself onto the sister ship, and they landed in Alpena, on the coast near the northern end of the Lower Peninsula, approximately at the midpoint of their journey.

Once they were settled in Detroit, Grandfather bought out the interest of the junior partner in the firm of Duffield & Conant,

manufacturing chemists. In 1868 his wife bore twins. Sadly, she and one of the twins soon died.

In 1872, Grandfather married second, Mary Melinda Mead, then working as a schoolteacher. She cared for his three children.



The Parke Family in 1874. Back row, left to right: Mary Melinda Mead Park, age 25; Lyman Curtiss Parke, age 40 (bro. of Hervey Coke Parke); Mary Eliza Parke, age 11. Front row, left to right: James Hunt Parke, age 6; Hervey Coke Parke, age 47; Hervey Willard Parke, age 1 (my father); Sarah Cornelia Parke, age 13.

But additions were in store. In 1873, my father became the firstborn of the second family. Named Hervey Willard, he gained the nickname "Willie." Of the next four children, one died. So, Willie had two older sisters and a brother, and eventually two younger brothers and a sister.

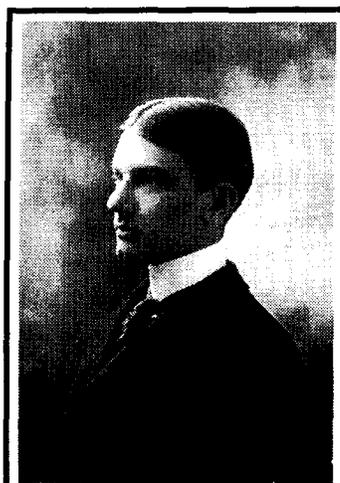
Mrs. Parke was very strict and saw to it that the children received a good education. Willie was sent off to a good preparatory school, Lawrenceville, in New Jersey, and later to Yale College in Connecticut, where he graduated in 1897. It was while in college that he saw fit to go to court and have his name changed to Hervey Coke Parke, Jr. Evidently he rather outgrew "Willie"!

His father thought that Hervey, Jr., might get some useful business training by working in the company's New York office. In 1872, the firm had become Parke, Davis & Co., and by the last years of the century, it was a worldwide organization. When Hervey, Sr., visited the office a year later, his son made it clear that he would like to study for the ministry. Over many years Hervey, Sr., had been very active in the Episcopal Church, so

he put Father in touch with the Bishop of New York. Grandfather died in 1899.

It appears that Father was interested in family history early in his life. I have a letter he received while at General Theological Seminary in New York (1901-1904) from a gentleman who had been in contact with Grandfather regarding Robert Park (MA 1630). The writer wanted Father to join him in further research. I am unaware that he did. However, I have the book published in 1906 by Frank S. Parks, Parke Families of Connecticut, that was in his library.

After three years at the seminary, Hervey, Jr., graduated in 1904. Evidently the students had been attending St. Peter's



Hervey Coke Parke, Jr.  
(formerly Hervey Willard  
Parke) at Yale in 1897

Church, just a block away. It was there that he met a local girl, Ethel Margaret Cushman, whose family had been in the neighborhood for over 90 years. So, following graduation, Hervey, Jr., married Ethel at the church.

They were soon to move to Cambridge, MA, where Father became the curate of Christ Church, a one-year training assignment. Following this period it was brought to his attention that an assistant was needed in the

parish at Waynesville, NC, beyond Asheville, in the rugged western part of the state. The duties included the care of six small missions up in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Evidently former slaves and their families comprised the congregations at three of them. Grandmother Parke [Mary Melinda Mead Parke, mother of Hervey, Jr.] took much interest in this opportunity and realized that the local church had few funds to support a missionary. She therefore offered to pay Father's salary, and even contacted the local bishop in Asheville to offer further financial assistance.

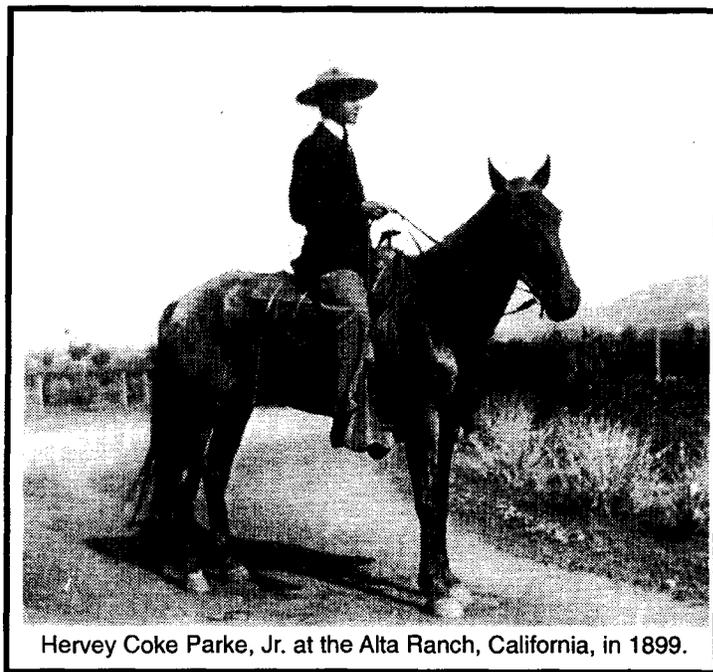
It was now 1906, and Father and Mother moved into a comfortable two-story house near the church. The commute to the missions evidently was on horseback. I gather that Father met the challenge and was well regarded over the next several years. During this period my eldest sister Mary was born (1909) and later Priscilla (1911). When their arrival was imminent, Mother evidently felt more comfortable traveling up to a New York hospital for the delivery and to be near her Cushman family.

