

# 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*

### Our First Convocation

by Cathy (Parks) Sato PS#1512 and Lethene Parks PS#1113

We attended our first Parke Society convocation Sept. 25-28 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and found it most enjoyable. We were warmly welcomed by everyone, and several people sat down with us to go over our lineage and our questions in detail.

We are a mother-daughter team of family history researchers. Cathy has been actively researching for about five years, and Lethene for over fifty years. Because we had reached a brick wall in research on our Parks line and because, according to Parke Society resources, ours was an orphan line, we had not put a high priority on attending a convocation. But during this past year our brother and son, Christopher Parks, submitted a DNA sample to the

Park/e/s DNA study and that led to what, for us, is a major breakthrough: We are no longer a fragment line, but genetically a part of the Robert (MA 1630) line. Though we cannot yet tie our paper trail back to Robert, we can focus our research on Robert's descendant lines. Attending the Parke Society convocation became a much higher priority for us and, of course, we hoped it would lead us to information that would enable us to fill in the missing links in our paper trail.

That has not happened yet, but we did discover the Parke Society's many resources available to help us and other researchers: Revolutionary War pension files for all Parks (from Ken Parks); DNA test results to help link to other Park/e/s DNA study participants; lineage binders and the index database from Fr. Michael Parks; the newest update of the first five generations of descendants of Robert Parke, which Jean Churchill graciously went over with us; files of members' applications with additional information on many early Park/e/s maintained by Fr. Michael Parks; cemetery listings by Corabelle DeClerg; and new projects to collect Park/e/s obituaries and photographs. This is in addition to all the information on the Web site maintained by Curtis Parks. There were also copies of all the past newsletters in the Research Room, which was open 8am to midnight all through

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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

P.O. Box 590  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590  
Phone: (414) 332-9984 (evenings only)

**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  
324 Sullivan Road  
Schenectady, NY, 12304-3625

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

P.O. Box 590  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590

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, **Curtis H. Parks #1166L** at [chparks@mdo.net](mailto:chparks@mdo.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 221 S. Wyomissing Ave  
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**NEWSLETTER:** Send article submissions and comments to our Editor, **Dr. Paul Jordan-Smith, PS#1451** at [parkeditor@csedl.org](mailto:parkeditor@csedl.org) or [parkenews@csedl.org](mailto:parkenews@csedl.org). Please send to one address or the other, *not both*. If you don't have email, send all *typed* materials to

Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks #425H  
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Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590

*Please note: handwritten submissions cannot be accepted.*

## THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOL. 45, NO. 1

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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<br>(US funds only) | \$250.00 |

**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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*Our First Convocation*  
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the convocation.

There was no formal program this year, which left plenty of time in the Research Room for informal conversation with other attendees. People were also able to walk from the hotel to the Allen County Public Library, with its extensive genealogy and family history resources. We saw most of the other convocation attendees there.

Throughout the convocation, and at the banquet on Saturday night, we enjoyed wonderful conversation, not only about Park/e/s genealogy, but also ranging across history, books, travel, foreign languages, church hymns, and many other topics.

We were impressed by the commitment and helpfulness of the trustees and officers of the organization and the volunteers in charge of various projects, and their willingness to do everything possible to help us in our research. We left feeling that we would like to give something back to the Society and hoping that others will too.

## **The 45th Annual Convocation: issues of interest**

by Ken Parks, PS#1406

At our recent convocation in Fort Wayne, the trustees and officers had several lively discussions on a number of topics regarding various aspects of the Parke Society's future. This article will attempt to give a sense of those discussions and, in a separate **member survey** included with this issue, we would like to solicit information and opinions from you to help us better serve the membership and the Society at large.

### **Bylaws**

An ongoing discussion over the past few years has focused on needed bylaw revisions to reflect changing conditions within the Society. To that end, a committee is now drafting revisions that will enable the Society to better conduct its business and fulfill the legal requirements of our status as a nonprofit organization.

The next two newsletter issues will contain the proposed bylaw changes. The general membership will be asked to vote on ratification of those changes. Since this work is ongoing, a detailed description is not possible at this time, but we can say that the changes will be largely procedural, allowing the Society to conduct its business and vote for trustees via alternate methods, rather than doing so in person at the yearly convocations.

### **Convocations**

Everyone involved in the discussions agreed that the tradition of holding annual convocations is one that clearly has value in a number of ways. However, recent years have seen convocation attendance decline to a point which makes it financially difficult to continue. A number of reasons for this decline were proposed, and the lower attendance in recent years is likely due to a combination of these reasons rather than any one overriding factor.

To that end, the trustees have declared a temporary moratorium on yearly convocations, with the fate of future meetings dependent to an extent upon the input we receive from the membership via the enclosed **member survey**. We hope the information gleaned from the survey will give us a better sense of whether future convocations are desirable, or even possible. In accordance with the moratorium, no convocation is planned for 2009.

### **Whither the Society?**

While the tradition of holding annual meetings of the membership may be changing, the state of the Society itself remains strong. We continue to welcome new members on a regular basis and our active membership currently stands at over 500 members, roughly one-third of the Society's membership over its entire 45 year history.

An active DNA project with over 150 participants is enabling the Society to make important breakthroughs in connecting fragment lines to each other as well as to known immigrant lineages. No independent researcher would be able to accomplish such a feat, and the Society's member lineage information, given name index, and DNA results combine to pro-

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*45th Convocation: issues of interest*  
**cont'd from p. 3**

duce genealogical findings available nowhere else.

Still in process of organization are several projects which will be of use to members as well as the Society at large. An obituary project, photo collection, and cemetery project are in the works, and members interested in helping are encouraged to contact the Executive Director about participating. In addition, our ongoing objective of identifying every Park/e/s surnamed individual in census and other public records according to a known Lineage Key will add greatly to the impressive database of Park/e/s knowledge the Society maintains.

