

# *The Parke Society*

## *Newsletter*

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

### 2007 Convocation Held in Historic Chattanooga Choo Choo by Society Core Staff

This year's location for the 44th Annual Convocation of The Parke Society, held in late September, was perhaps the most scenic we could have picked anywhere. Indeed, it was a new adventure for us as we journeyed to the Chattanooga Choo Choo, the former Southern Railroad terminal in the great city of Chattanooga, Tennessee. A one-of-a-kind historic property, unique in the Holiday Inn chain, it has been restored to its former elegance and put to a new use. Operating now as a hotel and small convention center, it offered everything we needed to have a successful meeting.

Trading as it does on its historical railroad connection, the hotel doesn't miss a step reminding you of the bygone days when steam was king and the only

real way to travel was by rail. The beautiful and spacious main waiting room awed you as you walked through the original wooden double doors into the building. Then there was the hotel dining room in the sun-filled section of the back of the lobby with fine food and a friendly staff, and the famous Chattanooga Choo Choo just outside the windows. In addition to the four hotel buildings, twenty-four rail cars have been remodeled into great guest suites. Even without the gentle rolling or the car or the clickity-clack of wheels on the rails, it was easy to imagine traveling to some distant location. And of course, there were those entrances from the station platform to the gangway—you could almost hear the conductor shouting, "All aboard!"

Many interesting shops lined the boarding platforms, with two other restaurants in railroad dining cars alongside the platform. Dinner in the Diner required advance reservations for Friday and Saturday night service, with dining like it used to be—all very elegant—when traveling by train any great distance was the very best way to go.

In a long room over the shops was one of the largest HO gauge model railroad layouts in existence. The detailing was quite amazing; in fact, they had modeled both the original Chattanooga train station and the one that followed it, now known as the

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## Contact Information

PARKE SOCIETY Board members live all over the country. Before sending a request, inquiry, article, suggestion, dues, or lineage materials, please check the listing below to be sure the material is directed to the proper Board member.

### ADDRESSES AND OTHER MEMBERSHIP LISTING CHANGES:

Send all changes of mailing address, name, phone number, email address, reports of deaths or other important family events to our Executive Director, **Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks #425H** at 70741.2122@compuserve.com, or by surface mail to him at

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**CONVOCATIONS:** Send questions about convocations to our President and Convocation Coordinator, **Curtis H. Parks**, PS#1166, at [chparks@mdo.net](mailto:chparks@mdo.net).

**DNA TESTING:** Send DNA questions to our DNA Group Administrator, **Ken M. Parks**, PS#1406 at [kenparks@earthlink.net](mailto:kenparks@earthlink.net).

**DUES:** Send dues and dues-related questions to our Secretary:

Mrs. Arlene Parks Callahan, PS#396  
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Make dues payments payable to The Parke Society, Inc. (Note: please do not send these questions to the Treasurer.) **VERY IMPORTANT: BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER ON YOUR CHECK!**

**GENEALOGY QUESTIONS AND MATERIALS:** Send these to our Historian, **Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks #425H** at 70741.2122@compuserve.com, or by surface mail to

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Please also send such materials to your Lineage Leader, if you have one.

### GENERAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, AND CRITICISMS:

Send all general correspondence of this kind to our President, **Mr. Keith Harrison**, PS#710, at [pcinc@prodigy.net](mailto:pcinc@prodigy.net).

**LIBRARY:** Send all questions relating to the Library, including loans of materials, to **Ken M. Parks**, PS#1406 at [kenparks@earthlink.net](mailto:kenparks@earthlink.net).

**MEMBERSHIP:** Send questions concerning Parke Society membership, requests for membership packets, and all application materials to our Registrar, **Mr. Ronald Neal Parks**, PS#1458, at [registrar@parke.org](mailto:registrar@parke.org).

**MISSING LINKS:** Send all questions and articles relating to Missing Links to our Missing Links Editor, **Mrs. Jean Churchill**, PS#934, at [sdtjs2001@yahoo.com](mailto:sdtjs2001@yahoo.com), or by surface mail to her at

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*Please note: handwritten submissions cannot be accepted.*

## THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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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:

Application Fee	\$ 15.00
Annual Dues	\$ 25.00
Life Membership	\$250.00
(US funds only)	

**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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## 2007 Convocation

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Chattanooga Choo Choo. A restored trolley regularly ran around the 24 acre station grounds, and a shuttle left every ten minutes to take us to the riverfront, aquarium, and other attractions of downtown Chattanooga. This electric bus line shows what can be done if urban areas put their mind to it. It saves on traffic congestion, allows tourists to go downtown without hassle, and is ecologically green to boot. Add to all that a fine library, historic buildings, and graveyards—we had more than enough to fill our short stay.

Opening day saw us setting up the Research Room and holding the President's Reception that evening. This had been done in the past but fell into disuse recently; however, the Trustees realized that we needed something to get the group together, to meet one another, to hear details about the Convocation, and to get an introduction to the materials and their use in the Research Room.

Being in the shadow of Lookout Mountain, we looked out over the sites of some of the greatest and bloodiest Civil War battles. About half our number took advantage of a tour of the historic Chickamauga battlefield on Friday. The depth and thoroughness of the Park Ranger's knowledge was impressive—even President Keith Harrison, a Civil War re-enactor himself, conceded that this man knew his stuff!

For those train buffs who hadn't gotten their fill of railroading, the nearby Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum operates live steam locomotives for excursion and tourist runs year-round. One of our members took the Summerville, Georgia excursion on Saturday, and the Historian took advantage of the free Sunday afternoon to take the tourist ride from Grand Junction to East Chattanooga, all behind a restored US Army 2-8-0 Consolidated No. 610, the last domestic steam locomotive, built in the United States by Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton in March of 1952. The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum has restored it beautifully and uses it year-round.

