

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

A Research Odyssey and Lessons Learned in Searching for My Most Elusive Ancestors

by Bob Blakeslee PS#1358

My search for our Parke/Parks ancestors began with an old newspaper article and fragmented stories my father told about his grandfather, Frank Rufus Parks, 1854-1941. The newspaper article stated that Frank was placed in an orphanage in Davenport, Iowa and that he had a half brother by the name of Henry Landerking.

My father remembers stories of the orphanage and the Landerking name. As my father told it; After Frank's father died, his mother placed him and his sister in an orphanage in Davenport, Iowa. After about a year Frank ran away from the orphanage leaving his sister there with promises that he would

return for her later. He hopped a train headed west and was taken in by a family in Sac City, Iowa. On June 20, 1877, Frank married Bertha Udell Austin in Sac City, Iowa. Their children, all born in Iowa, were: Pearl, b. 1879; Selah, b. 1880; Beatrix Janet, b. 1884; Frank Ivan, b. 1888; Elma May, b. 1889; Mable, b. 1891; Oma, b. 1893; Oma's twin died soon after birth. Frank was a hunter/trapper/trader and participated in one of the Oklahoma Land Rushes, known as the Cherokee Strip Land Run of 1893. Here, he maintained his homestead, continued in hunting/trapping and trading and opened a Jewelry store in Fairview, Major County, Oklahoma. Later, he moved his jewelry store to Leavenworth, Kansas, dabbled in dentistry, and hauled freight up and down the Missouri River in a small boat he owned.

We didn't know who Frank's parents were, nor where or when he was born. After spending countless hours on researching census and vital records for Parks, we found nothing. I turned to searching for information about the Landerkings. I found Henry listed in the 1850 census in Byron Twp., Kent County, Michigan. Here Henry was living with his father; George; mother, Lovilla; brother, Archibald; and sisters, Mary Jane, Eliza, and Jeanette Lorena. In the 1860 census we found Henry and Archibald living in DeWitt, Clinton County, Iowa. We found mar-

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Please note: handwritten submissions cannot be accepted.

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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. Fees are:

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A Research Odyssey

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riage records for Henry and some of his siblings, but no further records regarding his mother and father. Again, countless hours were spent searching for his elusive mother "Lovilla," yielded nothing.

After posting a message on a Rootsweb Bulletin Board, I received a reply from a direct descendant of Henry Landerking. Sandee, a great-granddaughter of Henry's and my long lost cousin, had an abundance of information about the Landerkings after 1870, but knew nothing of my Parks family. George Landerking arrived in Oregon sometime in the early 1850s and his son Henry migrated to Oregon some time in the 1870s, died in 1915, and was buried in Lane Co., Oregon. His tombstone is inscribed "Co. D, 26th Iowa Inf." This tombstone inscription turned out to be an important piece of information. I found a book on LDS microfilm # 987-647, entitled *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion Together With Historical Sketches of Volunteer Organizations 1861-1866* (Des Moines: Emory H. English, State Printer 1910). This book has thorough listings of Iowa Civil War unit histories and rosters. Volume III, lists Henry and two of his brothers-in-law in Co. D - 26th Iowa Infantry. Armed with this information, I was able to obtain Henry's Civil War Pension file from the National Archives Administration, as well as that of his brother-in-law, John Quick, who married George's sister, Jeanette Landerking. Contained in these files is a treasure trove of information. It turns out that Henry and Frank's mother's name was actually *Lorena* Kimball. From information gleaned from the pension files, we were able to assemble a time line as to Henry's whereabouts after his Civil War experience with bits of interesting information about Frank Rufus Parks.

In a separate search, my wife found a marriage record of Lorena Landerking (spelled Sanderking) to Rufus Park in Huron County, Ohio, dated, March 16, 1853. In the 1860 census, we found Frank, age 6, listed with Rufus Park, age 49, Lorena Park, age 40, and Marion Park, age 9, in New London Twp., Huron County, Ohio. At last, we had found Frank's parents, Rufus and Lorena (Kimball) Park.

We subsequently found the orphanage record from the "Soldier's Orphan's Home" in Davenport, Iowa. This 1867 record listed Frank R. Parks, age 12, as the son of Rufus Parks of Co. D 26th Iowa Infantry, who died as a prisoner of war. No evidence was ever uncovered of a sister as related earlier in this story, but isn't it odd that Frank's father Rufus was in the same army unit as Frank's brother Henry? How could this be? I returned to the book *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers* but found no listing for Rufus Park.

This part of the search led me to "The Parke Society." At the public library in Phoenix, AZ (where I was living), I found a copy of The Parke Society's Newsletters, volumes 1-25. In the 1987 Newsletter, Volume 24, No. 1, page 1, is an interesting story, "John Wesson Park—Pioneer in the Dakota Territory," by Harold R. Christenson PS#458. John Wesson Park was the son of my Rufus Park from his previous marriage to Julia Dewey. Mr. Christenson outlined Rufus' ancestry through John (6), Amaziah (5), Benjamin (4), Robert (3), Samuel (2), to Robert Parke (MA 1630). This interesting story contains a wealth of information, but Mr. Christenson did not have any information about what became of Rufus. Rufus and Julia (Dewey) Park had eight children, prior to Julia's death on July 22, 1852: Benjamin, Judith, Esther, John Wesson, Zebadiah, Experience, the youngest son Marion, and Martha. Marion is the same son listed with Rufus, Lorena, and Frank Rufus in the 1860 Ohio census. Mr. Christenson also stated in his story that Rufus' sons, Zebadiah and Benjamin served in the Civil War. Once again, I turned to the National Archives Administration for Civil War pension files. Below is a transcript taken from Zebadiah Park's pension file, giving us a rare glimpse into his life:

Deposition A

Case of Zebadiah Park, No. 325891

On this 16 day of May, 1887 at the vicinity of Nashville, County of Barry, State of Michigan, before me, G.S. Little, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared Zebadiah Park the claimant, who, being by me duly sworn to answer

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A Research Odyssey

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truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says:

My age is 51 next Nov., Farmer, my P.O. address is Nashville, Barry Co., Mich. I enlisted in March (the exact date I don't remember) 1865, in Co. F, 1st Minn. Vols. And discharged in July 1865. I claim pension on account of diseased Lungs and eyes.

