

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

John Madison (03WR18) Parks, Sr.

From Lola Spohn Nielsen's letters to Richard Parks, PS#1468

Edited by Jean C. Churchill, PS#934

Mother has often spoken to me of the hard time her father had. He was married but a short time when his father [John B. Parks (1798 – 1844), wife Beulah Messenger (1798 – 1884)] died and left his mother with 14 children. John M. had the heavy responsibility fall upon his shoulders as he was the eldest son. He helped care not only for his own wife and children, but also for his mother and many brothers and sisters as well. Life was not easily lived...in the tall green woods of Ohio in those days. [The family home was a farm in Perry Township, Tuscarawas Co, OH near the small towns of Gilmore and Fallen Timber Creek] There were many hardships, very little money and no conveniences whatever.

John's wife [Mary Milliken, d. 1862] died soon after the birth of their seventh child... which also added

to his burdens and sorrows. It was five years later when he met my grandmother and had three more children...of which my mother [Julia Rosetta Parks] was the youngest. Grandmother Lusinah was 27 when she and grandfather were married. He was a widower with 5 children: Clem, Lib, Nan, John M., Jr., and Sam.

My mother, Julia Rosetta, remembered the natural talent for music in her family. She was fascinated by her father's singing in church. His voice was deep and resonant. The church she remembered was the Perry Meeting House in Perry Township, Tuscarawas Co, OH. They all sang a lot at home – Sam sang Bass and Tenor, so did John Jr. and Nan sang soprano while Lib sang alto. When mother was five years old, she sat on Lib's lap and learned to sing alto. The musical instruments they had were: large French harp, a Jew's harp, and an accordion. They all played the instruments. John M. Jr. played bass horn in the band in Gilmore, Ohio. In Kansas, Oshea became adept at playing piano, organ, and violin all by "ear." Mother played piano and violin by "ear," I play piano by "ear" also. My sister, Opal had a wonderful soprano voice.

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THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 50, No. 2

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

Application Fee	\$ 15.00
Annual Dues	\$ 30.00
Life Membership (US funds only)	\$265.00

THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER is published by the Society for its members three times per year. Copies sent to libraries and genealogically oriented societies on request. Articles on research, historical records, as well as news items and queries are always welcome, as are photographs, document scans, and other significant visual materials.

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

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

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

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

P.O. Box 590
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Please also send such materials to your Lineage Leader, if you have one.

COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, AND CRITICISMS: Send all general correspondence of this kind to our President, **Ken M. Parks**, PS#1406 at kenparks@earthlink.net.

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

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

MISSING LINKS: Send all questions and articles relating to Missing Links to our Missing Links Editor, **Mrs. Jean Churchill**, PS#934, at sdtjs2001@yahoo.com, or by surface mail to her at P.O. Box 4854
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NEWSLETTER: Send article submissions and comments to our Editor, **Paul Jordan-Smith**, PS#1451 at parkenews@csedl.org. *Handwritten submissions cannot be accepted.* If you don't have email, send all *typed* materials to

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WEBSITE: Send suggestions to our Webmaster, Paul Jordan-Smith, PS#1451, at webmaster@parke.org.

John Madison (03WR18) Parks, Sr.
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It was a mistake for grandfather to leave Ohio and move to Kansas in 1878... but he couldn't know that, at the time. He heard many glowing tales of Free Land in Kansas... he heard much about the wonderful opportunities out west. He wanted land for his boys, so their lives could be more rewarding than his had been. He didn't realize the people who related the glowing tales of opportunity and wealth did not stick to the Truth! So, he gathered his large family into covered wagons and headed for "The Promised Land."

My grandparents left Tuscarawas County, Ohio in the Autumn of 1878. All of grandfather's family came west in the covered wagon – except Clementine. She and her husband, Philip Murphy, remained in Ohio the rest of their lives. Those in the wagon were: Elizabeth ("Lib"), Nancy Ann ("Nan"), John M., Jr., Sam, grandfather and grandmother and their 3 youngest children: Ernest, Oshea, and my mother (Julia Rosetta) who was age 7. They boarded a Steamboat (Paddle Wheeler), "The Mary Miller" in Wheeling, West Virginia in November 1878.

I have since wondered if the horses had to remain in the harness, securely hitched to the wagon during the long trip down the Ohio River? They probably were though I didn't think to ask Mother about this. She could have told me because the long ago journey remained very clear in her memory during her long life.

At Cairo, Illinois, the Ohio River joins the Mississippi. They changed boats there – boarded "The Katie Stockton" (Paddle Wheeler) and went on down the Mississippi to Saint Louis, Missouri. There they docked and began the rest of their journey overland. Towns Mother remembered were: St. Genevieve, Lebanon, Buffalo and Bolivar in Missouri. Girard, Winfield, Council Grove, and Ellsworth in Kansas, and Lincoln Center near the Homestead in Lincoln County, Kansas, Beaver Township where they settled.

Mother never forgot how frightened she was when Grandfather had to "float the wagon" across rivers.

The water was so clear, she could see down to the river-bed and she knew the water was very deep. Two rivers she spoke of were the Gasconade [east of Lebanon, MO] and the Neosho [west of Girard, KS].

They were still in Missouri when they were caught by a bad snowstorm. Grandfather and his older sons removed the wheels from the wagon and fashioned sled-runners so they could travel on. They stopped at a fine farmhouse that had a white picket fence around it. The lady of the house invited them in to get warm. Mother believed she was a Southern lady because she was wearing an elegant dress with a long train attached to the skirt... and there were attached long sleeves [probably buttoned on].

Grandfather homesteaded 160 acres which lay 7 miles northeast of the town of Lincoln (then known as Lincoln Center, KS). Later he bought 40 acres of school land and around 60 acres of "Timber Claim" – the latter had to be planted in trees so he put out 8 or 10 acres of Russian Mulberry trees. He also induced a peach orchard to grow in the sandy Kansas soil. Ohio is a fertile state, much natural green growth upon the land and plenty of water and rainfall. Nothing at all like the arid Kansas prairie!