The Core Staff brought along most of The Society's genealogical materials, as we usually do: a good assortment of volumes from our Library, plus a copier for attendees' use. The Research Room was available throughout the Convocation, usually with a Core Staff person in attendance to assist members in their work.

At the Saturday morning Symposium, our DNA Group Administrator, and Vice President elect Ken Parks, PS#1406, gave a wonderful talk on "Park/e/s in the South – Where they came from, where they went." [See pp. 6-9 in this issue for Ken's recap of his talk. —Ed.] He had several large maps showing various migration routes, together with a goodly number of reference works on display to show attendees just what is available to assist in their research. He also played two video clips of a musical number from an old TV special found on YouTube, starring Julie Andrews and Gene Kelly called Family Tree, which was quite amusing.

Saturday evening found us at the Great Reception and enjoying a wonderful meal at the Annual Banquet in the Roosevelt Room, just off the main waiting room of the Head House.



Our dinner gathering at the Chattanooga Choo Choo

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## 2007 Convocation

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During our stay in Chattanooga, the Board of Trustees met to conduct the necessary business of the Society. The results of those meetings are reported in the Closed Circuit to Members.

Many thanks to our members and friends for helping with arrangements.

## Regarding the 2008 Convocation

The Society will return to our old haunt, Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the 45th Annual Convocation, September 25-28, 2008. During this, our fourth Convocation in Fort Wayne, we can make use of the wonderful facilities of the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Collection, one of the best accumulations of genealogical data in the country. We are negotiating a downtown host hotel.

We know that many members wish to further their research in Fort Wayne. Since our last visit in 2004, the Library has completed its renovation and remodeling of the Genealogy Department; it is quite spectacular. Check subsequent Newsletters for more information as we finalize our plans. We do hope you'll join us there next September.

## From Your New Society President— With a New Request

by Curtis Parks, PS#1166

Our 44th Convocation in Chattanooga, TN concluded with a passing of the gavel. We recognized Keith Harrison for his tenure as president, and a job well done. It will be quite a challenge to fill the office as well as Keith had. Thanks, Keith.

My own goal is to strengthen our Society in those areas that best serve all of you as members. Your officers have often discussed the shift from doing research in libraries and county archives to surfing the Internet from home for our answers, and the impact on our Society of that research shift. We also note that there remains a viable role for societies such as ours that collect ancestral information as an aid

to their members. In the case of our "single name" genealogy society, our members' principal resource is the collected and indexed family group sheets. As our lineages are found to converge, our Historian changes our Lineage Key accordingly so that we can learn who constitutes our expanded set of ancestors. (A gentle reminder; do check that any corrections to the information you had supplied to our Historian is sent in to update your family's group sheets!)

One of our more recent additions to our members resources is the DNA project, now well underway. Ken Parks, PS#1406, your newly elected Vice President, is also our DNA Group Administrator.

At our recent Convocation we approved a proposal to start an archive of our ancestors' obituaries. I volunteered to start the work on such an archive. We recognize that obituaries, as an adjunct to our group sheets, can add significantly to the information we need. To help establish our new archive, please consider looking among your documents for obituaries you may have collected and saved. Make a Xerox copy on 8 1/2 x 11 paper and mail them to me. Please make sure that the **name of the newspaper**, the **date of publication**, and our **Society Lineage Key (LK)** are on each sheet of the obituary copy. You may include several obituaries on a page as long as they *all* share the same LK. I plan to gather your obituary copies into binders and number the pages, then create an Obituary Index that will indicate the name of the individual, the LK, and the binder page number. We may eventually add the index to the Society's Web site. As with the family group sheets and their "Givenname index," our Obituary Index will let you know if your Society presently has an obituary that you are looking for. Copies can be made at one of our Convocations or you can have one mailed to you. We hope that as time goes on our Society will be seen as a resource that adds to the information available in other places and on the Internet.

There may be other ways your Society can collect various research resources, and your ideas are always welcome.

## **Dana Parks Jr. Memorial Circulating Library**

by Ken Parks, #1406

As many of you are aware from her announcement in the previous newsletter, Jean Churchill PS#934 has retired as Librarian for the Society. Also in the last newsletter was a call to any member who might be interested in assuming the position of Librarian.

To date, no member has expressed an interest in taking on the position of Librarian, so the Trustees have decided on a course of action which has been under discussion ever since Jean expressed her intention to retire, over a year ago. Due to the infrequency of loan requests from members in recent years, the Trustees have decided that the bulk of the Library's holdings not specifically related to Park/e/s genealogy should be offered to some library or historical society for their collection.

The Wayne County Historical Society in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, has recently completed a building addition which has given them much-needed additional space for their holdings. Part of this new space includes state-of-the-art library shelving, and they have accepted our offer of the bulk of the Society's non-Park/e/s related books.

The Park/e/s specific library holdings, listed in the 000 category on the PS website's library holdings page, will remain in the Society's possession and will continue to be available for loan to current active members. These 000 materials are currently being kept by me, and though I am not assuming the Librarian position (which is being eliminated), I will continue to fulfill any loan requests by active members. My contact information can be found in every newsletter issue as well as on the PS website.

We will be revising the library holdings on the website, showing only those books still in the Society's possession. As time permits, I will arrange the library holdings, not only by author, but also grouped by Lineage Key whenever such assignment is possible. My hope is that this will make it easier for members to see what books or publications the Society holds pertinent to their own Lineage Key or

a suspected lineage. As always, the Society welcomes submissions from its members for inclusion in the library holdings.

We hope this arrangement will continue to serve the needs of our members. In an ideal world, keeping the entire library holdings intact would have been preferable, but due to the space requirements and lack of loan requests, perhaps reflecting the changing nature of genealogical research in this computer-based world, the course of action taken by the Trustees seemed the most practical and realistic solution to the problem of finding a new home for the library materials.

