

# 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.

## Ancestral Safari Series

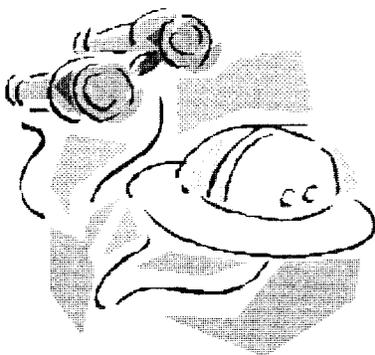
By Dennis L. Lorensen #1185

*Editor's note: We are delighted to announce the revival of the series of articles called "Ancestral Safari," on the royal ancestry of Alice Freeman Thompson Parke, second wife of Robert Parke (MA 1630), and of Alice's daughter Dorothy Thompson Parke who married Robert's son*

*Thomas<sup>2</sup>. The original series was written by William Grant Cook #66 (1905-1998), an eleventh-generation descendant of Robert<sup>1</sup>, through Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Nathaniel<sup>3</sup>, Ezekial<sup>4</sup>, Zebulon<sup>5</sup>, Moses<sup>6</sup>, Betsey Park Roberts<sup>7</sup>, Horace C. Roberts<sup>8</sup>,*

*Alice M. Roberts Cook<sup>9</sup>, and William G. Cook, Sr.<sup>10</sup>. Consisting of some forty articles, the series commenced in the November 1973 issue of the old Park/e/s Family News (p. 4), and closed with Newsletter 1996 Vol. 33 No. 1, p. 6. In addition, Mr. Cook held several offices in the Society, including president (1973-75), and editor*

*continued on page 47*



## Another Visit to the Orange County, NY, Genealogical Society

By Curtis Parks #1166

The general meeting of the Orange County Genealogical Society (OCGS) was called to order on September 7, 2002, in the old courthouse building in Goshen, New York. The librarian's report was a surprise to most of the members: Just before closing on September 6<sup>th</sup>, an old water pipe on the second floor had broken. Much of the first floor had been flooded. Fortunately the City's utilities department was alerted and was able to locate the shutoff valve before the water reached the room used by the OCGS. However, it did raise concern for their considerable research material holdings. While the society does have insurance, how would they replace some of the original manuscripts in their files should they be destroyed? The organization was fortunate to have been allocated space in the 186-year-old historic building, and the City provided and maintained the utilities. But perhaps the OCGS needed to reevaluate the safety measures in place to protect their holdings from possible water or fire damage—a point for the Parke Society to consider if we are ever fortunate enough to have a central repository for our records and books.

Several other reports were given. One was on the success of the OCGS campaign to protect the County's cemeteries from development. This campaign had resulted in the enactment of new cemetery protection laws in each community except one that was expected to also pass such legislation in the near future. Another report described a study of a 100-grave burial site dating to the Revolutionary War in north Rockland County near the Orange County line. It is hoped that the study will reveal how one hundred soldiers had suddenly died. Only one of the stones carried a date: October 1778. (Oddly, the date seemed to look like "act 1778.") Possibly there had been a battle between the British and the South Carolina Militia? But the deaths could

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## Welcome New Members!

1405 Mary Jane Park Starck  
Austin, TX

1408 Kathryn Elisabeth Stout  
Sheppard, Danville, CA

1411 John Michael Parke  
Kennewick, WA

1406 Kenneth Melvin Parks  
New York City, NY

1409 Bruce Nolan Wilson  
Heath, OH

And welcome back to a member  
who has become active again:

1407 Fred Richard Saar  
West Hurley, NJ

1410 Pauline Pierson Layer  
Redwood City, CA

185 Mary "Polly" Parke Jordan  
Medford, MA

## Some Thoughts from Your Editor

In the age of computers, credit cards, internet banking, and the like, privacy is an ongoing concern for all of us. This concern spills over to affect a myriad of innocent and seemingly unrelated activities such as the compilation and sharing of genealogical information. We may not include Social Security numbers and the like in our family histories, but it is commonplace to use one's mother's maiden name, birth and marriage dates, and other similar information, as passwords, access codes, and so forth. Most of us know that we should not do this because the information is too easy to ferret out; but some organizations require it, and besides, we have to use something that we can remember easily, if possible without writing it down. Caution is therefore a necessity in making such information available.

Our Webmaster and others who, unlike your editor, actually understand computers and software, are pondering changes to the Society's privacy policy (published elsewhere in this issue), and no doubt we will hear from them on this subject. For the Newsletter, a

highly specialized print publication with small circulation, and little or no potential for causing harm, we need not have as much concern as for our Website. On the contrary, your editor would consider it a serious problem if we could not publish member profiles, memorial notices, and the like. But we need to say something on the subject of privacy.

The Society's privacy policy discourages publication of any personal information about people not listed in the last released United States Census, currently that of 1930. While laudable, such a limitation will not be practical in all cases. Accordingly your editor suggests only that, if you are going to submit for publication anything in which you provide personal information about a living person, you obtain that person's permission to do so. We will not require you to prove that you have permission; your word will be sufficient. With such an approach, we should be able to navigate successfully between the Scylla of making public too much information, and the Charybdis of so little that our publication has diminished value. PDP

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**Vice President:** Curtis H. Parks #1166L

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.

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**Historian:** Tad Parks #425H. (See at left.)

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Annual Dues \$25.00  
Life Membership \$250.00

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**Webmaster:** Curtis H. Parks #1166L.

# In Memoriam

## Harlowe O. Tribe #432

Word has been received of the death of **Harlow O. Tribe #432** on July 18, 2002, at Endicott, NY. He was an eleventh-generation descendant of **Robert Parke<sup>1</sup> (MA 1630)**, in the line of Thomas<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Josiah<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>6,7</sup>, Avery G.<sup>8</sup>, Claude<sup>9</sup>, and Hazel E. Parke Tribe<sup>10</sup>.

Harlowe was born October 23, 1919, one of five children of John E. Tribe and Hazel E. Parke Tribe<sup>10</sup>, the others being John and Allen Tribe, both deceased; Mrs. Mary Tribe Batjer of Florida; and Mrs. Louise Tribe Many, Liberty, NY. He grew up in Nichols, NY, graduated from Hobart College, and served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. On June 14, 1943, at Endicott, Harlowe married Arlene Edwards. After the war, Harlowe became a data processing manager with International Business Machines, and later taught in the company's customer executive program until his retirement in 1975. He pursued a second career as a teacher of computer programming with the State University of New York at Binghamton, retiring therefrom in 1982. Harlowe was active in the First Baptist Church, Endicott.

Harlowe and his wife Arlene, who survives him, had two children, a son, James Tribe, and a daughter, Shirley, who married Jon Peck. They also had three grandchildren, Bethany Peck, deceased; Andrew Peck; and Timothy Peck and his wife Kelly. Endicott, NY, is located west of Binghamton and north of the Pennsylvania state line.

## Mary L. Parks Cairns Janes

Mary Leona "Toady" Parks Cairns Janes passed away on July 4, 2002, at her home in Waco, TX. She was a sister of **Thomas Joe Parks #349** of Austin, TX. Toady and Joe are eighth-generation descendants of **Thomas Parks of Virginia<sup>1</sup> (d. 1761) (LK=C)** through Thomas, Jr.<sup>2</sup>, Aaron<sup>3</sup>, John N.<sup>4</sup>, Bedford<sup>5</sup>, Bedford F.<sup>6</sup>, to their father James B. Parks<sup>7</sup>. Thomas of Virginia is the subject of a pamphlet edited by David L. Parke #13.