When reaching the Homestead land in Lincoln County, Kansas the family lived in a log cabin until warm weather came and grandfather could build their house. This area is in "Shell Rock Limestone" country. They made their house, corral and fence posts of Shell Rock which was actually limestone which he and the boys took out of the ground. When first taken from the ground, the stone was soft enough to be carved and cut with a stone axe. After being exposed to the air, it hardened. I have a souvenir from the old ranch which I picked up when we were there about 1947. It is a corner of one of his stone troughs. The rock is laden with shells... which verifies the fact Kansas was at one time completely under water.

Poor Grandfather! He was a determined man and a courageous one for he battled the blizzards in winter and the drought in summer, and somehow managed to force peach trees to grow and bear fruit

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John Madison (03WR18) Parks, Sr.

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upon the prairie. A peach orchard was unheard of in Kansas in those days! Mom said people came from miles around to get the fruit and grandfather, ever generous by nature, heaped the baskets so high with golden fruit, they'd roll off. He gave away bushels (he could have made money but would rather give).

Soon after they reached Kansas, the horses died because they couldn't stand the climate. Then grandfather went into sheep raising. His herd was beautiful...two thousand of them. Then they contracted disease and every one of them died. It was a financial blow that cleaned him out but it didn't stop him from working and trying. Mother used to say, "Poor Dad...it seemed like bad luck followed him."

He was left bankrupt. I think he would have been better off financially had he stayed in Ohio. But he wanted to get "out west" where his boys could get land. It was a hard life there on the Kansas prairie—torrid in summer, blizzards in winter. They had to have a wire stretched from the house to the corral so they wouldn't get hopelessly lost on the open prairie during blizzard conditions.

Grandfather was an exceptionally hard worker but he remained poor all his life. Poor but highly respected by all who knew him. He was a kind man, honest and too generous for his own good. In 1879, great grandmother Beulah and one of grandfather's sisters ("Tilly") Rebecca Matilda came west by train to Red Cloud where Grandfather met them and took them to his home in the wagon. My sister, Opal, has the rocking chair that belonged to great grandmother which she brought with her on that trip.

Great grandmother Beulah and Aunt Tilly lived in a sod house which is all that was available near my grandfather's home. Later Aunt Tilly married and her husband built a frame house. Great grandmother lived with them and died in their home in 1884.

In their last days, Grandfather and Grandmother had to live in the homes of their children. I remember Mother telling of the times they came to Missouri to live with Dad, Mother, and Opal. Opal is older than me and remembers our grandparents but I never did

get to see them. Grandfather loved the abundance of fruit trees in Missouri and he couldn't understand why people let so much of the fruit fall to the ground to be wasted. I often think of Grandfather when I pass by an apple orchard heavy with red fruit on the boughs.... How he would have loved the sight of it!

I used to love to hear Mother tell of the days long gone by... I could "see" it all... those days when Life was so different than it is now. Grandfather made their medicine...from the herbs and roots of plants that grew wild. Grandmother even made the yeast with which she baked her bread. Mother told me how she did it, and a few years ago I tried it. I went out to a country road where I knew there were wild hop vines. I gathered the hops, washed them and boiled them. Then I drained the water off (it is a bitter brew!) then I mixed it with cornmeal, as Mother had told me, ...made it into small cakes and let them dry (never in the sun but where warm breezes could dry it out). Then I made bread... and it was really good.

This past spring (May, 1970) we took the time to head for Lincoln County, Kansas. Emerson and Eunice Parks of El Paso [John Emerson 5WR196 Parks] had written, asking us to meet them in Salina. Emerson wanted to show us the old landmarks as he is the only one left who knows where everything used to be. We visited Grandfather Parks old homestead just low stone walls remain, to mark off the site of the house – barn – and corral. Some of grandfather's rock posts are still standing but only the foundation of the house and corral remained.

It is over a hundred years now – but I think the Prairie still blooms pretty in springtime. Wild Onion, wild Roses, Wild Celery, many wild flowers among the prairie grass – flowers I don't know the names of.... It was such a thrill for me to walk the land my Mother had grown up on. I had never seen the Prairie in springtime... it was beautiful. The prairie grass was short and green – dotted with colorful wild flowers – wild onions – and wild celery. Meadowlarks were singing everywhere and the wild prairie Chickens were calling in the distance. We were away from sights and sound of civilization –it was so peaceful – the air so fresh – the sky so wide... as was the Prairie. It was like another world.

Continuing May 12, 1970 – Emerson showed me former home sites of many of my mother’s friends and neighbors back in the 1870’s and 80’s. As you can well imagine – there wasn’t much left of the old homesteads after almost 100 years. I wore boots because there are rattlesnakes, didn’t see any but did see some Prairie Scooters (lizards). Some were green, some were gray. We found the old well on the homeplace and there was indentation of the old road I’ve heard Mother speak of – that wound around back of their house. We also could tell where the 2 caves had been and the spring-house – and found piece of rotted walnut stump and also the stumps of cotton woods in the location I’ve heard Mother speak about. Also found bits of glass and crockery that may have been some of the dishes in that long ago past. We stood on a rise of ground back of the house and looked toward the Twin Mounds (old landmark near Ellsworth, Kansas) about 25 miles away. Can see so far out there – compared to Missouri.

Sunday morning I awakened just before daybreak.. got up, dressed, motioned to Wags (dog) to come with me, and we slipped out for a morning walk. It was so quiet out there on the Prairie... no sounds of “civilization...” nothing but clean fresh air and south breezes – songs of Meadowlarks and the calls of Prairie Chickens in the distance. I can’t begin to express my thoughts and feelings as I walked in the solitude... upon the land my Ancestors had trodden, almost a century ago. Just wouldn’t have missed it for anything! A memory I will never forget.☺

From the President’s Desk

By Ken Parks PS#1406

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the worst of this winter’s brutal weather should be behind us. One way I’ve been able to cope with my least favorite season of the year has been to focus on preparations for this summer’s Parke Society Convocation in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Full details can be found in a separate article in this issue, but I want to extend my invitation here to all who might be able to join us

in August. Though we have phones, email, Facebook, blogs and other methods of keeping in touch, nothing compares to gathering in the same space and time to really get to know each other. I hope to see many of you in Lancaster this summer!