In 1912 an opportunity became available for Father to gain further instruction. He laid down his ministry and took his family to Oxford, England, for a year of study at the University. Also he was to serve at a church in nearby Iffley. It seems that the departure of their ship from New York was delayed a day. Had they cast off on time, they would have been only a few miles from the Titanic that sank on the night of April 14<sup>th</sup>! Following his studies in England, Father moved his family back to Massachusetts where he first served a small church, St. John's in Athol, north of Worcester. My brother Hervey soon arrived.

The family's next move was a few miles southwest, to Grace Church at Amherst, in western Massachusetts. Grandmother Parke died at around that time, in September of 1915. Mother, now with three children, felt that the Grace Church rectory "was held together with wallpaper," so the Parkes

rented a house for a time. Father found and purchased a large hundred-year-old Federal style house on Main Street in Amherst. The house needed many changes as well as repairs. Neighbors told him that a rather eccentric woman had lived there. She had confined herself to the house and always wore white clothing. It wasn't until seven years later that the first edition of Emily Dickenson's poems was published. Immediately her former home became an attraction for those fascinated by her work. But Father was equal to this situation, and he opened the house and yard to sightseers when possible. He had put his study on the third floor, and the tourists didn't see more than Emily's room and the first floor.

My brother John was born soon after the family was settled in Amherst in 1916. Father's responsibility not only embraced the parish family, but also the students of the two colleges in town, Amherst and Massachusetts Agricultural College. By then he had an automobile in which to get around. After two nighttime accidents, in one of which Father hit the back of an unlighted farm wagon on a dark night, Mother was not for his doing night driving.



Hervey Coke Parke, Jr. at the Alta Ranch, California, in 1899.

It was not until 1922 that I showed up! Father being 49 and Mother, 45, seemed to indicate that a child should not be expected! I was born at home the last day of May with my brothers and sisters sitting on the stairs outside my parents' room. It was 92 years earlier, in the same room, that Emily arrived.

In the next year, 1923, Father was found to have contracted tuberculosis. After careful examination, his doctors came to the conclusion that he had perhaps no more than six months to a year to live. They suggested that checking in to a TB sanitarium in the warm dry climate of southern California might be a wise move. I will have more to say about this in the next Newsletter.

# COLLATERAL RELATIVES: A RESEARCH AID

By Jean Churchill #934, Librarian

On November 3, 2001, my husband Norm and I attended a lecture given by Roger D. Joslyn, CG, FASG, at a meeting of the Orange County Genealogical Society, at Goshen, NY. His topic was "*A Sibling is a Small Crawling Animal: Help Among the Collaterals.*" Mr. Joslyn emphasized the importance of collecting information about not only direct ancestors but also collateral relatives and their spouses as an aid to establishing connections with other families. His definition of a collateral relative is: "someone with whom you share a common ancestor but who is not in your direct line. Your mother's brother is a collateral. Your grandfather's uncle is a collateral, as are your cousins, because you and they share a common ancestor."

Mr. Joslyn characterizes reliance on the standard ascending pedigree chart as "Pedigree Chart Syndrome." The Parke Society's example of this is our "B" lineage form which each prospective member is asked to fill out and return with his or her application. These lineage sheets are very important for any genealogical organization because this material is then entered into its surname database. However, as the Parke Society has pointed out, unless the member's ancestry is part of a known Park/e/s lineage, that "B" form alone will not lead to discovery of the "Missing Link." What is needed is sibling information to help our historian Tad Parks (and other researchers) to connect one or more PS members together. And the importance of doing this is really what Mr. Joslyn's lecture was all about. I am sure that he would be pleased with the family charts that David L. Parke #13 has often used with his Newsletter articles.

We all realize the importance of wills, letters of administration, and quitclaim deeds, which often name all the decedent's living direct descendants, revealing other surnames allied with the family. Also, information about collaterals may be obtained from checking guardianship papers for minor children, church and baptismal records, deeds, and court records of all kinds. However, Mr. Joslyn reminded us not to overlook the unmarried brothers and sisters. He gave as an example an unmarried aunt who died intestate. The record

concerning the administration of her estate listed all her living relatives and their residences.