Toady was born on July 27, 1930, in Barry, Navarro County, TX, one of six children of James Bedford Parks<sup>7</sup> and Katie Bell Parks. In addition to Joe Parks #349,

Toady's siblings are James H. Parks and Judy Holloway Parks of Corsicana, Navarro Co., TX, Don Parks of Waco, TX, and Lyndon Parks of Longview, Gregg Co., TX. On April 7, 1956, Toady married Robert Gregg Cairns at Corsicana, TX. They had two children, and Mr. Cairns died in 1959. On October 5, 1991, at Waco, TX, Toady married second, Don Janes.

Toady is survived by her husband, Don Janes; her son Gregg Cairns; her daughter Hazel Ann Cairns Spinn; and her grandchildren, Shelley Cairns, Maranda Spinn, and Melissa Spinn. All of them live at Waco, TX.

Additional information about Toady's family is detailed in two books, *The Parks Family: Origins and Offshoots* (1979) by Joe Parks #349, and *Aaron Parks: His Ancestors and Descendants* (1983) by Joe Parks #349 and the late Joe Parks of Tennessee.

## Your Library Needs You!

### HELP IS NEEDED FROM SOCIETY MEMBERS.

1. **Norman Churchill does the data entry indexing of the Newsletters, but help is needed to color code the Newsletter into the proper categories. As it is indexed, the Newsletter becomes a useful first source of information about families and people who have been subjects of published articles.**

2. **If a member is aware of a library, historical society, etc. in his or her area with good Park/e/s research facilities, please send information so it can be featured in this column.**

**Please contact the Librarian, Jean Churchill #934, if you can help in either of these two areas! See contact information in Newsletter masthead.**

## The Society's Privacy Policy

The official policy of the Parke Society on information in its possession was approved by the Trustees at their meeting on July 27, 2001, during the 2001 Convocation at Fort Wayne, Indiana. This policy is published on the Society's website ([www.parke.org](http://www.parke.org)) and is as follows:

### Privacy Policy

In order to promote collaborative research on our common ancestors, we have collected personal information data from our members. We consider your personal information to be proprietary; for use only within our Society, and only for genealogy research. Our privacy policy includes the following:

1. Our membership lists and database is not for sale, loan, or trade to any person or organization.
2. Further, lineage information collected and organized by the Society will not be submitted to any third party, including other genealogy publishing organizations.
3. Published articles on our lineage will not include the names of individuals of an age who could not be listed in the released U.S. Census.

(End.)

This statement of policy was based on "Historian's Corner: Privacy Issues, The Society and You," by Tad Parks #425, published in the Newsletter, 2001 Vol. 38 No. 2, pages 30, 32. PDP

## The Future of Genealogy

*Contributed by Lu Terock #861 and passed along to your Editor by Tad Parks #425.*

A modern mother is explaining to her little girl about pictures in the family photo album. "This is the geneticist with your surrogate mother and here's your sperm donor and your father's clone. This is me holding you when you were just a frozen embryo. The lady with the very troubled look on her face is your aunt, a genealogist."

## Announcements

Robert Leon Parke #755L and his wife Geraldine Pavlick Parke of Saint Cloud, FL, take great pleasure in announcing the birth of their new grandson Bryce Connor Pullen on August 15, 2002. Bryce weighed in at 7 pounds 1 ounce, and 20 inches long. The proud parents are Bill Pullen and Tracy Ann Parke Pullen #832. Bryce is a fourteenth-generation descendant of Robert Parke (MA 1630), in the line of Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>3</sup>, Hezekiah<sup>4</sup>, Paul<sup>5</sup>, Hezekiah<sup>6</sup>, Asa<sup>7</sup>, Edwin A.<sup>8</sup>, Russell F.<sup>9</sup>, Leon R.<sup>10</sup>, Edwin G.<sup>11</sup>, Robert L.<sup>12</sup>, and Tracy Pullen<sup>13</sup>. Robert joined the Society in 1986, and daughter Tracy in 1987. Robert's daughter Cheryl L. Parke Heineman (#831L) and son David Scott Parke (#833) are also members.



Family of Robert #755 and Geraldine Park

Robert L. Parke #755 and his wife Geraldine R. Parke celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a Reaffirmation Mass of their wedding vows, held at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, Saint Cloud, Florida, on September 1, 2002. Robert and Geraldine were married on September 2, 1967, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Bayonne, New Jersey. In attendance, from left to right, were their daughter Cheryl L. (Parke) Heineman #831 and her husband James E. Heineman; their daughter Tracy A. (Parke) Pullen #832 and her husband William Pullen, Jr.; and their son David S. Parke #833 and his wife Alanna K. (Rossell) Parke. Also attending were their grandchildren, from left to right, Korey Steven Heineman, Jason Tyler Heineman, Sean Robert Pullen, Bryce Connor Pullen, and Allie Kay Parke. A reception for Robert and Geraldine given by their children immediately followed the reaffirmation.

## Share New Information with the Society

Since its organization in 1963, the Parke Society has striven to live up to its stated purpose of serving as a clearinghouse for research on all Park/e/s immigrants from the British Isles. This essential characteristic distinguishes the Society, a family-name organization, from family organizations whose membership is limited to descendants of one ancestor: We collect information on many families, and we share it with each other in hope that over time we will all be able to update, correct and add to our family trees, and discover other members who belong to our lineages.

But to provide help, the Society must have information to share. Members often exchange newly developed information about their lineage directly with each other, and that is good; they are after all the people most directly interested. But members should not stop at this point. They should routinely share their new information with our Historian, Tad Parks #425, or our Librarian, Jean Churchill #934, who maintain the primary collections of the Society's genealogical records. This sharing with the Society's archival representatives should be automatic for any new family information. They can then make it available as needed to other members researching their families. We have many members whose lineages are fragments, not yet traced to an immigrant ancestor. We'll have more in the future as new members join the Society. Slowly but surely, fragments are being connected with their proper lineages, and many new members are able to discover their lineages when they join or soon after.

All new family information should be shared with the Society, especially information that corrects, updates or completes previously submitted lineage information. We can never know in advance what small fact may be the key to establishing a previously unrecognized linkage. Also vitally important is information about newly discovered branches of your family. At any time, someone could join who turns out to be a member of such a branch. Nothing is more fulfilling to a genealogist than to help people make such connections.

Last but definitely not least, members should consider whether they need to update the family group sheets they completed when they first applied for membership. Your editor has been derelict in this regard. When I joined in 1976, I did not know my ancestry farther back than my great-grandfather. Since then, due entirely to help received from other Society members, I've learned that I belong to Roger Parke (NJ 1682), and I could add ten generations.

Tad's and Jean's postal and e-mail addresses appear in the masthead on the second page of this issue. PDP

## Corrections and Additions

In the Newsletter 2002 Vol. 39 No. 2, page 17, in the article "James Parks Last Will and Testament" by Jean Churchill #934, last paragraph at the bottom of page 17, it is stated that Louisa R. Parks may have been of a family "which was a branch of the family of John and Sarah Wingfield Parks of Amherst Co., VA, and Wilkes Co., NC." The **John Parks** in question married **Mary Sharp**, not Sarah Wingfield. Mary was a daughter of Elias (Hof) Sharp and Margaret Proctor Sharp, and John was a son of **Thomas Parks of Virginia** (d. 1761) (Lineage Key=C). The mistake was made not by Jean but by your editor, who relied on outdated information! Thanks to Phyllis Kumler #525L for the correction.

