

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

The Forty-second Annual Convocation

by Curtis Parks, PS#1166

Each year ye olde Parke Society gathers at a selected site to catch up on our genealogy, enjoy the companionship of other members, and transact some corporate business. We always try to find a location that helps our members engage in research, as well as enjoy the local delights.

We certainly found an excellent place for this year's Convocation. Salt Lake City's Best Western Plaza Hotel is right next door to the Family History Library. A trolley runs from the Union Train Depot, about five blocks away, and makes a stop in front of the Hotel. The train (and, for that matter, Interstate 15) passes through some scenic country coming into the city. For shopping, the Crossroads indoor mall is diagonally across from the Hotel. All in all, transportation and convenience of getting around make SLC a fine place for visiting and research.



The Family History Library in Salt Lake City

But best of all was the nearness of the Family History Library. This great genealogy library has had some changes lately in the places that various collections and their referencing indexes are located. For example, all of the published family histories in the collection are now on the main floor. The huge holdings of microfilms and microfiche have been relocated on the second floor, along with a large number of film readers. They have also installed microfilm-to-CDR copy stations, and have strategically located four reference desks with indexes to the various microfilm collections. The U.S. and Canada book collections are on the third floor. Computers are on all floors, and almost all of the Library's CD data collections are also in hard drives connected to the computers through a server.

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From your (new) Editor by Paul Jordan-Smith, PS#1451

What a curious trail has led me to this editorial post! It began in June when, out of the blue, I got a note from a hitherto unknown cousin, inviting me to a Park Family Reunion in Chattanooga. Bitten by the genealogy bug and intrigued by a host of unheard-of second, third, and fourth cousins twice or more times removed (my first cousin, Karen Christian, PS#1454, also attended), I began exploring my Park ancestry (see Welcome New Members, p. 32). That led me to scout out DNA research, and that led me to the Parke Society and a whole new bunch of amigos all bitten by the same bug. I think it was Cecilia Park who first suggested to me the editorship of the Newsletter, and Fr. Tad, a most persuasive gentleman, convinced me that plenty of folks in the Society were interested in writing about genealogy, DNA testing, Park/e/s ancestry, research materials, history, and so on... he being one of them. To judge by the submissions received so far, he was quite right. Thanks, Tad!

By way of further introduction, I'm retired from a number of careers—rare book cataloging, computer programming and technical management, and, yes, even editing (except for this Newsletter). I have a doctorate in folklore and mythology and occasionally write articles in professional journals. Being retired, as many of you know, just means you get to be busy at all the things you love to do: like editing.

As your new editor, I want first to express my great thanks to those who encouraged me to take on this position, and those who have since provided further encouragement in the form of articles. So thanks to Cecilia, David, Tad, Curtis, Ken, Dan, Keith, Jean, and many others: the timeliness of your contributions has made this first issue possible.

Tad and I worked out an ambitious but, I think, very manageable schedule for next year. The goal is to bring us up to date one year from this issue. You can help make this happen: send contributions to me at **parkenews@csedl.org**, the new editorial email address, preferably in MS Word, but I can take text in email, WordPerfect, RTF, and TXT. Send photos, too, preferably as JPEGs, and scans of documents. The next due date for copy is **January 15, 2006**. Remember, it's *our* Newsletter: only we can make it happen.

THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, VOL. 41, NO.

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THE PARKE SOCIETY (org. 1963) serves as a clearinghouse for research on all Park/e/s immigrants from the British Isles. Regular membership is open to any descendant. Associate membership is open to any interested person. Inquiries and requests for membership should be directed to the Registrar.

THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER is 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 are always welcome, as are photographs, document scans, and other significant visual materials.

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Annual Convocation

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Since our members were more likely to be interested in the Library than other city sights, most of our time was free to go next door. To prepare, we heard two lectures that focused on the locations of the Library resources and their utility in homing in on our genealogy records. The lecturers were professional genealogists, and their tips on where we might uncover family information was alone worth the trip. Following these talks and question-and-answer periods afterwards, we proceeded to the Library and were given an orientation on finding our way around.



Orientation at the Family History Library

By the end of the orientation, it was almost noon; the last thing mentioned was a few places to go for a good lunch. The folks at the Library Information desk can give visitors a pass to the cafeteria in the lower floor of the LDS Church Office Building, located in Temple Square. This is a not-to-be-missed lunch spot: large, with a good selection of food, and with free live entertainment, played on a grand piano throughout lunch.

Unknown to this author before this visit was an attractive building, also in Temple Square, that was originally the Utah Hotel built in 1909. This was for many years considered the most elegant hotel in the U.S. Discontinued as a hotel in 1989, it was subsequently restored and remodeled to become the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. A highlight in its restoration is the Garden Restaurant on the tenth floor, with its original retractable roof. It is easy to imagine bringing one's Significant Other there for one of the



Church building that was formerly the Hotel Utah

most romantic of dinners. One could increase that romantic feeling by adding a carriage ride before or after dinner!

The fine weather was an added pleasure, and the maples turning color in the nearby Wasatch Mountains added to our enjoyment. If there was any one disappointment, it was that the Tabernacle was closed for repairs. The Thursday evening Tabernacle Choir rehearsal was instead held in the Visitors Center building.