Parke Society Website

While preparations for next summer’s Convocation have taken up a good bit of our time and energy, plans are proceeding to ready content for our Members Only portion of the Parke Society website. Some of the initial content will include the Parke Society eLibrary. This will be a compilation of public domain books available on such sites as Google Books, Project Gutenberg, and many others, which contain references to various Park/e/s lineages. Some will be complete compiled genealogies, while others will be articles in county histories such as those produced by the Goodspeed publishing company in the 19th Century.

While these volumes are available to anyone through an online search, our eLibrary will not only identify the online source—with a link to the site holding the volume—but will identify, when possible, the Park/e/s family or individual referenced using our Lineage Key system, thus helping our members quickly ascertain whether the Park/e/s mentioned are part of their particular lineage. As with other content which will appear in the Members Only section, new content will be added on an ongoing basis as more material is discovered.

In addition to the eLibrary, results of the newly-announced State/County project will begin to appear as they are readied—more on that project below.

State/County Project

Progress, slow but steady, is being made on this mammoth research project. Though some counties have been completed for various states, we are currently focusing on Pennsylvania in preparation for our upcoming Convocation in Lancaster. Starting with the 1850 census, we are working our way through the 65 counties in existence at the time, and this has already provided new information and raised interesting research questions. By cross-referencing

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From the President's Desk

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census and other available information for each county, we are filling in gaps in our database and, once this project is much further along, will have amassed a body of information unlike that available for any other surname research project.

Park/e/s DNA Project

The Park/e/s DNA project continues to grow at a steady pace, and each new participant adds another piece to the puzzle for each lineage involved. As mentioned in previous project updates, at present only about 25% of the Lineage Keys identified by the Parke Society are represented in the DNA database. By bringing that number as close to 100% as we can, a wealth of information could be gleaned from this valuable adjunct to traditional genealogical research.

In an attempt to encourage those from unrepresented Lineage Keys to participate in the DNA project, we are announcing a new fund-raising effort to lower the cost of testing even more for our members. As you may know, FTDNA, our testing firm, maintains a General Fund for each surname project. Anyone can contribute to the General Fund, and those funds can be applied to the cost of individual DNA tests by the project administrator.

To demonstrate my commitment to the importance of the DNA project, I have made an initial donation to the General Fund to get the ball rolling, and I am issuing a fundraising matching challenge to our members: for every dollar donated to the General Fund, I will match that contribution dollar for dollar, thus doubling any contribution made. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who cannot participate directly in the DNA project as DNA donors, or who cannot find a close relative to do so, to help us achieve our goal of complete representation. It is also an opportunity for those who have already participated, and benefitted from the knowledge gained, to lend further support so that others can have an opportunity to benefit as well.

As long as sufficient funds are available in the General Fund, any Parke Society member ordering a

Y-DNA test for themselves, or for any eligible male Park/e/s DNA donor, will have half the cost of the test paid from the General Fund. This, in addition to the already reduced group rate we receive, will make it even more attractive to participate and have your Park/e/s lineage represented genetically. We would especially encourage anyone whose lineage is not already represented to take advantage of this offer, as the knowledge gained will be a plus to both the member and to the Society. To obtain this benefit when ordering a test, simply contact the Group Administrator (OK, that would be me) and we'll apply the funds accordingly.

So, we have two goals here: first, we are encouraging all members to support the Park/e/s DNA project by contributing to the General Fund, with each donation being doubled by the matching challenge. This support will enable us to realize our second goal, which is to increase our representation of all Lineage Keys, by making participation as a Parke Society member an even greater bargain!

To donate to the Park/e/s DNA Project General Fund, simply go to the project's website at: <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/park-e-s/> and scroll to the bottom of the page. You will see the General Fund heading, with a link to the page for making your donation. Donations may be made with any major credit card, Paypal, or can be made by mail using the address provided on the page.

A Little Help Here...

Finally, though it has been mentioned here in the newsletter on a regular basis over the years by our Executive Director and others, I'd like to add my voice to the chorus of staff and officers who have reason to hear from members, or a need to contact them. Though it is difficult to remember all the people one may need to update when either physically moving to a new address, or changing one's phone number or email address, please keep the Society in mind when any of your contact information changes.

Our dues renewal mailings and newsletter mailings provide some means for alerting us when an address change has occurred, but there are occasions when a research development arises and we need to reach a member who might be affected by that news, and

nothing is more frustrating than not being able to get in touch! So, at the risk of sounding like the proverbial broken record, please remember to advise the Society of any changes in your contact information. Change of address or contact information should be addressed to our Executive Director, Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks PS#425H, whose contact information can be found the Contact Information column, which appears in every newsletter.

And, just as important, please remember to identify yourself with your Parke Society PS# in any and all communications. It really helps all of us on staff to be able to quickly identify who it is we're hearing from. As you can well imagine, we have more than a few members with the Park/e/s surname, and a number with the same given names, so having a PS# as well as a name avoids any confusion and the need to search to confirm the member's identity—and that goes for members with other surnames as well! Thanks!!☺

2014 Parke Society Convocation in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

After an absence of several years, we are pleased to announce plans for a full Parke Society Convocation, to be held August 21-23, 2014, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. More detail about the actual Convocation agenda will appear in the next newsletter, as well as on our Parke Society website and Facebook page, but details about the Convocation site and hotel information are set, and we invite and encourage all members to join us in historic Lancaster next summer!

The Convocation Site

In the past, we often held Convocations near premier genealogy research facilities, such as those in Salt Lake City, Utah and Fort Wayne, Indiana. In such locations, we maintained our own research room of Parke Society materials in a dedicated space in the Convocation hotel. This year, we will set up our research room in a dedicated space within the genealogy research facility itself, making this a “one-stop shopping” experience for our members!

Lancaster County's Historical Society has recently been combined with President James Buchanan's home, Wheatland, into an entity known as LancasterHistory.org. Located on the same 10-acre campus, this excellent research library/archive/museum is a short walk from the home of our 15th president, on beautiful grounds that include the Tanger Arboretum, featuring over 100 species of trees.