Apologies to new member **James Park Laughlin #1400**, of Chesterfield, MO, for misspelling his middle name. (Ref. Newsletter 2002 Vol. 39 No. 2, p. 18.) He was born on October 17, 1941, a son of Philip Roman Laughlin and Mary Marguerite Park Laughlin<sup>5</sup>, and is married to Sharon Mary Jones. Mr. Laughlin has not yet found his immigrant ancestor. He is a sixth generation descendant of **Andrew Park**<sup>1</sup> (1760-1848), through William<sup>2</sup>, Elias A.<sup>3</sup>, and August E.<sup>4</sup>, to his mother. Andrew, earliest known member of this lineage, died in Monongalia County, W.Va.

In the Newsletter 2002 Vol. 39 No. 2, page 20, in the article "Congratulations, Centenarian!" your editor stated that no connection has been found between **Nathan** and his son **Charles Park** and other Parks who settled in eastern Rowan County, N.C., around the time of the Revolution. However, although a specific relationship has not been established, public records show that while still in New Jersey, Nathan lived in the same locality as known descendants of Roger Parke (NJ 1682) and had contact with them. This circumstantial evidence indicates that Nathan was of the line of **Roger Parke, Jr.**, of Hopewell, N.J. Thanks to Cecilia Parke #535L for pointing this out. Research is continuing, and we hope for additional reports in the future.

# 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)

## New Additions to the Library Collection.

Barratt, Albert; 50 pp.; index; no Park/e/s (loan fee-\$2.); *NEWBURGH IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION* (New York State). 929.7/BAR

Michelin; pub. 2002; 159 pg. (loan fee-\$3.); *GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND* (touring & motoring atlas). 026/MIC

Williams, Jeffrey L.; cpyrt. 2001; 440 pp.; index (loan fee-\$3); *LORE & LEGACY - A HISTORY OF THE CHEEK, SALE & SPARKS FAMILIES* Parks, Thomas, of VA - Lineage Key=C. 929.2/WILL

## The Bennington Museum Genealogy and History Library.

This excellent facility is located on West Main Street, Bennington, VT 05201. Telephone: 802-447-1571; or e-mail: [bennmuse@sover.net](mailto:bennmuse@sover.net) Some of the general research resources available at this Library are: U.S. Census Indexes 1790-1850 for New England, New York, and other areas. Registers of New England Historical and Genealogical Society, indexed. American Biographical-Genealogical (Rider) Index, all states. Indexed genealogy columns of Boston Transcript and Hartford Times. Family histories, mostly New England. Materials on the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War (Vermont). Also Branches & Twigs (publication of the Genealogical Society of Vermont) index to 180,000 names. Various Church records. Early maps & atlases. Abby Maria Hemenway's indexed 5-volume 19<sup>th</sup> century *Vermont Gazetteer*. Cemetery records. And more.

This library is recommended for those Park/e/s researchers whose ancestry is from the New England region, particularly Vermont. The U.S. National Archives, Silvio O. Conte branch, Dan Fox Drive, Pittsfield, MA, is also within driving distance.

According to their informational brochure, Bennington History Library will carry out limited research in return for a donation to the Bennington Museum to cover cost of copies and postage. Please send requests by e-mail or regular mail. They note that they cannot do in-depth research; how-

ever, they do have a listing of researchers who are available for a fee.

This Library is open to museum patrons and members. Its hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. From June 1-October 31 it is open Monday - Saturday. From November 1-May 31 it is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

## *Lore & Legacy – A History of the Cheek, Sale & Sparks Families (2001).*

By Jeffrey Lewis Williams. Reviewed by Jean C. Churchill #934.

Mr. Williams is well established in the financial world, having been elected to the Financial Executives Institute and listed in *Who's Who Among International Entrepreneurs*. At the age of 38, he took a three-year sabbatical to re-search his family history. Applying the same drive that made him a success in business, he succeeded in tracing his ancestors from 15<sup>th</sup> century England through their migration to this country in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Most of them finally settled in western North Carolina by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Parks mentioned in the book belong to the line of Thomas Parks of Virginia (d. 1761) (Lineage Key=C). He is provisionally treated as the founder of his lineage, although whether Thomas was an immigrant, or where he might have come from, have yet to be determined. His parents and wife are also unknown. Unfortunately Mr. Williams has not been able to add to the little we know of Thomas personally; his focus is rather on the connection of the Parks with other families in the volume. Thomas<sup>1</sup> Parks made his Will on August 24, 1752 in Albemarle Co., VA. Probate was in 1761, and it has been assumed that Thomas died in that year. We are fortunate that he named all his children including the married names of his daughters.

Thomas' daughter Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> married Christopher Hutchings. Their son Thomas<sup>3</sup> Hutchings married Catherine Donelson who was the daughter of Colonel John Donelson. It was her sister Rachel who married President Andrew Jackson (1767-1845). Both Christopher Hutchings and Colonel Donelson served in the Revolutionary War. Later, Colonel Donelson and other settlers traveled down the Cumberland River in order to settle in Tennessee. John

kept a journal of this trip (*Journal of a Voyage, intended by God's permission, in the boat adventure, From Fort Patrick Henry on the Holsten River in Virginia to French Salt Springs on the Cumberland River in Tennessee*) and the author has included excerpts. Thomas and Catherine Hutchings were among the passengers who settled in Davidson County, TN.

John<sup>2</sup> Parks married Mary Sharp and they settled in Wilkes County, North Carolina. Organized in 1777, Wilkes is in the west central part of the state, its northernmost point about ten miles from the Virginia state line. Mary Sharp was the daughter of Elias (Hof) Sharp and Margaret Proctor. Their daughter Elizabeth (Betsy)<sup>3</sup> Parks married James Gray, Sr. James served in the Revolutionary War and was granted land in Wilkes County on Gray's Creek, which was named after him.

James, Sr. and Elizabeth Gray's son James Gray, Jr.<sup>4</sup> married Margaret (Peggy) Parks who was the daughter of Thomas Parks, Jr.<sup>2</sup>. They also settled in Wilkes County, and Margaret died there before 1810. The Will of James Gray, Jr. was probated in 1847. Like that of Thomas, Sr., it gives the married names of his daughters, thus documenting connections with the surnames of Curry, Moore, Sale, Maberry, and Johnson.

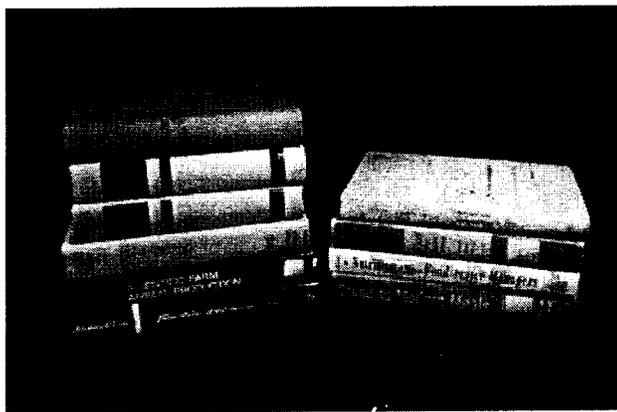
James, Sr. and Elizabeth Gray's son George<sup>1</sup> Gray was born in Virginia in 1767. He married Sarah Benge who was the daughter of Thomas Benge and Susannah Lewis. George and Sarah Gray both died in Wilkes County. They were the parents of ten children, through whom they added still more surname connections, including McBride, Walker, Lewis, Morrison, Gregory, Spencer, and Sale.