As genealogical research continues its transition into the digital age, the Society is actively exploring methods to make its information more readily available to staff and membership via electronic means. Future newsletters will contain information about new content soon to be available to members on the Society's website. Members with expertise in the areas of computers and other technology are encouraged to help with this transition by contacting the Executive Director to explore how they might be of service to the Society.

While the Society is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization, we feel we have accomplished much over the years, though not without some effort. As with any volunteer organization, member participation is the key element to success and, yes, to its continued existence. Current officers and staff rely daily on the information amassed over the years by former members, officers, and staff. We hope to add to that body of knowledge and pass it on to the next generation of Society members. To that end, we encourage any member interested in taking a more active role in the Society to contact us.

Lastly, the **member survey** included with this issue is an attempt to better know how our members are conducting their genealogical research, as well as to gain a better sense of how you as a member view the Society and what you hope to gain from your Parke Society membership. We hope you will take the time to fill it out and return it, as your response will

enable us to better shape the Society in the coming years. You may identify yourself by name and member number or can simply return it anonymously, but please do respond—we need your input!



**Front row, left to right:** Barbara Craig, Lethene Parks, Jeanne Reisler, Ronald N. Parks, Curtis Parks, Rev. John R. Parks.

**Back two rows, left to right:** Cathleen Sato, Mary Park, Loyal C. Park, Rick Hardebeck, Fr. Michael Parks, Jean Churchill (hidden), Norman Churchill, Suzanne Hardebeck, Ken Parks.

**Missing from photo, but in attendance:** Corabelle De-Clerg, Lu Terock.

## **Dana Parks Jr. Memorial Circulating Library donated to Wayne Co. Historical Society** by Ken Parks, PS#1406

On October 10, 2008, in accordance with the trustees' decision, the contents of the Dana Parks Jr. Memorial Library, with the exception of the Park/e/s-specific volumes, were formally donated to the Wayne County Historical Society in Honesdale, Pennsylvania.



A brief ceremony was held at the historical society during which a deed of gift was signed by Vice-President Ken Parks PS #1406 and Sally Talaga, Executive Director of the Wayne County Historical Society. In addition to Mrs. Talaga, representing the historical society were: Ann O'Hara, trustee and leader of the society's genealogy group, Gloria McCullough, the society's librarian, as well as other trustees, staff, and members.

In attendance were Parke Society members Catherine Park Greenham PS #409 and Barbara Park Kinnan PS #410, descendants of Robert Parke (MA 1630), along with Mrs. Kinnan's husband, Richard, and their daughters Mary Gay Deats PS #777 and Sharon Kinnan. Mrs. Greenham and Mrs. Kinnan are the daughters of early Parke Society members Joseph B. Park and his wife, Mary (Low) Park PS #322. Several years after Mr. Park's death in 1970, before the system of assigning membership numbers took effect, the late Mrs. Park took over the membership of her husband. Both Mrs. Greenham and Mrs. Kinnan grew up in Wayne County, where their parents taught school for many years and where their father served as Vocational Agriculture Supervisor of Wayne and Pike Counties for over 25 years. Mr. Park was also an early member of the Wayne County Historical Society, as is his daughter, Barbara Park Kinnan. The Wayne County Historical Society maintains the J. B. Park Farm Museum located on the Wayne County fairgrounds near Honesdale.

Also representing the Parke Society were William H. Park PS #1117 and his wife Ruth. Mr. Park is a first cousin of Mrs. Greenham and Mrs. Kinnan, being the son of Harold Elmer Park, older brother of Joseph B. Park.

The formal donation took place after a tour of the historical society's newly expanded museum and library. Following the ceremony, many of the group attended dinner at a nearby restaurant. It is hoped that the Parke Society's collection of reference materials will be a valuable addition to the historical society's genealogy library and of great use to researchers in the future.



**Standing, left to right:** Ken Parks, Mary Gay Deats, Sharon Kinnan, Ruth Park, Richard Kinnan, Sally Talaga, Gloria McCullough  
**Seated, left to right:** Catherine Park Greenham, William H. Park, Barbara Park Kinnan

## So, what's with Family Tree Maker 2008? A followup.

by Fr. Michael Parks PS#425H

Since my last column on Family Tree Maker (FTM) I have had some additional hands-on experience with their product offerings. I still have negative feelings about FTM 2008 for the reasons stated previously. They have now released FTM 2009 (just in time for the holiday season, no doubt). Whether this version will be more acceptable remains to be seen. It is too soon in the release cycle for there to be any meaningful commentary on the new version. Unfortunately, two drawbacks still remain major issues in my mind: a totally new file structure with no backwards compatibility, and an interface that I find hard to work with.

So my advice remains: If you are at FTM 2006 (actually Version 13), stay put. If you're using FTM 2005 (Version 12) you're probably at a good stable point, and not much would be gained by any upgrade to either FTM 2006 or Version 16.

But what if you are using some earlier Family Tree  
*continued on p. 6*

*Family Tree Maker 2008: a follow-up*  
**cont'd from p. 5**

Maker version other than 2005 or 2006? Is there any upgrade route other than FTM 2008/2009? Surprisingly, there is. Version 16 (at least as recently as this past September) was available directly from Family Tree Maker customer support. You won't find it in any retail outlet, so don't bother searching for it there. You'll probably also have to be very specific in your ordering. You want the product identified as SKU4450, 1-2-3- Family Tree 4th Edition. Make sure you are getting the 4th edition with Version 16 of the software. The cost was \$29.95, plus \$5 shipping and handling; you get a book and a CD.

