

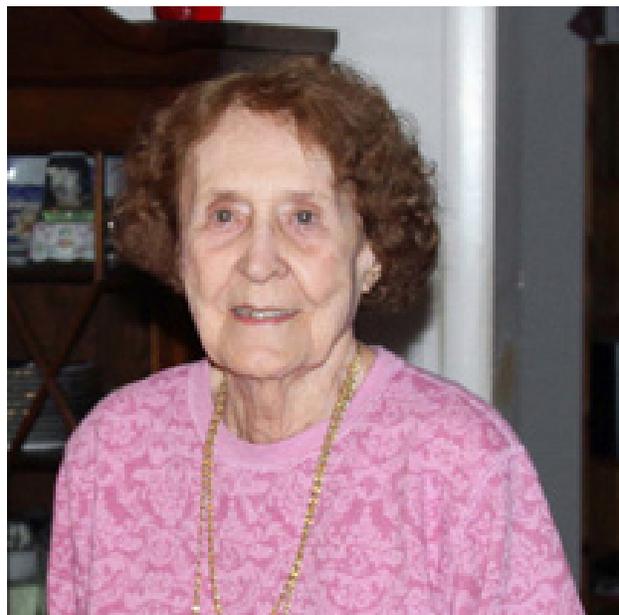
The Parke Society Newsletter

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

REMEMBERING CECILIA B. PARKE (1924-2015) BY SEAN ALLAN SPARKS

This is an article that I was never looking forward to writing, but as I was writing and remembering, I realized that this was a very special opportunity to share the life and memories for someone very special. Many of you knew her through her tireless research and devotion to the Parke Society and others have had the opportunity to meet her in years past at Society Convocations.

Cecilia B. Parke, who passed away on August 11, 2015 in Spring Hill, Florida, began her life in Chicago, IL where she was born on February 11, 1924. She lived in a lower middle class section of town, without parks or community activities for children. The Chicago World's Fair was in 1933, and her parents and siblings were able to visit and take in all the latest advances in a century of progress.



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As a young girl with ambition and a vivid imagination, she drew on this experience and put together a small carnival in her neighborhood where she was able to enlist the help of several children her age. They found a vacant lot for the event, and the local kids set up various attractions for all to see. Cecilia even created flyers to advertise the event to others

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THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Application Fee	\$ 15
Annual Dues	\$ 30
Life Membership	\$265
(US funds only)	

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

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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** PS#425H at 70741.2122@compuserve.com, or by surface mail to him at

P.O. Box 590
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590
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CONVOICATIONS: Send questions to President and Convocation Coordinator, **Ken M. Parks** PS#1406 at parksken49@gmail.com.

DNA TESTING: Send DNA questions to our DNA Group Administrator, **Ken M. Parks** PS#1406 at parksken49@gmail.com.

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** PS#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 parksken49@gmail.com.

LIBRARY: Send all questions relating to the Library, including library loans, to **Ken M. Parks** PS#1406 at parksken49@gmail.com.

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.

NEWSLETTER: Send article submissions and comments to our Editor, **Paul Jordan-Smith** PS#1451 at parkenews@parke.org. If you don't have email, send all *typed* materials to

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Please note: handwritten submissions cannot be accepted.

WEBSITE: Send all suggestions and comments to the webmaster, **Paul Jordan-Smith** PS#1451 at webmaster@parke.org.

Remembering Cecilia B. Parke

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in the neighborhood. She was always looking to get involved, even at a young age, and this proved to be a trait that she carried with her the rest of her life.

Cecilia then moved to Brook, Indiana in 1936 with her parents William M. and Sofia Parke, along with her siblings William, Robert, and Shirley. They moved in and lived with her grandparents, Joseph and Katie Parke. After graduating from Brook High School in 1942, Cecilia enlisted in the Navy as a WAVE and held several secretarial positions while in the military. She was honorably discharged in 1946, and enrolled in Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX where she was a member of the Sigma Kappa sorority. Cecilia attended SMU for over 3 years and started her own business off campus that offered secretarial training and part time typist work using the experience gained in the military as well as from her education at SMU. Sometime between 1953 and 1954, she began working for State Farm Insurance Company and transferred to Jacksonville, FL. She lived in several locations in FL including Jacksonville Beach, Tampa, Miami, and finally, Spring Hill, Florida.