When on our way from Lacross, Wisc. to Fort Snelling, Minn. to be discharged, about the middle of July, I think, I took a heavy cold, from exposure in lying on the deck of the steamboat, the wind blowing strong, which settled on my lungs, producing lung fever. I was treated by our Regimental Surgeon, whose name I don't remember, and he gave me medicine, which I continued to use, after I got home. I didn't go into hospital, but as soon as I was discharged, I started for home, near Albert Lea, Minn. Arriving home...[illegible]...I could hardly...[missing text]...of the U.S. prior to enlistment in Co. F, 1st Minn., or subsequent to my discharge there from.

I have been disabled from the performance of hard labor, by reason of lung and eye disease, on an average, up to 2 years ago, at least only half, and since that time, fully there fourth. I can't do two hours work, that is hard work. In the winter I can draw stove wood, with a team, or light work of that kind.

Question: So you wish to be present in person, or be represented by an Attorney, during the examination of witnesses by one?

Answer: I will go with you as far as I can. I don't want any Attorney. I have heard you read the statement I have made, and it is all correct except about the treatment of my eyes. I have obtained eye-water from Dr. Burlen, for my eyes, and I have bought Thompson's eye water, and different eye washes.

I thoroughly understand the questions you have used, and my answers are correctly stated.

Zebadiah Park

Question: Was your father, mother or any of your

brothers or sisters, troubled at any time with a lung affection?

Answer: No Sir. My father is now 88 years old and my mother died with typhoid fever, in Ohio. I never knew of any one of the name of Park having lung disease but myself. And when I enlisted was as tough, hearty a fellow as ever was.

Question: Where are Henry Ward, and James H. Ward, affiants in your case?

Answer: They are one and the same person. He moved up north somewheres about 2 weeks ago, and I think he is somewheres in Gratiot Co., Mich. I am told his P.O. address is (?Lakeview?) Gratiot Co., Mich.

Question: Where is your father now?

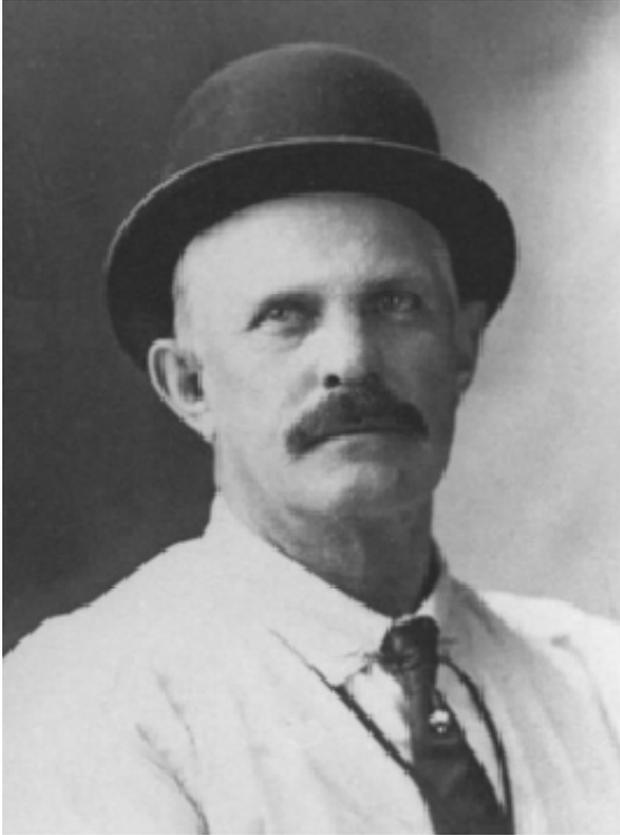
Answer: He lives 3 mile south from Alma, Gratiot Co., Mich. He lives there with my two brothers Benjamin and Marion Park. My brother John, lived 5 miles East from Albert Lea, Minn. until about a year ago. He went to Dakota, but I don't remember the name of his present Post Office. Our sister Martha Hicks lives at Fountain Head, Tenn., another Sophia Doty lives at Berlin, Green Lake Co., Wis.

My brothers are all living. Have lost two sisters, who died in child birth.

[signed] Zebadiah Park, Deponent

With the information provided in this last paragraph I was able to find a death record of Rufus Park. Rufus Park died October 5, 1887 in Alma, Gratiot County Michigan, less than 5 months after the deposition was taken. Statements in this deposition match perfectly with facts listed in Harold Christenson's story printed in the 1987 Parke Society News Letter. These facts plus the marriage and census records prove that my Rufus Park is the father of Zebadiah Park and John Wesson Park.

An important lesson learned is that when you hit the proverbial wall in our search, you must find ways around that wall. In targeting other family members' records I was able to reach my original goal in identifying the parents of Frank Rufus Parks. Another



Frank Rufus Parks (1854-1941)

lesson, learned early on in my research, is that when one question is answered several more arise. In conclusion, questions concerning the orphanage are in the forefront. Why was Frank placed there? Did Frank really have a sister left in the orphanage and what became of her? With no evidence of Rufus ever being in the army and he certainly lived long after the war, why didn't Rufus Park keep his son? What became of Frank's mother? Perhaps it was she who died? Frank had many half brothers and sisters that were much older than he, so why didn't any one of them take Frank in? My search continues.

A Guide to Some Places of Interest to Descendants of Robert (1630)

by Kathryn E. Parke, PS#10

Wethersfield was indeed a home of Robert and his son Thomas for some years, but there are other nearby places that you should visit.

Our ancestor Robert followed his son-in-law, Rev. Hindman, to the port city of New London, where the first church services were held "by beat of a drum" in his new barn. I think there is a historical marker about this, on New London's central park square. The old mill below the large bridge over the Thames River was originally constructed with timbers from Robert Parke's property, and with the participation of his son Thomas and perhaps others of his sons and maybe grandsons. The whole area surrounding New London, CT and up to Westerly, RI was thickly inhabited by early Parkes and their relatives on the female side, such as the Averys.