In earlier issues, I described problems with installing Version 16; in truth, that probably was due to something specific to my computer's configuration. By following their tech support advice, I was able to successfully install the Version 16 software. The key was to do a clean boot which brings up Windows in its most basic form, without any complications of DLL and driver files. Apparently one of those files was creating the problems I had encountered.

On the surface, you won't see any drastic changes in the software from FTM 2005/6, but there are some and they are explained at the URL <http://pastftm.custhelp.com> if you're interested. You'll see a different user interface from that in Version 11 or earlier, but it's a good one. You can still export out to earlier versions of FTM, all the way back to Version 4, as well as to a GEDCOM file. Curiously, there is no export to FTM 2006, which leads me to think that 16 was really more of a minor "bug and feature fix" than a "major" upgrade deserving of a new version number. (But then again, there is the marketing department.)

I am now using Version 16 exclusively on my computer. Just to make sure of where I was going, for a while I had both versions (16 and 2006) active, switching back and forth to see if I would encounter any problems. I didn't, so I am settled. I'll probably stay on Version 16 for the foreseeable future, as I have never been an "early adopter" of new software.

**Historian's Corner:**  
**"Let's Be Kind," and other topics**  
by (Fr.) Michael (Tad) Parks+, PS #425H

In the last issue of the Newsletter we published Bill Dollarhide's "Genealogy Rules," a set of common-sense pointers about how to go about doing your genealogy. One rule that should underlie all of our work is to be kind to one another, even if we don't agree on specific points.

Sometimes genealogists, particularly family genealogists, take this avocation far too seriously. What we find is what we find, and we'll probably have numerous points of doubt about our work. Conflicting data is likely the norm.

The point is that this is a hobby and avocation. We're generally not paid to do all this work, and we need to treat it as an adventure, a treasure hunt. If some other researcher comes up with conflicting data, we should just take it in stride and consider how that can be.

Over the years the Society has been attacked for not being "totally accurate," as if that were possible in our avocation. In a couple of cases I have been severely taken to task for things beyond my control. We're a clearing house—that's all. We gather information from our individual members, catalogue it, index it, and make it available to other researchers. Rarely do we actually do some sort of original research. Indeed, I haven't done research on my own line since joining the Society some 28 years ago. The only tests we do is to see if the data being given to us is reasonable: Do children get married at age 10? Is it likely that a mother will have a child at the age of 76, in 1658? In both cases, probably not. It's those items that we'll question carefully. And you should too, always in a kind and gentle way.

Many a time my hands would be poised over the keyboard thinking what I would like to say, but knowing that this is not a job and that kindness will go a lot farther.

As to those who want to take you to task, rudeness should never be allowed. If that happens and if it is on a moderated bulletin board, a note to the mod-

erator would be appropriate. Otherwise, a polite reminder that none of this is critical to our salvation might be in order. Beyond that, just leave the offending party well enough alone. Perhaps they will wonder eventually why no one wants to work with them, perhaps not.

### **What happens to our work when something happens to us?**

Many of us put a lot of time and effort into this avocation of ours. Unfortunately, our work often goes for naught in the end. Perhaps we decline in health, or lose interest in the task, or are suddenly incapacitated. Often no one in our immediate clan has any particular interest in family history. The sad part of all this is that many times our work is cast aside as just so much paper. Those who throw it out may have no idea as to what we were doing or why, or else it has no intrinsic value to them, so into the dumpster it goes.

Over the years, we have encouraged our members to ensure that their work will not be lost. To that end we offer you an alternative. If you have no one to whom you can pass along your work, we would be glad to receive it and to hold it in trust for that day when someone from your line again surfaces to take up the task. If this is a possibility for you, all you need to do is to put something into writing concerning what needs to be transferred, where it's currently kept, and to whom it's to go. It really needs to be a written document held by your executor, personal representative, and others who will be in charge should something happen to you. Further, it needs to be copied to us so that we are aware of the arrangements. If you choose to do this, do not forget the computer files that you might have been painstakingly building over the years.

I would be happy to discuss this with you should you wish to pursue this possibility. The important thing is to do it now while you are still in good health.

### **Endowments**

The trustees have often discussed how the Society can remain viable over the long term. The Society always welcomes donations. While we have some

investments (all in short- and medium-term CDs, thank you very much!), we can only use the income earned on those for our current operations. We have no endowment fund, nor do we receive any outside grants or other aid income. Over the years we have talked about somehow building up a reserve such that the Society can have an endowment fund for its operations, and perhaps be able to provide better services. It is important that, like your own work, the work of the Society is not lost due to financial distress. If you are so minded, contributions are always welcomed and gratefully received. If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to be in touch with me at your earliest convenience.

### **What's coming in our next issue**

As a followup from my last Corner, I had intended to do a case study for you regarding a certain Isaac Parks and Tuny DuBoice, LK=YP. Unfortunately, with the convocation and other responsibilities incumbent upon me, I ran out of time. So I'm deferring that until the next Historian's Corner. I think you'll find it an interesting adventure in digging back a couple of generations just by some concerted effort.

Finally, please be mindful of the **member survey** included with this newsletter. All you have to do is to answer the questions, add any comments you might like to make, fold, tape shut, apply postage, and mail it. All questionnaire returns will be carefully reviewed and summarized in an upcoming newsletter.

## **Another Good Find at the Allen County Public Library**

by Curtis Parks, PS#1166

We have held several convocations in Fort Wayne, and each time the Allen County Public Library has proved to be a good opportunity to fill in more of my family genealogy. On my visit this time, the Indiana agricultural census gave a good picture of the kind of farms our ancestors had in the mid 1800s. Recorded

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*A find at the Allen County Public Library*  
**cont'd from p. 7**

in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880, these rather unique census “schedules” were understood to reside in the Indiana State Archives in Indianapolis. My plans were to visit Indianapolis and the archives following our convocation. To my surprise, these records were on microfilm at the Allen County Public Library.