Cecilia had always been interested in her family history, and in the mid-1970s started her research on the Parke family line. In the early days, she relied on written correspondence, hand written charts, and visits to churches and libraries for her research. She eventually got her first computer, and started the long process of transferring all of her handwritten notes, and charts to the computer. Cecilia was always eager to learn new technologies, and mastered her computer in no time. Once she had access to the internet, e-mail and various programs it allowed her to manage, and file all of the research that she had accumulated over the years.

E-mail and online forums allowed for much quicker and easier access to information and she found herself not only learning more, but also sharing more of her research with

others. Most of her later years were spent doing research, and eventually publishing a book. She had always wanted to write a book since she was a student at SMU. When she completed her first book on the Parke family line, she began preparations for a second book. Unfortunately she never had the time to complete her research.

Cecilia was truly an amazing woman, with a lifetime goal of doing research, and helping others. What many people didn't realize is that Cecilia had been losing her vision for the last 15 years of her life. She had macular degeneration and considered legally blind. This, however, did not slow her down. She got assistance from the VA, and was provided with a large viewer that allowed her to magnify print on documents so she could read them. Modifications were also made to her computer so she could magnify the characters on screen. She could have easily stopped her research years ago due to her condition, but she pressed on despite the barriers in place. This, once again, displayed her perseverance, work ethic and determination. She absolutely loved what she was doing and enjoyed sharing it with others.

After her passing, she was laid to rest at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

She was preceded in death by husbands, David L. Parke, Theodore R. Kasberg, and Charles E. Sparks.

Survivors include, sons Richard Sparks, Randy Kasberg, Terry Kasberg, and Gary Kasberg.

I would also like to recognize my father, Richard Sparks, for providing most of the information in this remembrance. He had a unique perspective on her life and was able to share the insights and memories from her younger years.☺

Editor's note: see "In memoriam" in this issue for additional remembrance of Cecilia.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Ken Parks, PS #1406

Spring has finally arrived here in the Catskills, and our home renovation project is in full swing. The place looks like a disaster area, and all this activity has made finding time to devote to genealogy difficult. I'm sure many of you can relate, whether it's a similar distraction, or health issues, family matters, job or school commitments. Whatever the reason, most of us never have the time we'd like to devote to our research. However, there's never been a better time to revisit those brick walls, with new approaches and many new resources becoming available online.

Several of the articles in this issue deal with the subject of making new discoveries in various Park/e/s families using a variety of methods, and hopefully they will inspire us to carve out time from our busy schedules and tackle our own brick walls.

Heading North

By time this issue goes to press, I will be in Toronto once again for a conference sponsored by the Ontario Genealogical Society. Last year I attended as a speaker, presenting the beginner's session on Y-DNA testing and surname projects. With all the activity around home, this year I'll simply be attending to take in the excellent sessions offered by some of the top speakers in the genealogical field, including the topic of genetic genealogy. It will also give me another opportunity to meet up with my Canadian genetic cousin, Don Parkes!

Annual Business Meeting

Though the annual business meeting is covered in a separate article, I'd like to add a bit of updated information. Since attendance has typically been low at these meetings in the past few years, we only reserve a small block of rooms, mainly enough for those officers and trustees we're certain will attend with a couple of extra rooms for other members who wish to attend. Accordingly, we will only be reserving two additional rooms above

the number we're certain to need, but should the demand warrant it, we can add to that if we know well enough in advance and rooms are still available. If these additional rooms are not reserved by August 1, 2016, they will be released and any reservations made after that date will be subject to room availability. So, if you think there's a chance you might be attending this year's meeting, please make the decision as early as possible and let us know your plans as well.

To reserve a room for the meeting, simply call the hotel at 717-558-9200 and ask for a room from the Parke Society block of rooms. As this article goes to press, I have not gotten a firm room rate from the hotel, but it should be approximately \$120 per night plus tax.☺

CALL TO THE 53RD ANNUAL MEETING

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

As has been the custom in recent years, the Society's Annual Corporate Business meeting will be held at 11 am on September 10th, in Harrisburg, PA at the Country Inns and Suites Hotel, 1025 Peiffers Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109. This location has worked well as it is fairly central for most of the Society's core staff. The prices are reasonable, the accommodations excellent. A block of rooms has been set aside for the Society's use. In the previous article ("From the President's Desk,") you will find further information about room rates and how to make reservations.