Robert himself is buried in the old cemetery under the edge of a major highway just north of Mystic, CT. A notable monument marks his grave. Some of his immediate descendants may also be buried there, but most are probably buried in the Avery Cemetery at Preston (City). Very near the entrance of the old Mystic cemetery there used to be an old wooden mansion, red-painted when I saw it, several years ago, which was known as "Whitehall." This probably doesn't date back to the 17th century, but the fact that we know Robert's family in England lived at a place still known as Whitehall Farm or Park Farm makes me wonder whether this Connecticut house was related to the Parkes, at least sentimentally.

In the last footnote of Tad's excellent introductory article about Lineage Keys, in Vol. 42, No. 1, he says that Robert "purportedly" came in 1630 "with the Winthrop Fleet." I believe there is documentary evidence about this, probably located in historical or genealogical archives either in Boston (near which Robert first settled briefly), in Hartford, or in New London. A letter from him reserved passage in Winthrop's fleet for himself and his son Thomas and some "coues." This letter may be in an archive, perhaps the New England Genealogical Society.

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A Guide to Some Places of Interest

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Other historical items about Robert include the fact that at the then-advanced age of 50, he went back to England to deal with the merchant group that sponsored Winthrop's expedition, and returned with some privileges for the colony.

I'm sorry that I'm not in a position to confirm these facts by reference to the respective archives, but I do believe that visitors to the Convocation should be interested in history as well as genealogy, and should be encouraged to drive around some backroads between New London, Mystic, and Westerly, RI, in order to get a feeling about our antiquity.

Kathryn E. Parke: Charter Member

Kathryn is a Charter Life Member, having been involved in our organization from its early days under Mrs. Ruby Anderson. Kathryn was first elected a Trustee in 1968 serving for twelve years before accepting the position of President 1980-1981. She holds degrees from Smith Colley in Northampton, MA, the State University of NY in Albany, and the University of Illinois in Urbana. After a short time as school librarian and teacher of English, most of her working life was spent as Head Librarian at the State Univ. of NY Agricultural and Technical College at Cobleskill, from which she retired in 1973.

During sabbatical leaves in 1958-9 and 1972 she studied at Scandinavian *folkehøgskoler* (folk-colleges), where she developed lasting friendships with several Norwegian teachers, and became familiar enough with the language to be able to translate historical articles for the Norwegian-American Historical Association. Her love of Norway and especially its folklore and folk-songs continues. Kathryn has been an active member of the Religious Society of Friends over the years, both in New York and more recently in North Carolina, where she now resides.

Her brother, Dr. James Parke PS#102, served as Vice-President from 1977-1980, and her sister, Mrs. Barbara Jane Parke Butler PS#26, was also an early member. Their lineage is from Robert (MA1630) Thomas^{2,3,4}, Josiah⁵, Thomas⁶, Daniel⁷, Benjamin⁸,

William Dunham⁹, Howard¹⁰.

Historian's Corner: the Gift of Indexes!

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

Indexing the Family Group Sheets [FGS]

In the last issue of the Newsletter we discussed how The Society organizes and keeps sorted out the various Park/e/s lines that have come to North America from the British Isles. While this clever scheme may at first seem unduly complicated, it has been a real blessing for The Society, and a lasting tribute to its originator, David L. Parke, PS#13. Hopefully the explanations in the last article have removed the mystery of what these Lineage Keys represent, and why they are so important to us as a research organization, an organization trying to sort out all the different lines and connect every member to the proper immigrant ancestor.

It's one thing to have this nice organization set up, but quite another to be able to find a particular ancestor quickly and efficiently. When I first came into the Society in 1980 as the Historian, we had Lineage Keys in the single letter block (A to Z), the double letter block (AA to ZZ), and in the AX to ZX group. Since David Parke, PS#13, and myself had intimate daily contact with the Lineage Binders, it was fairly easy for us to locate individuals, basically by raw memory. I was sometimes awed by how a given name, or a spouse, or a location would click and point me to the right binder and the right family group sheet.

As The Society grew, however, we started to discover more and more Park/e/s we had not previously catalogued. They might be further descendants of someone already on an existing family group sheet, or someone completely new, constituting either a new immigrant line or what we call a fragment line.

As the Lineage Catalogue grew, and the number of keys in use expanded, it became more and more difficult to find individual ancestors strictly from memory. It became obvious that we needed some

sort of gateway into those many Lineage Binders of family group sheets. An index of all the catalogued Park/e/s names.

A little history

The very first attempts at an index were some manually typed pages that David Parke prepared for each of the Lineage Binders: a beginning, certainly, but one requiring us to check each binder in turn, hopefully to find the person of interest. It also necessitated a maintenance issue to keep these sheets up to date, and from time to time, retyping them, again hopefully without introducing mistakes in the process.

Realizing that this really was not the final answer, there was born the first iteration of what is now known as the Givename Index, consisting of a set of 4 x 6 index cards with all of the basic information concerning each family group sheet entry. The intention was to file them in alphabetical order for easy look-up. It was at this point we made a couple of basic procedural decisions concerning the future of any indexing effort by The Society.

The first was to ignore surname spellings. We continue to tell researchers not to get hung up on whether the surname used was Parke, Parks, or any of the commonly accepted variations of our surname. Standardized spelling of surnames seems not to have occurred until the early part of the 20th century. Before this, everything depended upon how the clerk or clergyman heard, and more importantly interpreted and transcribed what you were saying; this is what determined how things were written down. It should also be noted that individuals were not immune to changing the spelling of their names or even what their name was for reasons practical or sometimes prudent. I need to comment here that my own great-grandfather was known to have used three of the four commonly accepted forms of our surname during different phases of his lifetime

The second major decision pertained to the scope of our indexing. Some people have not been happy with this decision, but we only index Park/e/s surnamed individuals. The way we see it is that people come to us looking for Park/e/s, not Jones, Smiths, or Cur-

rys. Indexing everyone that is shown on a family group sheet would be a huge task, for probably little return. We are not slighting the female lines, just being practical as to what we can accomplish with our resources, and where we will get the most bang for the buck, as they say.