## **Missing Link Update (LK = CU), and other notes of interest**

by Jean Churchill #934

**Missing Links:** Though I have retired as the Society's Librarian, I plan to continue to work with Missing Links and some of the other Fragment Lineages. Using Ancestry.com, I have managed to find more male Parks of both the "Silas Parks/Peter Parks" (LK=CU and IX ) line and also the "David Parks/Elizabeth Lance" (LK=CT) line—more on these Links will appear in later articles.

**Book Reviews:** I will be happy to review new Park/e/s manuscripts and advertise their prices for members. If you plan to donate a copy to the Parke Society, please send it to me first for review and then I will send it on to Ken Parks (DNA Administrator) where it will be part of our Park/e/s Collection.

**NSDAR NOTE:** if you are an active DAR member, please access the NSDAR Genealogy site to check for genealogical information. If you need help, contact me at my email address: sdtjs2001@yahoo.com.

The next editorial due date is  
**February 15, 2008**

## Park/e/s in the South: Where They Came From, Where They Went

By Ken Parks, #1406

At the recent Convocation in Chattanooga I gave a talk with the title of this article. I spoke about several migration patterns; migration to this country, from various regions of this country to the South, and from the South to other states or territories. I was asked to write a short recap for the benefit of members who were not able to attend the Convocation, and I will do so in this and future articles. In the next two issues I will focus on migration to this country from the British Isles.

Much of the information about migration from the British Isles comes from two books: *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America* by David Hackett Fischer, and *Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement* by Mr. Fischer and James C. Kelly. In *Albion's Seed*, Fischer identifies four major groups which, by and large, came from different areas of the British Isles and settled different parts of the American colonies. Each group had differences in religion, social class, reasons for migrating, and many other factors which led to each area settled developing in ways distinct from the others. While I cannot approach the depth of detail available in the books mentioned, I attempt here to give a brief treatment of each group and would recommend these books to anyone interested in more information on this subject. In this issue I discuss the first two of the four groups; I'll address the remaining two groups in the next newsletter.

The first of the four migratory groups is entitled by Fischer as, "East Anglia to Massachusetts: The Exodus of the English Puritans, 1629—1641." East Anglia is the area just northeast of London on the east coast of the island, comprising the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. The period of the great migration was precisely the period called the "eleven years' tyranny," when Charles I tried to rule England without a Parliament, and Archbishop William Laud purged the Anglican church of its Puritan members. After 1640, the migration ceased abruptly, and many Massachusetts Puritans sailed home to England to

serve in the English Civil War.

It is estimated that some 80,000 people left England during this period, with about 20,000 going to Ireland, others in equal numbers leaving for the Netherlands and the Rhineland. Another 20,000 sailed to the West Indies islands of Barbados, Nevis, St. Kitts, and the forgotten Puritan colony of Old Providence Island. A fourth contingent chose to settle in Massachusetts, and founded the New England Yankee culture we know today.

One unique feature of migration to the Massachusetts Bay Colony was that these people considered themselves a twice-chosen people: once by God, and again by the General Court of Massachusetts. The other English colonies gladly welcomed any two-legged creature who could be dragged onto a ship bound for America, but Massachusetts chose its colonists with care. Not everyone was allowed to settle there, and in doubtful cases, the founders of the colony actually demanded written proof of good character. Further, after these immigrants arrived, those who did not fit in were either banished to other colonies or sent back to England.

Another feature of the Puritan migration that sets them apart is that they migrated in family groups, more so than any major ethnic group in American history. In one group of 700 immigrants to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, 94 percent belonged to family groups. Because of this heavy concentration of families in the colony from its earliest history, the population multiplied at a rapid rate, doubling every generation for two centuries. Their numbers increased to 100,000 by 1700, to at least one million by 1800, six million by 1900, and more than sixteen million by 1988—all descended from 21,000 English emigrants to Massachusetts from 1629 to 1640.

In terms of social rank, most emigrants to Massachusetts came from the middle strata of English society. The great majority were yeomen, husbandmen, artisans, craftsmen, merchants and traders—the sturdy middle class of England. Only a small minority came as servants—less than 25 percent compared to 75 percent in Virginia.

The social status of these people also revealed itself

in their high levels of literacy. Two-thirds of New England's adult male immigrants were able to sign their own names. In old England before 1640, only about one-third could do so. By this very rough "signature-mark test," literacy was nearly twice as common in Massachusetts as in the mother country.

As for the regional origins of the Puritan migration, one "sample" of 2,885 emigrants to New England came from no fewer than 1,194 English parishes. Every county was represented except Westmoreland in the far north and Monmouth on the border of Wales, giving the first impression of extreme diversity. However, closer study shows that some counties contributed more than others, and that one region in particular accounted for a majority of the founders of Massachusetts.

We may take the geographic center of this region to be the market town of Haverhill, very near the point where the three counties of Suffolk, Essex and Cambridge come together. A circle drawn around the town of Haverhill with a radius of sixty miles will circumscribe the area where most New England families came from. That wide circle reached east to Great Yarmouth on the coast of Norfolk, north to Boston in eastern Lincolnshire, west to Bedford and Hertfordshire, and south to the coast of East Kent. The area of approximately 7,000 square miles (about 8% of the land area of Britain today) roughly included the region that was defined in 1643 as the Eastern Association—Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Lincolnshire—plus parts of Bedfordshire and Kent.

Approximately 60 percent of immigrants to Massachusetts came from these nine eastern counties. The concentration of Puritans from East Anglia, and from the county of Suffolk, was especially great in the Winthrop Fleet of 1630.

Two of the well-known Park/e/s lineages that came to New England during this time period are identified by their male Park/e/s immigrants—Robert Parke, who came to Massachusetts from Suffolk in 1630 with the Winthrop Fleet, and Richard Park, who arrived in Boston in 1635 on the ship *Defence*.

The second group of British immigrants came

from the south of England, mainly to Virginia, and comprised what Fischer calls "Distressed Cavaliers and Indentured Servants." This immigrant group came during the time period of 1642 to 1675. You'll remember that Jamestown was founded in 1607, so this is a later wave of immigration.