All members are welcome to attend the Society's Annual Meeting. All active Regular and Associate Members are eligible to speak and vote at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by the Proxy Ballot. Members unable to attend the Annual Meeting are strongly encouraged to submit the enclosed Proxy as soon as possible to reach the Proxy Secretary, by noon on Friday, September 2, 2016. Remember, to be effective the Proxy must be signed, dated, and contain the members PS#. Members may make comments concerning announced matters on their Proxy.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the 2016 Corporate Meeting Proxy Ballot. If you plan to attend the meeting, please fill out Section A of the Proxy Ballot and return it to us. Additionally, if you wish to have assistance with your genealogy please so indicate on the form so that we will bring the appropriate materials with us. We generally do not bring the holdings of the Society with us hence the importance of letting us know of your wishes. If you will not be attending, please fill out Section B of the Proxy Ballot, noting your votes for the items that will be under consideration at this year's meeting. Remember to sign, date, and list your PS#, which can be found on the left hand side of the top line of your address label.

Then just fold the ballot on the lines indicated, apply a stamp, and drop it in the mail.

This year's notice and ballot are a little more formal as we are asking your consent to amend the By-Laws as detailed below.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1, Article IV of the By-Laws of the Parke Society, a not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut, the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be held at 11 am sharp on Saturday, September 10, 2016 in Meeting Room A, at the Country Inns and Suites Hotel, Harrisburg, PA.

Among the items to be considered at this Annual Meeting will be the election of two trustees, each to serve three year terms ending with the Annual Meeting of 2019. The nominees are: (** indicates an incumbent)

Seat III Mr. Ronald Neal Parks PS#1458

Seat VI Mr. Curtis Harvey Parks PS#1166

Biographical statements:

Ronald Neal Parks, PS#1458, has been an active member since 2005, and became the Registrar in 2007 following the sudden death of Dan Park, and was first elected a trustee in 2011. He is a retired Army Veteran and is a descendant in the Fragment Lineage Key GP.

Curtis Harvey Parks, PS#1166, has been an active member of the Society since 1994, is a past President of the Society (2007-2012), and has been a Trustee since 1999. He is a descendant of the Fragment Lineage Key WR.

By-Laws Amendment:

Also to be considered is the adoption of an amendment to the Article VII, "Officers," Section 5, "President" of the By-Laws of the Parke Society, striking the last sentence of that section, "He shall not hold office consecutively for more than five years."

Reasoning: Historically, since the 1970 General Re-Drafting of the Society's By-Laws, the only Officer's position that has had a term limit has been that of the President of the Society. That limitation was put into place due to certain circumstances relating to the management of the Society at that time. Those conditions no longer exist, and frankly, that clause has outgrown its usefulness. The small society landscape has changed considerably in the last 50 years. Dynasty presidencies are no longer typical; in fact, it is getting more difficult to find individuals who are willing to contribute to organizations by holding volunteer positions, especially when they might involve an obligation for travel to annual or other meetings at some distance from their abode. Eliminating this provision gives the Society more flexibility in its on-going operation. Do remember that the officers are elected to their positions by the Board of Trustees, who are in turn elected by the general membership. Because of these reasons the Board of Trustees is recommending approval by an affirmative vote on this proposition, that the final sentence of Article VII, Section 5 be stricken from the By-Laws.~

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

HISTORIAN'S CORNER: SOCIETY SCOPE, PRESERVING THE PAST, AND FEEDBACK

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

From time to time over the years we have had to re-intenerate just what the scope of the Society operations are, what we do and what we don't do.

As set out in our bylaws, the Parke Society, is a one-name (or surname) society that is working on the Park/e/s surname (and its possible variations) for all immigrants who came into North America from the British Isles and perhaps their possessions from the 17th Century to date.

Our announced goal is to track down all Park/e/s-surnamed descendants and to get them identified with the correct immigrant ancestor and to trace their progeny insofar as it is possible.

