

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

Dickinson/Madison/Parke(s) Family Connections

by Randall L. Dickinson, PS#1498

I am the third great grandson of William Dickinson. William was the son of Robert Dickinson and Elizabeth Higgens. He was born in Louisa Co., Va., about 1760. The direct Dickinson family line intersected with that of the Madison family of King William Co., Va. in 1809, when William married Ann Parkes Madison. The couple's marriage bond shows Ann's father to have been Ambrose Madison. Ann Parkes Madison died shortly before 1833. Her obituary from the Richmond Enquirer of that date indicates she was 48 years old at the time of her death, making her born in 1785.

In his will, drawn up on 1 August 1809, a Parkes B. Madison mentions Ann Parkes Madison

Dickinson as his sister, and also mentions Eliza C. and Cynthia Madison as sisters. Parkes B. Madison appears as the head of household for the first and only time on the 1805 personal property tax list for Louisa Co., Va.

Ambrose Madison and his wife, the former Martha "Patsey" Duke, relocated from King William Co. to Louisa Co., Va., in 1801. They were residents there for the next 18 years. In 1819 they migrated west to Montgomery Co., Tenn., and later to Todd Co., Ky.

When Ambrose Madison signed his Revolutionary War pension application on 13 Aug. 1832, he gave his age as 75. He was a resident of King William Co., Va. when he enlisted in the Continental Army in 1776. His approximate birth year would, thus, have been 1757/58. In 1829, Ambrose drew up his will, which was probated in February, 1844, indicating that he had died shortly before this date. In it, he mentions his wife Martha and his four children: John Albert, Mortimer Burnley, Richard Hardin, and Elizabeth Helen.

The names of the children mentioned in Ambrose Madison's will are not those mentioned

In This Issue:

Dickinson/Madison/Parke(s).....	33
Park/e/s Profiles: Alice Parks McKissick.....	38
Park/e/s Profiles: Robert Leon Parke.....	41
Historian's Corner.....	43
Vetting submitted articles.....	43
Deaths noted.....	43
Using Facebook for Genealogy.....	44
Lineage Key Index, Part 3: LK=V.....	47
Welcome, New Members!.....	48

continued on p.35

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Phone: (414) 332-9984 (evenings only)

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324 Sullivan Road
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Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks #425H
P.O. Box 590
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590

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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
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Editor: Dr. Paul Jordan-Smith

Email: parkenews@csedl.org or parkeditor@csedl.org
(Please use one or the other; please do *not* send to both.)

Immediate Past Editor: Percival D. Park #140

Publisher and Editor Emeritus: David L. Parke #13H
Email: davcel080@aol.com

President: Curtis H. Parks #1166L
Email: chparks@mdo.net

Immediate Past President: Keith Harrison #710

Vice President: Ken M. Parks, PS#1406
Email: kenparks@earthlink.net

Executive Director: Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks #425H
Email: 70741.2122@compuserve.com

Secretary: Arlene P. Callahan #396
324 Sullivan Road
Schenectady, NY 12304-3625

Treasurer: Lu Terock #861

Registrar: Ronald Neal Parks #1458
Email: registrar@parke.org; pennstate8ron@hotmail.com

Registered agent: W. Scott Park #264

Historian: Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks #425H

DNA Group Administrator: Ken M. Parks, PS#1406

Archivist: Mrs. Corabelle E. DeClerg #842H
873 Kent St.
Portland, MI 48875-1741

Website: <http://www.parke.org>

Webmaster: Curtis H. Parks #1166L
Email: chparks@mdo.net

Dickinson/Madison/Parke(s)

cont'd from p. 33

in the will of Parkes B. Madison. The only plausible explanation for this is that Ambrose was apparently married earlier and thus had two separate families. The identity of Ambrose Madison's first wife, the mother of Parkes B., Ann Parkes, Eliza C., and Cynthia Madison, remains a mystery. The search for her has now become the focus of continuing research.

While virtually nothing is known about Ambrose Madison's first marriage, circumstantial information currently available provides some tantalizing clues. One such clue is the appearance of the Parke(s) surname in the line of Ambrose Madison of King William Co., Va., subsequent to his marriage to his first wife. Nowhere else does this name appear in the record of the various other lines of the Madison family prior to its use in the naming of the children (Parkes B. and Ann Parkes Madison) and grandchild (Parkes Madison Dickinson) of Ambrose Madison and his mystery first wife. Thus, it seems clear that the name entered the family line of Ambrose Madison with his marriage to his first wife, and that she was either a Parke(s) daughter, or perhaps the daughter of another family, itself related to the Parke(s) family.

Though the record is scant, an obscure entry on the King William Co. Land Alteration List for 1791 indicates that John Madison deeded 25 acres of land to a Parke Bailey in that year. John Madison was Ambrose Madison's brother. This is the first and only evidence in the record of any contact and/or association between any member of the Madison Family and anyone bearing the name Parke(s).

Six years later, in 1797, "Ambrose Madison and 'Betsy,' his wife," are shown, in a deed dated 25 September of that year, as selling 25½ acres of

property in King William Co. to John Powers. This is the same Ambrose Madison who, with his wife, "Patsey," in 1801, sold 275 acres of property to Dr. John Smith, subsequently purchased 354 acres of property in Louisa Co., sold this property in 1819, and migrated to Montgomery Co., Tenn., and later to Todd Co., Ky., where he died in 1844.