During the Trustees Meeting, the Webmaster reported that our site's Members Forum had been "hacked" (attacked with malicious intent) four times this past year. Each time it was repaired, then finally taken down. On 18 September, new Forum software featur-

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Computer work in our Research Room at the Plaza Hotel

Annual Convocation

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ing password access was brought on line. Members can follow the links (and the Note) on the Members Page to gain access to our new Forum. The notion of requiring our folks to register their user name as their given name with their four-digit member number was approved by the Trustees. Incidentally, if you're interested in taking on the task of moderating our Forum sign-ups, please contact the Webmaster at curtparks4@netscape.net. Our Historian has agreed to provide up-to-date membership roster to the person who approves Forum registrations. The set of Newsletter CDs that the Webmaster receives from



After the Banquet; Ken Parks, Curtis, William Daniels, Paul Jordan-Smith, Jessie Webb, Keith Harrison



After the Banquet; Tad, Jean Reisler, John & Margie Nairn, Vir Harrison

from because we don't want to think about our genealogy files becoming unreadable for any reason. Unfortunately, software and hardware manufacturers, including those who provide genealogical software, can and do abandon their products, and changing computer technology can quickly render media obsolete (remember 5 1/4 inch floppies?). That's why it's important to have a data format that is not tied to specific software programs or platforms (computers and their operating systems). Mr. Nairn was inspired to develop software that could preserve and archive his brother's genealogical files in GEDCOM format. This format is in public domain, is human readable, and is moreover read by most genealogy applications. There remains the media problem, but at least the

our Newsletter publishing house was given to the Historian, Fr. Tad Parks, who agreed to take on the role of Society Digital Data Archivist.

Our annual banquet was held in the hotel's restaurant following our reception in our research room. Good food and good company was enjoyed by all. We returned to our research room for dessert and to hear our guest speaker, Mr. John Nairn, a professor of Materials Science at the University of Utah, and author of the genealogy program GEDitCOM. Mr. Nairn's talk was titled "Using Computers to Store Your Genealogy Research: Safe Data Formats, the GEDCOM Format, and Multimedia." The presentation was augmented by an excellently-prepared set of computer projector slides.

Mr. Nairn addressed a topic most of us shy away



Curtis presents Honorary Membership to speaker John Nairn

data format can be addressed.

Mr. Nairn developed his GEDitCOM software, which runs on a Mac Classic or under OS-X, with a view to ease of use. For example, edits should require as few “clicks” as possible. As a result, his editor opens GEDCOM files in different views, permitting easy review and editing. The edited file does not need to be exported into the archival format when it is saved.

Mr. Nairn’s companion topic focused on ways of including pictures, movies, sound and Web addresses in data presentation. His opinion was that the genealogy software itself need not process all types of multimedia. Instead, the notion of *extensibility* allows the application to pass the display of multimedia to “helper” applications.

Following his talk, your Society recognized the recently-learned fact that Mr. Nairn is a descendant of the Richard (LK=R) line by present Mr. Nairn with a certificate of Honorary Parke Society membership. We welcome PS #1453!

The annual board approved a slate of officers (described elsewhere), discussed the new Forum, and the coming Convocation in Wethersfield, CT. All left feeling this was a good few days of Parke discussions and Library research.

Note: GEDitCOM (www.geditcom.com) is shareware to use as an editor or free to use as a browser; Macintosh Classic or OS-X systems.

The DNA Surname Project

by Ken Parks, PS#1406

In our last newsletter article (Vol. 41, No. 1), we discussed some of the basic aspects of Y-DNA testing for genealogical purposes. I would refer anyone with questions about the process to that article, but will always be happy to answer any questions personally via email or regular post. I will provide my contact information below, and welcome questions or suggestions from any and all.

In this issue I would like to discuss the current state of our Park/e/s DNA Surname Project, and to direct the membership to our Web page showing the results

of the project to date. That Web page was not up and running when we wrote the previous article, so perhaps some members are not aware of its existence. A link to the DNA project results page can also be found on the PS Web site.

Current status

At present, we have approximately 50 test results in our database—a good number compared with many other surname projects, but still far below the number we would eventually hope to achieve. In the coming year, my goal will be to “target” those PS members who may be able to help establish a DNA “signature” for each PS Lineage Key.

I urge any PS member reading this to take a look at the listing below of Lineage Keys currently represented in the project, as well as the DNA project Web page, and see if their particular line is represented. The PS member can then participate directly as a DNA donor if they are a male bearing the Park/e/s surname, or can contact a male relative who bears the Park/e/s surname and request that they submit a DNA sample for testing. Please note that some participants in the DNA project are not PS members, and it is not always possible to assign a Lineage Key to their lineage information, so a viewing of the names and dates they have provided may help you find a possible connection to your own Park/e/s line.

We will focus on a different Lineage Key line in each of the upcoming newsletter issues, and will revisit the individual Lineage Keys whenever further results warrant another look. When possible, we will try to coordinate this with additional information from the various Lineage Leaders, our Historian, or our Librarian to add substance and “flesh out” the findings from the DNA test results.

The following lineage keys are currently represented in the database:

C	LL
K	LQ
T	TW
Z	WR
AP	WQ
GU	YQ
HS	

Due to the DNA findings, some of the Lineage Keys

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The DNA Surname Project

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listed above may eventually be merged into other existing Lineage Keys. The PS Historian will make the decision concerning any Lineage Key adjustments.

I look forward to discussing the test results in greater detail in future issues, and welcome hearing from PS members concerning any matters relating to the DNA project. Again, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me anytime by email at kenparks@earthlink.net or by surface ("snail") mail at

Ken Parks
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New books at the Dana Parks, Jr. Memorial Circulating Library by Jean Churchill, PS#934, Librarian

The following books were recently received at the Library, thanks to the kind donations of our members. Each entry is followed by a call number. Unless otherwise specified, the loan fee for all books is \$3.

Mrs. Elizabeth Park Griffin, PS#993, sent us this small book for our Library:

Park, J.B. *J.B. Park's Compendium of Useful Knowledge and General Information*, Irvine, Kentucky: J.B.Park, 1884. 929.7/PARK. (Loan fee \$2.)

This book (found by her brother, Owen Park) contains a wide variety of information, including distinguished officers of the Civil War, highest mountains in the world, Constitution of the United States, useful receipts, poisons and antidotes, etc.