Though the library at the historical society holds extensive materials pertaining to Lancaster County, its 15,000 volumes also cover other Pennsylvania counties as well as neighboring states. Atlases and maps, family files, genealogies, newspapers...the list of the library's holdings goes on and on. A search of the library and archive holdings can be performed on the LancasterHistory.org website, enabling visitors to plan their research in advance.

As mentioned earlier, the Parke Society will maintain its own research room onsite, including the complete contents of the Dana Parks, Jr. Memorial Lending Library (contents listed on our website) and the Lineage Binders maintained by our Parke Society Historian. In addition, members attending will be able to participate in our own version of the Genealogy Roadshow, booking an appointment in advance to consult with Parke Society staff to discuss their own particular lineage, including an examination of strategies for overcoming “brick walls” in their Park/e/s family tree.

Other activities at the Lancaster Historical facility will include a reception on Thursday evening, August 21st, and an afternoon luncheon/presentation about early Park/e/s lineages in Pennsylvania on Friday, August 22nd.

The Convocation Hotel

We have secured a block of 15 rooms at the Comfort Inn in nearby Columbia, Pennsylvania, west of Lancaster and an easy 7 mile, 13 minute drive to the Lancaster Historical Society. The hotel has given us a room rate of \$111.99 per night which, with the applicable taxes, will bring the total cost to just under \$125 per night. While we'd hoped to find options

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The 2014 Parke Society Convocation *cont'd from p. 23*

at slightly lower rates, this is a very popular area in terms of tourism during the summer months, and hotel choices with suitable accommodations and the level of services, such as free breakfast, wifi, etc., we felt important to our members came with a slightly higher rate.

Because we have no idea at this point how many members will choose to attend the Convocation, our estimate of 15 rooms may well be on the low side. Since this is, as mentioned earlier, an extremely popular area for summer tourism, the hotel is expected to be filled to capacity at the time of our gathering. Because of this, those planning to attend are strongly urged to book their room as early as possible. Should member demand exceed our 15 room allotment, the sooner we know how many rooms we will actually need above the original allotment, the more likely we will be able to add rooms to the block if, and only if, they are still available. As we get closer to our 30 day cut-off date of July 21st, it is unlikely that extra rooms will be available. The need to book early cannot be stressed enough, as it will enable us to add rooms to the hotel block, while giving us a more accurate idea of Convocation attendance for other planning purposes. Our block of rooms is for the dates of August 21–23 (checking out on the 24th). Anyone attending who wishes to arrive earlier or stay later than those dates will be able to add additional nights to their reservation *at the group rate*, provided the hotel has available rooms at the time of booking. Again, early booking is important!

The Comfort Inn is located at 3903 Abel Drive, Columbia, Pennsylvania 17512. The phone number is (717) 285-9100. Simply ask for a room in The Parke Society block of rooms. Should you have any difficulty, the contact person at Comfort Inn for our group is John Ashbrook.

The Convocation Banquet/Corporate Meeting

To close our Convocation, on Saturday evening, August 23rd, we will gather at the John J. Jeffries restaurant in the Lancaster Arts Hotel for our banquet,

followed by a brief Corporate Meeting, as required by our by-laws.

A member of the Historic Hotels of America, Lancaster Arts Hotel was originally a tobacco warehouse, dating from the 1880s. During renovations, workers found in the floor beams a tobacco inspection stamp, dated November 5, 1890, signed with the name of inspector John J. Jeffries. The restaurant, named for Mr. Jeffries, features locally sourced, seasonal, farm-to-table ingredients prepared by two young chefs, both graduates of culinary arts institutes. Both the location and the menu promise to make our banquet a great dining experience!

The cost of the banquet is included in the member registration fee, and includes the three-course meal, all non-alcoholic beverages, tax and tip. There will be a cash bar available, with a selection of wines, craft-brewed beers, and other alcoholic beverages. Though there is no registration fee for spouses or friends of members, attendance by non-member spouses and friends at the Saturday banquet will require an additional fee of \$55 per person to cover the cost of the meal.

Convocation Registration

The registration fee for members attending the Convocation will be \$80 per member which, in addition to the use of our research room and Genealogy Roadshow, includes access to the Lancaster Historical Society's library and archives, as well as all Society events (Thursday reception, Friday luncheon/presentation, Saturday banquet.) Non-member spouses or friends of members attending will be able to accompany members at no charge in the Historical Society's library and to all Society events at the Historical Society. As noted above, for spouses and friends of non-members, there is an additional charge for the Saturday banquet.

Make Your Plans Now!

More information about things to do and see in the area, as well as information about other nearby research facilities, will appear in the next newsletter, on our website, and on the Parke Society Facebook page. Though our Convocation events are, in and of themselves, worth the trip to Lancaster, there are

plenty of attractions in the area for those wishing to extend their visit beyond our Convocation dates.

As soon as you are able, please fill out and return the enclosed registration form and book your hotel accommodations. This year's location promises an interesting, rewarding Convocation experience, and we look forward to greeting many of our members in Lancaster—some newer members for the first time! Whether new faces or old friends, please join us in historic Lancaster County next summer to help celebrate the Society's fiftieth anniversary!☺

Historian's Corner:

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

Notes from all around: continuity and legacy

We as a society have been around for 50 years now, collecting data, documenting lineages, helping members trace their roots, being the one "clearing house of Park/e/s genealogical data." Making it this far is quite an accomplishment, especially for a genealogically oriented organization. Most don't survive this long. We have out-lived our founder and all of the organization's "charter" members. We are now in the trailing edge of the third generation of members and leaders, looking towards the next generation to step up to the plate and continue the efforts that have been taking place for decades.

I have avocations other than genealogy. Ham radio (W9NOT), model railroading, and supposedly stamp collecting. Unfortunately, those pursuits take a position far down my list of priorities. But nevertheless, I continue to read and keep abreast of developments in those hobbies.