John<sup>2</sup> and Mary Parks' daughter Sarah (Sally)<sup>3</sup> Parks married Cornelius Sale in Surry County, North Carolina, before 1772. Cornelius was the son of William Sale, Jr. and Nancy Ann Shell. The author notes that George Park (Sarah's brother) was a soldier-substitute for Cornelius during the Revolution and served as a sergeant under Captain William Lenoir. Both Cornelius and his wife died in

Wilkes County, North Carolina.

George<sup>3</sup> Parks, son of John<sup>2</sup> and Mary Parks, was born in Amherst, VA in 1759. He married Milly Davis and died in Monroe Co., Indiana, at the age of 78. George received a Revolutionary War pension. His file states that he served during the battle of Kings Mountain, N.C., with his brother Samuel. (For more, see *Ancestors & Descendants of Harry Vern Hull, Sr. of Iowa* (1998) by Patricia Fulton PS#417.)

Thomas<sup>1</sup> Parks' daughter Mary<sup>2</sup> was born in Essex, Virginia in 1706. She married John Bond in Virginia about 1728. John Bond made his will in April 1756; it was probated May 15, 1760 at Culpeper Co, VA. It is thought that his widow Mary died about 1779.



Thomas<sup>1</sup> Parks' son Thomas Jr.<sup>2</sup> married Priscilla -?- in Albermarle Co, VA in 1750. Both the younger Thomas and his wife died in Wilkes County, North Carolina. Thomas, Jr. left a will probated in Wilkes County in January 1791. He and his wife were the parents of nine children but only daughter Margaret

(Peggy), married to James Gray, Jr., is featured in this book. (See *Aaron Parks: His Ancestors & Descendants* (1983) by T. Joe Parks PS#349 and Joe Parks of Tennessee for more on Thomas<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Aaron<sup>3</sup>).

The surnames of Benge, Gray, Sale, Harris, Cheek, Elmore, Money, Royall, Sparks, and Wellman receive extensive coverage. (See for example the section on the witchcraft trial of Sara Cole of Lynn, MA.) Please note that there are alternate lines suggested for some of the genealogies.

Mr. Williams' book is an interesting read for the member who enjoys local or regional history in general as well as the member looking for details concerning the family of Thomas Parks of Virginia. The author has included many photographs, maps, timelines, and accounts from journals, wills, pension records, etc.

# Convocation 39 at Arlington, VA, July 25-28, 2002

By Percival D. Park #140

Your editor has been a member of the Society since 1976 but never attended the annual convocation before this year. And even though the format was much simpler than in past years, I found it a delightful experience, not to be missed! The opportunity alone to meet people face to face with whom I exchanged messages for months was worth it.

The primary activities – the two-session annual meeting of the Trustees, the banquet, and the annual corporate meeting – all took place on Friday, July 26. Perhaps the most important difference from past convocations was that no Society Research Room was set up. This had been a difficult decision for the Trustees, but it was deemed a necessary experiment because of the changing nature of genealogical research and the need to use the Society's resources more efficiently. However, attendees had the opportunity to use the time to explore the history-filled Washington area and investigate the extensive and varied resources available for in-depth research, such as the DAR Research Library, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress.

Most of the attendees from out of town checked into the convocation hotel, the Crown Plaza-Washington, on Thursday, July 25. This spacious modern establishment is near Jefferson Davis Highway in the Crystal City area not far from the Reagan Washington National Airport. On Friday morning, the first session of the annual Trustees' meeting was called to order at the hotel by Presi-

dent Jeanne Reisler #514. Under the skilled guidance of our executive director, Tad Parks #425, the Society's business was efficiently discharged, including nomination of trustees and officers, and selection of Fort Wayne, IN, as the site of the 2003 and 2004 Convocations.

A damp but not unpleasant Friday evening saw the attendees gathered at the excellent Ruth's Chris Steak House, on the eleventh floor of Crystal Park 3, on Crystal Drive, overlooking the airport. ("Crystal" appears in the names of at least half of all the structures in the area!) The menu offered a selection of beef, chicken, or salmon. Your editor chose the last of these and recommends it highly!

Tad Parks presented Dedicated Service Awards in absentia to Mrs. Vir Harrison #849, for serving as editor of Closed Circuit to Members for eight years, and to Mrs. Corabelle DeClerg #842 for maintaining the Society's Scrapbook. Curt Parks #1166, local organizer of the Convocation, introduced our guest speaker, Jim Raywalt, Master Genealogist. Impressively bedecked with

ribbons betokening his membership in many genealogical and historical societies, Mr. Raywalt spoke on the problem of migration in tracing one's ancestors, the value of conducting research in actual libraries in addition to the internet, and the resources available for genealogical research in the Washington area.

Following Mr. Raywalt's lecture and a question and answer period, President Reisler called the Annual Corporate Meeting to order. Among other business, three new trustees were elected and the return to Fort Wayne, IN, for the next two Convocations was announced. The cor-



Executive Director Tad Parks #425 makes a point at the first session of the trustees Meeting on the morning of July 26, 2002. At left, President Keith Harrison #710. At right, outgoing President Jeanne Reisler #514.

porate meeting was adjourned, and the second session of the Trustees Meeting was called to order, with election of officers as follows: President, Keith Harrison #710; Vice President, Curtis Parks #1166; Secretary, Arlene Callahan #396; Treasurer, Lu Terock #861; Historian, Tad Parks #425; Librarian, Jean Churchill #934; Registrar, Lyle Orem #606; and Editor, Percival Park #140. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

While the 2002 Convocation may not have been noteworthy for large attendance, and no Society Research Room was provided, your editor found it eminently worthwhile. I was glad for the opportunity to witness at first hand the working of the organization and to meet face to face the people responsible for that. I was impressed at how much business was conducted, and that very smoothly. I am eagerly looking forward to future Convocations, and I recommend that everyone attend who can possibly do so!

### Convocation Attendees

The attendees were as follows, in alphabetical order:

Jean Churchill #934, Librarian and Trustee, Region III;  
Norm Churchill, husband of Jean #934;  
Keith Harrison #710, elected President, formerly Vice President and Webmaster;  
Jack Kallman, Milwaukee, WI;  
Charles Owen Johnson #1388, Arlington, VA;  
Bill Park #1299, Bowie, MD;  
Maj. Doug Park #1305, son of Bill #1299;  
Gail Park #1401, Laurel Springs, NC;  
Percival Park #140, Editor;  
Phillip Park, husband of Gail #1401;  
Cecilia Parke #535, Lineage Leader for Roger;  
Charles Parke #1233, Montoursville, PA;  
David L. Parke #13, Past President and Editor Emeritus;  
Geri Parke, wife of Robert #755;  
Robert Leon Parke #755, Trustee, Region IV;  
Curtis Parks #1166, elected Vice President and appointed Webmaster; Trustee, Region VII;  
Tad Parks #425, Historian and Executive Director;  
Jeanne Reisler #514, outgoing President;  
Joan Tyler, companion of Curtis #1166; and  
Grace Vaughan #720, Oscoda, MI.

### The Thirteen Commandments for Names

(Humor for the Genealogist)

Author unknown.

Contributed by David L. #13H and Cecilia Parke #535L.