Our former registrar, PS#825 Mrs. Marjorie Isaac has generously donated several books to our Library. She included hardcover copies of :

Parks, Frank Sylvester. *Genealogy of the Parke Families of Connecticut; Including Robert Parke, of New London, Edward Parkes, of Guilford, and Others.*

Also a list of Parke, Park, Parks, etc. Who Fought in the Revolutionary War. Washington, DC: Privately printed by Henry A. Parks, 1906.

000/PARK.

Parks, Frank Sylvester. *Supplement to The Genealogy of the Parke Families of Connecticut.* Washington, DC: published by F. S. Parks, 1934. 000/PARK.

as well as the following volumes:

Anderson, James J. and Grosvenor, Jeannette. *Geauga County: Ohio. A Pictorial History.* Norfolk, Va.: The Donning Company, 1989. 929.7/AND. (Loan fee \$3.)

Pioneer and General History of Geauga County With Sketches of Some Pioneers and Prominent Men 1798-1880. Columbus: The Historical Society of Geauga County, Ohio. Burton, Ohio: Windmill Publications, 1990. 929.7/BOOK.

Parks: A.J.; A.S.; Albert; Alen; Almeda; Anson; Burnett; C.A.; Celia; Clarissa; Edwin; Fanny; James R; Keziah; Lenora; Lewis; Lyman; Marian; Mary E.; N.H.; Nathan; Mrs.Nathan; Nathaniel; Nathaniel H.; O.R.; Olive; Solomon; Warren.

Grosvenor, Jeannette. *The Raccoon Brigade Soldiers of the Revolution in Geauga County, Ohio.* Wyandotte, Oklahoma: The Gregath Company, 1990. 369/GROS.

Parke: Clarissa

Parks: Abigail; Anna; Celia; Chloe; Clarrisa; Fannie; Fanny; Fanny Dickinson; Hiram; Isaac; James; Keziah; Keziah Doolittle; Lewis; Louisa; Lucy Williams; Lyman; Mabel; Malinda; Mary; Mary ? Bishop; Mary Killam; Mary Mallory; Mary Mally; Melissa Hawkins; Nathan; Olive; Robert; Ruth Twill; Sarah Edson; Solomon; Warren; Wigram; Wyram; Wyram/Warham/Warum

Warren, Violet Young. *Huntsburg's Old Crowd and Related Families.* Wyandotte, Oklahoma: The Gregath Company, 1990. 929.2/WARR.

Huntsburg Township, Geauga Co, Ohio. Park: Rebecca

Our Trustee, Robert L. Parke, PS# 755 has donated the following excellent volume:

Dunkle, Robert, and Ann Lainhart. *The Town Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts, 1647 To 1730. Being Volume One of the Original*. Index. Boston : New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1997. 929/ DUN.

Park/e/s: Deacon and William.

“The original Book of Possession was lost before the year 1654. The basis for this volume is from the transcription of the reconstructed first volume of the Roxbury records completed by David Pulsifer in 1861. The authors of this book have compared Mr. Pulsifer’s compilation with the existing microfilm original. This microfilm was made under the supervision of W. J. Doyle, City Clerk, City of Boston, August 1, 1941. The researcher needs to carefully read the comments written by Robert J. Dunkle and Ann S. Lainhart (pp. v-vii) before pursuing the book.”

Book review

by Jean Churchill, PS#934

History of Irvine and Estill County, Kentucky compiled by Elbridge Clark Park; reprinted 1999 by Edwards and Rose Genealogical Heritage.

This reprint of the original 1906 edition was donated by William H. Park II, PS#1299. In this interesting history of the area the author emphasizes the beauty of Kentucky with its mild climate and bountiful natural resources. He is particularly proud of Estill County, which was organized in 1808 from Estill and Clark Counties. The book contains an account of the Estill family and the early settlements in the area. Estill County was named in honor of Capt. James Estill, of Madison County, of whom a memorial statue was erected in the Richmond Cemetery. He was a descendant of the well-known Estill family of England, and also of William Wallace through his mother’s ancestry. Capt. Estill and his brother Samuel moved from Virginia to Boonesborough before 1781. In 1900, Irvine, the county seat of Estill County, had a population of 1,000. It is located at the foot of the Cumberland Mountains with the Kentucky River flowing along its south side. The town was named after Col. William Irvine of Madison County, and received its town charter in 1812.

The account is appealing both for its references to various of the county’s denizens named Park and for its presentation of local history and the author’s viewpoint. The author believed, for example, that the establishment of the railroad would greatly improve the area’s economy because it would provide less expensive transport for the movement of iron, coal, and timber to the outside world. He recommended the Estill Springs both for the healing properties of its waters (white, red, and black sulfur) and for the hotel’s varied recreational activities such as tennis, bowling, and ballroom dances.

Estill county provided its share of Union soldiers in the Civil War, among whom were some notables with the surname of Park. Of particular interest to members of The Parke Society are accounts of First Lieut. **William W. Park** and Second Lieut. **Cassius M. Park**, both of whom served under Capt. John C. Wilson of the Old 8th Kentucky Infantry Volunteers. This regiment, organized by Col. Sidney M. Barnes, was engaged in the defense of eastern Kentucky for some time before it was mustered into the United States service on January 15, 1862 by Captain C.C. Gilbert of the regular Army.¹

At the battle of Stone’s River, the flag that had been presented to the 8th Kentucky by the Irvine ladies was carried by Color Bearer **T[homas] Edgar Park**. The flag and its staff was greatly damaged in this battle but Color Bearer Park stayed behind and gathered up all the pieces to prevent its capture. Park, who was apparently known by his middle name, enlisted on January 15, 1862 as Sergeant Major, was mustered into Field and Staff, Kentucky 8th Infantry. His officers commended his act of bravery and promoted him to Adjutant on June 1, 1863.²