This generally follows the practice in our Lineage Binders, where we have group sheets only up to the generation where a female Park/e/s marries out of the surname. While we have a group sheet showing that marriage, and listing those children, no group sheet numbers are assigned to those children. The only exceptions to this rule are in some of the very early lines (like Robert, Richard, Roger, and Thomas of Virginia) where we carry female lines up through the time of the 1790 Federal Census. We should also point out that if a member does send group sheets for their family line once it goes out of the Park/e/s surname, they are not tossed, but rather placed into the member's individual membership file for future reference.

These cards were a good idea, but we ran out of steam after a few years. There was too much work involved in the typing and proofing of the cards. We had anticipated farming out this typing to member-volunteers, but the results were mixed. While we tried to write up detailed instructions, members found them often to be too onerous, and went their own way, resulting in variations in how the information was recorded on the index cards or even just what information was being recorded.

We still have those cards, filed alphabetically, not by name, but by the Soundex of the given name. The advantage to this is that it groups together similar names, like Ann, Anne, Annie, and Anna. Given names, like surnames, are subject to much variation. We still today use Soundex for the given names. By 1992 we had got to about 2,200 cards, and having run out of steam, started to look for a better way to collect and index the required data. Enter the computer.

In 1992, personal computers and their associated software were still in their infancy. They were better

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Historian's Corner

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than the original IBM of 1982 or the Radio Shack TRS-80, Model 1, but nothing like we have today. I had already worked with Ashton-Tate's dBASE II setting up the membership database, so it was natural that I would turn to the same product to build the Givename Index. Even though dBASE had its limitations (field size and number of fields allowed in each record), they were not showstoppers. There were creative ways of working around those limitations.

Designing a computer database is often a process of trial and error: set it up, enter some data, and see how it works; then modify your design. Even today, the Givename Index (as well as the Administrative databases) continues to undergo changes to improve their functionality as we find things we want to see, or feel we need to make them work for us.

We used dBASE for quite a long time, but the software became orphaned (Ashton-Tate was bought by Borland) and changes in computer operating systems rendered the dBASE II program inoperable. At that point I switched, with some anxiety, to Microsoft's Access database program, a part of their Office suite. Once I understood the Access structure, I had to wonder why I had not switched earlier. I ran our databases for a number of years under Access 2.0 but have finally recently upgraded to Access 97. It's still not the "latest and greatest" version, but it resolved what had become some nasty import issues for members of our Core Staff. It does all that we need it to do.

Where we are now

The Givename Index has continued to grow and currently has well over 21,000 records in the base file consisting of all Park/e/s surnamed individuals found on the Group Sheets in the Lineage Binders. If they are shown in the Binders, then there should be an entry in the INDEX. We continue to add to the Index as new family group sheets are created, or existing ones are changed.

We have also indexed in a separate database table about 3,300 Group Sheets (nearly 8,300 name

entries) that we got several years ago from the Salt Lake City Family History Library, due to the efforts of Past President Stuart Nye Park, PS#19. The quality of that data is a bit variable, but we indexed them anyway so that we might be able to use them in our ancestor search. Where appropriate, we have cross-referenced them to the family group sheets.

We are additionally experimenting with a database for female lines, but that is in a very crude alpha stage of development. Whether that will become a database in our repertoire remains to be seen.

What's in the Index

The key to understanding the Givename Index is to always remember that it is but a gateway to the Lineage Binders themselves. What is needed in the Index is enough information that a query will point us to a particular family group sheet or sheets. Currently each record in the index gives (to the extent that it is known) the full given name, spouse name(s), if any, year and place of birth, death and marriage(s), and up to three entries for various locations where records of their presence can be found. We also include Soundex support for the individual's given name. An additional field for miscellaneous comments might be useful in locating a proper entry.

We decided that in terms of dates and locations we would go high level. For locations, it is limited to the names of states, provinces, or countries. Location designations more detailed than that might lead us to a false negative. Because of the way the information has been reported, we might say no match, when indeed there is a match, as various locations are often known by different names in different periods or by different individuals. I might say I was born in Chatham, NY, but others might say Ghent, NY, the difference being Chatham is a village within the Town of Ghent. Both are correct, but if I were looking for one, whereas the proper entry was listed as the other, I would never find the connection. Like wise with dates. We went high level, year only and if not known specifically, we used the letters a, b, and c for after, before, and circa (around).

As to the matter of multiple marriages, we decided to go the route of multiple records, so if John Parks was married three times, there would be three sepa-

rate records for him, one for each marriage. There is a field for the marriage number so we can determine the order of the spouses.

We also ran into a problem with spouse names in the indexing processing. Say we have John Parks marrying Mrs. William (Jane Smith) Jones. One person might ask us to seek John Parks and Jane Smith, another might ask us to find John Parks and Mrs. Jones. Once again, we resorted to multiple records. The Givenname Index is not a genealogical database in and of itself. It is the gateway to the group sheets themselves. Hence we need to have within the index the widest range of possibilities for each individual.

How we use the Index

When processing lineage papers, or any new materials that might be sent my way, I look for names, places, or dates that might clue me into the individual as we might have them in our current catalogue. If nothing comes to mind in that initial effort, I then turn to the Givenname Index. My favorite starting point there is the spouse name. We have a lot of Johns, Georges, or Samuels, but hopefully only one of those Johns married Ann Grady in OH in 1844.

If I don't come up with any hits on the spouse name, I start to slice and dice the entries by location or year of events. Sometimes I have gone to a later generation and occasionally I find the connection there which will lead me back to the true parent and the true line, at least as how we perceive it in our Lineage Binders.

Of course, it is always possible that the individual we are looking for is not in our Lineage Catalogue. After 40 years of gathering records one would think that we had pretty well tracked down all of the existing Park/e/s on this side of the pond. Not so. New Park/e/s keep turning up here, there and everywhere. So faced with a new name, we set about creating a new Lineage Key, writing up family group sheets, and finally, indexing the entries into the Givenname Index.