Recently, I ran across an article that raised the question of continuity and legacy which I think that we, as the Parke Society, Inc., should really be thinking about seriously. It was an editorial in the February, 2014 issue of Linn's Stamp News, concerning the American Philatelic Society (APS), which is the mother of all stamp collecting organizations in America.

The concern was that the APS was seeing a long-term downward trend in their membership, which

is causing concern for the overall well-being of the hobby in general, and for that society in particular. From 1990 to last November, their membership had fallen by 44%, with a consequent drop in revenues.

As a financial auditor, one of the things I always need to gauge is what we call the "going concern assumption." Are the audited organization's trends such that we can assume that the organization is not in danger of closing in the foreseeable future? Based on what the auditor sees as the current trends, can they meet their goals? It bodes very badly for any organization if the going concern assumption seems to be in question. For enterprises, it usually is a forecast of ceasing operations, unless, some drastic changes are made.

While the APS is not saying that there is a going concern question, they are very aware that, if actions are not taken to stabilize their operations, and hopefully change the direction of the trends, there will be in the future. Their Board is taking some strong steps to try to avoid that possibility: new leadership, exploring revision of and innovations to their member services, and launching fund raising efforts, hitherto not done at all.

Simply stated, reversing that downward trend is going to be a tough row to hoe. Stamp collectors have generally always been an older crowd on average, and there have never been so many other pursuits that vie for our time and attention. The negative demographic trend means that longtime collectors are dying faster than they are being replaced by new ones. And of course there is the precipitous worldwide decline in the use of stamps in the mail—getting cancelled stamps off envelopes was once the cheapest way to acquire stamps and to start a collection.

Some of these trends are not unknown to the genealogical/family history hobby. A key issue with genealogy is the demographics: in general, people don't get interested in their ancestry until the gray hairs start to sprout. I was a notable exception when I came into the Society in 1981. All of a sudden (thanks to a new job) I actually had the time that I

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Historian's Corner

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could pursue family history! But that is not generally the case.

The Parke Society faces another factor, especially when everything is supposedly out there on the web, a lot of it free (and of course it is true...): why should anyone pay dues to an organization when they can just sit at the computer and get everything they need?

The result is that we, too, have experienced a downward trend in membership. Certainly not to the point of questioning the going concern, but still an issue to be reckoned with. And it is not just numbers in membership, but also availability of leadership. It takes a few officers and appointees to make this organization run. Newsletters don't print themselves. Correspondence doesn't spring into being automatically. It takes a few dedicated individuals to see that we move forward, and not dissolve into chaos.

Your current officers and appointees are a dedicated group, but someday some of them will be wanting to (or need to) move on. We've been extraordinarily lucky in having people step up for the needs of the Society. Will anyone be available to take over these positions?

Financially, we are holding our own. Reluctantly, we have had to increase our membership dues, the first time since 2002, due to increased costs in our basic services. But those dues only cover the day-to-day operations of the Society. We have no endowment as it were. It's true that we have the Life Dues Reserve, but they really never were (and still aren't) priced at a level that would generate the expected annual dues income. So what we have is an on-going organization that lives, basically paycheck to paycheck, with nothing built for the future.

And that brings me to the subject of continuity and legacy.

The Parke Society has a tremendous amount of materials at its disposal: books, manuscripts, files, binders, group sheets, all of which needs to be carefully maintained. It's fortunate that your current

Historian lives in a large house with the room to have much of this material in one place and accessible (the Librarian has the books and manuscripts). But what if I had to move? Would I still have room for these materials? If someone else had to take over my position, would they have room. And what about the cost of moving the materials. It would not be an easy or small move.

We have talked about being paperless, but that is much easier talked about than accomplishing. The technical problems are legion, and frankly will consume more resources in time and money than we presently have available.

The time may come where the Parke Society has to operate in a different mode, and to do that we will need financial resources independent of annual dues. We would need an endowment of some sort: to guarantee that our work will have continuity, and that the established legacy of being the "clearing house" would not be lost.

This issue was first voiced by one of our southern Trustees back at the 2007 Convocation held at Chattanooga, TN. We all agreed that it was something to consider, but unfortunately, nothing further has become of that proposal.

The purpose of this piece is to raise again to the attention of the Society the prospect of starting to develop an endowment fund that would be available to fund projects, insure the continuity of our mission and goals, and to guarantee the legacy of the Parke Society for future generations. I believe that we do have members who have the means to help us get started on this effort. We would have to explore certain legal and technical hurdles, and hope that there is enough legal expertise within the Society to handle those tasks without great cost.

I put this out there for your careful consideration. Your feedback on this would be welcomed by the Board of Trustees and the Officers.☺

The next editorial due date is
June 1, 2014

Parks Family of Bourbon County, Kentucky-Marshall County, Indiana By Ken Parks PS#1406

Back in 2010, an online posting piqued my interest and became the spark for my research of this fascinating Parks family. Another researcher, who is not related to this family, was seeking information about Dr. Marie J. Parks, the first female doctor in Indiana back in the 19th Century. The researcher's great-grandfather, who was from the South, had attended medical school with Marie J. Parks in New York City and forged a friendship which resulted in correspondence for several years, not only between the two medical school colleagues, but between the gentleman and Marie's daughter Jenny, at the time a boarding school student in Ohio. The researcher had inherited her ancestor's side of this correspondence and was seeking to learn more about Dr. Marie J. Parks. She was also looking for a place to donate the papers, which she felt would be of no interest to her family.

As our joint research began to reveal information about Marie J. Parks, it became clear that the Parks family she had married into did not appear in our Parke Society database. This means we have never had a member who descends from this lineage, but we have since added this Parks family to the database (now identified as LK=KN) and hope to find descendants who may be interested in joining. I will also be looking for an eligible DNA donor from this family to represent the lineage genetically, and see if that offers any insight into how this Parks line may connect with others. Over the past three years or so, research has started and stalled, but a recent discovery tied to this lineage prompted me to begin what will be a three-part series of articles here in the newsletter.