Who was this "Betsy"? Was she a Parke(s) daughter or was she, perhaps, a Bailey daughter? Was there some relationship between "Betsy" and Parke Bailey? If so, what was it? Could this 25½ acres sold to John Powers have been the same 25 acres sold by John Madison to Parke Bailey in 1791? One thing seems clear: Whoever this first mystery wife of Ambrose Madison, she must have died some time between 1797, when her name appears as "Betsy" along with her husband, Ambrose, on the deed of 25 ½ acres of property to John Powers, and 1801, when Ambrose Madison and his new wife, "Patsey," both appear on the deed of sale of 275 acres of property to Dr. John Smith. (In 1813, Conway O. Lipscomb, whose father was Madison Lipscomb, is shown as owning 25 acres of land received by him through marriage. His wife's name was Sarah Parke Bailey, daughter of Parke Bailey. Could this have been the same 25 acres of land sold originally by John Madison to Parke Bailey in 1791, and resold (?) in 1797 by Ambrose and "Betsy" Madison to John Powers?)

As early as the 1630s, the Parke(s) family was well established in the area that eventually became New Kent Co., Va., the county immediately adjacent to King William Co. (King William Co. was originally formed from portions of King and Queen Co. and New Kent Co.) There were actually two separate lines of the Parke(s) families living in this area from before the mid-17th century on.

continued on p. 36

Dickinson/Madison/Parke(s)

cont'd from p. 35

William Parke (LK=V) immigrated to the Virginia Colony from England in 1631. William married Sarah (?), and had two sons, Daniel Sr. and William Jr. Nothing further is known of William Jr. Daniel inherited his father's Virginia properties, married Rebecca Evelyn Knipe and had five children, including Daniel Jr. ("The Great Philanderer").

The second member of the Parke(s) family to immigrate to the Virginia Colony, also named William, arrived before 1650. This line continues down through the next three generations with sons named John Sr., John Jr., and John III. While the Register and Vestry Book of St. Peter's Parish Church, New Kent Co., contains numerous entries recording their births, marriages, deaths, business affairs, and official functions beginning in the last quarter of the 17th and continuing through into the mid-18th centuries, little else is known of this particular line of the Parke(s) family of New Kent County.

The record of both the St. Peter's Parish church register and vestry book leaves the impression that this line of the Parke(s) family was large and actively involved in the day to day affairs of the community and the church. Its associations with the other families in the area appear to have been numerous and close. Thus, it seems reasonable to assume that this line would have had opportunity to carry on the family name through marriage into other local families, including the Madison family and/or other families that might have carried the Parke(s) name into the Madison family through marriage to Ambrose Madison.

Perhaps the most compelling piece of evidence to suggest that the relationship between the Parke(s) family and Ambrose Madison came through the line of William and his son, John Sr., is to be found in research conducted by David Parke, PS#13. His findings indicate that

Anne, the daughter of John Parke Jr., married John Bailey.

The church register and vestry book contain numerous entries related to the Bailey family, as well. John Bailey Jr. married, first, Mary Jackson in 1709. An entry in the church register states that, "Mary Bailey Departed this Life February ye 28th, 1718." This appears to be a reference to Mary Jackson, wife of John Bailey Jr.

John Bailey Jr.'s second marriage was to Anne (maiden name not given). Together, they had four children: William was born in 1720, followed by Lucy in 1722, and Sarah in 1727. Their second son, born in 1725, was Parke Bailey.

The St. Peter's Parish church register records the birth of a second Parke Bailey, born in 1773, to Edward and Mary Bailey. The New Kent Co. land tax list for 1782 carries the name Parke Bailey, as do the county census and personal property tax list for the year 1790 (presumably, these entries were for Parke Bailey "the Elder").

David Parke (PS#13)'s research on the Parke(s) family of New Kent Co., Va., has served as an invaluable aid in helping to identify a possible link between that family and Ambrose Madison of King William Co. Further, his work suggests that the connection between these families was through the line of William Parke (Va. before 1650). However, certain of his findings remain problematic. There appears to be some confusion between the two generations of John Parke Sr., and his son, John Parke Jr., and the assignment of the children of each.

For instance, David Parke PS#13 indicates that Anne, the daughter of John Parke Jr., who married John Bailey Jr., was born in approximately 1710. This obviously cannot have been the case, as their first child, William, was born in 1720. Either Anne was born to John Parke Jr., much

earlier than 1710, or perhaps she was actually the daughter of John Parke Sr., making her a sister to John Parke Jr.

The St. Peter's Parish vestry book clearly shows that John Parke Jr. was of legal age to own property as early as 1689, and the church register records the birth of his first child, a daughter named Sarah, in 1688. Indeed, The register records the births of each of his other children as well. Frances was born in 1700, and John III was born in 1707. There is no record of a daughter named Anne., but David Parke PS#13 indicates that John Parke Sr., did have a daughter named Anne (Annie), though no birth date is given for her.

Besides John Jr. and Anne, David Parke PS#13's research reveals that John Parke Sr. had at least two other children, Sarah and Susanna. He gives the approximate birth dates for John Jr., and Susanna as 1670 and 1685, although the church register is silent regarding the births of either (the register does record the marriage of Susanna to John Bacon in 1710, but it does not indicate whether she was the daughter of John Parke Sr. or John Parke Jr.).