In *Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement*, Fischer and Kelly describe in great detail the early years of the Jamestown colony and the Virginia Company of London's troubles attempting to establish a thriving colony in Virginia.

The striking difference from the pattern of the Massachusetts Bay Colony is that Jamestown was settled as a business enterprise, and was seen more as a base for further exploration than as a settlement of families. All of the original settlers of Jamestown were male. They were also very different from other English settlers in America. Most were called "gentlemen," and were recruited from a narrow elite that made up only 10 percent of the English population in 1607, yet they comprised 60 percent of the Jamestown founders.

The story of the original Jamestown colony was one of ultimate failure. Disease and starvation kept the colony at a minimal existence until an Indian attack in 1622 nearly destroyed the colony. The Virginia Company tried to revive it, but the situation worsened, the company lost its right to raise money by lottery and slipped into bankruptcy. The settlement passed into the hands of the Privy Council, and in 1624 Virginia became a royal colony.

The period from 1624 to 1642 saw the colony begin to grow, and despite high mortality rates from malaria and other causes, the colony reached a point where its survival was not in question. A succession of Royal Governors came and went, unable to deal with the problems they encountered in dealing with the early representative bodies. Finally, in 1642, Sir William Berkeley was appointed Governor, a position he was to hold off and on for more than thirty-five years, from 1642 until he was removed from office following Bacon's Rebellion in 1676.

Perhaps more than any other single individual, Sir

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## Park/e/s in the South

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William Berkeley shaped the political and social systems of Virginia. He played a major role in shaping the immigration process to the colony during this critical period. When the English Civil War proved unsuccessful for the Cavaliers (supporters of King Charles I and later Charles II), Berkeley actively encouraged these “distressed cavaliers” to come to Virginia, where he promoted them to high office, granted them large estates and created the ruling class that ran the colony for many generations. It was these Cavalier families who would form the basis for the First Families of Virginia.

This wave of immigration to Virginia differed from the Puritan exodus to Massachusetts in several ways—in its English origins, in its American destination, and especially in its social composition. New England had drawn mostly from the middle of English society, where Virginians came in greater numbers from both the higher and lower ranks. Berkeley’s “distressed cavaliers” were only a small part of the total numbers who came to the Chesapeake colonies. The greater portion of immigrants were humble people of low rank. More than 75 percent came as indentured servants.

Virginia’s servants were recruited from the lower strata of English society, but not from the very lowest—“the bottom of the middle ranks,” one historian has written. Unlike most emigrants to New England, their passage was paid by others. Altogether, females were outnumbered by males by more than four to one. Few women freely chose to settle in Virginia. Some were “snared” and sent against their will.

Most of Virginia’s servant-immigrants were half-grown boys and young men. More than a few of these were “spirited,” or kidnapped by gangs, or were “lagged,” or transported by “hard-hearted judges” after being arrested for petty crimes or vagrancy and “sold for a slave in Virginia.” We tend to think of indentured servants as people making a business deal in return for free transportation to this country, but aside from the fact that their term of indenture was for a fixed time period rather than for life, their condition differed little from the slavery experienced

by Africans.

Those immigrants to Virginia who arrived, not as indentured servants, but in chains as transported convicts met with differing opinions about their presence in the colony. The first convicts arrived a few years after the founding of Jamestown, but by 1670 the colony passed a law forbidding the immigration of prisoners. However, in 1717 Parliament passed a law for the “more effectual transportation of felons,” and after that date criminals began to arrive in large numbers. Recent studies have estimated the convict traffic to North America in the eighteenth century at about 50,000 from Britain and Ireland. Of all the British and Irish convicts sent to America, as many as half came to Maryland and Virginia. In some years the proportion who came to the Chesapeake was as high as 90 percent.

The convict trade was deeply resented in America. One quote from the *Virginia Gazette* in 1751 asked, “Can Britain show a more Sovereign contempt for us than by emptying their jails into our Settlements; unless they would likewise empty their Jakes on our tables!” Some of these convicts escaped to the frontier. In 1748 the inhabitants of Albemarle County asked help to suppress an entire settlement of horse thieves who had “established themselves into a confederacy.” By any comparative test, the frontier of the Delaware Quakers and New England Puritans was much less disorderly than the southern frontier. Patterns of migration help to explain the difference.

The character of Virginia’s great migration differed in many ways from the Puritan exodus to Massachusetts. From the start immigrants to the Chesapeake were more highly stratified, more male, less highly skilled, and less literate. These patterns did not develop by chance, but were the product of policy and social planning.

Reflecting the heavy concentration of immigration from the south and west of England, the Virginia accent developed from a cluster of rural dialects from that area of England. In architecture, the conventional hall-and-parlor “Virginia house” was a south of England building modified to suit American conditions.

The idea of family in Virginia was not the nuclear

model that took root in Puritan Massachusetts, but a more organic, extended, hierarchical, and patriarchal form that had existed throughout the south of England.

The naming of children also differed from New England. Less than half of Virginians received biblical names. Males were named after warriors and kings—William, Robert, George, Edward.

Rituals of worship in Virginia from 1650 to the mid-eighteenth century ran to a liturgical style, rather than the meeting and lecture style of New England. The Anglican establishment was much stronger before 1740 than many historians had believed, and dissent was largely suppressed. More adult Virginians attended Anglican services and took communion than in England.

Sir William Berkeley and his Cavalier elite did not only recruit immigrants to support their model colony, they also tried to drive out people who did not fit in. Chief among these were Puritans and Quakers. William Stone was a nonconformist Anglican who led a group from Virginia's Eastern Shore to Maryland. He later became governor of Maryland and encouraged a group of Puritans to emigrate from Virginia farther up the bay, where they founded the town of Providence in what is now Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

After 1660 the Virginia legislature forbade nonconformist preaching, required baptism in an Anglican church, and prohibited Quaker meetings. The Quakers began to move in large numbers, some moving north to Maryland's Eastern Shore and settling in Somerset County.