Mr. Joslyn spoke about following the family as they moved, noting who went with them, such as neighbors, and other families of the same surname. He emphasized the importance of documenting other marriages and the names of step- or half-siblings. The researcher should learn what, if any, was the kinship between the first spouse and the second, and find the birthplace and birth order of each of the siblings. What were their given names? Was there some sort of naming pattern?

The speaker explained that he has made extensive use of census records, first making a list of all the children. In his example, he knew the names of two children and used that information to find their parents and other children. He then obtained death certificates for each of these children in order to discover the mother's maiden name and the birthplace of each parent. This research method has been especially helpful when he has been researching a client's Irish roots. He has also had success using immigration records.

I had never thought of looking for the *spouse* of a collateral relative, especially in newspaper reports of marriages and obituaries; lineage society publications and membership applications; and family genealogies, commemorative histories, and biographies. Concerning some family genealogies and commemorative histories, Mr. Joslyn pointed out that although they may contain inaccuracies, they often provide useful leads for further research. His example was the newspaper obituary of a widow which included the name of her brother-in-law.

Roger Joslyn has had a lot of experience as a research genealogist in solving difficult lineage problems for his clients. The fact that I have previously used many of his suggested methods did not detract from my appreciation of his lecture, and I certainly have a greater awareness of the amount of effort that is required of a professional genealogist. Just think how few commemorative biographies or histories have indexes!

## Missing Link - Johnny B. Parks (LK-ZY)

by Jean Churchill #934, *Librarian*

Swann Edward Parks #403 has used early census data to try to trace the parents of his ancestor, **Johnny B. Parks** (b. ca. 1748) of Tennessee and Kentucky. He strongly believes them to be John Parks 1 and Elizabeth Carson Parks of Charleston, South Carolina, but needs more documentation for confirmation. At present we are not sure whether this John Parks is an immigrant founder. The only source of information about him is the South Carolina Marriage Records (1675-1858), which state that he married Elizabeth Carson (widow) on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1791 at the Circular Congregational Church, Charleston, SC. In 1790 the city of Charleston was located in Charleston District. There were two parishes in the city, St. Michael's and St. Phillip's.

It is believed that Johnny B. Parks 2 was born in South Carolina although not only South Carolina but also Georgia and Tennessee are mentioned as his birthplace in various census records. Such discrepancies are typical, and census records should be only a starting point for research. Sometimes, however, they are the only records available. There is no proof that Johnny B. is the son of John and Elizabeth Carson Parks, but the names, dates, and locations of this frequently moving family are consistent with the conclusion. The 1820 census for Sumner County, Tennessee, lists John Parks who was over 45 years old. Living nearby were: Thomas Parks, age over 45; Jacob Parks, age 26-45; Robert Parks, age 26-45; and Richard Parks. The 1830 census for Todd County, Kentucky, lists John Parks, aged between 70 and 80.

For reference, in 1820, Sumner County, TN, was bordered by Kentucky on the north, and the Tennessee counties of Smith (east), Wilson (south), and Davidson and Robertson (west). Sumner is in north central Tennessee, northeast of Nashville. In 1830, Todd County, KY, was bordered by Tennessee on the south, and the Kentucky counties of Logan (east), Muhlenberg (north), and Christian (west). Present-day Todd County, KY, is about fifty miles northwest of Sumner County, TN. Calloway County, KY, is another fifty miles west of Todd.

Johnny B. Parks 2 is believed to have married Sarah C. Harper on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 1820, but the Todd County, KY, Marriage Records show this marriage as taking place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, 1821. Johnny and Sarah named their first male child Eli Carson Parks, which supports the suggestion that Johnny's mother's surname was Carson.

The Johnny B. Parks family appears to have been living in Todd County, KY, in 1825; in Sumner County, TN, in 1829; and in Calloway County, KY, in 1830. The census records for 1830, 1840, and 1850 list John B. Parks/John Parks/J. Parks with the correct numbers and ages of males and females to identify them as Johnny B's household. Thus he and his family apparently followed a somewhat different path of migration from that of his father.

As recorded in the 1850 Calloway County, KY, census, J. Parks, age 52, stated that he was born in South Carolina and could not read or write. His wife S. was aged 48 years. All their children are listed except for Monroe, age 12, who was missed in this census. The place of birth for all the listed children is given as Todd County, KY. However, later, son Henderson (b. 1829) stated that he was born in Sumner County, TN; and Monroe gave his place of birth as Illinois?? Johnny B.'s daughters Melinda Ann and Mary Jane should not have been listed as they were married and no longer part of his household. Mary Jane was also listed on the line below as part of the household of her husband J.H. Story; the Storys and Parks were next door neighbors.

The following deeds of gift – “to have & dispose of as they see fit” – are on record in the Calloway County, KY, Courthouse:

November 24, 1856: Johnny B. Parks to son, Henderson McFarlin Parks a Negro slave. Johnny B. Parks to daughter Elizabeth & son-in-law Manoah Swann a Negro slave.

