

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

James Parks by Ken Parks, PS#1406

Though this article has been in the planning stages for several months, it seems particularly timely now in light of the election of our nation's first president of African heritage. While there is no shortage of individuals bearing the Park/e/s surname to serve as subjects, James Parks seems the most fitting to lead off what I hope will be a series of articles on Park/e/s individuals of African-American descent.

James Parks was born a slave about 1843, son of Lawrence Parks and Patsy Clark, on the Arlington, Virginia plantation of George Washington Parke Custis. Both his parents and grandparents were buried on the plantation, and it is likely his parents were also born at Arlington. James Parks lived at Arlington his entire life, so his story is inevitably intertwined with that of the



Parke Custis, Washington, and Lee families, the Civil War, and the history of Arlington National Cemetery.

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Please note: handwritten submissions cannot be accepted.

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

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James Parks

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History of Arlington House

Construction on Arlington House began in 1802 and was completed in 1818, on land G.W.P. Custis inherited from his natural father, John Parke Custis. His father was the son of Martha Dandridge Custis Washington by her first marriage. [More on the Parke Custis family appeared in PS Vol. XVI No. 3 and Vol. XVII No. 1] G.W.P. Custis was born in 1781, and his father died later that same year. He went to live at Mount Vernon with George and Martha Washington, who raised him as their own son. Devoted to his stepfather, Arlington House was intended not only as a home, but also as a memorial to George Washington.

George Washington Parke Custis married Mary Lee Fitzhugh in 1804, and the couple had four children, only one of whom, Mary Anna Randolph Custis, survived. Mary Anna married Lt. Robert E. Lee in 1831.

There were opportunities, not generally afforded to slaves elsewhere, for some slaves at Arlington to learn the basics of reading and writing. Mrs. Custis, a devout Episcopalian, tutored the slaves so they would be able to read the Bible. Mrs. Lee and her daughters continued this practice, even though Virginia law prohibited the education of slaves by the 1840s. Mrs. Custis also persuaded her husband to free several women and children, one of whom, Mary Carter Syphax, lived with her husband Charles on a seventeen acre farm given to her by the Custis's when she was emancipated around 1826.

As a field slave, James Parks would rarely have seen the inside of Arlington House, and may not have been among those given the chance to learn to read and write. When Congress voted in 1925 to restore the house to its 1861 appear-

ance, they used accounts from the surviving house slaves as well as information from an 1853 Harper's Monthly article to guide them in the restoration of the interior. It was not until 1928 that work on the exterior began, and it was James Parks's recollection of the placement of the wells, springs, slave quarters, slave cemetery, icehouse, dance pavilion, blacksmith shop, and kitchens that helped make the reconstruction possible.

James Parks had vivid recollections of the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Custis. He stated that Molly Custis died "four years before Major Custis went, too." His father, Lawrence Parks, served as a pallbearer for Mrs. Custis. Present at the funeral of Mr. Custis in 1857, he remarked on the division of the races: "We were standing with the other black folks apart from the white folks, when they laid Mr. Custis beneath his own trees not far from the great house that stands today overlooking the Capital City."

George Washington Parke Custis was a poor manager of his several inherited estates and they were not very profitable. He devoted more of his energies to other activities, such as painting, playwriting, music and oratory. In later years he relied on his son-in-law, Robert E. Lee, to handle his business affairs. He made his will in 1855, and stipulated that his slaves were to be freed if his estate was found to be in good financial standing, but in no case more than five years after his death. Robert E. Lee, as executor of the estate, determined that Arlington required slave labor to improve its financial status, and he proved to be a more stringent taskmaster than his predecessor. Eleven of the approximately sixty-three slaves were hired out, while others were sent to some of the other estates. However, in accordance with Custis's will, Lee officially freed the slaves on December 29, 1862.

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James Parks
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Arlington during and after the Civil War

Because of its proximity to Washington, D.C., Lee and his family moved to Richmond, Virginia in May of 1861, leaving the slaves and overseer at Arlington. At that time it was believed that the war would be of short duration, and little did Mary Custis Lee realize she would never again live in her family home.

The eighteen year old James Parks remained at Arlington as a slave and was witness to the sight of Union soldiers streaming back to Washington on the old road, near the present sight of the Iwo Jima memorial, after the first battle of Bull Run. Following that defeat, Union forces began building fortifications on the grounds of Arlington, and young Jim Parks helped build Forts McPherson and Whipple, which is now Fort Myer. James Parks, apparently living with several siblings, is listed in the 1870 census as a brickyard hand, an occupation no doubt acquired while working on the construction of the two forts, if not earlier.

In 1864, two hundred acres of the Arlington estate were set aside as a cemetery for the Civil War dead. James Parks dug the first graves at Arlington Cemetery, and in 1929 showed a reporter for the Sunday Star where “coffins had been piled in long rows like cordwood.” He remained in the employ of the U.S. Army from 1861 to 1929 as a gravedigger and maintenance man for the cemetery.