David Parke PS#13's research also indicates that both John Parke Sr. and his son, John Parke Jr., had daughters they named Sarah. In one place he shows Sarah, the daughter of John Parke Sr., as having been born in 1688. In another, however, no birth year is given for Sarah, the daughter of John Parke Sr., while Sarah, the daughter of John Parke Jr., is shown as having been born in 1688. The church register clearly records Sarah, born in 1688, as the daughter of John Parke Jr. It is silent with respect to the birth of Sarah the daughter of John Parke Sr.

Without knowing what source material David Parke PS#13 used in his research, it is hard to know exactly what conclusions to draw. However, it appears that with the presumed exception

of Anne, the births, including dates, of all of the other children of John Parke Jr., are very clearly recorded in the church register of St. Peter's Parish. It is silent as to the names and/or the dates of birth of the children of John Parke Sr.

The explanation for this seems simple. The register of the St. Peter's Parish Church begins in the year 1680. Thus, births occurring before that date would not have been recorded in this document. Therefore, the births of all of John Parke Sr.'s children probably occurred prior to 1680.

So, if the births of all of John Parke Jr.'s children are clearly recorded in the church register, but those of John Parke Sr. are not, and, if both John Parke Sr. and John Parke Jr. are shown in Mr. Parke's material as having daughters named Anne or Annie, is it not possible that both Annes are one and the same individual? Further, considering that, just as the births of John Parke Sr.'s other children were not recorded in the church register, Anne's is not recorded there either, is it not more likely that she was actually the daughter of John Parke Sr. rather than of John Parke Jr.?

The fundamental questions remain: What and/or where was the connection between the Parke(s) family of New Kent Co. and Ambrose Madison of King William Co.? Was it a direct relationship, or was it an indirect one through another family? Who was Ambrose Madison's first wife, "Betsy"? Was she a Bailey daughter? Was she somehow related to Parke Bailey, and, if so, what was their relationship? Was the connection between the Parke(s) family and the Baileys, indeed, through the marriage of John Bailey Jr. to Anne [Parke], as indicated by Mr. Parke? At this time the identity of Ambrose Madison's first wife, "Betsy," remains unknown, and what relationship, if any, she might have had with Parke Bailey is purely speculative.

continued on p. 38

Dickinson/Madison/Parke(s)

cont'd from p. 37

Clearly, more research is needed into the line of William Parke (Va. before 1650) and his descendants, John Sr., John Jr., and John III, in order to resolve the confusions and questions raised here. It would be helpful to have the opportunity to examine David Parke PS#13's source material. It is hoped that those who may currently be researching this line of the Parke family of New Kent Co. will be able to provide additional information and offer leads that might aid in answering these questions. ■

New: Park/e/s Profiles

[Editor's note: Lately we've been receiving some wonderful contributions from our membership, and we thought the best way to honor them was to give them a special section. Some of the articles in this section will be mostly biographical; others will describe Park/e/s genealogical research undertaken by members that other members might find vital to their own work. We'll start off this new section with one of our newest members, as well as one of our oldest: Alice Parks McKissick recently became a Life Member, thanks to her loving family; and she turned 100 this year. Congratulations on both, Alice!]

Alice Parks McKissick, PS#1532

[Note: Information for this article was submitted by Nancy Keese (granddaughter) and Kimberly Parks (PS#1423).]

Alice Josephine Parks was born 20 March 1909 to James Devere Parks, Sr. and Frances Lanora "Nora" Thurman. James Devere Parks, Sr. was son of Calvin Elson Parks, who purchased land in Deepwater, Texas near Pasadena, Harris Co., Texas in 1894. He brought his family from Cortland Co., New York, where he was born. Calvin's father, James A. Parks, and grandfather James Parks (born 1780 in Conn.) are buried near Cortland in Pitcher, Chenango Co., N.Y.

DNA submitted by Frank Parks, PS#1423, links this Parks line to descendants of Robert Park of Mass. 1630. (LK= WQ) Alice and Frank are first cousins once removed.

The Calvin Parks family members are well recognized as "early settlers" and contributors to the history of Pasadena, Harris Co., Texas. Alice remembers their family home had huge sycamore trees in front and a row of privet hedge that ran the length of the property to the railroad track that bordered the property. Her mother used switches from the privet to discipline her. The family had chickens and milk cows from which they sold eggs and butter. Strawberries were the main money crop. All family members helped in the fields. Once, when her father took a load of sweet potatoes to sell in Houston, he was only offered 35 cents for the entire load—so he took them home to feed the hogs.

In February, 1919, Alice's mother became ill with breast cancer. She passed away in November leaving her children: Carrie, age 16; Dutchie, 13; Alice 10 ½; James Devere, Jr. (J.D.), 6 ½; and Gladys, age 5. Her father refused to split the family when relatives wanted to take the younger children. More responsibility was added to the older children to care for the younger siblings. Alice was still young and enjoyed playing outside. On occasions, neighbors walking by would call out to Alice to "check the beans" as they could smell them burning.

The Parks family attended the Methodist Church. Church and school functions were the social activities for the family. Alice learned to be a Sunday School teacher. After she married, she was the first president of the Younger Women's Missionary Society.