April 22, 1857: Johnny B. Parks to son John Franklin Parks a Negro slave, Johnny B. Parks to daughter Martha Emaline [Matilda Emeline] a Negro slave.

Calloway County also provides land grant information:  
Book 1, p. 405 – John W. (B.) Parks – Grant #1098 – 9 Dec. 1829 – SWQS35 TIR3E  
Book 3, p. 158 – James Parks – Grant #2000 – 10 Nov. 1831 – NEQS35 TIR3E  
Book 10, p. 341 – John Parks – Grant #8875 – 4 Jan. 1850 – SEQS27 TIR3E

Mr. Parks wonders if the grantee in the 1850 document could have been John Franklin Parks, son of Johnny B. He would have been 18 years old then. Johnny B.'s possible

*continue to page 12*

father, John Parks 1, would have been age 92, so not him!

At present, Graves County, KY, borders Calloway County on the west, toward the southwestern corner of the state, in the former Jackson Purchase area. Both are bordered on the south by Tennessee. It is important to be aware of changes in county lines as population increased and new counties were organized out of old ones. In 1850 Graves County was also bordered by the Kentucky counties of Hickman and Ballard (west) and McCracken (north). By 1890 Ballard County had been split into two parts, Carlisle and Ballard. By 1850, Marshall County had been organized from the northern part of Calloway County. These two counties were also bordered by the counties of McCracken, Livingston, Caldwell (from which Lyon was later organized) and Trigg.

### Johnny B. Parks 2 Family

**John Parks 1** marr. (1791, Charleston, SC) **Elizabeth Carson**. Possible parents of Johnny B. Parks 2.

**Johnny B. Parks 2** (b. ca. 1748, SC[?]) marr. (1820, KY) **Sarah C. Harper**

**Children of Johnny B. and Sarah Harper Parks:**

1. **Melinda Ann Parks 3** (b. 1823) m. (1) (1844, Caldwell Co., KY) **Gallant Wilson**; m. (2) (1858) **Andrew Morgan Sanders**.

2. **Eli Carson Parks 3** (1825-1889) m. (1854, Calloway Co., KY) **Margaret Cathron Lawrence**.

**Children:**

- a. **Violey Santifee Parks 4** (1855-1939) m. (1875) **William Carr Nance**.
- b. **Sarah Alis Parks 4** (1857-1945) m. (1878) **John Phillip Cook**.
- c. **Susan Ideller Parks 4** (1859-1935) m. (1890) **James L. Waterfield**.
- d. **Robert Ed. Wane Parks 4** (1861-1863).
- e. **Rufus Whitfield Parks 4** (1864-1933) m. (1) (1906) **Amanda Knight Clarke**; m. (2) (1914) **Selena Ora Lamb**.
- f. **John Carson Parks 4** (1867-1894).
- g. **Flournoy Painer Parks 4** (1870-1953) (lived at Detroit, MI) m. (1) (1895) **Laura Jane James**; m. (2) (aft. 1909) **Nettie Graham**.
- h. **Verdie Evy Lavadie Parks** (1874-1921) m. (1912) **Tom Paschall Roberts**.

i. **Elbert Euin Parks 4** (b. 1878, KY; d. 1921, KY) m. (1912) **Lillie Bell Mayer**. **Elbert and Lillie are the grandparents of Swann Edward Parks #403.**

3. **Mary Jane Parks 3** (b. 1827) m. (1845) **John H. Story**.  
**Children:**

- a. **J. W. Story 4** (b. ca. 1847).
- b. **S. J. Story 4** (b. ca. 1848).
- c. **M. E. Story 4** (b. ca. 1849).

4. **Henderson McFarlin Parks 3** (1829-1908) m. (1856, Calloway Co., KY) **Pauline D. Mathis**.

**Children:**

- a. **Albert J. Parks 4** (b. ca. 1859) m. **Emma R. Harris**.
- b. **William "Bill" J. Parks 4** (b. Oct. 1862, KY) m. **Robertia -?-**.
- c. **John Horace Parks 4** (b. ca. 1871, TN).
- d. **Vandoler Parks 4** (b. 1880, KY).

5. **John Franklin Parks 3** (b. 1832) m. (1?) **Lurlie Cain**; m. (2?) **Ellen V. Sanders**. (Mr. Swann Parks is not sure which wife was first.)

**Children:**

- a. **Leroy Parks 4** (b. ca. 1863, KY).
- b. **Wesley B. Parks 4** (b. ca. 1865, KY) m. **Josie Miller**.
- c. **Whit. S. Parks 4** (b. ca. 1868, KY).

6. **Margaret Elizabeth Parks 3** (1836-1874) m. (1) **Manoah Swann** (d. bef. 1862, Civil War); m. (2) (aft. 1862) **William Cook Swann**.

7. **Monroe Parks 3** (b. 1838, IL) m. (1) **Julia Ann Story**; m. (2) (19 March 1873, Williamson Co., IL) **Nancy Emma -?-**.