The Lees could never return to Arlington to live, and Mary Custis Lee would only visit once, after her husband had died. Stricken with severe rheumatoid arthritis in adulthood, she was brought to Arlington in 1873, but was not able to leave her carriage due to her condition. One of her former slaves brought her a drink

of water from the well. “I rode out to my dear old home but so changed it seemed but a dream of the past—I could not have realised (sic) it was Arlington but for the few old oaks they had spared & the trees planted by the Genl and myself which are raising their tall branches to the Heaven which seems to smile on the desecration around them.”

Mary Custis Lee died several months later and was buried with her husband at the Washington and Lee campus in Lexington, Virginia. Arlington never belonged to Robert E. Lee, but was his wife’s property. At her death, her oldest son, George Washington Custis Lee, would have inherited the property. He brought suit against the U. S. Government, claiming Arlington had been illegally seized, and the Supreme Court ruled in his favor. Knowing he could never live at Arlington or operate it as a plantation, he sold the title back to the United States for \$150,000.

James Parks at Arlington

As stated earlier, Lawrence Parks and Patsy Clark were the parents of James Parks, and if the individuals listed in the 1870 census are in fact siblings of James, the family would also include an older brother named Lawrence, born about 1846 (James being listed as 22 years old, born about 1848) and a younger brother William born about 1858. Two females are listed in this census, identified only by their initials: W. D. Parks, born about 1850, and S. H. Parks, born about 1852. In this census, the males are listed first in descending order of age, followed by the two females. Since relationships to the head of household are not given in censuses until 1880, it is impossible to determine exactly the relationships and it is possible that W. D. Parks, listed as “keeping house,” may have been the wife of Lawrence Parks.

James Parks married twice and fathered twenty-two children, though it is not stated how many survived to adulthood. From census records it

would appear he did not marry until sometime after 1870. From census records, the known children of James Parks include: Martha, born about 1874; Raymond A., born January, 1887; Robert, born December, 1889; James, born October, 1891; John S., born October, 1895; and Herbert Parks, born November, 1896.

In 1863, the Federally-supported Freedman's Village was established on the Arlington estate, south of the mansion. The village became home to many freedmen, including some of the former Custis-Lee slaves, where trades were taught along with other schooling. The Freedman's Village was closed by 1900, but many of the former inhabitants settled locally and some of their descendants still live in Arlington County today.

Living at Arlington all his life, James Parks retired in 1925 and died 21 August, 1929. By special permission of the Secretary of War, James Parks was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors, the only person born on the property to be buried in the national cemetery. He is buried near Selfridge Gate (West Gate), Section 15, Grave 2, Map Grid G 26.

The flow of time—musings and gleanings

As someone with a life-long passion for history, the more I read the more I'm struck by how events, large and small, flow like the waters of a stream. The events of a single life are caught up in the larger flow, emptying into ever larger streams and rivers until they gather force and become what we call "eras" or "the age of..." and tend to become compartmentalized in our history books and in our minds. I find myself fighting that tendency, trying to rediscover the flow.

As I studied the life of James Parks and the history of Arlington, that flow of history began to appear again. From the life of James Parks we

look back in time to see his former master's intimate connection to George Washington and the events leading to the founding of our country. His personal involvement in the events of the Civil War leads to connections to more recent events.

In my historical stream-of-consciousness I can see those Union soldiers streaming back from the First Battle of Bull Run along the road through Arlington. There they had faced General Thomas J. Jackson in a battle that earned him the nickname "Stonewall," a name transferred to his troops, "The Stonewall Brigade."

Generations later, on D-Day, one of the divisions to storm the beaches in Normandy was the 29th, known as the Blue and Gray Division, their shoulder patches a yin-yang design of the two colors reflecting the geography of their makeup, mostly from Virginia and Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York. The division did not come into existence until World War I, but the individual regiments each had histories of their own. Within this division, the 116th Regiment had evolved from the old Confederate 2nd Virginia which had served under Jackson, and so the 116th took on the name of the Stonewall Brigade.

Black soldiers served in World War II, but did so in separate units. The army would not be integrated until President Harry S Truman signed an executive order in 1948, with the last all-black unit abolished in 1954. As the American troops pushed their way into France from the beaches of Normandy, the bodies of their fallen were identified and buried by members of the Graves Commission. The Graves Commission was manned largely by black troops, perhaps a job the army deemed suitable for them. One cannot help thinking of James Parks and his role as the first man to bury the Civil War dead at Arlington, a job which became his life's work.