This initial offering will give a broad overview of what we've learned about this Parks family to date. The second installment will focus on Dr. Marie J. Parks, her daughter Jenny, and Jenny's two daughters. The recent discovery which motivated me to at long last begin writing this series will be the subject of the third article. During a session

of searching county histories online for our Parke Society eLibrary (coming soon as a feature of our members-only area of the Society website), a history of Clearfield County, Pennsylvania made several references to a Xingo Parks. Being an unusual name to say the least, I had to investigate! As it turns out, Xingo Parks was a stepson of Dr. Marie J. Parks and had a fascinating history of his own, one which I felt warranted his own chapter. I hope you'll enjoy the saga as it unfolds over the coming issues.

Family Origins

There is information available on the internet about the early origins of this lineage, however, most of it is unsourced and its reliability remains to be confirmed by independent research. In the interest of making this information available for further research, I will put what is believed to be the origin of this family here, with the statement that we cannot yet vouch for its accuracy.

One online site, a researcher's Family Tree Maker page, lists an earliest ancestor for this line as James Parks, born in Northern Ireland, with no other information other than an estimated death date of after 1708. No spouse information is listed, and the only child listed is another James, born 1708 in Maryland, who married Polly Martin. Two children are listed for this couple, yet another James Parks, born 1736 in Maryland who married Polly Miller, and Elizabeth Parks, born 28 August 1763 in Maryland, who died before 1834 in Rush County, Indiana, who married Thomas Gibson. No further information is listed for this Elizabeth Parks. Obviously, the wide span between the birth dates of these two alleged siblings raises questions as to the reliability of this information.

Also from the same researcher's site, a number of children of James Parks and Polly Miller are named: Robert, Peggy, Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, Fannie, Polly, all with no dates other than a place of death listed for Elizabeth Parks of Nelson County, Missouri and that she married John Martin. Two other children are named with more information: Joseph Parks, born between 1786 and 1815, died between 1792 and 1894, and the last being James Orison Parks, born 10

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Parks Family of Bourbon County

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March 1776 in Maryland, who died 28 August 1839 in Bourbon, Marshall County, Indiana.

With no source citations for the above information, we must take it as a guide to be proved or disproved by independent research, but I include it here to make it available for anyone wishing to research these earlier generations. A check of some Maryland sources, such as Robert Barnes's *Maryland Marriages, 1634 – 1777* did not turn up any marriages for a James Parks to either a Miller or a Martin.

From a different online source, we find this account, supposedly written by a descendant of this line:

The early Parks men were farmers, mechanics, and brick makers by occupation and Scotch Presbyterian in religion.

Parks of the family moved from Scotland to Northern Ireland about 1626, and remained there about eighty years. From Ireland they came to America about 1706 and located in Maryland, where three generations of the family were born.

After eighty years in Maryland, the family began to move North, South, and West; some going to Ohio, some to Georgia, and our branch of the family to Kentucky, in 1786, when our grandfather James Parks was ten years old. [Another authority gave the date as 1790 when James Parks was fourteen years old.]

Complicating the research of this Parks family when they arrived in Nicholas County, Kentucky between 1786-90 is the fact that another Parks lineage is known to have been in the area at about the same time. This would be LK=OO, which came from Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania and also had a father/son combination named James Parks. It will take some careful research to determine which lineage is being referenced in the early tax lists and other available information.

With that sketchy information as a preface, we can positively identify the earliest known ancestor of this family as the James Orison Parks, born 10 March

1776 in Maryland listed above. However, though he had a son named James O. Parks, I have found no independent reference to the father which includes either a middle initial "O" or the name Orison, so cannot verify the accuracy of that name. Obviously, it suggests a possible family surname from an earlier generation, but more research is needed here.

James (Orison?) Parks [01KN1] was born 10 March 1776 in Maryland and, according to the online website referenced, married Elizabeth Hughes in 1807 in Nicholas County, Kentucky, though no record of this marriage has been found in available Kentucky marriage collections to date.

James and Elizabeth Parks had twelve known children, all likely born in Kentucky, some perhaps in Nicholas County, but most were likely born in Bourbon County. Of the twelve children, there were eight sons and three daughters and an unnamed infant who died, probably shortly after birth. One of the distinguishing features of this Parks family, in this generation and succeeding ones, is the propensity for distinctive given names. Whether these reflect earlier related families or reference family friends or well-known individuals of the time, only further research can tell. Here are the children of James and Elizabeth in birth order:

George Washington [02KN1] b. 6 January 1810; William Carmin [02KN2] b. 31 July 1811; Mary Foster "Polly" [02KN3] b. 29 August 1812 m. Solomon Linn; James O. [02KN4] b. 20 March 1813; Penelope Miller [02KN5] b. 9 November 1814 m. John Greer; Edward Roten [02KN6] b. 12 June 1816; John Finley [02KN7] b. 4 August 1818; Grayson H. [02KN8] b. 29 June 1820; Toliver Grisley [02KN9] b. 1 April 1821; Isaac Ambrose [02KN10] b. 8 June 1824; Elizabeth [02KN11] b. unknown-died at age of 3; Infant [02KN12] b. unknown.

Early Migrations

Having established their family while in Bourbon County, Kentucky, James and Elizabeth Parks moved to Rush County, Indiana in 1827, when it was still a thinly settled area. Some of the Parks children married while in Rush County, but the entire family again picked up stakes and moved northward, arriving in newly-created Marshall County by 1836. They

named the town they settled Bourbon, after their former Kentucky residence. Apparently some of the other early settlers of this newly-created Bourbon were also neighbors or relatives back in Bourbon County, Kentucky.

The patriarch of this family, James (Orison?) Parks, was the first death in the new settlement of Bourbon, on 28 August 1839, at the age of sixty-three. He was buried in the first cemetery in the township, now known as the Parks or Ganshorn Cemetery. It was cause for some astonishment at the time that his tombstone was ordered from New York, the first tombstone ever brought to Marshall County. The township of Bourbon was organized 6 January 1840, and the first election in the township was held at the house of Elizabeth Parks in April of 1840.

This Parks family would remain largely in Marshall County, with some moving to adjacent Kosciusko County, for many generations to come. It appears that youngest son Isaac Ambrose was the only one of his siblings to leave the area, moving to Sidney, Champaign County, Illinois, where he died in 1882.