**Children of Monroe and Julia Ann Parks:**

- a. **Elizabeth Parks 4** (b. ca. 1862, IL).
- b. **Albert M. Parks 4** (b. ca. 1864, IL).
- c. **James E. Parks 4** (b. ca. 1866, IL).
- d. **Garland Parks 4** (b. ca. 1868, IL).
- e. **Nancy W. Parks 4** (b. ca. 1869, IL).
- f. **Drusia Parks 4** (b. ca. 1870, IL).
- g. **Milo Parks 4** (b. ca. 1876, IL).

8. **Matilda Emeline (Emma) Parks 3** (b. 1840) m. **William J. Mathis, a captain.**

*continued to page 14*

1858. Elizabeth Ann was born on April 26, 1841, a daughter of Joel and Ann McGuffey Henry Stoddard. Mrs. Stoddard was closely related to William Holmes McGuffey, originator of the McGuffey Reader series of school books. The Montgomery County federal census for 1860 shows Elijah farming and living with Elizabeth Ann in Coal Creek Township. No children are listed with them, a condition which persisted for a number of years. It is not known whether they may have had miscarriages or stillbirths. The census also reveals that Elijah and Elizabeth Ann lived not far from Elijah's brother, Oscar, who was married to Elizabeth Ann's sister, Mary Ellen Stoddard.

The author has no record showing definitely that Elijah served in the Civil War. Records exist which show that men of the same name did serve, but the author has not established that this Elijah was one of them. More research is needed.

Some time between 1860 and 1867, Elijah and Elizabeth Ann moved two states west, to Tama, Tama County, Iowa, to which place brother Oscar and the Stoddard family also moved. On July 25, 1867, in Iowa, nine years after they married, Elijah and Elizabeth Ann had their first recorded child, Ezry "Eddie" Thompson Parks. In that age of large families, this must have been a joyous occasion indeed! During their stay in Tama, Elijah continued working as a farmer. He won a trophy awarded by the Tama County Agricultural Society, a silver cup inscribed with his name and the year 1871.

Family information indicates that Eddie, Elijah's son, was learning to read from the series of schoolbooks called "The Independent Reader." His Second Reader bears his name on the inside front cover and the address Tama City, Tama Co., Iowa. Eddie's third and fourth grade readers show an address of Lamar PO, Ottawa Co., in north central Kansas. The Parks had moved again.

Eddie's only sibling, Ionia Lillian Parks, was born a decade after him, on September 10, 1877, near Lamar, Ottawa Co., Kansas. Thus the family was at Lamar, in the north central part of the state, in 1877 and probably sooner depending on when Eddie was in third grade. Ottawa County is described as consisting, in general, of undulating prairie land, with rough ground along the divides and slopes leading down to bottomlands. The 1880 federal census has Elijah and Elizabeth living in Lamar, Logan Township, in Ottawa County. Elijah worked as a grocer, Elizabeth was keeping house, and Eddie was attending school. But Ottawa County was in some respects a hard luck location, if not necessarily for the Parks, at least for some people.

The Parks missed a massive grasshopper raid which had occurred in Ottawa County in 1874, but were in Lamar for a cyclone that hit Salt Creek in May of 1879, killing several people.

On the night of June 10, 1879, another cyclone came through Ottawa County, following the course of the Solomon River, wreaking havoc along its trail through the center of the county. No lives were lost, but the damage to property amounted to \$26,000, then a large sum. On June 9, 1881, a third cyclone occurred in the southern part of the county, moving east from the Saline River. Six homes were destroyed and three people were killed; many others were injured but recovered. Elijah and his family had moved out of the county two months before this third cyclone, to Garnett, Anderson Co., Kansas, about 150 miles southeast from Lamar, and about 35 miles from the Missouri line.

According to Ionia's life story, written by her husband Arthur Bruner while she was still alive, Elijah Parks and his small family moved to Garnett, Kansas, in April of 1881, one month after a devastating fire which destroyed most of the business district in the center of Garnett. They remained there until July of 1890, when both Elijah and Eddie died. Elijah passed away at Garnett on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, 1890, at the age of 58 years. Eddie died there three months later, on July 24, at the age of 23. It is recorded in the history of this family that Eddie died of "measles that wouldn't break out." We do not know the cause of Elijah's death, but perhaps he also died of this disease.

Immediately after Eddie's death, in July of 1890, the widowed Elizabeth Ann and her daughter Ionia moved back to Tama, Iowa, to be near other family members. Elizabeth Ann may have taken with her the bodies of both Elijah and Eddie, as they are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Tama, next to her father Joel Stoddard and his second wife, Julia Ann (Ward) Stoddard. Elizabeth and Ionia, now about fifteen years old, were living together as of the 1892 Tama City census.