- I. Thou shalt name thy male children James, John, Joseph, Abel, Richard, Thomas or William.
- II. Thou shalt name thy female children Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah, Ida, Virginia or Mae.
- III. Thou shalt leave NO trace of thy female children.
- IV. Thou shalt, after naming thy children from the above lists, never refer to them by those names again. Instead, thou shalt call them by strange nicknames such as Ike, Eli, Polly, Dolly, or Sukey.
- V. Thou shalt not use any middle names on ANY legal documents or census reports and, whenever possible, thou shalt use only initials on legal documents.
- VI. Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that thy surname can be spelled or misspelled in diverse ways – Tipper, Topper, Hopper, Tapper.
- VII. Thou shalt, after three generations, make sure that all family records are lost, misplaced, burned in a courthouse fire, lost at sea or buried so that NO trace of them can be found.
- VIII. Thou shalt propagate misleading legends, rumors and vague innuendo regarding thy place of origin. (a) Thou may have come from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales or Iran. (b) Thou may have Native American ancestry of the \_\_\_\_\_ tribe. (c) Thou may be descended from one of three brothers who came over from \_\_\_\_\_.
- IX. Thou shalt leave no cemetery records, headstones or markers with legible names, nor will any dates thereon match those in public records.
- X. Thou shalt leave no family Bible with records of births, marriages or deaths.
- XI. Thou shalt ALWAYS flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make the rest of thy records in the names of Albert, AJ, JA, AI, Bert, Bart or Fred.
- XII. Thou must also flip thy parents names around when making reference to them, although "Unknown" is an acceptable alternative.
- XIII. Thou shalt name all generations of children with identical first names, as shalt all thy brothers, so that all cousins are named the same.

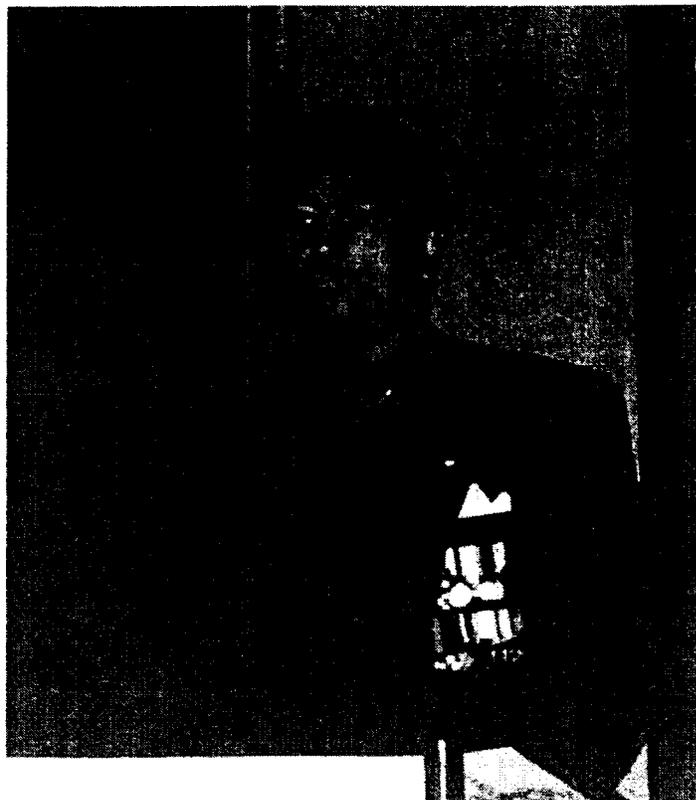
## Convocation Remarks of Mr. Jim Raywalt

On the evening of Friday, July 26, 2002, after a fine meal at Ruth's Chris Steak House in the Crystal City area of Arlington, VA, attendees at the 2002 Convocation of the Parke Society had the pleasure of hearing the comments of Jim Raywalt, Master Genealogist. He spoke on research in the Washington, D.C., area and related topics, a subject on which he is well qualified with twenty-three years of work in the locality.

Mr. Raywalt distributed copies of a flyer, "Helpful Hints When Performing Research in Washington DC," concerning the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. He described his qualifications, saying that he has been tracing family history since he was seven years old, and that he is the author of many genealogies and is a member of many societies. He also teaches genealogy.

He asked rhetorically, why do people migrate? Mr. Raywalt's answer is that migration is nearly always for commercial or economic reasons, not religion in most cases, contrary to the assumptions of many. Voyages were very burdensome and not lightly undertaken, but lack of land or commercial opportunity in the crowded countries of the Old World could furnish sufficient incentive. Sometimes such migration was a byproduct of military conquest as European powers extended their reach into the New World. In contrast, religion provided only a secondary reason. The fact is that religious persecution did not last very long in any one area, and people who were otherwise inclined to stay put could often just wait it out. Some migrated involuntarily when they were sent to penal colonies. Others came to North America as indentured servants. As time passed, settlers used Indian trails or established new ones, facilitating migration. Later, in the 1800's, migration became easier and faster with the advent of the steamboat and the railroads. Mr. Raywalt gave a number of examples of migration carried out for economic or religious reasons.

Mr. Raywalt stated that genealogy without documentation is mythology. Just because Grandma said it does not mean it is so. How to document your family history? The best sources of information are genealogy libraries. But some might say, why go to libraries, and make copies, when you can get everything on the internet? The answer is that this common assumption is incorrect. In fact, it is the libraries that have everything – the libraries in Washington, D.C., in Salt Lake City, in Fort Wayne, and elsewhere.



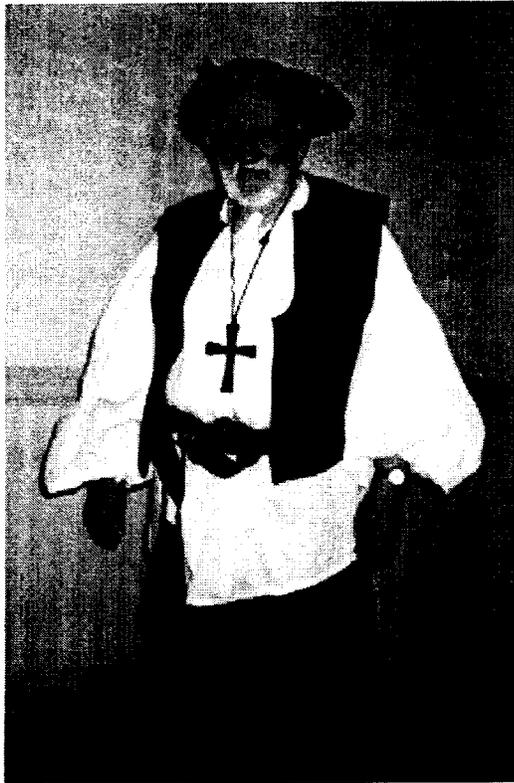
Genealogist Jim Raywalt, Convocation Speaker

In contrast, the internet is a tool, and can be useful in leading the researcher to clues for further investigation, in helping him or her to gain a general understanding of time and place, and in meeting other people researching the same lines. BUT – a large but – the information on the internet can be wrong. The researcher has to be careful of everything he finds on the internet. Libraries, on the other hand, contain authoritative articles on the genealogy of particular families, and an abundance of other records, less than one percent of which are on the internet.