This is no small task, but we have been at it for over fifty years, and currently have identified about 100 immigrants, and are attempting to sort out another 250 or so fragment Park/e/s lines whose predecessors so far have escaped us.

Another way of stating our scope is what you see in the front-page banner of our newsletter:

A clearing house for on-going research on all PARK/E/S immigrants from the British Isles, Promoting Fellowship, Genealogical Research and the Preservation of our Heritage

Clearing House is probably the best term for what we do. We gather data from all over, mainly from member's submissions, but also from items that we come across in our own investigations. We index and catalogue these pieces of information, and we make them available for distribution to interested parties within the Society.

Sometimes I or one of the Lineage Leaders (people who have a particular interest in a single line) will do some further sleuthing, but that shouldn't be counted on. We just do

not have the man power to do any extended research on our own.

We do not do paid research for anyone; that is not our scope and mission. In many ways, we need to serve as "disinterested third parties." We need to give equal treatment to all lineages. Doing paid research would compromise that effort. And frankly, I do not feel myself competent to try to offer such services, should I be so minded.

Nor do we particularly "certify" the data that we do have. We are a clearing house, not a patronal society like the DAR, SAR, SR and such other organizations. When we do provide information such as group sheets of other materials we always include the following disclaimer as to their status; please be aware of this limitation:

Disclaimer: the Family Group Sheets provided by the Parke Society here or elsewhere are as they currently appear in our Lineage Binders. The information they contain is based on individual members' submissions, materials gathered from compiled genealogies, and other sources. It has not been independently verified and may change based on later research. The Society has done a reasonableness check only, and makes no warrants of completeness or accuracy.

Society members need also to remember that other than the Editor of the Newsletter, there is no compensated staff. We are all volunteers, and as such the Society has to share us with family, work, and other activities. As a result, sometimes things don't happen as fast as they might if there were paid staff. Genealogy (surname related) is small time; we have never had more than 700 active members at any time, and further, the level of dues that people would be willing to pay could not possibly accommodate even a single paid staff member.

So how good is our data? One might readily ask, how good is anyone's data. Genealogy is both a science and an art. It would be foolhardy for anyone to think that they have every date, name and place absolutely correct. Our hope is that, acting as a "clearing house," we will continue to gather data, find

and correct issues, and move still closer to the truth of our ancestry.

Cleaning house; or what's happening to Aunt Mabel's stuff.

Preserve, Re-use, Re-purpose, and Re-cycle. Notice the word that is missing: Trash.

I have said more than once, that one of the greatest atrocities that happens when some elderly individual passes away, and it comes time to "clean out" the house, is that everything is thrown into a dumpster and hauled away to the landfill. Unfortunately, too often this is done by people who don't understand the value of possessions, and probably don't care, unless they can get a lot of money for them.

This comes to mind as our next door neighbors of nearly twenty-five years are in transition: an unmarried brother and his unmarried sister who have lived in that same house since 1949: sixty-seven years! Like ours, it is an American Four Square of essentially three stories, built in 1900, with maids' quarters on the third floor. The brother recently died, and the sister has since moved to a senior independent living community. The house inside is very Victorian, with period light fixtures. An added feature was that the brother loved turn-of-the century decorative ceramic tiles. They are all over the house. He had a wonderful eye for putting them together in pleasing panels. But now the house is being prepared for sale, and hence there is some cleaning out going on.

I have been helping, mainly by going through the books (we have packed sixty cases of them), pulling out ones of particular value to historical or museum interests, and sorting out the rest of them to go to a major used book sale that provides funds for the Hunger Task Force. I have also been sorting through things, pointing out items that might have historical value, such as the epaulettes and other ceremonial wear for a general grade officer, dating to the Civil War, as well as a number of scrap books, picture albums and other family artifacts, including a goodly number of framed family pictures on the

walls which need to be preserved. I am working overtime to prevent useful things from being thrown away.

As genealogists, we're usually also interested in history and particularly family artifacts. We need to be proactive in preserving our past, and in general limiting what ends up in the landfill. So seniors: make plans now. Designate those things that are to be preserved and designate who they should go to. That should be specified in writing that is in the hands of your eventual executor/personal administrator, a person hopefully you can trust to follow through with your wishes. And let the designee know now. You might even want to consider those gifting those items now instead of after your death when things might get altered.