William Parks (LK=WR), born in 1801, had left Ohio and was among the first settlers of the Haw Patch (now Topeka, Indiana) in 1834.\* As is the case with many of our ancestors who lived in the 1800s, there is little information about their lives. Three generations of my ancestors had lived in LaGrange County, Indiana. The census descriptions proved to give a good picture of their farms, and the reason they had little time to spare after doing the chores. For example, a farm itemized in LaGrange County, Clearspring Township belonged to Mary A. Parks:

- 65 acres of Improved Land
- 70 acres of Woodland
- 65 Other Unimproved Land
- \$8000 Value of Farm
- \$255 Value of Farm Implements
- 5 Horses
- 3 Milch Cows
- 1 Other Cattle
- 10 Sheep
- 1 Swine
- \$520 Value of Live Stock
- 280 bu Winter Wheat
- 125 bu Indian Corn
- 110 bu Rice
- 60 lbs Wool
- 50 lbs Irish Potatoes
- 5 lbs Orchard Products
- 150 lbs Butter
- 8 tons Hay
- \$105 Value of Animals Slaughtered
- \$905 Value of All Farm Production

I now have a much better appreciation for just what my ancestors' lives were like, and the work it took to keep their farm going year after year. And I am even more thankful to have been able to explore records in this Indiana library, which has proven to care

about preserving and making available those moments in our ancestors' past.

\*Ref.: *LaGrange County Centennial History 1828-1928*, compiled by John W. Hanon, p 90.

**Missing Link Update:**  
**Johnny B. Parks (LK = ZY)**  
by Jean Churchill PS#934

**N.B.:** See Newsletter, Vol. 39, No. 1 (2002), p. 11 for an earlier related Missing Links article.

Swann E. Parks, PS#403, has used early U.S. census data to try to trace the parents of his ancestor, Johnny B. Parks. He strongly believes them to be John Parks and Elizabeth Carson of Charleston, South Carolina but needs more documentation for firm confirmation.

The only source is from *South Carolina Marriage Records (1675-1858)* which lists the marriage of John Parks to Elizabeth Carson (widow) on September 15, 1791 in the Circular Congregational Church, Charleston, South Carolina. In 1790 Charleston was located in Charleston District. There were two parishes in the city: St. Michaels and St. Phillips.

It is believed that Johnny B. Parks was born in South Carolina, although South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee are all mentioned on various census records. There is no documentary proof that Johnny is the son of John and Elizabeth but the names, dates, and locations fit.

Todd County, Kentucky marriage records show Johnny B. Parks and Sarah C. Harper (Hooper) to have married on February 6, 1821. Their first male child was named Eli Carson Parks, which adds to the belief that Carson was Johnny's mother's surname.

Originally, Johnny B. Parks's date of death was given as 1857, which is the year that he made several gift deeds to his children: Henderson, Elizabeth, John, and Martha. However, both the 1850 and 1860 U.S. census for Calloway County, Kentucky has the household of John Parks (born South Carolina) liv-



ing next door to his daughter Mary Jane (married (1) to J.N. Story, (2) to W.S. Saunders), so it Johnny was definitely still alive in 1860.

Recent information provides possible connection to the Alexander (LK=KY) lineage. A close relative of Marcia Parks Holpuch has contributed to our DNA project and is a close match to others in the Alexander Park DNA group. Marcia's ancestry can be traced back to John Franklin Parks, born about 1834 in Kentucky, later settling in Illinois. From other census information on this family group, it strongly appears this is the same John Franklin Parks who is the son of Johnny B. Parks, an ancestor of Swann E. Parks, PS#403.

Another DNA participant, George Mack Park, PS#1344 (LK=WP), also appears to be a close match to Marcia's volunteer. His earlier ancestry settled in Franklin Co, Illinois, just north of Johnson Co, Illinois.

Further research is needed, but there appears to be a distinct possibility that these fragment lines may have a common ancestry back to John Parks/Elizabeth Carson and leading further back to Alexander Park (the founder). Certainly we do know that we have other established Park/e/s lines where early family members chose to move a substantial distance away from their original home. Many more descendants have recently been added to this research document.

Correction: It was formerly thought that John B. and Sarah (Harper) Parks were the parents of Monroe Parks born about 1841 in Illinois - died 1894. Information provided by Charla Schroeder Murphy states that they were NOT. Instead, the parents of Monroe Parks were John C. Parks (born about 1810 Tennessee) and Jerusha 'Drushie' Tanner, daughter of James Tanner/Nancy Jernigan. John C. Parks married Jerusha 'Drushie' Tanner about 1830. Monroe Parks married (1) Julia Ann Story 1858 in Williamson County, Illinois; married (2) Emma Parks 1873 Williamson County, Illinois.

For more information on this Lineage Key please contact Jean Churchill, PS#934, Missing Links Editor. Email: sdtjs2001@yahoo.com

**Note:** I have been using Ancestry.com to research

fragment lines that often do not have an active PS member. My purpose is to try to find as much information as possible which will lead to more fragment consolidations. This is time consuming, but I am pleased with my success thus far. When researching, it is a mistake to concentrate on only one spelling of the Park/e/s surname since even within one generation, there is often a variation.

## A get-well wish for Jeanne Reisler

At the recent convocation, Jeanne Reisler, a Past President, was seen using a walker and wearing a "boot." It seems that a few years ago she fell and broke her ankle, and in the process of fixing her up they inserted a few pins into the bones thereof. This past spring, a couple of pins came loose and gave her considerable discomfort, so on September 16 they operated and removed the pins, which put her on the walker/boot regiment.