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James Parks

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While many blacks served in support positions in the army during WWII, there were combat units, such as the 92nd Infantry, which served heroically. Many black soldiers came home remembering the friendliness of the French and Australians, for example, and realized that the treatment they grew up with during the "Jim Crow days in America was something they needn't tolerate. Many of the leaders of voter registration drives in the civil rights movement were black veterans of WWII.

And so we observe the flow of time at work in this instance. We see a former slave, James Parks, who served a master, the stepson of George Washington, our first president. From his vantage point at Arlington, James Parks could look across the Potomac at our nation's capital where, due to the efforts of the descendants of slaves freed during the Civil War, it would someday become possible for a president of African heritage, whose wife and children descend from former slaves, to occupy the White House. A remarkable flow of events, and one cannot help but wonder what James Parks would think of it all.

A letter from Charles Edward Parke PS#1233 (former Trustee VI)

My early life was blessed by having a program through 3 years of high school to train me to become a mechanic (my father guided me in that direction).

I graduated on June 13, 1941 with a scholarship stating "Greatest Progress Under the Most Adverse Circumstances." Every day of my senior year, I rode my bicycle 24 miles to and from



Charles Edward Parke, PS#1233

school. Thereafter I was fortunate to be hired by the Aviation Corporation (The Lycoming Motors), an aircraft engine manufacturer who had a military contract to build the R-680 radial engine. They produced 21 per day, boxed and shipped by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Of course, working for such a fine company, I joined the flying club which they sponsored. My indoctrination to flying, with an instructor, was in a Piper J-3 CUB. I soloed and had a total of 15 hours.

World War II was approaching and my three brothers and most of my friends were being drafted. I asked my father's permission to enlist in the aviation cadet program with the U. S. Army Air Corps, and a few days later I traveled to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to take an equivalent 2-year college written test and a following physical examination. On this day, December 2, 1942, at 5 p.m., those accepted were sworn in as Privates, Army Enlistee Reserve (AER). Not until February 21, 1943 did I receive my orders to report to Harrisburg, thence by train to Basic Training Center #9, Miami Beach, Florida. After basic training, 5 1/2 months of college training

detachment at Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia and 6 months of pilot training throughout the southeast U. S. A., I graduated September 8, 1944 at Craig Field, Selma, Alabama as a pilot of fighter planes, commissioned a Second Lieutenant with silver wings. My new assignment, after graduation, was to Single-engined Advanced Instructor School at Randolph Field, San Antonio, Texas.

At this time, General Henry H. Arnold, Commanding General of the U. S. Army Air Corps, ordered an immediate cutback in pilot training, explaining they had graduated more pilots than they could use! Orders were then issued for these new pilots, and many older pilots, to enter B-29 flight training. In the next 5 months I was engaged in learning all I could about the systems etc. of the Boeing B-29.

As Engineer, I would be responsible for the operation, the preflight, starting and stopping the engines, power settings, cruise control, weight and balance and the loading of fuel tanks and bomb bays.

At Roswell, New Mexico, where we met the B-29 and trained with Pilot, Pilot Instructor, and myself as Flight Engineer, we learned to fly this "big bird" and operate the engines and aircraft. It was nerve-racking, but we did all right. Then on to Lincoln, Nebraska to gather our entire 11-man crew, then to Chatham Field, Savannah, Georgia for actual training missions at high altitude (usually 25,000 feet). We had just completed this phase of training when the Japanese surrendered. I signed up for the Air Corps Reserves, but also opted to leave the service November 17, 1945.

Later in the year 1946 I married my first wife, Betty Marie (Howell) Parke. We worked well and we did later build our own little bungalow.

Early in 1946, I hoped to return to my former employer, but they were not building aircraft engines at that time. They were engaged in working with Brill Bus engines. For four years I worked for a Chrysler-Plymouth dealership in Williamsport, then in 1951 I returned to the Aviation Corporation (Avco-Lycoming Div.). I worked throughout the factory for 6 years in all phases of manufacturing, then transferred to the Avco Service Center at the Williamsport-Lycoming County Airport. Of course, I had an FAA pilot commercial license and I also attained an FAA power plant rating. I worked as a mechanic on all Lycoming engines and I had the privilege to fly any aircraft powered by Lycoming, for the testing and approval in all operations. In 25 years, I was an Avco-Lycoming Mechanic, Test Pilot, and Assistant Service Manager.

In closing, I will say that my father was a strict man but also a proud man, and it was he who gave me the desire and the interest in family and genealogy. I was thrilled to become a member of the Parke Society in 1996. I have learned so much because of my association with our Parke Society.

To have so many wonderful cousins is surely my reward for becoming involved in a genealogical search.

Sincerely,

Charles Edward Parke, PS#1233 (former Trustee VI)

(Charles¹¹, George¹⁰, George⁹, John⁸, George⁷, Elijah⁶, Thomas⁵, Thomas⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², Robert MA1630) or simply (Charles E. Parke - Thomas 6T line from Robert MA1630).