Remaining questions

I realize that some of you (perhaps many) are wondering why all of this information isn't already in a

genealogical computer program.

Probably the most straightforward answer to that question is that we have a terrible lot of information and the actual process of keying this data into some program would be very formidable indeed. While some lines are being put into a genealogical program, usually by the assigned Lineage Leader, most of our data remains in hard copy form on paper family group sheets.

There are other issues here that have slowed us down from even starting a conversion. Some of them are technical, some practical. What program do we settle on? Is it going to be around for the long term? Is it easy to use, while being comprehensive? Are there file size limitations? Its great when they tell you that files are unlimited, until the day that the program freezes and you find yourself dead in the water because there really is a file size limitation.

For us probably the biggest showstopper is our family group sheet numbering system. Most programs have numbering systems, but none handle multiple lineages and are "permanent" in nature. Add another child early on, and every entry gets renumbered henceforth. Our numbering is permanent, once assigned it does not change except for correction (two different numbers relate to the same person) or there is a consolidation of Linage Keys.

From the files I receive here at the Society, it would appear that a majority of our members use Family Tree Maker, now in version 13 (marketed as FTM 2006). The lines we do have in FTM (Roger and Thomas of Virginia) do have our FGS numbers incorporated directly into the individual's name as a parenthesis middle name, like "Abraham (6K1023) Parks." It's not the ideal solution, but it works for the time being. The last thing I want to be doing is going click, click, click to get to the notes to find the individual's FGS number, and then click, click, click to get back to the family group sheet.

I suppose I should own up to my own prejudices. I am an old fogey. I like my hard copy that I can look at, make notes on, and compare, readily. I can have three or four lineage binders spread out before

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Historian's Corner

cont'd from p. 25

me, comparing individual pages. Try that on your computer. So my heart does not exactly leap at the thought of converting all of our data to FTM or some similar program. We will continue to receive and hold on to files produced by members and Lineage Leaders in electronic form, but at this time we will not be combining them into one master file. Say what you will, but probably as long as I am the Historian, The Parke Society will retain the hard copy group sheets. Who ever comes after me can do as they will.

The question has been posed whether the Givename Index will ever be put on line. At this time, that is not under consideration. It's an internal document, and all the internal users understand its limitations. Yes, there are probably transcription errors in the database. As we find them, we fix them. We are not in the position right now to be answering every question as to this or that entry.

A Convocation precaution

It has been our practice, at least since I have been in The Society, always to bring the Lineage Binders to each Convocation. Only once have we not done so, and we regretted that decision from the very first day of that Convocation.

We bring them so that the members can see for themselves just what all we do have. They can look through them and copy them as they want. (We also always bring along a copier to the Convocation. There's no set fee for its use, although a voluntary offering jar is close by.) We also have the Binders there so we can help attendees who might have questions about their line. It is always a pleasure to be able to show an attendee just what they are looking for right on the spot.

However, one of the things we try to emphasize to Convocation attendees is to not make any changes or entries into the Lineage Binders whatsoever. It is absolutely important that the family group sheets and the Givename Index be kept in sync. If you add something and we don't know it, it won't be in the Index.

What we ask you to do instead is to make copies of the appropriate page(s) with the corrections, additions or changes noted, together with the authority source, and you name and number. Hand them to us, and we will take that matter under advisement, making either the correction or having a further communication with you concerning the issue. Please help us to keep the integrity of the index. .

Final comments

I hope this two-part essay on the Lineage Keys, Lineage Binders, and the Givename Index has been helpful in explaining to you how we keep track of all of the various Park/e/s that have come across the Pond, and how we find them through the index.

Dana Parks Jr. Memorial Circulating Library

by Jean Churchill #934, Librarian

Public libraries are an excellent Internet research source. Most of them subscribe to a professional genealogical service. This service allows the patron to browse through all the United States Census data from 1790 through 1930. Also check out the following website: <http://www.heritagequestonline.com/prod/genealogy/images/censusbook/Section%201.pdf>

This is a good source of information about the U.S. Census. It is a PDF copy of *The Census Book: A Genealogist's Guide to Federal Census Facts, Schedules, and Indexes* by William Dollarhide (Bountiful, Utah: Heritage Quest, 2000).

Section 1: Historical U.S. Censuses, Early Census Losses will tell you what censuses are really lost or unavailable anywhere. The entire Historical section is worthwhile reading because it contains interesting information about many of the censuses over the years.

Other recent census books are: *Your Guide to the Federal Census for Genealogists, Researchers, and Family Historians* by Kathleen W. Hinckley (Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 2002), *The American Census Handbook* by Thomas Jay Kemp, Wilmington, DE (Scholarly Resources, 2001), and *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census* edited by Margo J. Anderson, editor in chief (Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2000). If your local library does not have one of these books available, ask to borrow it through ILL (Inter Library Loan).

Lineage Key changes

Lineage Key "IV" has been merged into the Roger NJ lineage key "K." John Park (Canada 1794?-1851) m. ca.1815 Anna [?] (1794-bef.1861), Mt. Albert, York, Canada. Evelyn Park Denton PS#737 is listed as researcher. She is related to Elaine Thompson PS#1377.

Lineage Key "CV" has been proven by DNA to be part of the Roger "K" line. Samuel Parks/Phoebe Caldwell > Andrew J. Parks (1802-1848) from prob. NC to Effington Co, IL. Joyce A. Parks PS#654 is the principal researcher for this line. Be aware that the linking ancestry has not yet been found.

Missing Link Update

Robert Parks/Laban Parks (LK=WR) - additional information and a breakthrough!

This Missing Links first appeared in 2001 Vol. 38 #2, pp. 26-28, followed by an update in 2003 Vol. 40 #3, pp.40-41. I took a fairly active interest in this lineage because I mistakenly thought that it would be easy to trace Laban, which is not a common given name. I visited several historical societies in north-eastern PA and eastern Ohio and everywhere I went, I found letters from Lola Spohn Nielsen, an early researcher, in their Park/e/s files. She was sure this lineage went back to Robert MA 1630, but she could not find the connection.