On January 16, 1901, at the age of twenty-three, Ionia Lillian Parks, the only surviving child of Elijah and Elizabeth Ann, married Arthur Leon Bruner. The wedding took place in Tama at the home of Ionia's mother, with the Rev. McMasters officiating. The Bruners were an old, respected pioneer family in Tama County, and are mentioned in The History of Tama County (1883). In February of 1901, Ionia and her husband moved about twenty miles west, to Marshalltown, Iowa, near the center of the state. There they had two sons, Gerald Parks Bruner and Charles Kenneth Bruner. Some time after 1904, the Bruners moved to Winterset, Iowa, where they lived until January of 1908, when they moved to Billings, Yellowstone County, in south central Montana.

Ionia's mother, Elizabeth Ann Parks, died on May 18, 1911, at the age of seventy years, and is buried at Billings, Montana.

Swann Edward Parks is descended from John 1, through Johnny B. 2, Eli Carson 3, and Elbert Euin Parks 4. Eli Carson Parks was born August 1, 1825, in Todd Co., KY. According to notes in the family Bible for this branch, Eli married Margaret Cathron Lawrence, daughter of John Lawrence, on January 11, 1854, in Calloway Co., KY. Their marriage license had been issued on the 30th of December, 1853. Eli gave his age as 27, and Margaret, 19.

According to census records, by 1860, Eli was farming at Murray, Calloway Co., KY, with his wife Margaret and three children. A schoolteacher was also listed in the household, probably boarding with them. The family evidently moved sometime between 1870 and 1880, because they were living in Lynnville District #3, Graves Co., KY, as of the census for the latter year.

It is noted in the family Bible that Elbert Euin Parks 4, the youngest child of Eli and Margaret, was baptized in the Methodist Church by a minister in Graves County on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1881, when he was three years old. Elbert married Lillie Bell Mayer, the daughter of Jacob and Violet Mayer, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, 1912, in Murray, Kentucky. They were the parents of four children: Marvin Wayne Parks (b. 1913), Hattie Catherine Parks (b. 1917), Milton Leon Parks (b. 1918), and Myrtle Idella Parks (b. 1920). About 1920, Elbert was dynamiting stumps and one charge failed to go off. As he approached to check on it, the charge exploded and some debris knocked out one of his eyes. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 1921, Elbert died from pneumonia, aged 43 years, leaving his widow to raise their four young children. Elbert Euin Parks is buried at Sinking Springs, KY. His wife Lillie Bell did not join him there for another 57 years, dying on February 20, 1979.

**Swann Edward Parks #403 is the contact person for this lineage. His postal address is: Swann E. Parks, 3634 Clarice CV., Memphis, TN 38133-0961. E-mail: [sparksl@midsouth.rr.com](mailto:sparksl@midsouth.rr.com)**

8. Monroe Parks (b. 1838, IL) m. (1) Julia Ann Story; m. (2) (19 March 1873, Williamson Co., IL) Nancy Emma -?-.

**Mary Jane Parks 3 (b. 1827) m. (1845) John H. Story.**

## Corrections and Additions

1. An article entitled "Parke Family Reunion in Idaho" appeared in 2001 Vol. 38 No. 3, at page 38. This was a mistake, and the article should be disregarded. No such reunion is planned for August of 2002. The article was previously published, with some differences, in 2001 Vol. 38 No. 1, at page 11, announcing a reunion in August of 2001. Apologies to Mr. Cliff Parke, who organized that reunion.

2. In 2001 Vol. 38 No. 3, also at page 38, a number of names appear at the end of Jean Churchill's article "James Monroe Park," in the right hand column. The names begin with "Francis Marion" and end with "Paul Meinike." These names are not part of that article. They were retained by mistake from an article in 2001 Vol. 28 No. 2, at page 17, "Looking for the Parents of This Man," by David L. Parke #13, about Henry Thomas Park.

3. In 2000 Vol. 37 No. 3, at pages 42-43, in the article "Missing Link - David Parks/Elizabeth Lance," a Van Buren Parks, born 1841, is listed as the eleventh child of David and Elizabeth. Jean Churchill #934 reports that in fact this child was Van Buren Kemp, son of William and Matilda Parks Kemp, and grandson of David and Elizabeth. The 1850 U.S. Census for Congress Twp., Morrow Co., Ohio, reports that Van Buren was a member of the household of Elizabeth Parks. Van Buren's surname and identity as Elizabeth's grandchild are confirmed by land records of Richland Co., Ohio, dated Jan. 10 and Feb. 23, 1854 (No. 816, Final Certificate, Registrar's Office, Mansfield). In these records Van Buren is listed as one of several heirs to land formerly belonging to David Parks (d. 1834). The name Kemp is also spelled Kamp and Camp.