Jeanne was accompanied by her friend, Barbara Craig, who had been her accompanist for many years (Jeanne, an accomplished singer, but sang mostly for church functions). Barbara was very helpful to Jeanne during the convocation; we invited her to the Saturday night banquet as a way of acknowledging her assistance.

Now Jeanne is back in hospital. Apparently an infection has set in, and she's on a strong regimen of antibiotics. She said that a couple of people, including her pastor, had suggested that she might consider moving into an assisted living facility; she replied with an indignant and very clear No! Her tenacity is admirable.

Jean turned a relatively young 78 in June, but the ankle issue is taking a toll. Those of you who know her from years past might like to send her a best wishes/get well card. Her mail is being taken care of and her address is:

**Miss Jeanne I. Reisler,  
2509 Beaufort Ave,  
Toledo, OH 43613-4801.**

## **The Park/e/s DNA Surname Project** by Ken Parks PS#1406

We now have over 150 participants in the project and our goal for the coming year is to bring that total to 200 and beyond. Included within that general goal of increasing the number of participants is a plan to systematically recruit participants from any lineage key not currently represented in the database. One participant per lineage key (LK) is better than none, but two or more is the ideal we will always strive for. On p. 12 of this issue is the first of several articles describing the keys in detail, including information about which are currently represented in the DNA database. For up-to-date information regarding lineage key representation, a check of the DNA project's website will always have the most current listing.

### **Finding DNA donors**

Obviously, if you are a male with the Park/e/s surname, joining the project is as simple as ordering a test kit. For other members, enlisting a close male Park/e/s relative is their means of participating. But how can members whose closest Park/e/s ancestor is several generations removed get involved? I will give an example below showing some of the methods we use to locate a descendant who would be an eligible DNA donor. This is the type of research Jean Churchill does so well when researching her Missing Links, and she now focuses her efforts on finding potential DNA donors from fragment lines that have no active researchers among the membership. I welcome hearing from any Society member with questions about how to find someone from their Park/e/s lineage, and will be happy to give advice and guidance to help locate an eligible DNA donor from your line.

### **Case study: Peter Parks LK=EU**

As an example, I have chosen one of our fragment lines which appears to have only one Society member. This member's surname is not Parks, his nearest connection to the surname being his great grandmother, Margaret A. Parks, who married James Ballard, probably in Ohio County, Kentucky.

### **Phase one: Getting to the 20th century**

Margaret (Parks) Ballard (b. ca. 1827) was the daughter of Quinton Parks and granddaughter of Peter Parks, Revolutionary War veteran, who was born ca. 1759, probably in North Carolina. Peter Parks, being the earliest known ancestor in this line, is thus designated 01EU1.

Peter Parks had two sons, Quinton and Daniel, both mentioned in his Revolutionary War veteran's pension file. From census records, it would appear son Daniel never married, leaving Quinton as the only avenue left to find potential male DNA donors.

Again, from census records it appears Quinton Parks (b. ca. 1801 SC) had five sons, and we began our quest with the oldest son, Peter T. Parks. As it turned out, we were successful in finding living male Parks descendants through this line but, had we not been so fortunate, the search would have continued through each of the other sons' lines of descent, in succession, until we found an eligible DNA donor.

Peter T. Parks had three sons and, again, we began with the oldest son, William Q. Parks. Though William had two grandsons, Elvis and Hugh, listed in the 1920 census, efforts to trace them and their father Marvin T. Parks beyond that were not successful. We then went to Peter T. Parks's next son, Joseph W. Parks. Joseph's line of descent proved successful in identifying eligible DNA donors, otherwise we would have turned our search efforts to the remaining son, Achilles A. Parks.

We followed the Joseph W. Parks male line of descent through the 1930 federal census, the latest available, augmenting census information with available online marriage, birth, and death records. Depending on the particular case under investigation, some of this information may be available online from free sources such as RootsWeb.com, as well as postings on various message boards which may give information about more recent generations, as well as provide family contacts. The USGenWeb project (USGenWeb.org) has free sites for individual counties throughout the United States and many of these have this type of information posted on their sites, though content can vary widely. We also made use of paid subscription sites such as Ancestry.com and HeritageQuestOnline.com. If you do not have access

to these paid sites at home, local libraries, LDS family history centers, or historical societies often make them available to members, and can sometimes be accessed from home.

Though we used online information almost exclusively in this particular case, 20th century birth, marriage, and death information can usually be obtained in person at local courthouses or historical societies if one happens to live near the area being researched.

### **Phase two: getting beyond the 1930 census**

We'd brought our search successfully down to a male Parks found in the 1930 census; how did we trace that individual and his heirs beyond that date?

In this case, we were fortunate to find Joseph W. Parks in 1930 living next door to his son Lonnie Parks, who had two sons, ages 5 and 3 years old. We now had two individuals born about 1925 and 1927, so chances were good that one or both were either still living or had died, likely within the last 20 years.

We won't use given names beyond this point for privacy's sake, but we were able to find Lonnie Parks's sons listed in the Kentucky birth index, found online as part of the Ancestry.com database. This confirmed their parents' names and county of birth, ensuring we had the correct individuals. The birth index gave an exact date of birth; day, month, and year, enabling us to search the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) and identify one of the sons listed there.

This son of Lonnie Parks was born in Ohio County, Kentucky, but died in Michigan in 2006. The SSDI gave us the exact date of death, and since the death was fairly recent, our next step was to search for an obituary from a local paper. The SSDI listed the last residence as Roseville, Macomb County, Michigan. An online search for local newspapers brought up nothing specifically for Roseville but, since it is a suburb north of Detroit, a search of the Detroit papers turned up his obituary. Five children were listed as survivors; three sons and two daughters, with spouses' names for both daughters and one son.