Alice began school in the fall of 1915. The school, located about 8 blocks from her home, was a two story building which held grades 1-7. High school students had to travel several miles

to Harrisburg. High school was only through grade 11. Alice graduated from the new Pasadena High School in May 1926. Her class of nine (4 girls and 5 boys) was the first to go a full year in the new school.

After high school, Alice attended business school in Houston. She and sister Dutchie rode the Interurban train from Pasadena to Houston. It was a one car train that stopped in a tough area in the warehouse and factory district of Houston. The girls walked quickly to Main Street to their school.

After completing business school in January, 1927, Alice was hired by Houston Power and Light at the age of 17. Alice then moved in with her uncle, Ralph Parks. Ralph, a very successful business man in Pasadena, never married and played a major role in providing and caring for Alice and her siblings.

At high school graduation exercises, Fred McKissick asked to take Alice home. That was the beginning of a 6 year romance. On 20 February 1932, Alice and Fred were married in a Houston Methodist parsonage where his family attended church. Fred was employed working on improvements to the San Jacinto battleground area, constructing roads and picnic areas.

In August, 1932, the couple relocated to Galveston, where Fred was employed by the Texas Highway Department. Alice remembers having only twelve dollars a month for groceries. One time, two aunts and Granny McKissick showed up to quilt them a wedding quilt. It was a real challenge providing food for three extra people. Alice still has the quilt.

Fred became homesick for his family, so they moved back to Pasadena and lived with Uncle Ralph Parks for a few years. Alice received a small inheritance from her mother and they bought some property on Shaver Street, which

is now downtown Pasadena, where they built a small house. They were expecting their first child, Sonya. Fred had begun his 10 year career with America Republic. They saved and later built a big house with two bedrooms, bath, living room, dining room, kitchen and hall for \$2,500.00. By this time they were expecting their second child, Jo.

Uncle Ralph Parks passed away 4 July 1937, leaving his house and land to Alice. The school wanted to buy the front part of the land and the city wanted the back for a city park. Alice sold the land and had the two story house torn down. She and Fred built garage apartments and a duplex on the back of their property on Shaver Street. Fred was 1-A in the draft for World War II, so they sold the big house and moved into one of the duplexes in case Fred was drafted.

In 1942, the couple bought a ranch in Medina, Texas. Papa and Granny McKissick lived on the ranch for two years until they could no longer handle the work. Alice, Fred, and the two girls moved to the ranch in 1944. At that time there was no indoor bath or running water. These had to be added to the house. It took two more years before electricity was available. Fred cleared the right of way of rock and trees with dynamite for the rural electric company to set poles. They now had a refrigerator and radio and could put away the kerosene lamps. They also had a "crank" telephone and everyone was on a party line. Cattle guards were added to the road to their ranch. Previously, there were seven gates to open to reach the ranch. The ranch was named "The 7 Gate Ranch".

Many friends visited from Pasadena, and Fred would barbeque a sheep on the rock pit in front of the house. Dessert was home made ice cream, made with a crank freezer. All the guests made some type of donation, and they built a two

continued on p. 40

Park/e/s Profiles: Alice Parks McKissick

cont'd from p. 39

room cabin with bath for visitors. The family built flower beds around the house on the rocky hill. Alice loved flowers, and began her love for bird watching by seeing birds out her kitchen window.

With her love of flowers, Alice joined the Medina Rose Garden Club, where her entries in shows did well. She and other members started a Junior Garden Club where her daughters, Sonya and Jo, learned the art of flower arranging.

Church and school were a part of family life. As PTA President, Alice helped to get lights for the football field and a cafeteria started, where a balanced meal for 25 cents was available for students.

Alice also began a new Sunday School class for high school girls. She would allow five minutes before lessons for the girls to talk about their dates on Saturday night. Alice continues her work with the Women's Society of Christian Services and is still an active member of the United Methodist Women.

During the seven year drought from 1950 to fall of 1957, the family bought government corn, which was worse than poor quality. Fred was away working, so Alice and Jo went out every night to shoot varmints that came only at night to eat the corn. Alice held a light and Jo shot the varmints. Alice also had numerous encounters with rattlesnakes while living at the ranch.

When the girls left for college, Alice began working at Bandera Rural Electric Association. She retired after six years. Just before retiring, she began having problems with her eyes.

By 1969, Fred's health was deteriorating and they decided to sell the ranch. They were given three months to move, so they hurriedly bought 128 acres which was in poor shape from ne-

glect, with a rundown house in Shiner, Texas. With hard work and some hired help, they made improvements to the land and remodeled the house. They became members of the Shiner Methodist Church where Alice was in United Methodist Women again. She did volunteer work at the Lutheran nursing home and was a "Pink Lady" for the Shiner Hospital. Fred was involved with Masonic work.

Alice's eye problems, which required a cornea transplant, kept them traveling to Columbus, Texas to see her doctor. Fred had a stroke in 1980. During a doctor visit in 1988, they noticed a house for sale in Columbus and decided to buy it, since they needed to be closer to the eye clinic and the farm was getting to be too much work for Fred. Fred had a second stroke in 1990 and passed away in 2000.

After moving to Columbus, Alice finally had time to start researching her family history. She is a member of United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) through her mother's uncle, Merideth Thurman, and she is a member of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) through her second great grandfather, Stephen Cole. She is recognized often with the Historical Society of Pasadena, Texas and has been very helpful with genealogy research.