**Moses Park (LK=K) Book Wanted. Rollie W. Taylor #900 would like to buy a copy of "Moses Park 1738-1828, His Descendants and Related Families Vaughan and Wilcher" (1991), by Clara C. and Wilbur G. Park. Rollie is offering \$50.00 and mailing costs for a copy in good condition. He can be reached at: <rolliet@pachel.net> His postal address is: 13170 Center Ave., San Martin, CA 95046.**

The following is a brief overview of the first three generations of the Hugh Parks family. Included are some family members in later generations who are mentioned in this article. Additional information about the family of Hugh Parks, III, son of John Parks, and grandson of Hugh, Sr., will be provided in a future article.

### **Hugh Parks 1 Family**

Hugh Parks, Sr. 1 (1716, Ireland-1780, Rowan Co., NC) marr. (ca. 1743) Margaret Young (1716, Ireland-1788, Rowan Co., NC).

#### **Children:**

1. Ann Parks (1744, Ireland(?)-before 1780, NC) marr. (1769) David Reid (or Reed) (d. ca. 1780, SC(?)). Child: James Reid.
2. Jane Parks (1746, Ireland(?)-1824, Mecklenburg Co., NC) marr. John McDowell (1743, Lancaster Co., PA-1795, Mecklenburg Co., NC) (possible uncle of Jane Kerr Parks [1763-1834]).

#### **Children:**

- a. John McDowell, Jr. (1775-1843) marr. Rebecca Davis (1780-1858).
- b. Hugh McDowell (1778-1835) marr. Margaret "Peggy" Irwin (1785-1838).
- c. Margaret Irvine McDowell (1782-1846) marr. Richard Barry, Jr.
- d. Hugh McDowell (1774-1774).
- e. James McDowell (1777-1795).
- f. Mary McDowell (1784-1796).
- g. Jean McDowell (1787-1796).  
Great-grandson of Jane Parks McDowell: S.(?) W. Reid. Relative, Mrs. Pfaff.
3. John Parks (1751, NC(?)-1795, Rowan Co., NC) marr. Jane Kerr (1763, NC-1834, NC) (possible niece of John McDowell [1743-1795]).

#### **Children:**

- a. Margaret Parks marr. David Graham.
- b. Mary "Polly" Parks marr. Jacob Coleman.
- c. Jane Parks never married.
- d. Hugh Parks (III) marr. Margaret "Peggy" McKinley. They had six children, including: David McKinley Parks (2<sup>nd</sup>) (1837, Rowan Co., NC-1906 Rowan Co., NC) marr. Margaret Ann Winecoff (1841, Cabarrus Co., NC-1887, Rowan Co., NC). They had ten children, including: William Homer Parks (1872-1934) marr. Nancy "Nannie" Minerva Corriher. (Grandparents of Mrs. Garrett and Jane Parks Evans.)
- e. Elizabeth Parks never married.

4. Hugh Parks, Jr. (1756, Rowan Co., NC-1830, Mecklenburg Co., NC) marr. (ca. 1783) Mary Davis.

#### **Children:**

- a. Ann Parks (b. 1785) marr. James H. Kirkpatrick (1778-after 1853).
- b. Rev. Lycan D. Parks (d. 1853) marr. Mary Haynes.
- c. Margaret Young Parks (1787-1867) marr. William Watson (1778-1854).
- d. Joseph Davies Parks (1791-1795).
- e. Pamela A. Parks (1793-after 1853) marr. John McGinnis.
- f. Col. William Newton Parks (1795-1854) marr. Eliza W. Haynes (d. 1850).
- g. John McDowell Parks (1798-1862) marr. Hiley Tucker (d. 1862).
- h. Andrew Davis Parks (1800-1838) marr. Elizabeth D. Price (1797-1875).
- i. Rebecca Elizabeth "Eliza" Parks (1803-after 1853) marr. Alexander McLarty.

The history of the Hugh Parks family as recorded in the public documents of Rowan County commenced no later than 1752, earlier than other Parks in the eastern part of the county. Not long after the county was organized, Hugh Parks, Sr., bought 320 acres of land from "James Huggins, Gent. and wife, Isabel." Hugh's land straddled Coddle Creek (not nearby Parks Creek as has been asserted in the past) in what is today southwest Rowan County. (Rowan Co. Deed Book I, p. 33, May 20, 1753, as reported by Mrs. Garrett at p. 27 of her book.) Numerous other recorded deeds and wills fill out the details of the family's history in Rowan.

Some of the information below concerning Hugh's Irish origins and the Homer Parks Bible comes not from Mrs. Garrett's book but from two e-mail messages that she sent to the present writer on December 13, 2001.