On March 2, 1863, Kentucky’s State House of Representatives appointed a committee to receive the flags of the Kentucky troops. Secretary of State Wickliffe appeared with the war-damaged flags of several Kentucky regiments, including the 8th, with a message from the Governor³ detailing a brief history of each one. Regarding the flag of the 8th, he stated:

It will be observed that the colors of the 8th Regiment is almost completely destroyed. It was upheld amid showers of shot and shell by **Edgar Park**, Company C, until the missiles of the foe

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Book review

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had pierced again and again its every fold. Finally the staff was struck and shivered to pieces. The enemy was drawing close around the undaunted standard bearer. The broken staff could no longer be grasped but he gathered the remnants of the flag and bare them rapidly to those who so nobly defended it, with an intrepidity rarely equaled and never surpassed.

Other **Parks** mentioned in this manuscript:

- **John Park**, born January 12, 1818, the youngest son of a large family, was one of Irvine's early leading citizens. His father was an early settler from North Carolina. John married Louise Francis Hume in 1840 and moved to Irvine in 1858. He took charge of the Park Hotel which had been under the management of his brother, **Elihu Park**, who had died in 1840. John later became a successful merchant and was in business with his son-in-law, Joseph H. Gardiner. John and Louisa Park were the parents of eight children. Louisa died December 27, 1891, John on June 20, 1903. Both are buried in Richmond Cemetery.
- Joseph H. Gardiner was born July 1, 1820 in Virginia. His second wife, **Mary A. Park**, was the daughter of **John and Francis Park**. Joseph and Mary were married on August 30, 1866. This union produced two children: T. Park Gardiner, who became a dentist in Irvine, and Joseph Samuel Gardiner, who Gardiner married Myrtle Williams and moved to Jacksonville, Florida.
- John M. Price, lawyer, who married a daughter of **Elihu Park** and moved to Atchison, Kansas where he amassed a large fortune.
- Also mentioned is **John M. Park**, a wealthy farmer and devout Methodist. He moved to Madison County where he died.
- **Jonah Park Wagers**, oldest son of William H. Wagers and **Elizabeth Park**, was born April 11, 1860 on Station Camp Creek about 6 miles south of Irvine. I found this comment interesting: "having bought his freedom from his father for \$150.00, he at the early age of eighteen years, entered the mercantile business...." For a long

time, parents often expected their adult children to share their earnings with them for a period of time before they were allowed to marry and set up their own households.

- St. Catharine's Hotel is reported as under the management of **M. Christopher Park** and his wife.
- E.P. Campbell, the owner of the Livery Stable was the son of T.J. Campbell and **Elizabeth Park**. Elizabeth was the daughter of **Jonah Park**.
- **Laban Park** of Wagersville said that his great grandfather **Asa Park** built a log house here in 1807. His grandfather **Ebenezer Park** had a watermill for grinding corn at Station Camp Creek. (Roger Parke¹, John I², John II³, Ebenezer⁴, Asa⁵, Ebenezer⁶ - K lineage)
- **Charlie Park**, a direct descendant of Laban Park owns the Asa Park Homestead today. The house still stands in Wagersville and is the oldest homestead in Estill County.

This is an excellent companion book to *Park and Cobb Family Research Estill, Madison, Boyle, Lincoln and Clark Counties* by W.D. Park PS#1305 and W.H. Park PS#1299.

Notes on sources:

¹ The Union Army, Vol.4, p.322

² Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky; Keith Harrison PS# 710, W.D. Park PS#1305

³ Gov. James F. Robinson and Gov. Thomas E. Bramlette both served during 1863. It was probably Gov. Robinson who issued the message but the author did not give a name.

⁴ Laban Park is not the Laban Parks of Ohio, ref. 2001 v.38 #3 pp.26-28; v.30 #3 p.40.

Missing link

by Jean Churchill, PS#934

The following report was compiled in September, 2003. The Lineage Key is **OQ**.

JOHN PARKS OF YORK COUNTY, PA

This manuscript was put together from materials submitted by Richard Martens, PS#1242. Strong docu-

mentation links this John Parks lineage to the Andrew Gibson lineage. The geographic locations are Cumberland County and York County PA; Frederick Co, MD; Greene Co, OH; and White Co, IN. They were members of the Old Presbyterian Church known as Seceders, and also later joined the Church of God, known as the New Dunkard.

John Parks was born about 1715, possibly in Ulster County, Ireland. He died about August, 1777 in Warrington Township, York County, PA. John married (1) Jane/Jean Alexander Morrow (widow), born about 1715, and thought to be the daughter of [?] Alexander and Elizabeth Knox. John married (2) Mary [?]. It is not clear who the children's mother is.

John Parks made his will March 15, 1777. He mentions his wife, Mary Parks; his son Robert Parks; his daughter Margaret, wife of James Hoge; his son John Parks; his daughter Jane, wife of William Morrow; his daughter Mary Parks; his daughter Martha, wife of John Gibson; and his friend Adam Richey. Executors were his son, Robert Parks and Adam Richey; witnesses were Edward Ohail, Thomas Dobbs, and Cerley Hennes.

John Parks had six children:

1. **Robert Parks** (born about 1737)
2. **Margaret Parks** (about 1740–Sep., 1827); married **James Hoge**, 1762. Margaret is buried in Archer Cemetery, Princeton, IN.
3. **John Parks, Jr.** (about 1743–Sep., 1812); married **Margaret Gibson**, daughter of Andrew Gibson and Elizabeth Carnes, about 1765. Margaret was born about 1743 and died 23 April, 1813 in Baltimore, MD.