The next editorial due date is

June 15, 2009

Historian's corner: a philosophy for doing genealogy

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

Family genealogy can be very frustrating. There are always those loose ends that just refuse to be tied up and finally settled. This is complicated by the fact that all too often there are numerous conflicts in the data that you are working with to produce your family history. It can drive you nuts, so I offer here seven philosophical principles to help keep the main thing, the main thing:

1. First, always remember that family history should be our hobby. It's something we do to give us a change of pace from the rest of our lives, and to satisfy idle curiosity about our heritage. In essence, we're trying to understand our forebears; where they came from, what life was like in their day, and how they endured what was happening around them. You may find this totally interesting, but that same feeling may not be shared by other members of your family. The reasons for this are legion: they may not have particularly fond memories of the grandparents, or maybe even their own parents, or they may know some things that they hope will never see the light of day. Let's face it, not everyone is interested in history, even the history of one's own family. At least you find it interesting and worthy of your investment in time and money to do this. Accept the fact that you may run into walls all around the family. Keep a balance, keep this endeavor a hobby, and you will be much happier. If this pursuit seems to become anything other than a nice past time or a leisurely activity, then perhaps you need to rethink what you are doing, and to reset your sights.
2. Your family genealogy will never be complete. A common danger inherent in doing

family history is believing that at some point in the future we will complete this task and be able to produce the definitive work, a seamless account of a virtuous family. Let me assure you right now, that's not going to happen in our lifetime. At best, we may be able to lay a foundation on which future generations will be able to build. They will reap where we have sown, but this isn't a bad thing. If we've done our homework well, we can proudly hand our work on to the next generation of family historians, and that will be our reward.

3. Professional publishing is rarely profitable to a family genealogist. Too many family genealogists think they can produce a volume that will be readily saleable. These rumors are greatly exaggerated. Our genealogical work is about our own families and their history and are, unfortunately, probably of little interest to anyone outside our immediate family circle. It's one thing to collect and record facts about the family history, and quite another to put it into a form that is acceptable as a printed work. Some software packages can help us with this task, but what they produce can only be classified as a work in progress. It is not a terribly good read.

If you want to publish something in the future, you need to be thinking long-term, and plan accordingly. Determine your scope, and don't let it creep beyond those bounds. Consider what kind of audience you might have, consider what the costs might be, and consider your own skills at handling the English language in an acceptable manner. If you're going to commit something to paper in a bound volume, cultivate the hope that later you'll see your efforts as worthy. Remember that publishing, either through a commercial genealogical firm or by using desk top publishing software, is a lot of work.

4. For every fact, there will be a contrary one somewhere. Facts are not necessarily really facts. This is a major hurdle for many beginning genealogists. How can two, three, or more sources—original ones at that—report a fact differently? The answer is: we're all human, and we record or report what we hear, or think we hear. So grandfather William was born in Virginia...or Pennsylvania; on the 6th—or maybe the 17th. Even current facts will be reported variously, not just events that happened 200 years ago. Settle on one that seems plausible to you, give your reasons, report the variations, and leave the rest up to someone else to analyze and perhaps reach a different conclusion. Also beware of "factoids," those little items that have come down to us as facts, when really they are only beliefs that have been repeated so many times that people now think they are gospel. This goes for anything published that cites other "authorities" (published works) for the basis of the reported fact.

John McPhee, in an interesting story in a recent issue of the *New Yorker* ("Checkpoints" February 9/16, 2009, p 56) describes the distinguished, and yet unheralded, business of being a fact check editor. "Any error is everlasting," he points out. Quoting Sara Lippincott, a long time fact checker for the *New Yorker*, once something is in print, the error "will live on and on, in libraries [and personal collections], carefully catalogued, and scrupulously indexed, ... deceiving researcher after researcher down through the ages, all of whom will make new errors on the strength of the original errors...." This should be a warning to all would-be authors.

5. All families have their wayward characters, the so-called black sheep. I would seriously doubt there is a single family that was nearly angelic in all of its generations. If you read

of such a family, I would urge you to be a bit cynical and look upon it, and the author, with a slightly jaundiced eye. The offending characters were part of their families and had influences on them, whether they realized it or not. We need to report what we know, fairly and as honestly as possible, and leave the rest up to others to analyze. No fair hiding the facts. Eventually they will turn up, despite our best efforts to wash them out of existence.

As an aside, we ought to note that in the past it was a lot easier for someone to start over with a seemingly clean slate. In 1801, all you had to do was to "go west," assume a new name and build from there. I sometimes wonder how many of our fragment lines are really something other than what they appear to be, especially when the subject founder of a line seems to have sprouted out of the ground in Ohio, Illinois, or Wisconsin with no discernable back history.