She has also enjoyed traveling throughout her life and has many interesting stories to tell about her travels.

Each year, Alice uses her birthday, which is the first day of Spring, as an opportunity to invite all her friends to celebrate Spring. In March, 2009, Alice celebrated her 100th birthday with many friends and family members. This celebration was hosted by her two daughters, Sonya Saul and Jo Keese, with the help of Nancy Keese, her granddaughter. She was given a lifetime membership in the Parke Society by Frank and Kimberly Parks (see photo).



Alice is totally independent, except for driving. Her daughter is near and checks on her daily. She attends water aerobics for an hour, five days a week and is very active with church activities. She always has a contagious smile and keeps everyone laughing. Perhaps this, along with her Christian faith, is her recipe for 100 years of a healthy active life. ■

Robert Leon Parke, PS#755

Robert, Thomas², Robert³, Hezekiah⁴, Paul⁵, Hezekiah⁶, Asa⁷, Edwin⁸, Russell⁹, Leon¹⁰, Edwin¹¹, Robert¹²

Robert L. Parke has been an active member of the Parke Society since 1989. He is a Life Member and the longest-serving Trustee. He is also Lineage Leader for Charts 8, 9, 10, 11 Robert. He is descended from two Park/e/s lineages: Robert (MA 1630) lineage and Richard (MA 1635). His lineage also includes other early New England surnames.

Robert and his wife, Geri, reside in St. Cloud, Florida. They have three children: daughters Cheryl Lynn Parke Heineman, PS#831, Tracy Ann Parke Pullen, PS#832, and son David S. Parke, PS #833. They also have seven grandchildren. Bob's career—he is a retired communications executive—includes broad experience in administrative management. He and his wife

have been Honorary Trustees of the American Indian Relief Council, and were recipients of Certificates of Appreciation from the Indian Relief Council for each year from 1996 through 2001. Bob is the recipient of a Special Recognition Award from the Masters Degree program in National Security Studies, Graduate School of Georgetown University. In 1979, the Township of Pemberton, N.J. proclaimed Bob Parke Day in recognition of his services to the community. He has received the Customer Appreciation Award from GN Netcom/Unex, and the Partners in Excellence Award from the Walt Disney Company. Bob is a member of the National Notary Association, Florida Notary Association, American Society of Notaries, Purchasing Management Association. He is also Honorary Life Member of the Florida Sheriffs Association, and has been Life Trustee of the Rebecca Wolf Memorial Fund for twenty-five years. Other notable memberships include the Connecticut Society of Genealogy Inc., America's First Families, Society of the Descendants of the Colonial Clergy, Deputy Governor of the Florida Branch of the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, the Winthrop Society, the Golden Ears Club, Knights of Columbus Council 5958, and Father William Holmes Assembly 1951.

In 1996, Bob and Geri hosted the Parke Society Convocation in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. That convocation was especially notable for the Board's first discussion of the Internet and its effect on the future of our society. One of the speakers at the meeting was Ann Parker Whitewolf, named after her great-grandmother, Cynthia Ann Parker, who was originally from Illinois and who, with her family, founded Fort Parker in the Texas frontier in the 1830s. In 1836, when Cynthia Ann Parker was 9 years old, Comanches raided Fort Parker. During the raid, Cynthia Ann and her brother John were

continued on p. 42

Park/e/s Profiles: Robert Leon Parke
cont'd from p. 41

taken by the Indians. John's fate is unknown, but the Indians raised the little girl as their own. Cynthia Ann was given the Comanche name Naudah. She became the wife of Chief Peta Noncon and later had three children, two boys and a little girl. One of the boys was Quanah Parker, the last chief of the Comanches. Ann Parker Whitewolf's topic at the convocation was "The Trail of Tears." She was eloquent in her description of the forced movement of the Indians to Oklahoma.

For the past several years, Robert has been working on updating and documenting the Robert (MA 1630) lineage for the first six generations, or further when possible. This has involved trying to find vital records or other documentation to either prove or disprove material primarily from the F.S. Parks books [see following article]. There are questions regarding marriages, birth and death dates, which wife was the mother of the children, etc. There is also the problem that, according to the Connecticut State Library and two or three Historical Groups, most of the genealogies that are published have incorrect names of the towns. Even though records were found in places like Groton, Conn., it did not mean that Groton was the actual place of the birth or death. Using the above mentioned sources, Bob discovered Groton was known as: Poquonnock Plantations (1620–1638), Poquonnock Plantations, Connecticut Colony (1638–1648), New London Village, Connecticut Colony (1648–1666), New London (New London) Connecticut Colony (1666–1705), Groton Village (New London), Connecticut Colony (1705–1788), and Groton (New London), Connecticut (1788–present). The same holds true for North Stonington, Stonington, New London, Preston, and a number of others. If he has the time, Bob will probably make an effort to correct the work that he is doing so that is also

acceptable history-wise, as well as being genealogically accurate.