Five children were born to John, Jr., and Margaret Gibson:

- a. **Elizabeth Parks** (about 1767-1819; Baltimore, MD); married **Thomas McElderry** 16 June, 1787.
- b. **Jane Jenny Parks** (about 1769-1844); married (1) **S. Leggate**, Dec., 1787; married (2) **Harm Alricks**, Jan., 1791.
- c. **Andrew Parks**

d. **Margaret Parks**, married **Harmanus Boggs**, 1806.

e. **Male Parks**, died before 1813.

4. **Jane Parks**, born about 1746; married **William Morrow**.

5. **Mary Parks**, born about 1749; (Mary was not married in 1777).

6. **Martha Parks**, born about 1753, died 15 May, 1828, Greene Co, OH; married **John Gibson**, son of Andrew Gibson and Elizabeth Carnes. John was born about 1754 (PA?) and died 13 May, 1830 in Greene Co, OH. John is buried Old Massie's Creek, Xenia Township, OH.

Ten children were born to Martha and John:

- a. **Thomas Gibson** (1774, Chambersburg, PA-?); married **Martha Hogg (Hogue)**, 1792
- b. **Margaret Gibson** (1776, Chambersburg, PA, before 1830); married **John Long** about Aug. 1797
- c. **Andrew Gibson** (1778 Chambersburg, PA-1851); married **Jennie Stevenson**, 1806
- d. **William Gibson** (1781 PA/MD-1851 Carroll Co, IN); married **Mary Chambers**, 1808 in Greene Co, OH.
- e. **John Gibson** (1785, Chambersburg, PA-1836 IN); married **Jane Clancy**, 1811
- f. **Samuel Gibson** (born Jan., 1788??); family tradition
- g. **Othaniel Gibson** (born Jan., 1791??); family tradition
- h. **James Gibson** (1793, Blount Co, TN-?); married **Esther Cochrane**
- i. **Robert Gibson** (born Aug., 1794??); family tradition
- j. **George Gibson** (Sep., 1798-after 1855); married **Anna Nutt** (widow)

Sources: *Will of John Parks* (15 Married 1777; probate 6 Aug., 1777, York Co, PA); *Will of Andrew*

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Gibson (probate 24 Married 1783, Cumberland Co, PA); *History of Frederick County, Vol. 1* pp.82-83; Schaefer, J. T. *History of Western Maryland, Vols. I and II*, 1882, pp. 126, 134, 1189; Gibson, Sarah. *Gibson Genealogy*, ca.1910, pp.16-19; *History of White*

Historian's Corner: Notes from all around

by (Fr.) Michael (Tad) Parks+, PS#425H

This is going to be one of those catchall columns. There are a lot of things that have bubbled up over the past two years; things that probably should have been addressed sooner, but for difficulties in publication have not.

An ambitious project launched

One of my thoughts, expressed to the then Editor/Historian/Registrar David L. Parke, PS#13, when I came into The Society back in 1980, was to continue the work, and perhaps to republish, the Frank Sylvester Parks volume on the Richard Parke line. It was originally published in 1909, and nothing further has ever been done on the same scale since then. That's nearly 100 years ago. And being my particular line, I had a real interest in seeing it updated, corrected, and brought back out to the public. But alas, being the Historian among other things, besides my dual vocations, has not allowed me to do anything on this expressed desire.

Frank Sylvester Parks, sometimes with the help of Charles Wellman Parks, put together a total of four volumes of Parke genealogy. The first in 1906 concerned Robert Parke (1630, MA, STW), The second was the aforementioned volume on Richard (1635, MA, R). Then followed two volumes of supplements and addenda published in 1925 and 1934. All of these were published in limited print runs. The final volume was published in very cheap paper, and any still existing copies of it are just falling apart.

For a number of years now Robert Leon Parke PS#755, a Life Member and long time Trustee of The Society, has been working on re-documenting the

Robert Parke line. He was happy to announce that he is now ready to start the effort on republishing an updated, revised, and corrected version of the *Genealogy of the Parke Families of Connecticut*.

This is a first time event for the Society, and we hope that it will be the beginning of an effort to document each of the primary immigrant ancestors of interest to The Society.

Robert will be following the example of The Mayflower Society in that this volume (and succeeding Park/e/s immigrant works) will cover the first five generations of the family, both the male and female lines, something which Frank Sylvester Parks did not do, and for which much grief has been received. By going to the fifth generation, we cover the period up to the First Decennial Census of the United States in 1790, which gives researchers a good jumping-off point.

This will be the culmination of forty-two years' worth of research on the part of many Park/e/s researchers, professional genealogists, and historians. Over the next two years the Society will re-examine authentic copies of original documents and other research papers compiled through the extensive voluntary labor of members of The Parke Society.

The Trustees invite all Parke Society members and related families to participate by submitting all new updated information they have on the first Five Generations of Robert Parke and his family to Trustee Robert Leon Parke, PS#755 at RLPinke828@aol.com or to PO BOX 700572, Saint Cloud, Florida, 34770-0572 for review prior to March 2007.

This book will be a must have for all Park/e/s researching their ancestral lines.

Spam blockers

I often get requests for information of one sort or another. I try to do them as quickly as possible. Please remember that I am not retired; I do work full time secularly, as well as part time in the Church. So sometimes responses are not nearly as fast as I would like. Especially if I have been traveling, as has been the case in the last couple of months (three long trips in 6 weeks).

Having spent perhaps an hour or two or more researching the answer to your question, and compos-

ing a suitable response, I am glad to send it on its way back to you.

I am less than happy, then, when my response gets bounced back as “possible” spam by any spam blockers or filters that you may be using. This now requires me to spend additional time fulfilling whatever requirements may be imposed to clear the blocker or filter. Sometimes that includes interpreting a visual and entering a code. Those visuals are not always easy to read, for young eyes, not to mention older eyes. I have puzzled over the distorted characters, knowing that if I enter the wrong ones, my message will probably enter message eternity, never to be received by you. Even if this step is successfully negotiated, I never really know if you indeed got my response.