At the same time, Virginia's Cavalier elite also drove out others in a different way. The leaders of the colony arrogated to themselves much of the best land. Young servants found better opportunities in Maryland and southern counties of Delaware. A large portion of the Eastern Shore was settled in this way. As a result, Maryland became a more diverse society, while Virginia became more closed and homogeneous.

Other servants and debtors fled south beyond the

borders of Virginia. Governor Thomas Culpeper, who followed Berkeley, wrote in 1661, "Carolina (I meane the North part of it) alwayes was and is the sinke of America, the Refuge of Renegadoes."

Though there are many Park/e/s with Virginia connections, perhaps the most-researched and far-reaching is the Thomas (VA 1728) LK=C line.

In the next newsletter issue, we will discuss the two remaining groups of immigrants from the British Isles; "North Midlands to the Delaware: The Friends' Migration, 1675—1725," and "Borderlands to the Backcountry: The Flight from North Britain, 1717—1775."

## **Historian's Corner**

### **Non-Renewable Resources,**

### **Part III: The future of Genealogy**

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

Sustenance for the genealogist is like food for the body: as long as it is readily available, at reasonable prices, and without a whole lot of hassle, the genealogist thrives, as will the body. But it has not always been so, and in some parts of the world it is surely not true. And the question remains: will it be so for the genealogists of the future?

For the genealogist, that sustenance comprises the freely available bits of data, those information items that help us build a picture of our forbears and trace their history to the present day. Unfortunately, I think we sometimes take for granted our sustenance, not only in foodstuffs, but in the availability of information we need to thrive on as genealogists.

In the previous two installments of this column, I discussed various resources that have been readily available to us as genealogical researchers over the years. These are libraries and societies of various kinds, as well as cemetery plots of all sizes, both

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## Historian's Corner

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public and private. They contain information and data that is vital to the exploration of our family trees. Take them away, and the writing of family histories might become little more than cleverly devised myths built on legends and unverified family rumors. Certifying what really happened; when, where, and by whom, becomes nigh unto impossible.

Of course, it does have to be recognized that any source of information could be wrong. Tombstones could have the wrong dates on them, or incorrect names (or even be totally wrong as to who is really buried under them in the first place). Someone unfamiliar with the period handwriting or with the usages of the time might transcribe records inaccurately. Someone unfamiliar with the information being requested might be the source of data—I have an example of that right in my own family.

What we do as genealogists is collect lots of data points; it is called evidence. Then we start to give weight to the data by its preponderance. If we have five records giving the date of birth of a certain person, and four show one date, while the other shows another date, we can probably bank on the preponderance of the one date as being the right one, unless we have some really good solid reasons why it might be incorrect. Internet data does not automatically confer reliability. Moreover, records copy inaccurate data from other records. Family bibles are often more reliable than “official” sources.

Another concern I've raised in prior columns is that these repositories of information are not necessarily permanent. They can, and will, disappear if we do not take heed. All genealogists should be concerned about these data sources, and be doing whatever they can to see that they are preserved for future generations. If you haven't read those columns previously, you might do so now. We all need to be working together to make sure that we do not lose what we currently have available to us.

### The Free Flow of Information

Unfortunately, governments sometimes use suste-

nance (both food and information) as a way to control individuals in human society. Obvious examples of food being used as a tool of war and oppression abound, but information data?

Information of all kinds is a valuable commodity. To have data (information) is to be able to control things: your own life, your destiny, even your own pleasures and hobbies. Only in free and open societies can newspapers, libraries, historical and genealogical societies, public courthouses and village and town halls exist. Totalitarian regimes cannot tolerate, and will not allow, the free and open discussion and wide dissemination of information and data. Need examples? Just read histories of various regimes. In fact, the very ability to do *that* is a measure of how open a society really is.

I am often awed by how much information is really available to us, should we care to roll up our sleeves and dig it out. If I don't know where Podunk Falls, NY was in the 1850s, all I have to do is to find an old gazetteer and check the index, and I can locate where it used to be, and what it's called today, if anything. What about who sold the house to our great great grandfather? March down to the county courthouse and check in with the Registrar of Deeds (or whatever they are called in that jurisdiction) and you can trace the ownership of that parcel forwards and backwards by searching through the Deeds and Mortgages volumes. Uncertain when Great Aunt Millie died, and of what? Visit the keeper of the Vital Statistics records where the event happened, and perhaps for a small price you can get a copy of the document. Did she have any heirs to her estate? Check the Probate Office and there you will probably be able to find records concerning her will and the disposition of her worldly belongings.

While this has generally been the case in the United States, it certainly has not been true in various parts of the world during different times in history. For example, in Stalinist Russia, it was illegal to own a road map. That may seem silly, but if you knew where places were and how to get there in different ways, the state lost control over your movements, and that could be very threatening to a totalitarian regime. Even as recently as a few years back, having in your possession a GPS device was enough to raise

suspicious, and to probably get you arrested. For us, the only threat we have to face is to be overwhelmed by information.

### **Public and Not-So-Public Records**

Now you may say, “Well, that was then and there, not here and now,” but don’t be too sure about that. In this column, I want to take up some of my concerns for the future of genealogy—doing family history 25, 50, even 100 years from now. Will the resources still be there when our descendants want to look at them? And a big part of those resources are the public records, like vital statistics, land records, and probate records spoken of above.

A public record is some piece of information that a governmental agency (usually) keeps in order to ensure an orderly society. For example, all jurisdictions keep various land records which describe who owns a piece of property, how they acquired it and, when the time comes, how they disposed of it. These records include deeds, mortgages, and easements. Governments main such records so that ownership disputes can be resolved. Ownership identifies who should pay property taxes. Filing fees for recording these documents are a revenue source for the governmental entity. These documents can be very important to us, as they prove the existence of individuals and often name other family members. Witnesses often indicate other relatives in the area.