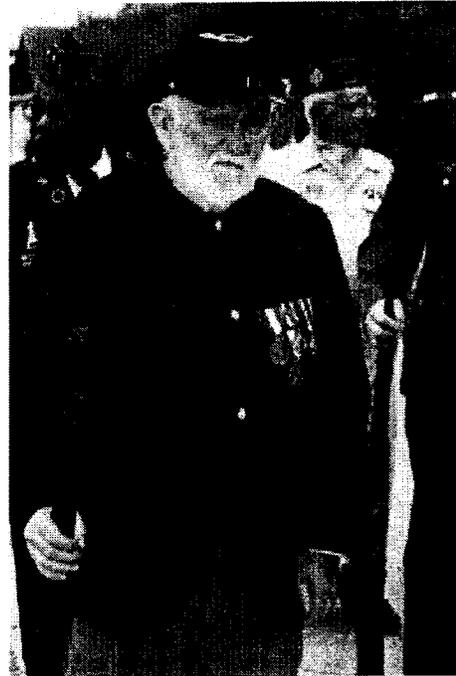
During the question and answer session, Mr. Raywalt gave his views on city directories (they can be useful but the researcher must be careful with entries for people who have the same name), and the merits and demerits of the major Washington libraries (the DAR library is the easiest and fastest to use, the Library of Congress is the most difficult, and the Archives is in between). He commented that lineage societies are useful as a means of preserving your lineage and making contact with other researchers. In conclusion, Mr. Raywalt observed that it is best to do your research yourself, and to look at the actual records to make sure of gleaning everything relevant that is available. PDP

## Colonial Settler and Ex-POW

One of our members at the Fort Wayne Convocation in July of 2001 indicated by his dress that he goes back at least 25 years. (2001 Vol. 38 No. 3, page 41, group photo, front row, center.) He is **Edward Wallace Parks #105L** (LK=T) of Middleboro, MA, a neighborhood once inhabited by descendants of the Mayflower and Winthrop Fleet in the 1600's. Ed's lineage is twelfth generation from Robert (MA 1630) through Thomas 2, Nathaniel 3, Joseph 4, Daniel 5-6, Solomon 7, Zina H. 8, Hiram Frederick 9, Edward Solomon 10, and his father Edward Wallace (Sr.) 11.



Ed Parks #105 in Colonial garb.



Ed Parks #105 as a  
Union Army Rifleman.

Ed was born on November 26, 1923, at Fall River, MA, a son of Edward, Sr., and Gertrude A. Whalon Parks. During World War II, he served in the Pacific Theater with the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, rising to the rank of major. Ed was wounded, and became a prisoner of war in Southeast Asia. (Newsletter, 1980 Vol. 17 No. 3, p. 34; 1995 Vol. 32 No. 1, p. 11.) As an active member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, he has another fancy dress costume for that organization, a Union Army uniform of the Civil War era. Ed married Christine M. West on June 17, 1951; they recently celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. He joined the Parke Society in 1976.

## Queries

The following three queries have been submitted by **Cecilia B. Parke #535L**, 7162 Cambridge St., Spring Hill, FL 34606-4201 (e-mail: [davcel080@aol.com](mailto:davcel080@aol.com)):

1. Park, John, born 3 July 1773 in MD or NJ, died 17 July 1857, in Industry Twp., McDonough Co., IL. Married Jane Santee, 9 September 1799. They migrated from New Jersey to Ross Co., OH, before 1847, and then into McDonough Co., IL. John and Jane had eight children: Robert, Mary, William G., John Jr., Eliza, Joseph, Benner and Craighead. (Craighead Park served in the Union Army during the Civil War.)

2. Park, Rufus, born about 1833, MD(?), son of David<sup>6</sup> Park (b. 1812), who is descended from Roger<sup>1</sup> Parke (NJ 1682), in the line of John<sup>2-3</sup>, Allen<sup>4</sup> and Richard<sup>5</sup>. Need information on Rufus.

3. Park, John, born about 1759 at Hopewell, NJ; married Charity Stout, daughter of John and Rachel Sexton Stout. Moved to Shamokin Co., PA, at the time of the great migration to this area. Did John and Charity have a son John, born ca. 1785, who in turn had a son, James, born in 1825, who married Araminta Breese? They lived in West Chillsquaque Twp., Northumberland Co., PA.

## Genetics and Genealogy: A Book Review

*Editor's note. During the past year, Lee Christensen #957, of Yakima, Washington, has conducted a DNA research project concerning various lines of the male descendants of Roger Parke (NJ 1682). We hope to present an article on this project and its results in a future issue.*

Sykes, Brian, The Seven Daughters of Eve, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 2001; pages: x, 307; table of contents, charts, index. \$29.95. Reviewed by Percival D. Park #140.

Sometimes we can benefit from looking at what we do from a new and unfamiliar perspective. Such an exercise can energize us by suggesting to us what our effort ultimately means. Thus can our business of genealogy be compared with the explosively developing science of genetics. We necessarily focus all our attention on the small details of lives lived, their dates, activities, and places, and we count ourselves fortunate if we can trace any of our ancestral lines back a few centuries. Imagine if we could go back ten thousand years, twenty thousand, even more! Such is at least theoretically possible through some of the less publicized marvels of modern genetics. Amidst the buzz of recent years about cloning, genetic alteration of crops and fetuses, use of DNA to determine whether a person committed a crime, and other sensational aspects of the work, we need to remember that genetics also offers tools for historical and archeological research.

Brian Sykes, professor of genetics at Oxford University, has provided a fascinating and eminently readable account of his and others' research concerning mitochondrial DNA, the genetic material which is passed only through the female line. This material changes scarcely at all (one mutation every 10,000 years, on average). Because of its stability, the presence of the material can be used, in effect, to trace one's genetic ancestry before the last ice age. We will never know our remote ancestors' names or statistics, sadly; but with genetic testing we could locate potentially millions of living cousins.

To the relief of those like me who are scientifically challenged, Professor Sykes writes in a popular, non-technical style, using well publicized cases to illustrate his points. For example, he explains how certain skeletal remains discovered near Ekaterinburg, Russia, were identified as Czar Nicholas II and members of his family and household – and also how the late Anna Anderson of Charlottesville, VA, was determined to have been a Polish peasant and not the Grand Duchess Anastasia as she claimed for decades. Other examples are discussed below.

As a result of his extraordinary 1947 voyage across the Pacific by raft, the explorer and author Thor Heyerdahl thought he proved that the islands of the Pacific were settled by sailors in small boats migrating westward from South America (Kon-Tiki (1948)). However, the fact that something is possible does not mean it actually happened, a useful point for family historians to bear in mind. Studies of the DNA of many island dwellers and people indigenous to the continents on both sides of the ocean now show clearly that the primary flow of population was from the east toward South America.

Archeologists have long been puzzled at the apparently total disappearance of Neanderthals from the earth. Competing theories are that they became extinct because they could not compete successfully with the Cro-Magnons (our ancestors), or alternatively that the Neanderthals interbred with the Cro-Magnons and lost their separate identity. The work of Professor Sykes and others supports the first theory. While we cannot extract DNA from fossilized Neanderthal remains, we know that they would have had distinctive elements – mutations – in their DNA like all other life forms that have genetic material. From probable Cro-Magnon migration patterns, we know where the two peoples were in contact with each other. If they successfully interbred, their descendants would have genetic markers different from those of other Cro-Magnon lines of descent. Research reveals no such differences, and accordingly it may be said that contemporary human DNA contains no elements that could be of Neanderthal origin.