On the other side of the coin, those of us with historical/genealogical interests should be on the lookout for collections/homes that may be subject to breaking up. Be very proactive on your part, let your interest in artifacts and records be known.

What to rescue? Pieces of furniture, serving pieces and table ware, china, crystal, musical instruments (although pianos can be problematic, especially if they have not been maintained); old legal documents, land deeds, title abstracts, bibles and the records contained in them; possibly hobby collections. As described in a recent newsletter, I'm fortunate to have my great grandfather's violin, a table that has been in the family since 1840, and a music box with a marble top wash stand. And yes, I also have a pier mirror, though that needs some work. As these things are important to me, so will be those things that you rescue from the trash.

If you do nothing, untold family treasures may disappear before your eyes. Please don't let that happen. As always has been my mantra, Preserve whatever can and should be preserved. Re-use, Re-purpose, Re-cycle as much as is possible.

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Historian's Corner

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More on going paperless:

I appreciated the feedback that I received from some of the members concerning this topic which I discussed in depth in the V52#2 issue's Corner. Some interesting suggestions were sent my way.

I agree with one member in saying that "Being paper-bound is almost a liability these days": so true, especially when storing a large number of records such as we have. Unfortunately, most people do not have the kind of room that I have in my residence. People live in smaller spaces these days: hence the drive to digitize our records to accommodate the day when the duties of the Historian will need to move from Milwaukee.

To be frank, other than the physical space required for binders, books and file cabinets, the current system is pretty cheap and easy to maintain. Need to make a change to a group sheet? Pull the binder, find the sheet, change it, put the binder back on the shelf. (Oh yes, change the index too.) Simple and straight-forward!

Any other system will require a lot of conversion work, indexing, and hardware resources, as well as manpower to maintain whatever system we come up with. And that all will require money; probably more money than we have at our disposal currently. There is no simple route to conversion without detailed indexes and naming conventions, or else we would never be able to find anything. I hate to be a nay-sayer, but as a systems man at heart, I have dealt with this issue before.

The other point to keep in mind is that our collection of materials is not static. Our data is constantly undergoing changes, updates, and revisions. And the question is how will that be accomplished, by whom and with what controls. What we do not ever want to happen is that the files get jazzed up, because with the volume we are contending with, it might never get sorted out. We need to continue with our stop gap tasks, and to keep thinking about how we will go forward.

Another item mentioned concerned our library of Park/e/s related books. Don't Google Books and other sites like that perhaps obviate the need to maintain the hard copies ourselves? We have never made a survey of what we have against what might be available on line somewhere, so we really don't know the answer to that question.

However, here is the other side of the coin. While, as far as I know, books on Google Books are free to access, that might not be true of other books maintained by other organizations. You might have to be a member in order to access the volume in question. And that might be a cost to you for a single search.

Another point to consider is that a vast majority of our books are privately published and in small print runs at that, so it is unlikely that they probably have not been digitized. Perhaps we could digitize them and place them on line to our member, but then there is the copyright issue. Can we legally do that? Who actually still owns the copyrights? Finding the owner, and convincing them to let us digitize might not be feasible. You say, who will know? You really don't want to go there!

And to answer the member's question: Yes, people still request to borrow these books via US Mail.

I thank those who have commented on my article, and I am always looking for further suggestions.☺

Got something to tell?
Write it up and send it to
parkenews@parke.org

The next editorial due date is
October 15, 2016

NEW RESEARCH PUBLISHED ON THE ANCESTRY OF ROBERT PARKE (1630 MA)

by Ken Parks PS#1406

In keeping with the Parke Society's role as a clearinghouse for research by individuals, members and nonmembers alike, we would like to share information about two articles which appeared in *The American Genealogist* (TAG) in 2015 that will be of interest to all descendants of Robert Parke (01STW1) of Massachusetts. Both articles are by Randy A. West, a descendant of Robert Parke with lines of descent from two of Robert's sons, William (02W1) and Thomas (02T1).