The next step was to use an online phone directory, such as whitepages.com, to search for the children

listed in the obituary. Searching for the names in Michigan (no locations were given in the obituary) brought up what appeared to be three of the four children. Since their age ranges, along with their spouses' names, were listed in the phone directory, this helped confirm the information from the death notice. All three happen to live either in Roseville or nearby, also confirming we had the correct individuals.

### **Phase three: contacting potential DNA donors**

Now that we have several individuals who are either eligible to donate DNA, or know how to contact DNA donors, the next step is getting in touch. This is a process which should be handled with patience and tact. In this particular case, the process has not yet begun, but we will provide an update in the future to let you know how this all turns out.

First of all, we must realize that the individuals we are contacting may have no interest in family history and will likely have little or no knowledge of the use of DNA testing for genealogical purposes. Cold calling on the telephone is likely to produce the opposite result we would hope for. We may be greeted with suspicion, might be calling at a bad time, or reaching someone in poor health. A phone call is never the best way to discuss who we are, why we're getting in touch, or to adequately explain the use of DNA testing. I would never recommend the use of the telephone as a means of initial contact since, if the call does not go well, it is extremely difficult to overcome a poor first impression.

Secondly, when we sit down to write a letter (it's unlikely you'll discover someone's email address), we should regard the first contact as merely an introduction. We explain who we are, how we believe we are related to them and, without going into great detail, how we managed to find them. Even though our search has utilized public records, some folks may be put off to think that someone has been "snooping" into their private life. Including a bit of family information, without overwhelming them, can whet their interest if they are not already involved in fam-

*continued on p. 12*

ily research.

I would suggest not broaching the subject of DNA testing in the first contact letter. Simply establish your relationship clearly, distant though it may be, and invite them to contact you in whatever way they feel comfortable. Provide any and all means of contact you wish; postal address, email, and phone. Also, mention that if someone in their branch of the family is considered the “family historian,” you would love to be put in touch with them, as they may be your means of entry into the confidence of those less familiar with genealogy and DNA testing.

Ideally you will receive some sort of reply, but be sure to state in this first letter that, after a bit of time for them to digest the contents and respond, you hope they won't mind if you follow up with a phone call. If you haven't heard from someone after a couple of weeks, then at least they will know who you are and why you're calling when you do phone them. Even then, only bring up the subject of DNA testing if their response is positive and friendly, otherwise, take more time for them to get to know you and introduce the subject in a second letter.

There is no need to delve deep into the science of DNA testing, but simply explain how the father-to-son connection works and be sure to address the subject of privacy. If you need help with this subject, I can always provide material.

### **What's coming in our next issue**

While I hope this has been a helpful “primer” on finding living relatives, there are many more sources out there to utilize. I will go into more detail next time about methods of locating 20th/21st century relatives, including the use of MySpace and Facebook for genealogy.

The next editorial due date is  
**February 15, 2009**

## **Lineage Key Index—Part I** by Society Staff

Starting with this issue, the Society is publishing an index to the various lineage keys that are in use, with data as to the founder and other details for the general information of Society members. This will be a continuing column as there are over 250 lineage keys currently in use.

As has been explained before, we keep track of the various Park/e/s lines by assigning them individual lineage keys. A lineage key consists of 1 or 2 letters like A, or JJ or RX. When a new member comes into the Society we try to find if they match any of the already existing lineage keys. If they do not, then we create a new lineage key. Some lineage keys represent immigrant lines, but many times they represent fragment lines, Park/e/s who suddenly appear in, say, Ashton, OH with no reference to where they came from or to whom they are related.

In the course of our work, either through identification of matching individuals, or via DNA evidence, we might discover that a fragment Line is actually part of another line, either fragment or immigrant. When that happens, and we do have a positive identification, the one line is merged or consolidated into the larger or earlier line, and all group sheets and related materials are relabeled with the new lineage key. Where there have been line mergers they are indicated in the narrative.

Not all lines happen to have Society members in them, and not all Society members are still alive or otherwise active in the Society. If there are any members attached to a line, whatever their status, then the word “represented” will appear after the lineage key in the description. Otherwise it should be understood that at this time we have no one representing that particular lineage. In the earlier days of the Society we were transcribing lineages from various compilations that were available to us.

Where children are listed, if the name is in boldface, then we have descendants from that child; otherwise, we know nothing further.



Further, if DNA testing has been performed on the line, that will be indicated by the word "DNA" following the lineage key.

It should be noted that the Robert Parke line of Massachusetts, who came over on the Arabella in 1630 was very early on subdivided into three lineage keys of S, T, and W representing the three male lines that did come into North America.

Major lineages are noted below. Upcoming issues will list others.

**C** **Thomas Parkes** of Virginia (represented; DNA). Resident in Virginia by 1728 for sure, perhaps earlier. Born ca. 1670, died 1760 in Albermarle Co., VA (based on will probate). This large lineage has an excellent Lineage Leader, many representatives, and several DNA tests. (Parke Society Library books.) Eight children:

**John** (1706-1791) m. Mary Sharp, 1732; seventeen children.

**Samuel** (ca. 1708-??) m. Mary North, bef. 1730; seven children.

Martha (ca. 1710-??) m. (Unknown) Russell

Mary (ca. 1712-a1779) m. John Bond. Very limited information on offspring.

Charles (ca. 1718-??) m. Susannah (Unknown). Nothing further known.

Elizabeth (ca. 1725-May 1807) m. Christopher Hutchins, ca. 1745. Limited information.