6. You may never find their graves. I recently read *A Pessimist's Guide to History* (by Doris and Stuart Berg Flexner) which made me aware of a fact that I had not really acknowledged. Only the lucky ones get to have a funeral and a burial plot. Throughout history, millions of people have died in natural disasters and calamities without leaving a trace of themselves behind. While this does not happen as often in today's industrialized West, it certainly did happen in our past. People just sort of disappeared, with no trace and no record. If you do find a burial plot, consider yourself fortunate. If not, just consider it one of those mysteries.

7. Original documents aren't all they are cracked up to be, including the census. While we would like to hold those wonderful original documents—which may later prove to be

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derivative, not original all—to be the final word on any particular fact, they were created by human beings and are subject to error more often than we would like to think. This is especially true of census data. They are all primitive early efforts. Accept them at their face value and move on.

All in all, genealogy should be a fun pursuit. Do your best to get as near to the truth as you can, but realize there are innumerable shortcomings in research. Document what you do, and be ready to pass it on to the next generation to add to, correct, amplify, and maybe even complete (although I have my doubts).

Missing link: ancestors and descendants of Joseph Howard Parke (LK= BP)

by Jean Churchill, PS#934

The Parke researcher began this fragment line with Joseph Howard Parke (1888 PA–1967 Pittsburgh, Alleheny Co.,PA). She might have thought that his parents died before 1910 because on that census, at age 22, he is the household head of a boarding house on Marchand St., Pittsburgh with his brother, Ralph McCarrell Parke, and 21 non-relatives. Using census data, I was able to find his father, who was still living.

Joseph H. Parke was born February 1862 in Pennsylvania. He married (1) Anna Ella Crawford, daughter of James and Juliet (Forman) Crawford about 1885. In 1900, Joseph and his wife Ann were renting a house on Marchand Street with their two sons; Joseph H., b. Mar. 1888, and Ralph M. C., b. July 1890. By 1910, Anna had died and Joseph was married (2) to Fannie (unknown) Tucker. Fannie had two children by a previous marriage: David Tucker (age

6) and Elizabeth Tucker (age 4). They are living on DuBois Street, Pittsburgh.

In 1920, Joseph is again a widower and living in the household of Samuel and Margaret Commins (Cummins) along with their nieces, Jane Eaton, Lizzie Tucker, and Margaret Parks (age 9), and nephew Paul Parks (age 6). It appears that Margaret and Paul are Joseph's children.

In 1930, Margaret Parks (age 19) is still living with Samuel and Margaret Commins but Joseph has again remarried. He and his wife Emma are still living in Pittsburgh with his son Paul (age 17) and a daughter Josephine (age 14) who is probably a stepdaughter of Joseph's.

The internet researcher of this fragment lineage believes that this is part of the Roger Parke (LK=K) line through Zebulon Parke. She has Joseph Parke (b. 1862) as the son of Joseph Park (1818 PA-1892 PA) and Jane Thompson (1822 PA-1907). Joseph's (b. 1818) parents are given as John Park and Mary Hagerman. This family lived in Ligonier, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania in 1850 and 1860. In 1880 Joseph, his wife Jane, son Joseph H. Parke, and granddaughter Annie Hood are living in Cook, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. It seems likely that this is the same family, but unfortunately I have been unable to locate them on the 1870 census. By 1880, all the older children have left the household. DNA testing would help to prove that this is part of the LK=K lineage.

Known children of Joseph Parke (b.1862 PA–d. -?-):

1. Joseph Howard Parke married (1) Emma Jane Williamson on August 1, 1912 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He married (2) Bernice Croft Walls, daughter of Oscar Craft and Lottie Kelly. Joseph and Emma had eleven children:
 - a. Robert Howard Parke (1913 Pittsburgh, PA–1964 Johnstown, PA) m. Dorothy Mae Craft (five children)

- b. William Thomas Parke (1914 Pittsburgh, PA–1988 Marion, OH) m. Elizabeth Pack (two children)
 - c. Jane Alberta Parke (1916 Pittsburgh, PA–1971 Cuyahoga Falls, OH) m. Mark Lee Ashbrook (two children)
 - d. Donald Allen Parke (1918 PA–1983 Alliance, OH) m. (1) Genevieve Stover; m. (2) Alice Unknown (nine children)
 - e. Warren Lewis Parke (1921 PA–1957) m. Catherine Horner (four children)
 - f. Lois Grace Parke (1923 Johnstown, PA–1986 Centerville, PA) m. Gerald Wayne Thomas (two children)
 - g. Carl Jordan Parke (1926 Johnstown, PA–1981) m. Unknown Kosnik (two children)
 - h. Hazel M. Parke (living)
 - i. Glenn Wesley Parke (1930 PA–2001 Fayetteville, NC) m. (1) Alice Unknown; m. (2) Sue Unknown (two children)
 - j. Kenneth Roy Parke (1934–1976)
 - k. Melvin Parke (1935–1935)
2. Ralph McCarrell Parke (1890 PA-?) m. Lilian Wilson (1898 PA-1965 PA); no known children
 3. Margaret L. Parke (abt. 1911 PA - ?); no other information
 4. Paul Parke (May 1913 PA–Feb. 1983 Sheridan, Grant, AR) Paul served in the U.S. Army and is buried at Little Rock National Cemetery, Little Rock, Arkansas. No other information.