The other public records governments maintain include vital statistic records (births, marriages, deaths), probate records, and adoption records (although this last has traditionally been the most difficult to get access to). Free and open societies have courthouses, village- and town-halls which become the repositories of these public records.

Once, the hardest part of getting copies of public documents was getting in contact with the appropriate jurisdiction, figuring out how the data was stored or filed, and perhaps getting past an occasional officious clerk. Unfortunately, slowly but steadily, records are being closed to us as genealogists, for a number of reasons. Most prominently the reason usually given is to protect against identity theft. Granted, this is a very distinct issue, but is it then

necessary to close all records to all researchers? I truly believe that more identify theft happens due to commonsense errors and stupidity on the part of individuals than from people who search public records for genealogical purposes.

Wisconsin becomes an excellent example to contemplate. A few years ago, there was a splashy homicide case involving cops, wives and girl friends. The alleged perp (there were always serious questions about this case) escaped and was a fugitive for years until she was recaptured in Canada about two years later. She had used an identity acquired with the help of a friend, a cemetery trip, and a subsequently acquired birth certificate from the county courthouse. Hastily-passed legislation has severely limited access to these vital statistics records.

Some reasons why Public Records might be closed to us are legitimate. Budget considerations comes immediately to mind, as well as security of the records themselves (shame on those researchers who leave with more than they came), as well as staff work loads. And of course, there is always the possibility that something might be found that could cause embarrassment to the public officials charged with the maintenance of these records.

So what are we to do? We must be on our guard so that Public Records remain just that—public. We must ensure that information belonging to the people remains available for our honest use. This is where our best defense is to be allied with the state and local genealogical and historical societies. It takes a louder voice and bigger stick than one individual can wield to assure that records are not needlessly closed to the public. We must monitor the current access and availability of information, and when new rules restricting access come into existence, we need to speak up in a unified voice to see that they are promptly rescinded. Is staffing an issue? What if a qualified individual volunteer takes on the responsibility for helping people find the information they want, and watch over the materials to see that none are destroyed or misfiled? Genealogists of all stripes are honest seekers of correct facts and data. Qualified volunteers can easily spot when someone

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is totally lost and needs help, or might be after more than just the birth record of Uncle Marvin.

And, speaking of Public Records, do you know what is actually stored in your local repository? Here again is where a local historical or genealogical society can be of great usefulness. Guides could be prepared by the aforementioned historical and genealogical societies for the local repositories, giving information as to what is available and how to access it. Many times there are items there of which we would have no idea other than some guide. Some years ago I discovered in one of my searches in New York, decennial census records taken on the 5's (1875, 1885, 1895). You can imagine how useful that is considering the nearly total loss of the 1890 Federal Census in a fire some years ago.

Of course, genealogists must remember that as they are looking at these records, they too have a responsibility to help maintain them. Take care to transcribe on your own pad of paper the information, being careful not to do any harm to the documents found. They are, for the most part, irreplaceable.

The issue here is to actually know what is available, how it can be found, and how it would be useful to the researchers—local societies take notice.

### Records on the Internet

I find it amazing just how much data is available online, either free or for a price. For honest researchers this is a real blessing. But of course, for the nefarious it could also be a goldmine of information to perpetrate scams and other illegal activities. My fear is that much of this data could be withdrawn from public view—unavailable, regardless of the price.

The greatest asset for genealogists is the complete Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1930 (the last year opened to the public) with indexing through Ancestry.com. Sure, there are transcription errors (however, much lower than some previous renderings of the census records), but you can also see optical scans of the actual pages to clarify the transcriptions, and you are allowed to leave notes (with proof indication)

as to transcription errors. If you are doing a lot of census work, the price is very reasonable.

But that is not all that they have; for a few dollars more, you also have access to a wide variety of other records like obituaries, mortality records, and the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), something that has been invaluable to us as a Society in trying to track down members who have disappeared from our active rolls. However, not all questions can be answered via the Internet. There is still a need for real legwork: trips to courthouses, village and town halls, libraries, and cemeteries.

### On the Future of Genealogy

Periodically, I ponder what genealogy will be like in a hundred years, barring some great catastrophe. Will it still be an avocation that is pursued, or will it wither and die out, with only a very few participants, sort of like model railroading? Will there still be people around in a hundred years playing with trains?

I don't know the answer to that question, but I sure hope so—genealogy is a great hobby. In honestly doing one's family history, you learn about what life was like in ages past. You realize what may be a simple task today was anything but simple 100 years ago. You learn that life was difficult, and sometimes very dangerous, for our ancestors.

But some cultural changes are altering the face of our pastime; for example, the burial of the dead. With the increase in the number of cremations and the end-distribution of the cremains, it will become more difficult, if not impossible, to find the final resting-place of individuals. Since all the death certificate might say is "cremains returned to next of kin," finding where they went from there may not be possible, especially if they were spread in the wild or in Aunt Tilley's flowerbed. No marker, no monument, nothing to show where that individual finally ended up.

But there are other causes of concern for our avocation. With concerns for identity theft, illegal immigration, or Home Land Security, budgets, staffing, etc., many of the sources we look to for putting together our ancestry could very easily be removed

from public view. This bodes ill for our beloved avocation.

So, we need to enjoy doing genealogy. We need to work to find the truth, but we also need to work to preserve the resources for other researchers and future generations.

## **Book Review:** **A Story For My Children** by Kathi Baxter, #980

In 1998, the descendants of Etta Wolcott Park received permission to reprint *A Story For My Children*, a book written by Etta's daughter, Nettie Wolcott Park. The 250-page book was first published in 1968 by Vantage Press, and had been out of print since then.

Etta was the wife of Burton William Park, a ninth-generation descendant of Robert Parke (1630). Etta agreed to write the story of her life for her children two years before her death, and her daughter, the author of *Mehitabel: Girl Pioneer*, edited her mother's memoirs, adding recollections of the rest of the family as well. The book also contains genealogies of the Park/Parke and Wolcott families and 32 pages of black-and-white photos.