Robert would greatly appreciate receiving documentation of births, deaths, and marriages from anyone who descends from the Robert line. It is to be hoped that through this project, the Society will be able to help some of those whose DNA has connected them to Robert, yet lack that missing link. His surface mail address is: Robert L. Parke, PO Box 700572, Saint Cloud, FL, 34770-0572. His email address is RLPinke828@aol.com. ■

Frank Sylvester Parks

Frank Sylvester Parks published four volumes on Parke families primarily from New England. For many years, his volume titled *Genealogy of the Parke Families of Connecticut; including Robert Parke of New London, Edward Parks, of Guilford, and Others* (Vol. 1), covering our Lineage Keys S, T, and W, has been considered the best authority on these lineages. It was published in 1906 and was later followed by *Supplement to the Parke Families of Connecticut* (Vol.3-4), published 1925 and 1934. He also published a volume relating to Richard Parks of Cambridge, Massachusetts (Vol.2), LK=R.

Mr. Parks relied on the publications available to him then, such as the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, local histories, and family genealogies. His genealogies and history were excellent for the early 1900s. From necessity, however, he relied on material received from those family members interested in their own particular branch of the lineage. This means that there are descendants of those first five generations for whom he had either very little or no material to publish. Perhaps I should point out that the ancestor of one of our Society members had actually originally been listed as *died young!* Today, the Internet has made communication much easier for those who

are interested in tracing their Park/e/s roots, but documented evidence is still very important. Those individuals whose DNA matches that of the Robert lineage undoubtedly have their roots somewhere within these first few generations.■

Historian's Corner: the "Virginia Problem" revisited

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

Spurred by Randall Lee Dickinson PS#1498's very solid article concerning his possible Virginia ancestry (see pp. 33-38 in this issue), I have realized that it is again time to revisit the "Virginia Problem." And that is? Vast confusion, all too many similar names, and work by past amateur genealogists who have really mucked up things.

To that end, I recently pulled all the files I could find related to Virginia and the Eastern Shore Park/e/s. It's an impressive, but also very confusing, eight-inch stack of paper. Much chaff there will have to be weeded out with a careful, page by page review, to try to make sense of what we do, and do not know.

Over the next couple of months I hope to delve deeply into the Virginia Problem and maybe produce a definitive listing of all of the early Park/e/s that seem to have appeared in Virginia, its Eastern Shore and surrounding areas. Wish me luck.

A final note: please be sure to read the Closed Circuit to Members, and to cast the Proxy Ballot as requested, whether or not you are planning on joining us in Frederick, Maryland at the end of this coming September. All members are invited to come, meet the Core Staff of the Society and—with advance notice to the Historian—discuss their lineage. It costs nothing to attend. Complete Section A if you are coming, and Section B if you are not coming but wish to

register a vote or opinion. In either case, fold, tape shut, apply postage, and mail it (the back is pre-addressed to our Proxy Secretary, Curtis Parks). We will post attendance and Proxy Ballot receipts on our website. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.■

Vetting submitted articles

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

We truly appreciate and encourage members to submit articles for publication in the Newsletter concerning their own searches and discoveries. These pieces might contain clues that could help other members with their searches, and suggest new approaches.

All submitted materials must be vetted—that is, fact-checked against the Society's records, and perhaps adding lineage keys and group sheet numbers. The aim is to ensure accuracy, both for the author and the Society.■

Deaths noted

PS# 327, (Alice) Margaret (Mrs. Edward F.) Kilpatrick passed away March 5, 2009, age 98, at New Loudon, PA. She was descended from a John Parke of York Co., PA, LK=JJ .

PS#453, Philip José (Parks) Farmer passed away February 25, 2009, age 91, at Peoria, IL. He was a well-noted science fiction and fantasy writer, author of the Riverworld series and an eleventh generation descendant of Roger Parke of New Jersey, LK=K .

Complete obituaries for both members will appear in the next Newsletter.■

<p>The next editorial due date is October 15, 2008</p>

Using Facebook for Genealogy

by Ken Parks PS #1406

What is Facebook?

Facebook is a free social networking website with 100 million users as of August 2008. It has been stated that Facebook now adds 100,000 new users *every day*.

Facebook was created in February, 2004 by Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg. Originally open only to Harvard students, it quickly expanded to include other Ivy League schools, then high schools, and finally, in September 2006, anyone over 13 years of age with a valid email address.

From the Wikipedia online article on Facebook:

Facebook has a number of features with which users may interact. They include the Wall, a space on every user's profile page that allows friends to post messages for the user to see, Pokes, which allows users to send a virtual "poke" to each other (a notification that tells a user that they have been poked), Photos, where users can upload albums and photos, and Status, which allows users to inform their friends of their whereabouts and actions. A user's Wall is visible to anyone who is able to see that user's profile, which depends on their privacy settings. In July, 2007, Facebook began allowing users to post attachments to the Wall; previously, the Wall was limited to textual content.

One of the most popular applications on Facebook is the Photos application, where users can upload albums and photos. Facebook allows users to upload an unlimited number of photos, compared with other image hosting services such as Photobucket and Flickr, which apply limits to the number of photos that a user is allowed to upload. In the past, all users were limited to 60 photos per album. However, some users report that they are

able to create albums with a new limit of 200 photos. It remains unclear why some members have a 200-photo limit while others do not. Privacy settings can be set for individual albums, limiting the groups of users that can see an album. For example, the privacy of an album can be set so that only the user's friends can see the album, while the privacy of another album can be set so that all Facebook users can see it. Another feature of the Photos applications is the ability to "tag," or label users in a photo. For instance, if a photo contains a user's friend, then the user can tag the friend in the photo. This sends a notification to the friend that they have been tagged, and provides them a link to see the photo.