**Thomas Jr.** (ca. 1725-1790) m. Priscilla (last name unknown). Eight children.

The following lineage keys have been consolidated and merged into Lineage Key C: LX, VV, JU, LW, AX, WT.

**K** **Roger Parke** (1648 England-ca. 1739 NJ) (represented; DNA). m. 1676 England, Ann Patison. Immigrated from England to New (West) Jersey ca. 1682. This large lineage has a Lineage Leader, many representatives, and several DNA tests. (Parke Society Library

books.) Three children known:

Anne (1676 England-a1699 NJ). Nothing further known.

**John** (1677 England-ca. 1757) m. Sarah Smith, ca. 1700; four children known.

**Roger** (1684 NJ-1755 NJ). Spouse's name is unknown; eleven children.

The following lineage keys have been consolidated and merged into Lineage Key K: FX, M, N, Q, ZV, MV MX, QX, NX, DY, DS, IV MS, and PV.

**R** **Richard Parke** (ca. 1602 England-1665 MA) (represented; DNA). A miller from England to Watertown, MA 1635 aboard the Defence; m. (1) in England Margery (Crane?), four children, named below; m. (2) after 1656, Sarah (Collier) Brewster, widow of Love Brewster, no issue. (Parke Society Library book.)

**Richard** (ca. 1628-ca. 1711) m. Mary (unknown), two children:

**Thomas** (1628-1690) m. Abigail Dix; nine children.

**Isabel** (ca. 1628-1665) m. Francis Whitmore; seven children

**Elizabeth** (ca. 1631-1690) m. Edward Winship; seven children.

Much confusion surrounds this Richard, due to an assumption made in the *Parke Scrapbooks* by Ruby Parke Anderson, that this Richard was a son of Robert Parke who came in 1630 aboard the Winthrop Fleet. While it is true that Robert did have a son named Richard, there is no evidence that he actually came to this country. Furthermore, there is a tremendous amount of anecdotal evidence that there was no relationship between this Richard and that Robert: there are no intermarriages until over a century later; there is no witnessing of one another's deeds, covenants or other

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legal documents at any time; the name Robert does not appear in this line until much later, nor does the name Richard appear in any of the Robert lines; there was no known social intercourse between the two families; and, finally, there was considerable distance in terms of social status between Robert and his family, styled a gentlemen, and Richard who was a miller by trade. This is an example of how inaccurate data is perpetuated through the years.

- 2S1** The **Samuel** branch of the Robert Parke (MA, 1630) line (represented). Samuel (1621 England-1709 CT) m. Hannah Preston, bef. 1672. Seven children. This line is well documented, has numerous descendants, and has a Lineage Leader.
- 2T1** The **Thomas** branch of the Robert Parke (MA, 1630) line (represented; DNA). Thomas Parke (1615 England-1709 CT) m. Dorothy Thompson, daughter of John Thompson and Alice Freeman. Alice is considered a “gateway ancestor,” which gives any descendant immediate claim to a number of heritage societies. Apparently came with his father, Robert, in 1630 to the colonies. There are multiple Lineage Leaders for this line. Line is well documented, numerous descendants. Nine children.
- 2W1** The **William** branch of the Robert Parke (MA, 1630) line (represented). William (1607 England-1685 MA) m. Martha Holgrave in 1636. Ten children. Came to Boston, MA in 1631 aboard The Lyon.

While there were there were male heirs, they all died relatively young, so that that Park/e/s name died out in this branch by the third generation.

## In memoriam: Priscilla Cushman Parke, PS#41H

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Priscilla Cushman Parke, PS#41H at Reeds Landing Retirement Community, in Springfield, Massachusetts, on Aug. 24. Priscilla was a long time member of the Parke Society, and for many years its Secretary.

Born April 6, 1911, she was the daughter of the Rev. Hervey C. Parke, former Rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst, and Ethel M. Cushman of New York City. Her grandfather, Hervey C. Parke Sr., was a co-founder of the Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Co. in Detroit, and on her mother's side, she was a tenth-generation descendant of Robert Cushman, cofounder of the Mayflower expedition.

The second of five children, her early childhood was spent in the Emily Dickinson House, purchased by the family in 1916. In 1934, Priscilla graduated from Smith College with a major in art history. She was trained as a preschool teacher at the Merrill-Palmer School in Detroit, and for five years taught small children at the Friends Academy in Locust Valley, Long Island.

In response to a call for nurses in World War II, Priscilla she moved on for nurses training at the Yale School of Nursing. After graduation, she was sent to the Philippine Islands, where she was assigned to serve at an army hospital in Manila. After the war, she returned to New York City for more specialized training for the care of premature babies, and with Dr. William Silverman, she established a premature nursery at Babies Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center, the first of its kind in New York City. While she was there, she cared for the Kienast quintuplets, five tiny babies all of whom survived, have grown up, and are now college graduates.

Following her retirement in 1971, she returned to Amherst, Massachusetts and over the next thirty years was involved in many lay ministries at Grace Episcopal Church. Grace Church's educational building has since been named The Priscilla C. Parke House. Priscilla was also part of a prayer fellowship, the Companions of the Holy Cross and also served

as a guide at the Dickinson House, her former home, for many years.

In 1975, when David Parke (PS#13) became active again in the Parke Society, he coaxed his sister Priscilla to serve as the Society's Secretary. Besides the normative society secretarial duties, she handled the initial response for new memberships and received member dues. She continued in that capacity well into the 1980s. Upon her retirement as Secretary, she was granted a Distinguished Service Award and Honorary Life Membership in respect for her long and faithful service to the Society.