As the original book jacket states:

Etta Wolcott was born in a log house, in Litchfield Township, Pennsylvania. Her great grandfather, Silas Wolcott, had served in the army in the Revolutionary War, and had been one of George Washington's bodyguards, while the army was encamped at Valley Forge. He built, in 1806, the house in which Etta was born [in 1863]. When Etta was three, her family decided to move west.

They headed for Mecosta County, Michigan.... Etta achieved a teaching certificate when she was but fourteen and a half.... Burt Park, handsome and twenty, came west to work. Although all the girls were atwitter, Etta was the one he took to the church social—and the one he married. It is their children for whom Etta wrote this book. There is much more than the story of Etta and Burt and their immediate families here. When you are able to trace your ancestry beyond 1630 when the first of them came here, followed shortly by another one—the genealogies of the Park, Wolcott, Fidler, Merrill, and Taylor families are given in an Appendix; when some of them left stories of the early difficulties of the first settlers, and some recalled such horrors as the Wyoming Valley massacres of the Revolutionary War; and others the uncertainties of the unknown wilderness as they moved West—you have the ingredients for an exciting, human and gently humorous book.

Of the 300 copies of the reprinted hardcover book, currently 50 copies are left. Once these copies are sold, no more will be printed. The cost per book (including shipping and handling) is \$23. Anyone interested in purchasing one or more copies can request same from Kathi Baxter, 45 Parker Road, West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1136. Checks should be made payable to Kathi Baxter. Any questions about the book may also be sent to the above by e-mail ([mbx32@verizon.net](mailto:mbx32@verizon.net)).

## **Query**

Gloria Fowler, PS#1483, is looking for information regarding the ancestry of her third great-grandfather, Thomas Park (b. 1793, Groton, CT; d. 18 Feb 1866, Groton; buried in the Packer Family Cemetery in Mystic, CT). Thomas m. Mary (Polly) Packer, d/o Avery and Mary (Fish) Packer; who d. 20 Nov 1856. Thomas remarried in his sixties Joanna Brightman from Groton. (Thomas' near neighbor was Isaac Park and their sons were mariners.) Please send information to [gflower@tvconnect.net](mailto:gflower@tvconnect.net).

## Who Owns Your E-mail?

by Gary B. Hoffman

Over the past ten years, electronic mail has become an indispensable tool for communicating with friends and business associates. The workplace and the home environment have been forever changed by the presence and utility of instantaneous, worldwide written communication. We've read about how it speeds commerce and even romance and how missent messages cause embarrassment and sometimes harassment. But when you and your e-mail are forced to part, it is a painful process. Just who owns your e-mail anyway: you, your employer, your Internet service provider, or some distant company? The answer is: maybe all and maybe none of the above.

### E-mail at the Workplace

The general rule of thumb is that whoever owns the mail server owns the e-mail and all the accounts. However, in reality, it's not so simple. For those of us who have e-mail courtesy of our employers, it's fairly clear cut: the employer owns the e-mail server and all the accounts. At work, our expectation of privacy should not be very high, especially if the employer does an adequate job of notifying us of these relationships.

Usually, an employer will insist that their e-mail facilities not be used for non-employment related communication. They often reserve the right to read our e-mail, and, as we know from the Oliver North Iran-Contra hearings and the Microsoft court case, e-mail can come back from the dead, long after we thought it was buried. And, of course, when we leave the position of employment, we lose the e-mail account which remains with the employer.

Sometimes the lines between employee's and employer's ownership of e-mail get quite blurry. For example, here at the university, we offer students a lifetime e-mail address that will forward mail to an e-mail account anywhere in the world. While they are studying at the university, their account is usually on a university computer but we are quite liberal about the kinds of traffic that is permitted. Yet, we recently had a student who graduated and became an

employee at the university in a research capacity. He continued to use his university address to conduct university business. Then his position was eliminated and his department attempted to re-route his mail to other employees to maintain the research and business contacts he had made. He complained that the address was his own because he had received it as a student under the "lifetime" guarantee. The issue was resolved when he promised to forward university business-related messages back to his successors and he was allowed to keep his address, but it could have cut the other way.

### Commercial E-mail Accounts

If you open an e-mail account with a commercial service provider, the ownership issue may not be any clearer. Your account with your local service provider, a national provider such as AOL or CompuServe, or with one of the free e-mail services such as Juno, HotMail, or Netscape WebMail is probably free from the restrictions of an employer, but there are still rules, called Terms of Use, that we agree to in order to receive our account. Did you keep a copy of the Terms of Use? Do you know what happens to your mail if you are late in making your monthly payments? What if you pay, but don't check your mail for several months? What if your accumulated mail exceeds your storage allowance, do you lose old mail or is new incoming mail returned to sender? These questions do not have general answers, but are specific to your individual situation. Unfortunately, you may not find out the answers until it's too late and mail is either lost or you are denied access to it.

When you change mail providers, you can usually take advantage of mail forwarding until you can notify your correspondents of your new address. That is, your former mail service will send your mail on to your new account for a certain period of time. But not all providers offer this service. For example, AOL is known to return mail sent to former subscribers.

### New Technologies, New Issues

In many cities, cable television systems are offering

Internet service via cable modem to their subscribers, including e-mail accounts. I heard recently of a happy cable modem subscriber who was running his business through his account but moved to larger facilities just outside the cable service area. When he moved, his cable modem service was cut off along with his cable TV service. All his mail was deleted and all mail sent to his address was returned to sender. Even subscribers who move within the service area often have this problem because the cable Internet provider uses different servers in different parts of their town's network. At last report, the cable company in question was looking at ways of offering mail forwarding. But no one had ever asked before and it was not mentioned in the service agreement.

For some of us, the problem is too many accounts: one for work, one for home, and one for the road. Plus a free e-mail account that came with the long distance service, the cable service, and the cell phone service. Even if you don't use them all, you might find that someone else has discovered your account and password and has used your account to send harassing messages, junk mail, or obscene communication. Are you liable for the misdeeds of others who use your account without your knowledge? What if you allowed them access in the first place?