The first major question about Hugh Parks, Sr. (1716-1780) is whether he was the immigrant ancestor for his lineage. The evidence on this point consists of a copy of a letter dated February 20, 1868, written by Hugh's grandson, Hugh Parks (III) (1792-1890), to his cousin S.(?) W. Reid. Hugh (III) was a son of John and Jane Kerr Parks, and Mr. Reid was a great-grandson of Jane Parks McDowell. (More research will be needed to determine whether Mr. Reid is also related to David Reid, husband of Ann Parks Reid, eldest daughter of Hugh, Sr.) The letter as copied bears a return address of Rowan Co., N.C. The provenance of the document has not yet been fully established, but the copy is said to have been prepared by a Mrs. Pfaff, deceased, of Salisbury, N.C., who was a relative

by blood or marriage in the McDowell branch of the family. The copied letter, as reported by Mrs. Garrett, reads as follows:

*Feb. 20, 1868*

*Rowan County, NC*

*Mr. Reid*

*I received a few lines from you desiring some information about your great grandmother Jane Parks. I have proceeded to get much information from the land titles showing that they came to this place in the year 1753 in Rowan County. Your great great grandfather was Hugh Parks. From the records he was born Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 1716 and died Nov. 4, 1780. His wife was Margaret whose maiden name was Young both from Ireland, was born Jan. 15, 1716 and there is nothing to show when she died. I think she outlived my grandfather. The birth of the children. Ann Parks was born Jan. 16, 1744. Jane – your great grandmother was born March 5, 1746. John was born Feb. 26, 1751 and Hugh Parks was born Aug. 23, 1756 and died 1830. I think my mother told me that her mother was a sister of John McDowell Senior. Her name was Jane Kerr the wife of David Kerr. I do know that we claimed kin with Hugh McEwen, Watson and the Querys[?].*

*I think that was the name. I have been so nervous that I cannot write. Am in my 77 year this 11 of January.*

*You Prosperity, Hugh Parks*

(End of letter.)

Several things may be noted about this letter. Hugh Parks, Sr., died in 1780, and Margaret Young Parks, in 1788. The letter writer, Hugh Parks, III, was born in 1792. Thus the younger Hugh, writing in 1868 at the age of 76 years, could not have heard from either of his grandparents that they were born in Ireland. His father, uncle, and two aunts presumably heard their parents speak of their birthplace. John Parks, father of Hugh, III, died when Hugh was three years old. It is reasonable to suppose that Hugh, III, heard of the family's Irish origins from his uncle or aunts, but we do not know it for a fact. He does indicate that at least some of his information came from written records. However, the key phrase "both from Ireland" is included in the text in such an off-hand manner, not in any particular order or relationship to other information, that we are not assured that this information appeared in those records. No records mentioning Ireland have yet been found. It is not unlikely that the Irish origins of the family were part of its oral tradition. That term is a red flag of unreliability to many genealogists, but there is no reason why the information should not serve as a hypothesis subject to confirmation by documented evidence. The information is not incredible, after all. The span of time and generations is not so very great. If at present we have no direct, contemporary evidence supporting

the conclusion that Hugh, Sr., was an immigrant from Ireland<sup>d</sup> neither do we have evidence contradicting it. The question – merely remains open for now.

In addition to wills and deeds recorded in Rowan County, an important source of information about the early Hugh Parks family – names and dates – is the family record in the Homer Parks Bible. It is so called because the volume rested for many years in the home of Mrs. Garrett's grandfather William Homer Parks (1872-1934) and his wife Nancy "Nannie" Minerva Corriher Parks, in Atwell Township, Rowan County, NC. From internal evidence it is clear that at least the early entries in the Bible record were made not by Homer but by his grandfather Hugh Parks, III (author of the letter quoted above). The names on the Births page are the children of Hugh and his wife Margaret McKinley Parks. On a blank facing page is information about the Kerr family, "my Mothers family"; Hugh, III, was the son of Jane Kerr Parks. The youngest Hugh also recorded some information about his Parks grandparents Hugh, Sr., and Margaret. This Bible record was copied by Mrs. J. F. "Mame" McCubbins, which is fortunate as the record later was slightly damaged, with loss of some data. Mrs. McCubbins was an antiquary who lived in Salisbury, N.C., many years ago, and who earned the undying gratitude of multitude of Rowan researchers by leaving a prodigious quantity of notes on topics of genealogy and local history. These notes today comprise the McCubbins Collection of the Edith Clark History Room at the Rowan Public Library in Salisbury. The Homer Parks Bible itself presently belongs to Jane Parks Evans, first cousin to Mrs. Garrett, and like her a granddaughter of William Homer Parks.

Hugh Parks, Sr., owned land in Mecklenburg County, NC, south of Rowan, and his children settled there. Curiously, in 1788, Moses Park (1738-1828) and his wife and children also moved to Mecklenburg County. Moses is believed to have been a descendant of Roger Parke (NJ 1682), and settled originally in the part of old Rowan that later became Davidson County. His new home in Mecklenburg was about 20 miles south of the Hugh Parks property. It is not known whether the two families were ever in contact.

In conclusion, the major unresolved question about this family is whether Hugh Parks, Sr., is its immigrant ancestor. But there is much else to be learned, including many lines of descent from Hugh and Margaret waiting to be traced down to the present day. Anyone with information to share may contact Mrs. Garrett at: 336 Camelot Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144-9415, or by e-mail at: [bjstevegarrett@aol.com](mailto:bjstevegarrett@aol.com)