The first article, entitled "Robert¹Parke of Wethersfield, New London, and Stonington, Connecticut was Not the Grandson of William Parke (d. 1551) of Gestingthorpe, Co. Essex," appeared in Whole Number 346, Volume 87, Number 2, July/October 2014 (published July 2015.)

Not being a descendant of Robert Parke, my knowledge of the research on the early origins of this lineage could best be described as that of a passing familiarity. Reading some of the passages on this subject by Frank Sylvester Parks in his 1906 *Genealogy of the Parke Families of Connecticut* (available for reading or downloading online) one can see that he readily admits and regrets not having access to early records pertaining to the English origins of Robert Parke. Over the years, information that could be viewed as speculative has been taken as settled fact by some and passed along, being given a mantle of authority unearned by careful research.

Mr. West has undertaken careful research which proves that, as the title of his article states, the immigrant Robert Parke could not have been the grandson of William Parke of Gestingthorpe who died in 1551. Comparisons of various wills and other documentary evidence from the period, with complete source citations, make a convincing case, and any interested descendant should find his argument and logic sound.

The second article, entitled "Alice¹Freeman, wife of John Tompson of Preston Capes, Northamptonshire, and of Robert¹Parke of Connecticut: New Information on Her Parents, Siblings, Children, and First Husband," appeared in Whole Number 347, Volume 87, Number 3, January/April 2015 (published October 2015.) While this article does not bear as directly on the Parke lineage, it will be of interest to descendants as it adds to the family information about the second wife of Robert Parke.

Back issues containing each of the referenced articles can be obtained from *The American Genealogist* by visiting this page at their website: <http://americangenealogist.com/shop/order-back-issues/>.

THE PARK/E/S DNA PROJECT

by Ken Parks PS#1406

I wrote a bit about autosomal DNA (atDNA) testing in the last issue, but want to expand on that subject here, as I believe it has the potential to solve many brick wall problems for anyone willing to put forth the effort to understand and utilize this type of DNA testing. I first wrote about atDNA here in the newsletter back in 2010, shortly after the test was introduced by Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) as their Family Finder test. At that time I had no experience with the test, so could only describe in general terms how it worked and its potential. I now have a bit of experience with it, though I still have a great deal to learn. Also, since that 2010 article, the cost of the test has dropped from \$289 to the current price of \$99, making it quite affordable. The database of potential matches has grown exponentially and Ancestry now offers the same type of test for about the same price. I have now tested with both FTDNA and Ancestry, and have enlisted numerous family members to do so as well, and will talk about that experience in more detail below. (Note: 23andMe also offers an atDNA test, but I have no experience with them and issues associated with 23andMe have some

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The Park/e/s DNA Project

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who are more expert in this field not recommending testing with 23andMe for genealogical purposes at this time. A Google search will reveal more on the subject.)

The Basics

The Family Finder test offered by FTDNA and the Ancestry test are both atDNA tests which have the potential to solve questions of relatedness when the Y-DNA (which we use in our surname project) is not available. Because Y-DNA is found only in males and traces the direct male line, Parke Society members who do not have a male Park/e/s relative from their line available to donate DNA for testing have been unable to participate in the project. With the new Family Finder test, it may be possible to work around this problem, though a Y-DNA donor will always be valuable and preferable for genetically identifying a Park/e/s lineage. Though far from an expert, let me explain a bit more about atDNA testing, what it is and how it may help researchers.

The other types of DNA tests for genealogy utilize either the Y-chromosome (Y-DNA) which traces the direct male line, or mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) which follows the direct maternal line. The genetic material found in Y-DNA and in mtDNA is passed from generation to generation essentially unchanged, except for occasional random mutations.

The X and Y chromosomes, which determine the gender of the individual, are one of 23 pairs of chromosomes we all possess. The atDNA test utilizes the genetic information found on the remaining 22 pairs, whose genetic material is merged from each parent whenever a new child is created. The genetic material on these 22 pairs of chromosomes is known as atDNA. Each of us inherits 50% of our atDNA from our mother, and 50% from our father. Looking at someone's atDNA will reveal blocks of genetic code from each parent. However, without comparisons with other related individuals, it is not possible to

tell which block, or segment, of atDNA came from which parent. Because of the differing ways the atDNA combines with each new generation, one will not necessarily inherit 25% of one's atDNA from each of one's four grandparents. The further back in generations we go, the amount of atDNA potentially inherited from each great grandparent is reduced by approximately half. By the time we reach our fifth great grandparents, the segments we inherit may be too small to make comparisons with other descendants of those ancestors, and the possibility increases that we may not have inherited any significant blocks of atDNA from a particular ancestral line that far back. Thus, while Y-DNA and mtDNA can tell us about our genetic ancestors going back many generations, atDNA is useful for researching our common connections with others within our more recent past. This can be an advantage, since we're more likely to have family history information on our family lines for most of these more recent ancestors.