### **Confidentiality**

Another issue we must remember that e-mail is not really private. What appears to be a one-on-one communication actually passes through many computer relays before ending up in front of our recipient's eyes. At every waystation, there are opportunities for failure, storage, diversion, modification, or misdirection. When I instruct new e-mail users, I tell them that e-mail is like sending a postcard because everyone who handles it can read the message. If they want to keep their communication private, I advise, use pen and paper and a sealed envelope. Future e-mail systems may offer such features as encryption, authentication, and non-repudiation, but these are still missing from mainstream e-mail today.

### **Copyright Protection**

Finally, there is an issue with regard to the ownership of the words with which we choose to express ourselves in an e-mail message. Under Federal law, a copyright arises when an author's original creative expression is fixed in a tangible medium. Therefore, it may be a violation of an e-mail author's rights to forward a message you have received to a third party. Some people may argue that once a message is sent into the Internet, it is fair game for copying, forwarding, or storage by others. But that's like saying if a book is published, anyone can republish it for free. One solution is to put a copyright notice on all our e-mail messages to remind recipients that you own those words and you intend to stand on your rights. That ought to make your correspondents feel good about having electronic conversations with you!

The culture of electronic mail is evolving and rules are becoming more clear as these issues work themselves out. My advice today is to keep your personal and employment mail separate; understand your mail service provider's rules regarding ownership of mail files on the server; and avoid violating others' privacy rights and copyrights.

### **About the Author**

Gary Hoffman has been involved in genealogy research for over 30 years. He is former president of the Computer Genealogy Society of San Diego and is CGSSD's Webmaster. Currently a computer manager at the University of California's San Diego campus, he recently received a law degree and passed the California bar exam. His articles on technical and legal issues relating to genealogy have appeared in several online publications and newsletters and he is a regular speaker at national genealogy conferences.

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## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**1487 Linda A. Parks**

Dallas, OR

Lineage is fragment line Robert Parks, 1791, Ireland – 1852 Rollingdam, New Brunswick, Canada, who married Elizabeth Bruce, LK=UP. Line is Robert<sup>1</sup>, Hugh Bruce<sup>2</sup>, Henry Edgar<sup>3</sup>, Norman Frasier<sup>4</sup>, Norman Frasier<sup>5</sup> Parks, spouse of member.

**1488 Richard Albert Park, Sr.**

Signal Mountain, TN

Lineage is Roger of NJ, LK=K. Line is Roger<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Moses<sup>4</sup> who married Mary Hill, James<sup>5</sup> who married Martha Yandell, to Thomas Yandell<sup>6</sup>, Richard Franklin<sup>7</sup>, David Allen<sup>8</sup> Park, to member<sup>9</sup>.

**1489 Susan K. Swift**

Neosho, MO

Lineage is Robert-Thomas, LK= T, Chart 4. Line is Robert<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Deborah<sup>4</sup> Parks who married John Clark, to Deborah<sup>5</sup> Clark who married Joseph Benjamin, to James<sup>6</sup> Benjamin, Selah Bernard<sup>7</sup> Benjamin, Mason<sup>8</sup> Benjamin, Marietta<sup>9</sup> Benjamin who married Robert Patterson, to Mary Edith<sup>10</sup> Patterson who married Albert Walter Maack, to Florence Lenore<sup>11</sup> Maack, who married George Elliott Spear, to Harry Baucom<sup>12</sup> Spear, to member<sup>13</sup>.

**1490 Kenneth E. Mabey**

Windham, NY

Lineage is fragment line John Parks/e, c1817, County Sligo, Ireland, 30 July 1889, Durham, NY who married Isabella Hunter. LK=VP. Line is John<sup>1</sup>, Mary Jane<sup>2</sup> Parks who married Marcellus Becker Horton, to Jessie Almeda<sup>3</sup> Horton who married Alvah Ezekiel Sutton, to Edna Luella<sup>4</sup> Sutton who married Edward Gruet Mabey, to member<sup>5</sup>.

**1491 (Mary) LeGrand Parmer**

Chapel Hill, NC

Lineage is fragment line Thomas Bird Parks, LK= FR. Line is Thomas Bird<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Harrison<sup>2</sup>, William Henry<sup>3</sup>, George Edward<sup>4</sup>, Jack Johnson<sup>5</sup> Parks, Sr., to member<sup>6</sup>.

**1492 Linda L. Smith**

Bradenton, FL

Lineage is Robert-Samuel, LK=S. Line is Robert<sup>1</sup>, Samuel<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>5</sup>, Cynthia<sup>6</sup> Park who married David Geer, to Welcome<sup>7</sup> Geer, Nathaniel<sup>8</sup> Geer, Harriet “Hattie”<sup>9</sup> Geer who married Samuel Patterson, to Eva<sup>10</sup> Patterson who married Lewis Walter Antram, to Wilford Russell<sup>11</sup> Antram, to member<sup>12</sup>.

**1493 Rosemary B. Parks**

Escondido, CA

Lineage is fragment line Isaac Parks, born c1860's who married in 1881 Tury Dubois who was born in New York City, LK=WP. Line is Isaac<sup>1</sup>, Ray(mond) William<sup>2</sup>, Robert Allen<sup>3</sup>, to David Brian<sup>4</sup> Parks, to spouse of member.

**1494 Charles Earl Parks**

Alexandria, VA

Lineage is fragment line David Parks, born c1742 Baltimore Co., MD, died after 23 Jan 1814, Baltimore Co., MD who married possibly an Elizabeth, LK=XP. Line is David<sup>1</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, James Smith<sup>4</sup>, William James<sup>5</sup>, Earl Abraham<sup>6</sup>, Charles William<sup>7</sup> Parks, to member<sup>8</sup>.

The next editorial due date is

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