This research manuscript is available for loan. Please contact the Society's DNA Administrator, Ken Parks, if you would like to borrow it. Please contact me with any additions or corrections.

Lineage key index—part 2 by Society staff

In our last issue (Vol. 45, No. 1, pp. 12-14), we began publishing the index to the Society's lineage keys, 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 most Society members know, 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 new members join the Society, we try to find if their Park/e/s ancestry matches any existing lineage key. If not, we create a new key. Some lineage keys represent immigrant lines, but many times they represent fragment lines, for example, Park/e/s who suddenly appear in Ashton, Ohio 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. If so, with 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. Line mergers are indicated in the narrative.

Not all lines have Society members in them, and not all Society members are still alive or otherwise active in the Society. If any members are attached to a line, the word "represented" appears after the lineage key in the description; if that word doesn't appear, no Society member presently represents that lineage. In the Society's earlier days, we transcribed lineages from various available compilations. Where children are listed, if the name is in boldface, then we

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Lineage key index

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have descendants from that child; otherwise, we know nothing further. If the line has had DNA testing, then the word "DNA" appears after the lineage key.

In our last issue, we published lineage keys **C** (Thomas Parkes of Virginia); **K** (Roger Parke (1648, England–ca. 1739, NJ); **R** (Richard Parke (ca. 1602, England–1665, MA); **2S1** (the Samuel branch of the Robert Parke [MA, 1630] line); **2T1** (the Thomas branch of the Robert Parke [MA, 1630] line); and **2W1** (the William branch of the Robert Parke [MA, 1630] line).

A **William Parke** (but line is named for son Arthur) (represented; DNA) This lineage actually begins with a William Parke b. abt. 1656 in Ulster Prov., Ireland. Recently, there has been some question as to whether this William is the father or grandfather - that perhaps the father was John. (Parke Society Library books.) There may be a connection with lineage Keys JJ, JP, and XW. Five children:

William (ca. 1675 Ireland- ?) married Jane Hood (their children came to Chester Co, PA.

Arthur (immigrant - Chester Co, PA) (ca. 1677 Ireland, 1740 Octorara, PA) married Mary.

Samuel (immigrant) (ca. 1680/88 Ireland, 1768 Waltham, MA).

David (immigrant-Chester Co, PA) (ca. 1682 Ireland, before 1740). He is thought (but not proven) to be the ancestor of lineage Keys JJ and XW.

Jane (immigrant; ca. 1685 Ireland– 1760 Fallowfield, PA) did not marry.

B **Andrew Park** (ca. 1720-??) married ?? supposedly of County Donegal, Ireland. Source material: Notable Southern Families Vol. 6 page 87-88. Perhaps five children:

Robert (ca. 1740-??) married ca. 1762 Nancy Aiken. Eight children, for one of which we have issue.

Margaret married Patrick Campbell, supposedly had two sons, surnamed Campbell.

Mary Parks.

Nancy Parks.

Matthew Parks (possible).

This is one of the lines that has been transcribed from earlier compilations, in this case the volume known as Notable Southern Families by Zella Armstrong. This material needs to be used with care. We have no representatives of this line, and obviously no DNA tests.

D **Samuel Parks** (1730-1796) (Represented) From Scotland to Ireland to Charleston, SC, and finally to Amelia Co, VA . Article in Newsletter Vol. XIX #3, pg. 36. Eight children, of which we know something of the following:

Thomas (ca. 1750 VA – 1831 SC) married three times; twelve children.

James (ca. 1753 VA – 1835 MO) married twice, at least four known children, perhaps more.

Other children were John, William, Mary, Nancy, Priscilla, and Amelia.

E **Samuel Park** (1730 Ireland-1794; immigrant on or before 1757 from Ireland to Donegal, Lancaster Co., PA, and in 1777

to Washington Co., PA). He married Margaret Marshall, c. 1757. Five known children.

John (1758 PA-1832) married ca. 1782. Sarah McDowell, ten children.

James (1760 PA-1811) married Isabella Craighead, two children known.

Mary (1761 PA-1831 OH) married ca. 1782 Col. John Marshall, ten children, surnamed Marshall.

Isabella (1764-1828 IN) married 1784 Robert McGee, five children surnamed McGee.