The Parke Society has been encouraging members, including those of an established lineage, to consider providing DNA. DNA has established a 12/12 match for those of the Robert Parks/Laban Parks group and additionally they match with PS# 1176

with LK=GU, and with PS#1423 whose LK=WQ. Two Parke Society members, Robert Parke #755 and David Parke #13, from the established Robert (MA1630) lineage, have been tested and their results seem to indicate a common ancestry with the above group. However, at this point relationships are still not clear among the group nor do we know the linking ancestry. We need to remember that Robert Parke (MA1630), William (VA1633) and William (VA1650) all have a common ancestor William Parke (c1503-1551). More in-depth testing is underway which should help pinpoint the lineage, but we also need more participation from those members (or their relatives) within these lineage groups.

PS#1176 Elaine Faas line of descent LK=GU:

Colonel Robert Parks¹ (birthdate unknown - died about 1815 Caswell, Co, North Carolina

Robert G. Parks² (b.c.1880-?) m. 26 Feb.1803 to **Mary (Polly) McClary** dau. of Andrew McClary.

Levi Parks³ (28 Sep.1805, NC--22 Oct.1865, Davis Co, IA) m. c. 1824/25 TN **Susannah Clarkson**, dau. of James Clarkson. Susannah (11 Oct.1808, TN--22 May 1895, IA).

Wesley Fuller Parks⁴ (18 Oct.,1834 Clairborne Co, TN--12 Oct. 1912, Troy, IA) m. 24 Jan. 1858 Troy, IA **Mary Elizabeth Baker** dau. of David Baker (24 Jan. 1841, OH--3 Dec. 1909, Troy, IA).

PS#1423 Frank and Kimberly Parks lineage LK=WQ:

James Parks¹ (1780 CT--30 Mar.1855, Pitcher, Chenango Co, NY) m. **Elizabeth Ellsworth** (July 1785 S. Cuyler, Cortland Co, NY--25 Nov. 1868, Pitcher, Chenango Co, NY), dau. of George Ellsworth/Aylsworth and Elizabeth Weeks in 1804. James Parks is on the US Census 1820 in Cortland Co, Cincinnatus, NY. James Parks, age 70, b. CT; Elizabeth, age 65; Steven, age 47 are on the US Census 1850 Chenango Co, Pitcher Twn., NY. The book *Arthur Aylsworth and His Descendants* states that James and Elizabeth had 4 children. The only one living in 1883 was James A. Parks. Steven listed on the 1850 Census is possibly also a son. Buried next to James Parks in the old cemetery on Hwy

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Missing Link Update

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27 is Maria Parks who died in 1850, age 28. It is believed that she is a daughter.

James A. Parks² (1815 NY–28 Sept. 1892 Pitcher, Chenango Co, NY) m. **Laura Sophronia Fox** (1812 Pitcher, Chenango Co, NY–14 May 1871, Pitcher, Chenango Co, NY), dau. of Allen Fox and Polly Cole. Cemetery records for James and Laury S. Park. Marriage information from William Jessie Fox. There are two known children:

1. Polly Maria “Aunt Rie” Parks³ (b.1837 Pitcher, Chenango Co, NY) m. **William McElhane**y

2. Calvin Elson Parks³ (31 July 1843 Pitcher, Chenango Co, NY–8 Jan.1920, Pasadena, Harris Co., TX) m. **(1) Caroline M. Fuller** (1840 NY–14 Jan. 1899 Union Valley, Cortland Co, NY), dau. of Sullivan Fuller and Polly Cole. Caroline received a certificate to teach in the 2nd District of Cortland Co, NY in 1858. **Calvin** m. **(2) Flora Irene Valentine** (6/8 May 1858 McGraw, NY–8 Aug.1922 Pasadena, Harris Co, TX) on 28 Dec. 1893. New York Census records have his name as Calvin Elson Parks. The book *Pasadena, The Early Years* by C. David Pomeroy, Jr. has his name as Calvin Emerson Parks. However a post card dated 1912 from a close relative is addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Elson Parks.

Calvin E. Parks bought ten acres in Deepwater, TX while at the Pan American Expo. (Worlds Fair) in 1893. He came to Texas from Union Valley, NY on Nov. 3, 1894. He tried farming, then returned to New York for his family, except for the oldest son **Everitt**⁴, who was married. The family moved from Deepwater to Pasadena in 1902. All the Parks had dairies and raised strawberries. Calvin built a large barn and a two-story house on Shaver Street in 1905. He was on the initial Board of Directors and Stockholders of Pasadena State Bank in 1919. Six children were born to Calvin and Caroline Parks:

Everett Edward Parks⁴ (1867 NY-1942 Union Valley, NY) m.1894 to **Cora Belle Peterson**, dau of William Peterson and Rosella (? Jipson). Parents of four children.

Ralph Emerson Parks⁴ (1869 NY-1939 Pasadena, Harris Co, TX) did not marry.

William Sullivan “Willie” Parks⁴ (1870 Union Valley, Cortland Co, NY–1947 Pasadena, Harris Co, TX) m.1906 **Leora Gwartney**, dau. of Jacob Gwartney and Fannie Nugent in Harris Co, TX. Their home, “The Strawberry House,” is now a historical museum in Pasadena, TX. They grew strawberries and each year when they harvested the strawberries, they seemed to have another child so they added on to the house with the money from the strawberries. Parents of six children.

Irma Parks⁴ (1873 Union Valley, NY–1946) m. 20 Aug. 1896 Will N. Blakesley (b. 1871, Black River Falls, WI) in Deepwater, TX. Parents of eight children.

Nora Elsie Parks⁴ (1876, NY–1888, Union Valley, NY); did not marry ,

James Devere Parks, Sr.⁴ (1879–1949) m. **(1) Frances Collins**; m. 1901 **(2) Francis Lanora “Nora” Thurman** in Pasadena, Harris Co. Texas. James and Francis (Thurman) Parks were the parents of five children.

For more information on this Missing Link, please email Jean Churchill #934, Librarian at sdtjs2001@yahoo.com. For snail mail, see her address on the Library Column.

Overheard at a recent high society party (maybe):

“My ancestry goes all the way back to Alexander the Great,” said one lady.