These examples are a prelude to Professor Sykes' primary thesis, which is that substantially all Europeans are descended from no more than seven women who lived from 10,000 to 45,000 years ago. Years of DNA testing and comparison of numerical gene sequences have shown that the population of Europe is largely divided among seven groups, referred to for convenience as "clans." Research on the Y-chromosome, which passes down through male lines (about which more later) tends to support this.

How do we know when the founding women, the "daughters of Eve," lived? Fortunately, mutations are recognizable to the genetic researcher, and by counting the number of mutations, the researcher can estimate how long ago a particular set of gene sequences came into being. More mutations mean a longer time period.

Location of the places where the clans originated is more problematic. The researcher considers the present day geographical distribution of the clans and their branches. The most likely place of origin is not necessarily where the clan's genetic sequences are most common today, but rather where they are most varied, i.e., displaying more of their distinctive mutations. The results, while fraught with uncertainty, at least represent rational hypotheses; and on this basis, Professor Sykes has roughed out a map of the genetic history of Europe.

Impressive as all this is, the great limitation of mitochondrial DNA is that it can tell us only about ancestors in female lines. Two people named Park/e/s who think they share a common ancestor will not be able to prove or disprove it by this method. Can modern genetics help us with male lines also? The answer is provided by the Y-chromosome, passed on only by males, which establishes male gender in a baby. It is relatively stable from one generation to the next; only about ten percent of the Y-chromosome's DNA is involved in recombination, the process by which genetic material is reshuffled like a huge deck of cards every time an egg is fertilized. At the same time, different Y-chromosomes are distinguishable from each other through their mutations, primarily repetition of certain DNA se-

quences. Studies analogous with those using mitochondrial DNA have been conducted using Y-chromosomes. The results are consistent with Professor Sykes' conclusions summarized above, that most of the population of Europe descends from seven women who lived tens of thousands of years ago. But the Y-chromosome gives us a means of tracing our male ancestors and discovering our cousins descended in male lines.

In conclusion, the essence of family history is in its details. Our purpose is to collect exact names, dates, places, and other information. We can and should acknowledge uncertainty if our facts are incomplete or subject to differing interpretations, but that is only provisional; we always hope to resolve the uncertainty some day. At our best we can bring the facts to life by relating family anecdotes and by describing conditions in the surrounding community, but that is a secondary goal. In contrast, an eloquent account consisting of sweeping generalizations, however well founded from a scholarly point of view, about the activities and movements of large numbers of people over the centuries, may be good general history, but it definitely is not family history.

Where, then, on the continuum between family history and general history, does the genetic information described by Professor Sykes fall? Exactly here: Although we will never know the names of our one-hundredth or one-thousandth great-grandparents, we can be as sure as humanly possible that people who share certain portions of our genetic inheritance are our cousins, and we can claim them as such if we choose. At present very few people have had their DNA studied and compared, so we do not know who our cousins are beyond the few we have traced by name. Clearly they can be anybody we encounter or pass in our daily lives. In the stressful times in which we live, we may benefit from reflecting on this, to induce in ourselves feelings of humility and an increased awareness of our shared humanity.

also have been due to a severe winter, or an outbreak of typhoid.

I had timed my vacation to begin with this monthly meeting of the OCGS because Jean Churchill #934 mentioned in her article (Newsletter, 2002 Vol. 39 No. 2, page 21) that the organization usually schedules an interesting speaker following the general meeting. Also, after the presentation, the society's research room would be open. They may possibly have material new to me on my Van Orden line whose members had left New York or New Jersey about 1835 to settle in La Porte County, Indiana. While I found nothing during the research time, the speaker indeed had an interesting presentation for us.

Marilyn Terry spoke on "City Directories: A Valuable Resource." She noted that the first New York City directory was published in 1786, and by 1860 there were more than 70 regularly published city directories in the United States. More information than just the family address is set forth in these early directories. For example, if a resident died following the past directory publication period, the decedent's date of death and residence at the time are often listed. If the resident moved during that period, the entry may tell you where they moved to! You may also learn the occupation of the individual, and the name of the business he or she may have owned or been employed in. Marilyn noted that female lines are always hard to trace, but sometimes a city directory lists the person whom a woman married. And if a person marries and moves away, this may also be listed. Also widows and widowers may be identified, and by comparing entries in different years, one can learn when a spouse passed away. The contents of a directory often changed from year to year. The directories often include an introduction that can reveal the idiosyncrasies of that directory. We should think of each city directory as a reference book.

Marilyn is in the process of indexing directory entries for people named O'Connell and related spellings in the Newburgh area for the years 1886 – 1966. She noted that an important thing to remember when making copies of pages of a directory is to copy also the title page, the table of contents, and the page on which abbreviations used are listed. These additional pages may save a trip back to learn your ancestor's complete listing information. Other items worth checking are:

- Map (not all directories have one, and many maps have not survived);

- Listings for surrounding communities;
- Cemeteries (where they were located);
- Churches (when the churches were established);
- Funeral homes (years of existence);
- Photographers (years in business);
- Information about the city;
- Homes and asylums;
- Street directory;
- Associations and organizations; and
- Ward boundaries (when there is no map or it is missing).

Only a few of the many published directories are accessible on the Internet. For example, the 1858-59 Newburgh City Directory is now on line. Many of the early directories, however, must be located in the various libraries that include a regional historical reference room. For New York State, the State Historical Society in Cooperstown, NY, is known to have a large collection of directories. Many city directories have been put on microfilm by the Library of Congress. To find out if the city directory in which you are interested is on the Internet, you can use the following, cited by Marilyn:

- <http://nycvitalrecords.bizland.com/citydirectories.htm>
- <http://ancestry.families.aol.com/library/view/news/articles/2011.asp>
- <http://www.distantcousins.com/Directories>
- <http://cyndislist.com/citydir.htm>
- <http://uscitydirectories.com>
- <http://oldcitydirectories.com>
- <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/citydir.htm>
- <http://olivetreegenealogy.com/nn/citydir.shtml>
- <http://broadcasting.byu.edu/ancestors/records/census/table3.html>

All in all, my visit with the OCGS was both enjoyable and informative, and reminded me again that each of the many organizations that are involved with genealogy can add something to our knowledge of the subject. If you plan to visit, be sure to check the hours of operation of the OCGS research room. Although there did not seem to be a telephone contact, they do list the research room hours on their Web site at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nozell/ocgs/>

Orange County is located in southern New York, northwest of New York City, between the Hudson River to the east, and the New Jersey and Pennsylvania state lines to the south and west.

of the *News* (1976-77). A complete obituary appears in the *Newsletter* at 1998 Vol. 35 No. 3, p. 34.

**Dennis Lee Lorensen #1185** has also been a frequent contributor to the *Newsletter*. Perhaps foreshadowing his current project, he gave to one of his articles the title "The Safari Continues – The Danvers Ancestry of Alice Freeman," at 1998 Vol. 35 No. 3, p. 33. He is a thirteenth-generation descendant of Robert<sup>1</sup> (MA 1630), through Thomas<sup>2-3</sup>, Deborah Parke Clarke<sup>4</sup>, Deborah Clarke Benjamin<sup>5</sup>, Joseph Benjamin<sup>6</sup>, Samuel C. Benjamin<sup>7</sup>, Polly Benjamin Burnett<sup>8</sup>, Evaline Burnett Taylor<sup>9</sup>, Josiah Taylor<sup>10</sup>, Llewellyn F. Taylor<sup>11</sup>, and Dorothea Taylor Lorensen<sup>12</sup>. In the revived series, for which his present article is in part a prospectus, Mr. Lorensen will update Mr. Cook's work based on recent research, and will complete some lines of descent down to Alice (Freeman) Thompson Parke (died 1664/65).