Hugh (1767PA-ca. 1793) Thought to have not married, no issue.

F **Thomas Parke** (1660 Ireland-1738 PA) (Represented) Came to America 1724 on Sizargh to Philadelphia and on to Chester Co., married 1692 in Carlow, Ireland to Rebecca Hooper [Ward, Warr]. (Parke Society Lib. book) PA. Quakers from northern Ireland. Ten children, all born in Ireland; in most cases the information is very limited:

Mary, Robert, Susanna, **Rebecca, Rachel**, Jean, Thomas, **Abel, Jonathan**, and **Elizabeth**.

G **James Park(s)** (1724-1769 VA) (Represented) Immigrated from Northern Ireland to Prince Edward Co., VA before 1756. He married probably before 1756, Mary Fulton. Six known children, born in Virginia:

James, Joseph, **Ezekiel Evans**, Catherine, **Mary**, and **Margaret**.

In memoriam

We note, with regrets and sympathy to the surviving families, the following members who have passed away:

Mrs. Hazel Alice (Park) Johnson, PS#813

We were recently notified of the passing of Mrs. Hazel Alice (Park) Johnson, PS#813, at Garrison, North Dakota on 11 March, 2007, in her 87th year. Born in 1919, the daughter of John E. and Clara (Gilbertson) Park, on the family farm near Butte, North Dakota, she was the youngest of seven children. After completing high school, she entered and graduated from Minot Normal College in 1941 and started her teaching career at the Crystal School in rural Douglas, North Dakota.

She was married to Myron W. Johnson on 17 September, 1942 at Fort Riley, Kansas, where he was serving in the Army. After the war, they returned to North Dakota to farm and raise their five children.

After retirement from farming in 1975, they moved to Garrison, started square dancing, and continued to do that for the next 25 years all across North Dakota, other states, and even in Canada.

Hazel Johnson is survived by her husband of 65 years, Myron; a daughter, Myra Beyer; and sons Keith (PS#814), Lonnie, Laurel, and David; 4 granddaughters and 3 grandsons. She is buried at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Mandan, North Dakota.

She was an 11th generation descendant of Robert Parke, (1630, MA) through his son Samuel (LK=S), thence to Lt. Robert, Benjamin, Amaziah, John, Rufus, John Wesson Rufus, to John Eugene Parke, father of Hazel.

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In memoriam
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William Wilson Parks, PS#1367

We have received word of the death of William W. "Bill" Parks on 9 December, 2008 (just two days short of his 87th birthday).



William Wilson Parks, PS#1367

Born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1921, Bill discovered sailing at 14 and became obsessed, riding the elevated trains into the city of Chicago to learn the sport at Chicago's yacht clubs and building a boat with his father in their home garage. By the time he began studying engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology, he was already an accomplished dinghy racer, winning a Midwestern collegiate competition in Grant Park (Chicago) harbor in 1941. Following service during WWII with a Navy construction battalion, he took a post with the Vapor Corporation, a Chicago transportation engineering firm, where he worked until he retired in 1987.

In 1959, he married Patricia Gagan in Oak Park, Illinois, who passed away in 2002. By that marriage they had one child, a daughter, Julia Margery (Parks) Soxman, who survives him. He

remarried in 2004 to Joan Simpson, who also survives him. He is also survived by a brother, Richard Rohan Parks.

Throughout his life sailing captivated Bill, who continued his racing career, earning a Bronze Medal at the 1960 Rome Olympics. He raced all over the world in exotic locales such as Sardinia and Brazil, including closer to home venues such as the yearly Race to Mackinac. In later years, he continued racing through ice boat competitions on Lake Geneva, and into his preferred class, star-class boats with two man crews. He served as the Commodore of the Chicago Yacht Club and the Chicago Yachting Association, which named him Yachtsman of the Year in 1994.

His line is the fragment lineage, LK=F, starting with James Parks, who married Elizabeth Davis circa 1802 in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, thence to John B., Adam S., Ostrander Johnson, Paul Brownlee Parks to Bill Parks.

Charles William Parkes, PS#1399

We were recently notified of the death of Charles William Parkes, on 8 October, 2008, near his home in California, Missouri. Born in 1951, the son of Hiram Elbert and Inez (Price) Parkes, he was married in 1973 to Darla Jean Vaughn in St. Louis, Missouri.

After graduation from the University of Missouri (BS-Agriculture, 1973, M.Ed., 1975) he taught agricultural education at Linn (Linn, Missouri) and Fatima (Westphalia, Missouri) High Schools. He was active in many vocational and agricultural teacher's associations throughout his life, and served on many state curriculum committees, and was the recipient of both Honorary State and American FFA degrees. In 1991 he was honored at the University of Missouri as the "Most Influential Teacher." In 2001 he was



Charles William Parkes, PS#1399

awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Missouri State Future Farmers of America organization.