She then turned to a second woman and asked, “How far does your family go back?”

“I don’t know,” was the reply. “All of our records were lost in the Flood.”

The Park/e/s DNA Surname Project in 2006

by Ken Parks PS #1406

Group Administrator

PARK/E/S DNA Surname Project

With new members joining the project weekly, our database now has eighty participants. At this rate I feel confident we will have at least one hundred members by the end of 2006. The support from our Parke Society members is most gratifying, and the resulting body of DNA evidence from all of these tests, combined with the lineage information compiled by the Parke Society and its members, is a boon to all Park/e/s researchers whether they are direct participants or not.

New 67-marker test from FTDNA

Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), our testing firm, recently introduced a new 59-marker test level, as announced in our last newsletter article. Somewhat surprisingly, they have now ‘upped the ante’, so to speak, by bumping that 59 marker test level up to 67 markers.

If anyone has a 59 marker test on order, or an upgrade to the 59 marker level, FTDNA will automatically increase that test to the new 67 marker level. The price for the 67 marker test is the same as previously announced for the 59 marker test. To repeat all of those group prices:

Y-DNA12	\$ 99
Y-DNA25	\$ 148 (<i>Only available through surname projects</i>)
Y-DNA37	\$ 189
Y-DNA67	\$ 269
Y-Refine 12to25	\$ 49
Y-Refine 12to37	\$ 99
Y-Refine 12to67	\$ 189
Y-Refine 25to37	\$ 49
Y-Refine 25to67	\$ 148
Y-Refine 37to67	\$ 99

I am always happy to hear from anyone with ques-

tions about which test level to order, or any other aspect of the DNA testing process.

Lineage Key update

Here is a listing of all Lineage Keys (LKs) currently in the DNA project’s database. Some of these LKs have now been merged with others (see **Lineage Key changes** in article by Jean Churchill in this and previous newsletter issues.)

C	LL
G	LQ
K	MZ (merged with C)
P	NY (merged with C)
R	OS
T	TW (merged with C)
Z	TZ
AP	VU
CV (merged with K)	WQ
EV	WR
GU	WZ
HS	YQ
JQ	

If you do not see your particular LK listed here, this is an invitation to take steps to ensure your LK is included in the Park/e/s DNA database. If you are not eligible to donate a DNA sample directly (i.e. a male Park/e/s), then perhaps you have a relative who would be willing to be the DNA donor.

Even if your LK is listed above, your participation could help “complete the picture” for your lineage by adding additional information that could help delineate branches of your family tree. If you have forgotten your particular LK, feel free to email me and I should be able to supply you with that information.

An analysis of the Robert (MA 1630) LK=T DNA results (with related LKs=GU-WQ-WR)

As an adjunct to Jean Churchill’s **Missing Link Update** on p. 27-29, I will include some analysis of the actual test result numbers of the above mentioned lineages. For the actual lineage information on these lines, see the **Missing Link Update** article or visit the “Results” page of the PARK/E/S DNA Surname

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The Park/e/s DNA Surname Project

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Project website:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/park-e-s>

As Jean mentioned in her article, we have two tests in the database from known descendants of Robert (MA 1630) LK=T. In addition, there are four tests in the database which show a genetic connection to the LK=T line.

The 12-marker analysis

Here are the 12 marker test results for this group, with differences (mutations) in boldface:

<u>Kit</u>	<u>LK</u>	<u>Markers 1-12</u>
27089	T	13-25-15-10-11-14-12-10-10-12-11- 30
42432	T	13-25-15-10-11-14-12-10-10-12-11-31
11632	WR	13-25-15-10-11-14-12-10-10-12-11-31
24847	WQ	13-25-15-10-11-14-12-10-10-12-11-31
28987	WR	13-25-15-10-11-14-12-10-10-12-11-31
27654	GU	13-25-15-10-11-14-12-10-10-12-11-31

Since both 27089 and 42432 are known descendants of Robert (MA 1630) LK=T, we can assume for the moment that the 12 marker "signature" for the Robert (MA 1630) line will be that of one of them. One of the two lines of descent shows a mutation on the 12th marker, but at this point we cannot say with certainty which line is showing the mutation.

The other four test results are from lineages that have not yet found a connection to Robert (MA 1630) and, indeed, have not yet found a clear connection to each other. Even though they all match 42432 on all markers, we cannot assume at this point that this is the true, "unmutated" marker reading. In all probability this may prove to be the case, but until more research is done, or more matching test results turn up in the database, a conclusive answer cannot be given at this time.

To explain further: If it should prove that 42432

is the branch with the mutation, and the other four test candidates later turn out to be descended from 42432's branch, then they would also show that same mutation on marker #12. Until we can begin to connect these other LKs to known branches of the Robert (MA 1630) line, we won't know for certain in which branch the mutation on marker #12 occurred.

27089 and 42432 have a common ancestry from Robert (MA 1630)-known as 1T1-through son Thomas 2T1. They branch off in the next generation, with 27089 descending from Robert 3T3 and 42432 descending from Nathaniel 3T4. This would mean that the mutation on marker #12 could have occurred anytime from the 3rd generation to the present generation supplying the DNA sample.

The 13-37-marker analysis

All six participants have tested to the 37 marker level, so let's see how they compare:

<u>Kit</u>	<u>LK</u>	<u>Markers 13-37</u>
27089	T	15-9-10-11-11-25-14-19-32-12-14-14-17-11-11-19-23-15-16-18-20-33-39-13-11
42432	T	15-9-10-11-11-25-14-19-32-12-14-14-17-11-11-19-23-15-16-18-20-33-39-13-11
11632	WR	15-9-10-11-11-25-14-19-32-12- 12 -14- 14 -11-11-19-23-15-16-18-20-33-39-13-11
24847	WQ	15-9-10-11-11-25-14-19-32-12- 12 -14-17-11-11-19-23-15-16-18-20-33-39-13-11
28987	WR	15-9-10-11-11-25-14-19-32-12-14-14-17-11-11-19-23-15-16-18-20-33- 40 -13-11
27654	GU	15-9-10-11-11-25-14-19-32-12-14-14-17-

12-11-19-23-15-16-18-
20-33-38-13-11

Here we note that the two LK=T descendants match on all remaining markers, thus giving us a good indication of the Robert (MA 1630) LK=T DNA “signature,” or haplotype. It is likely that one of these two descendants represents the LK=T “signature”, and any variation from this “signature” represents either a branch showing a mutation (or mutations), or a related line with a common ancestor further back in time than Robert (MA 1630).