Two siblings would share large segments of genetic code from each of their parents (though not exactly the same mix unless they are identical twins) while two cousins would share smaller segments of common genetic material, since they each have genetic material from some grandparents, great grandparents, etc. who are not the common ancestors of both cousins.

When two individuals take the atDNA test, the lab is looking for segments of shared genetic material to determine whether the two people are related. By determining both the size of the shared segments as well as the total amount of shared segments, they can determine the likely degree of relatedness, reliably out to a degree of fifth cousins. The beauty of the atDNA test is that it is not gender specific, so anyone can donate their DNA for this test. Test participants can be male or female, and do not have to share a common surname, only a common ancestry somewhere in the last five or six generations.

Like the other types of DNA tests, the information gained is a guide and cannot tell you to a certain degree how two individuals are

related. Even more so than with the other tests, one needs to take the DNA results and use them in conjunction with solid traditional genealogical research. For example, my atDNA test might reveal that another individual and I are likely to be third cousins. The test cannot tell us which of the 16 great grandparents each of us possesses that common genetic material came from. We would have to compare our family trees and look for a common surname. In some cases there is a possibility that we may share more than one common surname and the test would not indicate which of those shared surnames the common genetic material came from. One would need at least a third individual with matching DNA who only shares one of those surnames in common with the other two to narrow things down. This is called triangulation, and we'll give an example of that later on.

With the atDNA test, your results are matched against all others who have taken the test. Those who have already taken another type of test with FTDNA would have to order an atDNA test to have their DNA compared to others in this way, as the Y-DNA or mtDNA tests do not test the same genetic material. However, if you have already tested with FTDNA and the DNA sample in storage is sufficient, then no new DNA sample need be submitted.

atDNA in Action

While attending the FTDNA administrator's conference in Houston in November 2015, I sat in on two presentations that were valuable in learning more about using atDNA. One was a demonstration by Roberta J. Estes on how to convert Y-DNA results into an autosomal project, and the other was by FTDNA staff member Jim Brewster on how to set up an autosomal project at FTDNA. Jim's talk was informative in terms of the nuts and bolts of setting up the project, and Roberta's showed the value of using existing Y-DNA results and known family lineages to convert those participants over to Family Finder tests and then recruit other family members, both known or suspected, to help map out the chromosomal profile of a particular surname.

I'm in the process of doing this for my Parks genetic group, and even though we're still in the initial phase, we have already made some real breakthroughs. Here are some examples of how to use atDNA to further your family research.

Henry Parks in Tennessee

I've written in the past about my Parks brick wall ancestor, Henry Parks. Henry is my 3rd great grandfather, and we know very little about him. Born about 1800 in North Carolina, he died between 1838 (date of birth of youngest child) and 1840 (his widow, Elizabeth Parks, is head of household in the 1840 census.) Henry should appear in the 1830 census in East Tennessee, but for some reason does not. However, there are several Parkses in the counties of Roane and Monroe in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses, as well as in early marriage records, that I have always suspected might be related to Henry Parks. However, there is no documentary evidence to link those suspected Parks individuals to my Henry. Of course, Y-DNA would be an excellent way to support that supposition, but for various reasons we've been unable to locate male Parks descendants to use Y-DNA testing as a means of establishing a connection. Now, with the use of atDNA we may be able to make that genetic link after all.