So here is my request. If you send me a request for information, and you are using one type or another spam blocker or filter, please be sure to add my email address to your “white list” so that my response to you will get through to you with out further delay.

And here is my warning. Depending upon time constraints, spam blocker/filter kickbacks may just be deleted. Please make note of this point.

Internet content

More and more I am seeing materials submitted that come from the Internet. It’s one thing to submit data from Ancestry.com, which has a wide range of original images and other research materials that can be re-examined. It is quite another thing when material is submitted that an unknown person has placed on the Internet, with little or no back-up documentation. Attempts to verify this data are often stymied due to an email address that is no longer active, or due to the fact that the person just never responds. I have continuously run into both of these situations.

This is what you need to remember. Just because it appears on the Internet (or in a book for that matter) does not make it gospel. That data is only a starting point. If the submitter can not be contacted, it should make the data all that more questionable.

One of the issues that we as a Society face today is that people feel no need to be a member of an organization, or to participate in its activities, because, after all, it’s all out there on the Internet for free. Well, just remember that there is no free lunch. Even in genealogy.

As I have said time and again, research is just that, *re-search*, an again-and-again review of the data found to ascertain if the points put forth to hold up to closer examination. It’s just like science: you perform an experiment and record the results. Only when you’ve performed the experiment a thousand times and you get the same results each time, can you conclude that this may indeed be a fact. Good genealogy is *re-searching*, and collaboration with other pieces of data to make a considered conclusion.

If you are submitting data obtained from the Internet, please be careful and include all the necessary information needed for myself (or anyone else for that matter) to be able to look at it with our own two eyes. This means the URL (Universal Resource Locator), and the date and time of the capture of that data. Copies of those pages (images, whatever) should clearly be sent along with your papers.

Updating lineage information

In order for us to best help you, it is important that you keep us up to date with what is happening to your lineage. While this is useful no matter what your line happens to be, this is especially true for those of you who are against a brick wall, having traced back to an individual who just sort of suddenly appeared in the middle of Ohio in, say, 1804, with no trace of a predecessor. These “Fragment Lines,” as we call them, are most frustrating. When you come into The Society, we record whatever you have, and assign it a “Lineage Key”. (I will write more about Lineage Keys in a future Historian’s Corner.) At least we hopefully have everything you know about your earliest known ancestor in our database, ready to be referenced should that name come up in some other context.

We would love to be able to touch base with each and every one of you from time to time to see if anything new has been discovered. Unfortunately, we just do not have the manpower to accomplish that. The solution is for *you* to update *us* whenever anything new turns up, be it new family units, children, or maybe even another generation back on your Fragment line. Who knows when just going back one generation might now find a match with an immigrant line that

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Historian's corner *cont'd from p. 27*

we already have in hand?

So here is what we ask you to do. Whenever you come across new information, or some further generation, please let us know. Preferably by sending in a new Family Group Sheet for the updated generation(s). You can use your form, or make use of our PDF Family Group Sheet found at www.parke.org/groupsheets.html. Fill it out on line, print it out, and mail it to me as the Historian.

Full instructions are posted at that URL. There is also an experimental XML PDF Family Group Sheet you might want to try so we can test out how that might be used more fully in the future. Whatever you do, please keep us up to date on your research.

While GEDCOMs are always welcome, we need a specific indication of the new information being submitted.

Who, what, when, and where:

A final note concerning who does what. By following this brief guide, your requests and questions will be handled much faster and more efficiency.

Comments about the Newsletter, including article submissions should be directed to our Editor, Dr. Paul Jordan-Smith, PS#1451, at the Parke Society Newsletter email address of parkenews@csedl.org.

Questions concerning Dues payments can generally be forwarded to our Secretary, Mrs. Arlene Parks Callahan, PS#396, at the address found on the inside front cover of the Newsletter. She does not have email access. The one exception to this rule would be regarding the 2004-2005 payment issue mentioned in our CCTM. Do not send these questions to the Treasurer, as she only has the totals handled, not the detail by member.

And by the way, dues payments (other than new memberships) should always go to the Secretary.

Genealogical materials should be sent only to the Historian and/or the Lineage Leader if you have one. Sending them anywhere else, e.g. to the President, will be a waste of your money because the President really has no knowledge of lineages other than his or her own.

Questions concerning Convocations should generally go to the Vice President of the Society (and the Convocation Coordinator), Curtis H. Parks, PS#1166.

DNA Questions can go directly to our DNA Group Administrator, Ken M. Parks, PS#1406.

Questions relating to the Library, as well as to published Missing Link articles should be directed to Mrs. Jean Churchill, PS#934.

Any general comments about The Society, suggestions and/or complaints should be directed to our President, Mr. Keith G. Harrison, PS#710.

Questions concerning Membership in The Parke Society, as well as requests for membership packets should be directed to the Registrar of The Society, Mr. R. Dan Park, PS#1422. He is the only one who has the membership packets, and who controls that whole process.

Email addresses for all of these people are listed on the inside front cover of this Newsletter.

Well that about wraps it up for this column. As I said, a lot of catch all items that have needed to be explained for a while.

PAX,
Historian (Fr.) Michael (Tad) Parks

Query

According to Lyman Chalkley's *Chronicles of the Scottish Irish Settlement of Virginia*, **Sarah (Boyce) Park** (1746-1796), married Richard Boyce in 1763 and moved with him to Hampshire County, VA in 1768. Sarah and Richard had children named Richard, Robert, Nicholas, William, John, James, and Ann. Richard died in 1791 and in the same year Sarah remarried a man with the last name of **Park**. Unfortunately, Chalkley doesn't provide the first name. If you have information that could help, please contact Cecilia Park, PS# 535, via email at dav-cel080@aol.com.