As mentioned, "Ancestral Safari" deals specifically with the family of Robert Parke (MA 1630). However, it offers practical lessons to everyone interested in tracing his or her family's history, in the difficulties of dealing with information from medieval sources, the need to exercise care in making assumptions based on other researchers' work, and the willingness to revise one's own conclusions when necessary based on new information and better interpretations. We can all expect to have the opportunity of revision sooner or later. It is a curious fact that with the continually increasing accessibility of all kinds of historical information, we are often able to discover more about remote events than even past researchers with the best reputations for careful, thorough work, who moreover lived closer in time to the events about which they wrote. PDP.

Two of the most important resources for descendants of Robert Parke (MA 1630) are the "Ancestral Safari" series, authored by the late William Grant Cook, Jr. #66, published in many past issues of *The Newsletter of the Parke Society*, and his book *Looking Backward* (1981). (The second edition of Mr. Cook's book was reviewed by Jean Churchill #934 in the *Newsletter*, 1996 Vol. 33 No. 2, p. 21.) Mr. Cook's works are a veritable gold mine of genealogical research. However, newer members need to be made aware that some of the ancestors covered in some of Mr. Cook's earlier articles have since been disproved. This is not uncommon in genealogy, as later research often leads to more information, which can either add or subtract

names in your pedigree charts. Such is the case with some of the lineage of Alice (Freeman) Thompson Parke. Alice was the mother of Dorothy Thompson, who married Thomas<sup>2</sup> Parke (Robert<sup>1</sup> MA 1630).

The problem with the lineage was with one Joan de Harley. In *Ancestral Roots of Sixty Colonists* (7<sup>th</sup> ed. 1993) (hereafter *Ancestral Roots*), Frederick Lewis Weiss (with others) listed her in Line 29A. In the first challenge against this listing, it was reported that Joan was the daughter of a different Robert de Harley than the one identified by Weiss. Later, she was dropped altogether. This disproved line in *Ancestral Roots*, Line 29A, #32, purported to go back to John "Lackland," King of England 1199-1216. Other lines were dropped along with this, including some of the 25 Magna Charta Surety Barons (William de Mowbray, William de Braose [Bruce], and others). Some of the other royalty that was "lost" included England's King Henry I (reigned 1100-1135).

Because of the problem described above, readers should disregard the "Ancestral Safari" article on page 4 of the *Park/e/s Family News* for November 1973, an account of a lecture and slide show by Mr. Cook on William the Conqueror, Henry I, and Henry II. They should also disregard the article on page 2 of the August 1975 issue of *The Parke Society*, "Eleanor and the 4 Kings," about Eleanor of Aquitaine; the article "The Bruce Connection," *Newsletter* 1983 Vol. 20, No. 2, pp. 21-22; and the article "The Vikings are Coming! The Vikings are Coming!" in *Park/e/s Family News*, 1977 Vol. 14, No. 1, p. 8. The Society also has a booklet on the Mowbray family (*The Mowbray Connection*, by Gary Boyd Roberts). As mentioned earlier, the Mowbrays also are dropped from our lineage. These lines all were deleted due to the Joan de Harley error.

An important article to see, for those of you who may be new members, is "Rain on Ancestral Safari," by Edwin D. Witter, Jr. #170, in the *Newsletter*, 1983 Vol. 20 No. 3, page 37. Other royal lines through this connection were also dropped, but they remain in our ancestry through other links.

In his "Ancestral Safari" articles, Mr. Cook did not include the "carry down" information – the later generations down to Alice (Freeman) Thompson Parke. I will also make charts for all these connections. Since there are so many (I count 37), it may take awhile before they are all published.

# No Universal Way to Spell Surnames

By Donna Murray Allen. Reprinted from the St. Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg, FL with Ms. Allen's permission.

*Editor's note: Many thanks to Cecilia B. Parke #535 for bringing this article to our attention. It seems particularly appropriate for an organization whose members are researching people named Park/Parke/Parks/Parkes! PDP.*

Our immigrant ancestors were often labeled illiterate simply because they weren't proficient in English. They might have been quite capable of reading and writing in their native language, but were not bilingual. Many, of course, were not educated. After all, literacy on a national scale is a rather recent development. This lack of school often gets blamed for spawning the spelling variations in surnames. Fact is, there has never been and never will be a universal way to spell any name. You'll find Smith, Smyth and Smythe in the latest phone book.

Compounding the problem was the inability of courthouse clerks, census takers and other government employees to understand what the immigrant was saying due to his or her thick foreign accent. So they spelled the surname phonetically. Government workers weren't always tops in the spelling category either. A surname might be spelled three different ways in one document.

But surnames were often modified many times before the immigrant even left his homeland. My great-grandfather's surname evolved from Karchnak to Karchnjak to Karnyak in three generations before he ever left Slovakia. His will reads Karnak and his tombstone says Carnock. Nearby, his son's tombstone says Carnack.

Despite an excess of evidence, some rooters reject the possibility that they could be descendants of anyone whose surname is spelled differently from their own. They should take up another hobby.

Even simple Irish names underwent modifications. Aside from dropping the 'O' from O'Toole or the 'Mc' [from] McDonnell, Horan became Horn and McGeary turned into McGarry.

German surnames were really butchered. Ulrich morphed into Ullery or Ulery, Oolery and Whoolery. Eicher became Iker and Echard. Puh, Pfau and Buh changed to Poe.

Foreign names were also loosely translated into English. Since Schneider is roughly the German equivalent of the English word tailor, many Schneiders (Snyder, Snider) Americanized their name to Taylor. Likewise Zimmerman converted to Carpenter and Bruner to Springer. As with other ethnic groups, Germans lopped off parts of their surnames, Snidemueller got shortened to Mueller and eventually Anglicized to Miller.

Nicknames can also throw you a curve. When I first began tracing my roots, I thought some of my male ancestors remarried between every census. James Mills was married to Eter in 1850, but hitched to Henrietta in 1860. Polly and Mary are used interchangeably. Sadie, Studie and Sally were popular derivatives of Sarah. Two of the more unusual nicknames that I recently encountered are 'Laney' for Magdalena and 'Lide' for Eliza Jane. The first makes some sense. But Lide? She also went by 'Kide.' Perhaps they were terms of endearment.



It was once the custom in many families, no matter the ethnic background, to give a newborn the same name as a deceased sibling. This particular tradition will really drive you nuts when you're trolling through census returns. Nothing messes up your mind like seeing Clarissa, age 5, on the 1860 census and Clarissa, age 1, on the 1870 return.. Both Clarissas belonged to the same parents.

Speaking of Clarissa, the name gained prominence around 1748, following the publication of the novel *Clarissa* by Samuel Richardson. In the last few decades, certain names achieved popularity when they gained celebrity status on soap operas.

On the bright side, though, names provide excellent clues for ferreting out other ancestors. Many ethnic groups named their children after parents, grandparents and the parents' siblings. Up until the late 1800s, most Germans gave the eldest boys a middle initial that was the first letter of the mother's maiden name. Take Peter M. Eicher, for example. His mother's maiden name was Murray. If the family was especially prolific, the younger boys may be given an initial representing the middle name of a grandmother.