She is survived by three younger brothers—Hervey Cushman (Mary) Parke, #162, John Holbrook (Eleanor) Parke, #62 and David Livingstone (Cecilia) Parke, #13—and fifteen nephews and nieces. Her sister, Mary A. Parke (Leslie) Fairfield, #61, passed away in 1996.

A memorial service was held at Grace Church, Amherst, on Saturday, September 27, 2008.



Priscilla Cushman Smith, c. 1961

## Remembering Priscilla

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

Prior to my entrance into the Parke Society in 1980, I had no knowledge of the Hervey Coke Parke clan, save that I thought they had something to do with the Parke-Davis drug firm. It was at my first convocation in 1981 down in Lancaster, Pennsylvania that I first met Priscilla; and what a lady she was. She was of the old school, though very down to earth, and she was a great help in getting me oriented to all of the members of the then society.

Priscilla and I shared something more. As a convert to the Episcopal Church, I preferred “high church” worship, especially on Sundays; secretly, so did Priscilla. She came from a heavily clerical family. Her father was a priest, her brother, John, is a priest, her brother-in-law, Leslie Fairfield, was a priest, and her nephew, Andrew Hedtler Fairfield, is the retired Bishop of North Dakota. And they all tended to be what Episcopalians call “broad church,” that is, not too much in either direction, high or low, in ceremony or lack thereof.

When Priscilla and I met at convocations, I would check out all the local Episcopal churches, trying to find the highest one around—the one that had the most “glorious” of Sunday morning Eucharists. We would attend together, then have breakfast afterwards, as we shared the thought that one didn't eat before receiving Communion.

She was a grand lady, and a joy to everyone who knew her. I was happy for her to find Reed's Landing, and to be united with her brothers John and Hervey in retirement.

Into paradise may the angels lead thee,  
And at thy coming may the martyrs receive thee  
And bring thee into the Holy City Jerusalem  
And mayest thou, with Lazarus once poor  
Have everlasting rest. Amen.

*In Paradisium* from the Requiem Mass

Be sure to renew your membership!

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

### 1515 Donna Faye Toole

St. George, UT

Lineage is the new fragment line, James Parks, born ca 1791, died after 1860, Married secondly (Proven) Eliza Jane Clevenger in 1845, Delaware Co., IN. Thought to have been born in VA. She was born in OH. LK= GO. Line is James<sup>1</sup>, Isaac James<sup>2</sup>, Arthur James<sup>3</sup>, Pauline Vesta<sup>4</sup> Parks, to member<sup>5</sup>.

### 1516 Claire Marie Smith

Salem, NH

Lineage is Alexander to John & Mary (Gordon) Park, LK= KY. Line is Alexander<sup>1</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, Alexander<sup>3</sup>, David J<sup>4</sup>, Byron T.<sup>5</sup>, Ada May<sup>6</sup> Park who married Frederick Rick, thence to Marie Louise<sup>7</sup> Rick, and finally to member<sup>8</sup>. As seems to be often the case, this is a main line, but there are at least two additional lines back to Alexander due to intermarriage between the cousins.

### 1517 Mary Anita McCue

Overland Park, KS

Lineage is Thomas of VA, LK= C. Line is Thomas<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Flemmon<sup>4</sup>, Flemmon Richard<sup>5</sup>, John Thomas<sup>6</sup>, Ollie Houston<sup>7</sup>, Mary Dadia<sup>8</sup> Parks who married Eugene Vigil Foster, to member<sup>9</sup>.

### 1518 Sandee J. Hanahan

Prescott, AZ

Lineage is the new fragment line, Wilson Parks (the assumed predecessor) Who married Manerva Goodman 25 October 1921. He died before 1830. LK= KO. Line is Wilson<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup> who married Mary Jane Rust, to Minerva Jane<sup>3</sup> Parks, who married Charles Wesley Burns, to Flora Ann<sup>4</sup> Burns, Winifred J<sup>5</sup>. Warner to member<sup>6</sup>.

### 1519 Drudy Ann Jarrell

Dallas, TX

Lineage is Roger of NJ, LK= K. Line is Roger<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>5</sup>, Enoch<sup>6</sup>, Solomon<sup>7</sup>, William Early<sup>8</sup>, Maude Ellen<sup>9</sup>, Park who married John William Houdyshell, to Allura Maxine<sup>10</sup> Houdyshell, to member<sup>11</sup>.

### 1520 Marion M. Neff

Crystal Beach, TX

Lineage is Thomas of VA, LK= C. HLine is Thomas<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Flemmon<sup>4</sup>, Elizabeth Jane<sup>5</sup> Parks, who married Thomas Selvey, to Susan Elizabeth<sup>6</sup> Selvey, Samuel Lovell<sup>7</sup> Poff, Bessie Marie<sup>8</sup> Poff, to member<sup>9</sup>.

### 1521 Gregory Barden Park

Seattle, WA

Lineage is Robert-Samuel, LK= S, Chart 16. Line is Robert<sup>1</sup>, Samuel<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>3</sup>, Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, Amaziah<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>6</sup>, Rufus<sup>7</sup>, John Wesson (Rufus)<sup>8</sup>, Fred Wilbur<sup>9</sup>, Ralph Adalbert<sup>10</sup>, Ralph Adalbert<sup>11</sup>, to member Gregory Barden<sup>12</sup> Park.

### Corrections

Josie Park Webb PS#477 was the author of "A DNA Success Story," published in Vol. 44, No. 3. We mistakenly gave her last name as Wells.

In the story "A New Park(s) Line," p. 41, due to a typographical error, the lineage reference for Peter Glick Parks should have read (LK=IX). Lineage key IW belongs to another line.

Loudon H. Park(s), though thought to a brother to Silas and Peter, has been assigned his own lineage key until further evidence is found proving that point. Loudon's lineage key is IO.