In memoriam: Clarence Carson Parks, PS#745

Word had recently been received that Mr. C. Carson Parks, PS#745, a long-time member of The Parke Society, has passed away. The following is the official obituary.

C. Carson Parks, II passed away peacefully at his home in St. Mary's, Georgia with his wife by his side on June 22, 2005. At Carson's request, no formal services are planned. The immediate family will be in Waynesville, NC, Nashville, TN, and Los Angeles, CA. Following Carson's wishes, his wife is requesting memorials be made to:

The American Boychoir
19 Lambert Drive
Princeton, NJ 08540
1-609-924-5858

or

Hospice of the Golden Isles
1692 Glyngo Parkway
Brunswick, GA 31525
1-912-265-4735



Carson Parks: a personal memory by Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks, PS#425H

Carson Parks was a long-time member of The Parke Society, having joined back in 1986. We had sporadically kept in touch over the years, all the time trying to find the immigrant Ancestor to his John Parks ("of Scotch Ancestry" – "Covenanter" – Private, Pennsylvania Line), born c. 1733, and married to Isabelle Galbreath on 8 February 1759. Unfortunately that ancestor has been elusive.

Along the way I gathered that he was a songwriter, but he never said anything more about his work or profession. It wasn't until we were planning our 2000 Convocation in Salisbury, NC that he made himself known. I quote his email to me of March 2000:

Although it has nothing to do with site selection, I do offer my services in another way. My career has been in song-writing, with couple gold records on my way from songs by Frank Sinatra, and the Mills Brothers, among others. I could do a quick 15 minutes of music at some group dinner or whatever.

And so it was that Carson Parks did entertain us. On Thursday evening he did background music, for our then customary President's Reception and Dinner. Attending members were quite surprised to learn that this wasn't hired help, but one of our own. On Saturday Evening, at The Society Banquet, he did a complete set featuring many of the songs that he had written over the years.

In memoriam: Marion Elsie Parks, PS #419

Word had recently been received that Miss Marion Elsie Parks, PS#419, a long-time member of The Parke Society, passed away on 18 November 2003, after a long illness.

Her line was from Robert¹ Parke through Thomas² Parke, Nathaniel³ Parke, Joseph⁴ Parke, James⁵ Parke, Cyrenius⁶ Parke, Cyrenius⁷ Parks Jr., Nelson Taylor⁸ Parks, Richard Smith⁹ Parks, Lewis Richard¹⁰ Parks to Marion Elsie¹¹ Parks.

Born in 1927 in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, she was educated in the normal public/high school, attended a ladies college in Whitby, Ontario. In 1950, she graduated from the Peterborough Civic Hospital as a Registered Nurse, eventually becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

In 1960, Marion enrolled at Eastern Pentecostal Bible College in Peterborough. Though she was an acting Nurse at the same time, she was able to finish the three-year program in two years. Marion did a lot of traveling and saw a lot of the world. She had met up with people from all walks of life who had helped, encouraged, guided, prayed, and supported her in many ways as the Lord has led them. Many marveled at Marion's "Faith in Christ."

Over the years, she was a nurse and missionary in the Middle East, Alaska, North West Territories, and finally in Bancroft, Ontario. Upon retirement she returned to her home town of Peterborough. She was regarded as a wonderful, kind, loving person, who made a sincere effort to spread her caring, Christian attitude where her steps took her.

Marion is survived by many cousins, and by her brother Gordon B. Parks of Peterborough, who graciously supplied material for this Obituary.

Notes from the Executive Director by (Fr.) Michael (Tad) Parks+, PS#425H

The Parke Society, now in its forty-second year has had the same ups and downs as most other genealogi-

cal and patronal societies. So far we have survived the death of our Founder, Ruby Rilla Anderson, PS#1, who in 1963 had a vision of an organization to work on, sort out, and be a clearing house for data on all Park/e/s who came to this side of the pond from the British Isles.

All too often genealogical/family organizations die with their founder, they having kept its total operation close to the chest. Fortunately, Ruby set up The Parke Society as a non-profit Corporation in the state of Connecticut with its own Board of Trustees.

We have also survived the passing of many of our Charter members, those who had been with The Society since its earliest days, who occupied seats of responsibilities, and who could be unfailingly counted on as being at each and every Convocation over the years.

As this change took place, it became necessary to find people to pick up the slack, to take on duties and responsibilities that are necessary to keep The Society viable. Our main purpose and function may be to "do" genealogy, but without the Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, President, Historian, and yes, without an Editor, we would soon cease to exist. Probably it is true that most of our membership have no idea just what all goes into keeping the organization moving forward. Acquiring new members and serving the needs of current members is not just a matter of putting or keeping a name and address on a list somewhere. There are lots of things that happen over the lifetime of a member, most of which happens behind the scenes, out of sight of the regular membership.

Not surprisingly, one of the most critical tasks within The Society is the Editorship of the Newsletter. While genealogy may be our beat, the Newsletter is the breath of The Society. It is the Newsletter that lets everyone know, both within and without The Society that (a) we are still here and functioning, and (b) things genealogical are still taking place.

Being an Editor is no small task, no matter how often a newsletter is published. There is the gathering of articles, putting them into publishable form, laying out the newsletter, and then getting it to the printer, and into the mail to our members and the various libraries that get the newsletter. It is no small task, and most organizations, at one time or another have issues with

filling that job and keeping a newsletter coming.

Lt. Col. Percy David Park, (USA retired) PS#140 worked hard at being our Editor, and although it would appear that he is "retired" he continues to work for the Department of Defense as an attorney in their Procurement area. With the advent of military actions in the mideast, his time became extremely constrained, to the point where he realized that he could no longer do justice to the task at hand. Nearly two years ago he begged off the task.