A Family Makes Its Mark

Shortly after their arrival in Marshall County, James Parks set about to seek a better life for his children, sending his son, John Finley Parks, to Indiana college at Bloomington in 1837.

A short two years later, John Finley had finished his schooling, as he was appointed the first postmaster in Bourbon in October of 1839. In addition to his duties as postmaster, however, he became a physician, and in doing so, was joining two of his brothers in something of a “family profession.” Older brothers George Washington and Edward Roten were also practicing physicians. From *Reminiscences of the Earlier Days in Kosciusko County by James H. Carpenter* (printed in Northern Indianian Mammoth Holiday Number, Saturday, December 28, 1878):

In 1846 there were but few physicians in this country, and they were hard-working men and poorly paid, and most of them were very fair practitioners. No one who did not live here at the time knows how hard work it was to practice medicine at that time. The country was new, the

roads—what there were of them—were new and rough, and many of the streams unbridged; the physicians had to travel on horseback, and owing to the fact that there were but few doctors, their range of travel was very large....

Dr. Geo. W. Parks had acquired but little knowledge of medicine; but was very attentive to his patients, and done much good. He died many years ago.

Dr. Edward R. Parks was then just fairly commencing the practice of medicine, he studying the profession alone, and for a long time was trusted by none but his nearest neighbors, who employed him because they could not readily procure the services of another physician. He was studious and attentive subsequently attending a course or two of lectures at Laporte and finally became one of the most trusted physicians in the county. He devoted much attention to surgery and attained some notoriety as a surgeon. He was for a short time surgeon of the 30th Indiana volunteers in the late war....

Dr. William Parks studied medicine at Leesburg, and in 1846, when I first became acquainted with him, was one of the leading physicians of the county, he having a most excellent practice, and enjoyed the esteem of the public both as a citizen and physician, which was well deserved. He and Dr. Edward R. Parks were for several years partners, and at that time had the best practice of any physicians in the county. My relations with Dr. William Parks and family were most cordial, and my recollection of them most pleasant. They suffered the loss of several of their children some twenty-six years ago with diphtheria, I believe, that cast a shadow over the lives of the doctor and his most estimable wife....

George Washington Parks had been a blacksmith, but later became a physician and was a member of Union Medical Society of Northern Indiana. He died of typhoid fever at the age of forty-three.

Interestingly, the Dr. William Parks mentioned above is not William Carmin Parks, brother of Edward Roten, who was a farmer. This Dr. William Parks

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Parks Family of Bourbon County

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was born about 1817 in Ohio, and married Mary M. Blain. As mentioned above, he died in 1861 at a comparatively young age. The fact that he knew and partnered with Edward R. Parks in his medical practice begs the question as to whether there was some family connection in earlier generations. More questions to be answered!

Dr. John Finley Parks had a son, Brodie W. Parks, who also became a physician and practiced in Marshall County. Dr. Edward Roten Parks, who was the father of the aforementioned Xingo Parks, was the husband of Dr. Marie J. Parks, the first female doctor in Indiana, and their daughter Jane "Jenny" Clark-Owen also became a doctor. The second and third installments of this series of articles will present more details about this family.

Of the remaining children of James and Elizabeth Parks, sons Toliver Grisley Parks and James O. Parks were successful lawyer/farmers, with James O. Parks serving two terms in the Indiana state legislature. The other sons mainly followed agricultural careers, and the two daughters who lived to adulthood married prominent, successful men as well.

Research Continues

Since this is a lineage previously unknown to the Parke Society, there is still much to learn about this fascinating family. Hopefully descendants can be found and encouraged to join the Society, and some may have access to family lore or records which would advance our knowledge of the earliest generations. The other obvious area for learning more about them is through DNA testing. Since the early family account has family branches migrating from Maryland to such diverse areas as Ohio, Georgia, and Kentucky, matching DNA results with other fragment lines in those areas would offer support for the oral tradition of this immigrant Parks lineage.

Stay tuned for upcoming developments!☞

Be sure to renew your membership!

In Memoriam

The Society notes with regrets and sympathy to the surviving families the following members who have passed away.



Howard Bennett Allen, PS#355, a long time Life Member of the Society, passed away at home in Newton Falls, Ohio on Wednesday 19 September 2012. He was 76.

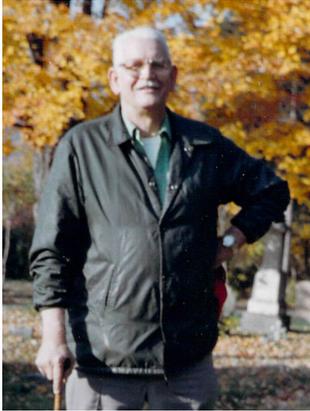
Howard was born on 17 September 1936 in Warren, Ohio, the son of the

late Harold Bennett and Grace Lois (Brown) Allen. Howard is survived by his wife of 54 years, Barbara Lee Inbody, his children, Laura (Ken) Young, Donald Bennett Allen, David (Karen) Allen, Daniel (Justine) Allen, his sisters June (Robert) Popham, Lois (Richard) Scroggs, Marilyn (Charles) Grounds, and Carol Sinn. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

In 1952, Howard was hired by A&P grocery store, where he worked for 13 years, joining General Motors in 1966 from which he retired after 31 years. In 1976 Howard also became a part-time officer in a newly formed department for the Newton Township and later served as its Chief for 8½ years. In 1986 he resigned from the Township force and joined the Newton Falls City Police force on a part time basis.

Howard was active in a number of organizations, including the Masons, the Fraternal Order of Police, the UAW Locals 1714 and 1112, as well as an active member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Newton Falls. In his spare time he enjoyed bowling and doing activities with his family.

Howard was an eleventh generation descendant of Robert Parke, 1630, Massachusetts who came aboard the Winthrop Fleet, though his son Thomas², thence to Thomas³, Eleazer⁴, Simeon⁵, Elijah⁶, John B⁷, Mary Permiela⁸ (Park) Gordon, Anna May⁹ (Gordon) Brown, Grace Lois¹⁰ (Brown) Allen, to Howard Bennett¹¹ Allen. LK=T, Chart 7.