As Jean noted in her **Missing Link Update** article, Robert (MA 1630) shares a common ancestor with William (VA 1633) and William (VA 1650), that common ancestor being William Parke (c1503-1551). So while it is quite possible that LKs=GU, WQ and WR are descended from Robert (MA 1630), they may also be descended from either of the immigrant William lines. While the DNA evidence shows a genetic link among all six test participants, it is not possible at this point to narrow the most recent common ancestor to anyone more recent than William Parke (c1503-1551). More test candidates in the database with known paper trails to each of the immigrant lines mentioned above could help sort this out. Even though our database has grown considerably in the last year, we are not nearly where we need to be to answer the sort of questions raised by the test results shown above.

All that being said, we can look at the results for the remaining four tests and see what they show:

First of all, 27654 LK=GU shows two mutations in the 13-37 marker range not shared by any other test participant. Though this would suggest that this lineage is not as closely related to the Robert (MA 1630) LK=T line as the others, without other test participants from the LK=GU line in the database, we have no way of knowing whether these two mutations occur throughout the LK=GU line or are unique to the testing individual’s particular branch. This is a prime example of why we need as many participants from each LK as we can find, since we learn more with the addition of each participant.

28987 LK=WR matches most closely with the

Robert (MA 1630) LK=T results; a 36/37 match with 42432 and a 35/37 match with 27089. Marker #35 is the marker showing the mutation, and this is designated by FTDNA as a “fast moving” marker, meaning it tends to show mutations at a more frequent rate than normal.

11632 LK=WR shows two mutations from the Robert (MA 1630) LK=T signature for markers 13-37, on markers #23 and #25. Again, both of these mutations occur on “fast moving” markers and may be unique to this individual’s particular line of descent. Additional testing within the LK=WR line could provide more information on this subject.

24847 LK=WQ shares the same mutational difference on marker #23 with 11632 LK=WR, and this is somewhat puzzling, as one would not expect to see these two lines sharing the same mutation when 28987 LK=WR, supposedly closer to 11632, does not show that same mutation on marker #23. This mutation on marker #23 is the only difference between 24847 LK=WQ and 42432 LK=T, making it a 36/37 match and 35/37 with 27089 LK=T.

Not being expert in these matters, I need to consult with FTDNA to see whether it is possible that the same mutation can occur independently on a “fast moving” marker within different branches of a lineage, or whether such a mutation indicates that those sharing the mutation are in the same direct line in which the mutation occurred. I may not have stated that clearly, but will try to get the answer from FTDNA and address this in a future newsletter article.

Summary and Suggestions

Given the number of matching tests and the marker level of testing done to date, we can only make a few tentative statements based on the evidence in hand:

There is a clear genetic connection among all the test participants in this group, but given the lack of lineage information in some cases, we cannot assign the LKs=GU-WQ-WR to Robert (MA 1630) LK=T at this point.

Also, the question of how the GU-WQ-WR lines relate to each other remains unanswered.

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The Park/e/s DNA Surname Project

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My suggestions for future action would be threefold:

1. All six current test participants in this group should consider upgrading their tests to the new 67 marker level. This additional information could provide more clues as to how closely the lines relate and in what way.
2. An effort should be made by all those interested in this lineage question to find and recruit additional test participants, both those from their own branches and any known descendants from the William (VA 1633) and William (VA 1650) lines. All new test participants should be tested at the 67 marker level, as we are now at the point where lower marker level tests are not likely to resolve the questions we seek to answer.
3. Those interested in the mystery of how these lines relate might also consider making a contribution to the Surname Project General Fund. Contributions can be earmarked for use by contacting the Group Administrator with instructions on how to apply the donated funds. Any amount may be contributed, and all donations are greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me with any questions about how to donate to the General Fund.

Though it can be frustrating when DNA testing seems to raise more questions than it answers, we need to step back occasionally and recognize how much we have already learned from this method of research. It is hard to know whether traditional research methods would ever have linked these seemingly disparate Park/e/s families, yet DNA testing has revealed that to us. Now it is up to us to find that connection, and whether it ultimately proves possible or not, genetic genealogy has provided us with an exciting new avenue to explore!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

1469 Wilma Louise Handley
San Antonio, TX
Another Fragment Line, Lineage Key "LP." Line is from a Hugh¹ (1790-1876) to James Alen² Parks (1820-1914), who married in 1843 Mary Ann Jacoby, to James Lewist³ Parks (1864-1929) to James Thomas⁴ Park (1897-1978, to Evelyn Louise⁵ Park, to member.

From the Editor

by Paul Jordan-Smith, PS#1451

Many and profuse thanks to all regular and new contributors to The Parke Society Newsletter. As we steadily catch up (with this issue, we're only one behind), it's gratifying to see how faithfully you all support the effort. I know it can be a chore for those of you with regular columns (**Jean Churchill** PS# 934, **Ken Parks** PS#1406, and **Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks**, PS#435) to double your normal output for this year: yet you never let it show. Your articles are spot on and vital to the Society. On behalf of the membership, I can't thank you enough.

Special thanks are due contributors who sent in individual articles, notably **Kathryn E. ("Kay") Parke**, PS#10 (yes, **ten!**), whose piece on some places of interest to descendants of Robert (MA 1630) should inspire some exploring by attendees at the 46th Annual Convocation in Wethersfield, CT. Our other contributor, **Bob Blakeslee** PS#1358, has the lead article this month for his interesting account of genealogical researches and lessons learned.

If you've got a story to tell of interest to the Society, please don't hesitate to send it in. I may not be able to use it right away, but be patient: I will, I will!

The next editorial due date is

August 15, 2006