—<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook>

Using Facebook for genealogy

Though Facebook was originally created for students, it is quickly being taken over by "boomers!" The fastest growing segment of new users are those over age 25, with over 75% of users out of college. How many of these users are genealogists? Certainly not a large percentage, but statistically, there will be genealogists in the bunch. However, the attraction of Facebook is that, unlike message boards on genealogy sites, you have access to a population of millions of *potential* genealogists—those who might never venture into the Rootsweb/Ancestry realm.

Paul Allen (founder of Ancestry.com and My-Family.com, which later acquired Rootsweb, Family Tree Maker, and Genealogy.com, who then pulled out and later started WorldVitalRecords.com and FamilyLink.com) sees Facebook as the next wave in online development, as important as the creation of Google. Pat Richley, known as the author of the DearMyrtle genealogy blog, has written a very informative article about using Facebook and has moved her blog to a Facebook group page; see: <http://genealogypro.com/genealogy-news/?cat=116>

The mechanics of getting started

Once you have registered as a Facebook user, you can begin to enter as much or as little information on your profile as you wish. While I'll list a few of the steps about how to find friends and relatives, a good explanation of the various features of Facebook and how they work can be found on the 'Help' page—just look for the Help link at the bottom of the page, lower right. There you will see links to various topics which will be helpful in understanding and navigating the site.

Posting a personal photo, though not required, is a great way for people to recognize you when they search for you. After all, what is Facebook without the "face?" As you begin to search for others, you'll quickly realize how valuable a good likeness accompanying your profile can be.

When searching for someone, a friend or relative, you may find many people with the same name. For instance, over forty people are listed on Facebook with the name Ken/Kenneth Parks. Fortunately, many of them have photos posted, but if I were looking for myself and I didn't have a photo posted, then viewing the list of friends for each person named Ken Parks without a photo would be a strategy for finding me. By viewing the friends of each photo-less Ken Parks and where they live, you might be able to determine whether you have found the Ken Parks you're searching for. If, for instance, most of the friends of one of the photo-less Ken Parks appear to be college-age students in the Seattle area, and the Ken Parks (me) you're looking for by that name is, well, not college age and lives in New York City and Sullivan County, New York, then you can probably safely eliminate that candidate. This can be a time-consuming process, which is why a photo is such a good idea.

Once you've found someone you know or want to become friends with, you then send a friend request, and have the option to send a message along with it. I always send a message along, even if it's someone I know well and see often. This is especially important if it's a friend from years ago or someone you suspect is a relative, but are not sure about. If the person sees your friend request with no accompanying message and doesn't recognize who you are, they are likely to ignore your friend request.

Even though our older generation is becoming more involved with Facebook every day (my dad is on Facebook!), there is still value in searching for the many young cousins you might find on Facebook. At this point, they are more likely to already have a Facebook page, and once you're in contact with them, they may be able to put you in touch with older relatives you might not otherwise know how to reach. As an example, I was looking for a college friend who I'd last seen in the 1980s while visiting in Atlanta. I met his wife and small daughter at that time, then lost contact for well over twenty years. I searched for him on Facebook with no luck, but he had a fairly uncommon last name, so I searched on that surname and his daughter, named Arabella, and now a twenty-something college student, turned up. I sent her a friend request with a message explaining who I was and my desire to reach her father. She forwarded my email address to him, we're back in touch and he's now on Facebook, reconnecting with dozens of other college friends!

The Parke Society on Facebook

Another of the features of Facebook that will be of interest to genealogists is the ability to form a Facebook group. You can search for existing groups, and joining is an easy process. Depending on how the group administrator has set it

continued on p. 46

Using Facebook for genealogy

cont'd from p. 45

up, anyone may be able to join or permission from the administrator may be required. There are groups for almost any interest or topic, but if you don't find one that speaks to your needs or interests, it's very easy to set one up. I belong to several groups connected with my college days at Kent State University as a theatre major, and we're using the forum on one of them to organize and find a date for an upcoming reunion. It saves a great deal of individual emailing back and forth, and we're also able to post photos, etc. as well.

A search for 'genealogy' in groups turns up over 500 hits. One of these is an amusing group called "My last name is Parkes...Spelled with an 'E'"! The group description is: For anyone who constantly says, "My last name is Parkes - spelled P-A-R-K-E-S" or risk being known as a lowly "Parks." It has over 200 members, most of whom appear to be fairly young (20s-30s) and a good portion of them from the British Isles. Even though I am a "lowly Parks" I joined the group, just to spread the word about the Parke Society and the Park/e/s DNA surname project.

However, you may not find a group specific enough for your research needs, and may want to begin one of your own. I began a group for The Parke Society, open to members or those who may wish to join the Society in the future. It's a great online forum and we're able to post photos of Parke Society functions, various Park/e/s lineages, and could even post images of old deeds, birth certificates, etc. Since this is my first opportunity to spread the word about the group in the newsletter, we currently only have 13 members in the Facebook group, but I'm taking this opportunity to invite all Parke Society members to join—we'd love to see you there! Several members have posted old family

photos—a great way to share these with others from the same Park/e/s lineage.

Numerous family tree applications are also available on Facebook. A word of caution on these—do your homework and read comments and reviews on each application's page to determine whether you wish to try it out. Many of these seem to have serious problems and can be virtually unusable. Facebook does not create these applications, so you need to use caution when choosing one. This seems to be an area still in the shakedown phase, so I plan to proceed with caution and not become too heavily invested in this until I see how things are going.