He enjoyed sports and the outdoors, and worked as a coach for many softball and basketball teams throughout the state and for the Missouri Show-Me Games. He was also an avid bicycle rider, averaging 5,000 – 6,000 miles each year in rides for charity and other events.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Darla Jean Parkes; daughters Sharon Parkes and Debra Dunham; a brother, Elbert Parkes; a sister Dora Parkes; two grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, and loving friends. He was buried at the California City Cemetery, California, Missouri.

He was a descendant of one of our fragment lines, LK=QV: William Parkes of Jonesboro, Tennessee who married Polly (Mary Jane) North in 1830, thence to Hiram, Hiram Elbert to Charles William Parkes.

Welcome, new members!

1522 Diane Zimmerman

Lehi, UT

Lineage is Roger of NJ, LK=K. Line is Roger¹, John², John³, Anne⁴, who married James Smith, c. 1751, to Aaron⁵ Smith, James Allen⁶ Smith, Isaac⁷ Smith, Samuel Davisson⁸ Smith, James Newton⁹ Smith, Charley Parker¹⁰ Smith, Vivian Louise¹¹ Smith, to member¹².

1523 Joanne G. Rodgers

Duncansville, PA

Lineage is the new fragment line, John Parks, and Katie (Unknown) as the parents according to a vanity biography of John K. Parks (c.1790-1860) and Mary Jane Parkinson, in the Huntingdon Co., PA area; LK=LO. Line is John¹, John², Thomas³, Jacob R.C.⁴, Zola⁵ Parks, who married Richard Roy Shimmel, to Berva May⁶ Shimmel, to member⁷.

1524 Carol E. Cormany

New Holland, PA

Lineage is a double line to Alexander to John and Mary (Gordon) Park, LK=KY. The first line is Alexander¹, John², Joseph³, Andrew G⁴, William Apgar⁵, William Raymond⁶ Park who married Anna Belle Turnbaugh (this is the connection to the second line), thence to Ronald Eugene⁷, to member⁸. Second line is Alexander¹, John², James³, David⁴, James⁵, Mary Alice⁶ Park who married Allen Abram Turnbaugh, to Anna Belle⁷ Turnbaugh who married William Raymond⁶ Park as given above and thence to the member.

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Welcome, new members
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1525 Rhonda Yates-Rogers
Hixson, TN

Lineage is Roger of NJ, LK=K, through Timothy and Esther (Shipton) Line is Roger¹, John², Joseph³, Timothy⁴, Margaret "Peggy"⁵, Park, who married Harris Rogers/Rodgers, to Timothy Parks⁶ Rogers/Rodgers, Silas Monroe Noel⁷ Rogers II, Silas Monroe Noel⁸ Rogers III, J. Frank⁹ Rogers, Thomas Wayne¹⁰ Rogers, to spouse¹¹ of member.

1526 Darla Jean Parkes
California, MO

Upon the death of her spouse, Charles William Parkes, PS#1399, Mrs. Parkes is being assigned a new membership number as she continues working on her late husband's Park/e/s Lineage. This is a fragment line, LK=QV, starting with William Parkes, born in 1807 Jonesboro, TN, married to Mary Jane (Polly) North in Jefferson Co., TN in 1830, and thence to Hiram, Hiram Elbert, and Charles William Parkes going through Sagamon Co., IL in the process

1527 Trevor Patrick Wardlaw
Waco, TX

Lineage is the new fragment line, Dr. John Parks (1855-1940), Anderson Co., TX. LK=LO. Line is John¹, Robert E. Lee² Parks who married Judith Little, to Dwight Elwin³, Mitchell Lee⁴ Parks, to member⁵. DNA evidence links this fragment line to the Roger Parke of West Jersey line, Lineage Key=K.

1528 Gary Alexander Parks
Flemington, NJ

His line is the fragment line, LK=DU Starting with a Charles¹ Park (c1787-1858) who married a Permelia (commonly referred to as Amelia). Her dates were c.1787-1868. The line continues to David² Park(s) m. Elizabeth Quick, to Charles Wesley³ Park, Eugene Robert⁴ Parks, Harold Eugene⁵ Parks, to member⁶.

1529 Joshua Parke Ostheimer
Florence, MT

Lineage is Thomas Parke of Chester Co., PA, LK=F, who married Rebecca Hooper 21 December, 1692 (10th month, old style) in Carlow, Ire. Line is Thomas¹, Jonathan², Abiah³, Thomas A⁴, John Edge⁵, Thomas Edge⁶ Thomas⁷, Mary Bacon⁸ (Parke) Ostheimer, to William Bacon⁹ Ostheimer, to member¹⁰.

The next editorial due date is
June 15, 2009

Have you renewed?
Check the date on your
envelope. Don't miss the
next issue!