We looked, mostly in vain, to find a replacement. But now fortune has smiled upon us and we are happy to welcome aboard Dr. Paul Jordan-Smith of Seattle, Washington as are new Editor of The Parke Society Newsletter with this issue.

Paul has an extensive background in the editing and publishing of newsletters, having come off a seven-year stint as the Editor of the monthly Skandia Folk-dance Society Newsletter.

We will be pursuing an aggressive schedule to get the Newsletter back on track by the end of 2006, so don't be surprised if you see issues a little more frequently than in the past. Of course, publication all depends upon having materials for publication, and that is where everyone else comes in. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a piece from Paul regarding the how, when, and where of submissions for the Newsletter. In order to hear all of your voices, we ask you to be the author, and to write the pieces as if you were presenting it to another person or group of persons. We want a variety of voices, not just his or mine. Pictures, and graphics will be welcomed as they add life to the Newsletter.

From another aspect of Society life, in many ways it is the Newsletter that has an immediate effect on activities with our lending library, and Convocation attendance. Expect to see much more information leading up to our Annual Convocations.

Also elsewhere in this publication you will see some preliminary information concerning the 2006 Convocation, to be held on the last full weekend of September (as is our custom) in Connecticut, the home territory of the Robert Parke (MA, 1630, STW) line. One of the things we will be doing next year is having some workshops on the most popular genealogical programs. We have come to realize that many com-

puter users have never been exposed to those basic operations that protect your data. Things like backing up files, making corrections, all about GEDCOMs, and why sometimes they fail. Family Tree Maker will be one such workshop; we will set up others based on inquiries from you the members and attendees at Convocation.

Members are here especially reminded to review the Closed Circuit To Members (CCTM) which will be enclosed for the Membership Mailing for some specifics concerning Dues, Convocations, and actions taken at the recent Salt Lake City meeting. A general article concerning the Forty-second Annual Convocation will be found on the first page of this issue.

I want to thank all of you who have stuck with and supported The Society over the past couple of years, and I wish you all a happy holiday season.

Pocket Genealogist

by R. Dan Park, PS#1422, Society Registrar

At www.northernhillssoftware.com/mainframe.htm you can inspect and/or download a complete user guide for the PDA program called Pocket Genealogist; at this writing the current version is 2.94. The user guide is quite complete and explains the program's installation and operation fully. Pocket Genealogist works on all Windows-based PDAs, otherwise known as Pocket PCs (PPCs).

On the PC side, I have been using a program called Legacy Family Tree (current version 5.0). I use the free version, but I might upgrade at some point. Visit www.legacyfamilytree.com/DownloadHelp.asp to obtain a copy.

These two programs provide an interface for passing data between the two computers. It can be GEDCOM data, the method I use, but now that we can enter data on the Pocket PC itself, can be uploaded directly to the PC database (I'm not doing that just yet).

Support on the Pocket PC side is so good you won't
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Pocket Genealogist

cont'd from p. 31

believe it without experiencing it. An extremely dedicated fellow named Kevin Phillips is the designer, and he seems always to be right there when needed. I have even heard from him on national holidays or when he is traveling on the road; he is also very intuitive when it comes to problem solving or answering even the most mundane of questions! He might even be an interesting speaker for a future Parke Society convocation.

For rummaging through cemeteries on a data collection foray during a rainy, mosquito-infested day, a PDA with Pocket Genealogist is the best! Been there, done that!

The next editorial due date is
January 15, 2006.
Beat the holiday rush! Submit early!

Corrections

Volume 41#1, Page 3: Due to some confusion on the Lineage Application form B for Susan J. Balde Gall, PS#1331, the new Lineage Leader of the Roger of New Jersey line, her lineage from said Roger was incorrectly listed. It actually is: Roger (1K1), John (2K1), John (3K1), George (4K3) to Elizabeth (5K24) Parke, and thence to Agnes⁶ Owen, Lucretia⁷ Durham, Charles⁸ Craver, Versia Levada⁹ Craver, Betty Jane¹⁰ Bagby, to Susan Jeanette¹¹ Balde. We apologize for the error.

Volume 41#1, Page 7: The article "Descendants of Samuel Hunt (1660-1719) Hopewell, New Jersey & Related Lines" was attributed in a correction to Elaine Thompson, PS#1377. She writes to tell us that she didn't write it either, and has no idea who did. So The Mystery continues. Who wrote the piece? If you know, please let us know so that we can give credit where it's due.

Welcome, New Members!

1449 George Reuel Parks

Frederickton, NB, Canada

A descendant from Roger of New Jersey
Through his son Roger, to Jonah, Nathaniel, Nathan
Lineage Key "K"

1450 Mrs. Ruth Ann Crowley

Framingham, MA

A descendant from Robert of Massachusetts, 1630
Through his son Thomas, to Thomas, Thomas, Thomas
Lineage Key "T", Chart "6"

1451 Dr. Paul Jordan-Smith

Seattle, WA

A descendant from Roger of New Jersey
Through his son John, to John, Moses, James
Lineage Key "K"

1452 Vandy Lynn Parks

Philadelphia, PA

Earliest known Ancestor is:
Jonathan Parks b. c.1785, d. c.1859, possibly NC.
m. 1806, Chowan Co., NC to Kiddy Webb
Apparent Fragment line, Lineage Key "FP"

1453H John Arthur Nairn

Salt Lake City, UT

A descendant from Richard of Massachusetts, 1635
Through Richard, Richard, Elizabeth to Benjamin Fassett.

1454 Mrs. Karen Dortehea Christian

El Cerrito, CA

A descendant from Roger of New Jersey
Through his son John, to John, Moses, James
Lineage Key "K"