Facebook and other social networking sites such as MySpace can be very useful for genealogists trying to connect with living relatives. As with any other resource, it has advantages and disadvantages, and may not be right for everyone. If it seems right for you, then I feel it's worth giving it a shot. It's free and has the added advantage of being useful in many other areas of your life: as a way of staying in touch with family and friends, and finding and interacting with others with common interests in a wide variety of areas. While getting used to navigating the site and using the various applications can take a bit of practice, the results can be very rewarding. ■

2009 Parke Society Corporate Meeting

members and non-members welcome

September 26, 2009, 10 AM

Frederick County Library

Frederick, Maryland

Please see details at

<http://www.parke.org/2009corporate.html>

Lineage Key Index—Part 3

by Society staff

In our last two issues (Vol. 45, No. 1-2), 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 often 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. When that is the case, 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 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 **A** (William Parke, line named for son Arthur); **B** (Andrew Park, ca. 1720, Ireland?); **D** (Samuel Parks, 1730-1796); **E** (Samuel Park, 1730, Ireland); **F** (Thomas Parke, 1660, Ireland); and **G** (James Park/s, 1724-1769).

In this issue, in light of Randall Lee Dickinson PS#1498's article (pp. 33-38) and the Historian's Corner on "The Virginia Problem," it seems appropriate to present Lineage Key **V**.

V William Parke of VA (commonly referred to as the Park/Custis line) William Parke (ca. 1575-ca. 1633/4). He married Sarah (Unknown), date unknown. He came to Williamsburg, VA, ca. 1633, aboard *The Blessing*. Only two children known. There is a probable interrelationship between Robert (MA 1630) and William (Park/Custis line) and William Parke to New Kent, VA ca. 1650 (PS Lib. Book)

This line is linked to George Washington, first President of the United States. The President was Martha (Dandridge) Custis's second husband. She was the widow of Daniel Parke Custis, who was the son of John Custis and Frances Parke, daughter of Col. Daniel Parke, (Daniel, William). Martha had four children by Daniel Custis, all of whom were raised in the Washington household. Through Matha's son, John Parke Custis, there is also a line to Civil War General Robert E. Lee.

This line is not as well documented as one would have liked, with many blanks yet to be filled in.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

1530 Patricia A. Hom

San Diego, CA

Lineage is fragment line, LK=TZ, that starts with a James Parks, born ca. 1780/81, perhaps in the colony of Maryland, died 1861 in OH, and married to an Elizabeth Davis before 1802. From there the line is John B.² Parks, Adam S.³ Parks, Ostrander Johnson⁴ Parks, Paul Brownlee⁵ Parks, Richard Rohan⁶ Parks to member⁷.

1531 Clohesey Lord Hale

Charlestown, RI

Lineage is the Arthur Parke line of Ireland and Pennsylvania, LK=A. Line is William¹ Parke, Arthur² Parke, born ca. 1877, Ireland, and died Chester Co., PA in 1739. From there the line is John³ Parke, John⁴ Parke, Arthur⁵ Parke, Samuel Reynolds⁶ Parke, Samuel Reynolds⁷ Parke, Pollyanne Joan⁸ Parke who married Joseph Thomas Lord, to member⁹.

1532 Alice Parks McKissick

Columbus, TX

Lineage is the fragment line, LK=WQ, starting with a James¹ Parks (c. 1780-1855) who in 1804 married an Elizabeth Ellsworth (1785-1868). The line continues with James A.² Parks m. Laura Sophronia Fox, to Calvin Wilson³ Parks, James Devere⁴ Parks, to member⁵.

DNA test for a cousin (PS#1423) tells us that this line is directly related to Robert Parke (MA, 1630)—now to find the connecting link.

1533 Timothy James Stufft

Silver Spring, MD

Lineage is Roger (NJ 1682), LK=K, through Roger (02K3) Parke, Line is Roger¹ Parke, Roger² Parke, William³ Parke, Zebulon⁴ Parke, Mary⁵ Park, who married David Moore, to Zebulon⁶ Moore, John A.⁷ Moore, Anna Mae⁸ Moore who married Jacob Benjamin Stufft, to Charles Glenn⁹ Stufft, Derry Lynn¹⁰ Stufft, to member¹¹.

1534 Dick Caouette

Provincetown, MA

Lineage is new fragment line, LK=NO, that starts with Capt. (Deacon) Russell Park, (1788-1864), died in North Branch, PA. Married to Sophia Barstow (1789, Canterbury, CT—1871, Wyoming Co., PA) in 1810 in Canterbury, CT. Line is Russell¹ Park, Albert² Park, Hannah Filura³ Park who married Jackson Lewis, to Edith Jane⁴ Lewis, who married Frank Whitlock Pritchard, to Hazel Ruth⁵ Pritchard, who married Otis Matthew Caouette, to member⁶.

1535 Richard Newton Park

Richardson, TX

Lineage is new fragment line, LK = PO that starts with Ivy Newton Park, born 1870, place of birth, date and place of death unknown. Married in 1901 in Butte, MT to Della Aurora Sweet (1873, IA—1930 WA). Line is Ivy Newton¹ Park, Carl Allison² Park, to member³. ■

The next editorial due date is
October 15, 2008