Russel Carlton Park, PS#772, many years a Society Life Member, passed away on 6 December 2013 at the Upstate Community General Hospital in Syracuse, NY. He was 88.

Russel was born on 19 March 1925 to Donald Dey and Bertha Frances (Lobdell) Park in

Syracuse, New York. Not caring much for school, Russel quit in the 8th grade to learn the trades from his father, a contractor. When World War II came, he prevailed on his father to let him join the US Marine Corps in 1942, and serve in the Pacific Theater. In 1947, he married Charlotte Clark Palmer and together they raised a family of three girls and two boys.

He was a self-employed general contractor and retired as a Deputy Sheriff for the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department. He was a World War II Marine Corps Veteran, a member of the Odd Fellows and Lafayette VFW Post #1955, a life member of the NRA, a member of the Marine Corps League, and co-chairman of the Veterans Party. Russel was a member, Elder, Deacon, and chorister of the Columbian Presbyterian Church in Lafayette, NY. He was predeceased by his sister Verna Carol Quigg, PS#823; his sons-in-law, David Kline, David Blum and Robert Tilden.

Russel is survived by his wife of 66 years, Charlotte Clark (Palmer) Park; his children James Carlton Parke, PS#923, of Syracuse, Connie Lorraine (Dana Wayne) Chapman of Lafayette, Cynthia Lou Blum of Fayetteville, Thomas Russell (Kristine) Park of Syracuse, and Lea Ann Tilden of Onondaga Hill; 12 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Russel was a 13th generation descendant of Robert Parke, 1630, MA, who came with the Winthrop Fleet, though his son Thomas², thence to Robert³, Hezekiah⁴, Silas⁵, Elijah⁶, Silas Warren⁷, Elijah Clayton⁸, Silas Warren⁹, Elijah Byron¹⁰, Will Howe¹¹, Donald Dey¹² Park to Russel Carlton¹³ Park. LK=T, Chart 10.



Nancy Cheryl Park Hopkins, PS#450, passed away peacefully on Sunday 13 November 2011. She was 64. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, 15 November 2011 at the Arlington Church of Christ, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Cherrie was born in Canton, Texas on 2 March 1947 to Lloyd Carlton and Nancy Lina (Pittman) Parks. In 1965, she married William Terry Hopkins, a Texas State Trooper, in Longview, Texas, by whom she had two children. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, and is survived by her sisters, Ellen Louise Park and Lillie Renée Jones, a son, Terry Sean (Rosa) Hopkins, and a daughter, Nancy Kathleen (Lance) Young, grandchildren, Garrett and Colton Hopkins, and Lina and Kade Young.

Since 2005, she was a Hospice Chaplain serving the South Texas area. She brought comfort, peace, and warmth to every home she visited. She left this world richer for all the stories she told and recorded. Prior to being a chaplain, she worked as an office manager of a savings and loan association in Buffalo, Texas. She also worked as a newspaper reporter in several cities in northeast Texas. She was a member of the DAR, and several Texas County Genealogical Societies.

Cherrie, who was loved by many, shared God's love with others through her cooking and along her travels. Her love for all things Scottish almost equaled her love for knowledge and books. She will be remembered for sharing her love of the written word with family and friends through her frequent letters and notes.

Cherrie was a tenth generation descendant in the immigrant line of Roger¹ Parke (1648-ca. 1739) who immigrated to the colony of West Jersey in 1682 from England, thence through John², John³, Moses⁴, Moses⁵, George⁶ George Washington⁷, Thomas Hill⁸, Lloyd Carlton⁹, to Nancy Cheryl¹⁰ Parks. LK=K. ♡

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

1610 Daniel Earl Mitchel

Paradise, CA

Lineage is Richard (MA, 1635, R) through his son Richard (02R1), LK=R, Chart 1. Line is Richard¹, Richard², Lt. Richard³, Joseph⁴, Joseph⁵, Aaron⁶, Elihu⁷, William L⁸, Delia May⁹, Harry B¹⁰, Carmelita E¹¹, to member¹².

1611 Lee Kinnan Fazzari

Aurora, IL

Lineage is Robert (MA, 1630, T) through his son Thomas (02T1), LK=T, Chart 6. Line is Robert¹, Thomas², Thomas³, Thomas⁴, Josiah⁵, Thomas⁶, James Nesbit⁷, Orrin⁸, Arthur Clinton⁹, Joseph Byron¹⁰, Barbara Eleanor¹¹ Park, to member¹².

1612 Byron James Park

Richmond, VA

Lineage is a new fragment line, LK=LN, commencing with the immigrant Henry¹ Park (1813, Ireland – 1901, IN) who married in 1842, Ireland, Sarah Gailey (1821, Ireland—1891, IN), thence to William Henry², Frank Torrens³, to member⁴. We also have information on Henry's father and grandfather who came from Scotland to Ireland, County Donegal.

1613 Todd Anthony Parks

Annapolis, MD

Lineage is a new fragment line, LK=MN, commencing with the a Zebulon¹ Parks, born 1878 in Maryland, married an Eliza (no further information available currently). The line continues to Thomas², who married a Delilah, William Conley³, George Conley⁴, Alfred Perrie⁵, Harry Alfred⁶, member⁷. DNA review has been done on this line.

1614 Kathleen P. Mestre

Bowie, MD

1615 Kevin William Parke

Dallas, TX

A brother and sister. Their lineage is the William¹ Park and Synah Perry line, LK=X, thence to Thomas Perry², William Marion³, William Ulysses⁴, Leroy Lowell⁵, Lowell William⁶, to members⁷.

1616 Valerie P. Vroom

Portland, OR

Lineage is the fragment line LK=EV, commencing with a James¹ Parks (ca. 1728, VA – ca. 1780, VA), thence to James², Andrew³, Daniel Isaac⁴, Marion Crawford⁵, Wiley Franklin⁶, Dean Crawford⁷, Donald Gene⁸ to member⁹.☞

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

Got something to tell the Society?
Write it up and send it to
parkenews@cseidl.org

The next editorial due date is
June 1, 2014