One of the Parks males in the area where my Parks family lived in the 1830-1860 time period is a Jacob Parks, born about 1794 in North Carolina. I have always suspected Jacob was related to my Henry Parks and, given their ages and common place of birth, very likely brothers. Jacob Parks had three known children: Susan, Sarah "Sally," and James. Tracing son James's line down to the 20th century through census and other records, I have been unable to locate a living male Parks descendant. Therefore, a Y-DNA test has not been an option. All three children were mentioned in Jacob's will, with daughter Susan being identified as Susan Jackson. I had no luck tracing Susan, nor her sister Sally after their mention in Jacob's will, which was proved in December

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of 1860. However, a recent match through my Ancestry DNA test put me in touch with a descendant of Susan Parks. It turns out that Susan's married name was Johnson, not Jackson, as the will had stated, which is why I couldn't find her in census records. Our predicted relationship was that of fourth cousin with a range of third to fifth cousin. If Jacob Parks was indeed the brother of Henry Parks, then the matching test participant and I would be fourth cousins, once removed.

Ancestry's DNA site does not allow participants to view the actual matching segments shared by individuals, so we had the Ancestry test imported into FTDNA, an easy process involving a simple download of the raw data from Ancestry and uploading it to FTDNA. This can be done for free, but the access to matches is limited. However, for a \$39 fee the test is fully integrated into the FTDNA database and all matches and notification of future matches is then available. (Results from any testing company can also be uploaded to a third-party site, Gedmatch.com, for comparison with others who have done the same thing.) FTDNA provides several tools for participants to analyze their matches, such as the "In Common With" feature, which allows you to view all those in the database you and a matching individual share in common. Another tool is the Chromosome Browser, where a graphic display of the matching segments you share with a matching individual can be seen, along with the actual location information of the starting and ending point on the chromosome of the matching segments. This information can also be viewed in tabular form as well, and can be downloaded to your computer for further analysis. Both tools allow you to compare several matching individuals at the same time. Thus, I was able to compare my matching segments with the Jacob Parks descendant along with other participants we had in common.

Having had my father, his sister, and his brother all test with FTDNA, I compared

them to the Jacob Parks descendant. It turns out we all shared essentially the same segment on Chromosome 2. In addition, I have several cousins related through the Parks surname who have tested as well, and one of them also matched on the same segment. The screen grab below shows the display of the matching segment, which may be a bit difficult to view in black and white, though if you're viewing the newsletter in its e-version the illustration will be in color, with the different participants all having a distinctive color for their matching segments.



In the graphic above, the black bars represent the chromosomes of the Jacob Parks descendant. The stacked bars on Chromosome 2 represent, from the top down: my matching atDNA segment, with my father below that, followed by my uncle, my aunt, and my cousin at the bottom. You will note some other smaller bars representing locations where some of us match the Jacob Parks descendant, but not all in this group. On chromosome 3, for instance, there is one small matching segment shared by my uncle and aunt, and none of the rest of us. Further to the right on Chromosome 3 there is another matching segment shared by my father and my aunt, but none of the rest of us. On Chromosome 5 we see a matching segment shared only by my uncle and aunt. This illustrates how different family members, in this case siblings, inherit a slightly different mix of atDNA from their parents.

Let me take a moment here to address triangulation in a bit more detail. Triangulation is a method used to determine which ancestral line a particular shared segment of atDNA comes from. In the case of the shared seg-

ment on Chromosome 2 illustrated above, knowing that I share this segment with my father, uncle, and aunt doesn't help narrow that down, since we share atDNA from many family lines. In this particular case, even my cousin's match doesn't immediately solve that riddle, and that's because he's a double cousin, a not uncommon occurrence for many of us. My father and his siblings had a Parks father, obviously, and their mother's surname was Bankston. This cousin's father was a Bankston and his mother was a Parks. Only by matching these common segments to the Jacob Parks descendant, whose posted family tree goes back six generations and includes no other common surname other than Parks, can we determine that this segment represents atDNA inherited from our common Parks ancestor, whoever that may be.

By the time this article goes to press, we should have the test results of three additional Parks cousins, a brother and sister who are second cousins of my father, and another individual who is my fourth cousin. As far as we know from our family research, our only shared common ancestry is through our common Parks ancestor, Henry Parks, so should any of them also match the Jacob Parks descendant, we should have a fairly good idea that those matching segments also represent atDNA from the common Parks ancestor of everyone involved. So who would that be?

Putting It Together

Now that I have evidence of a genetic connection between descendants of Jacob and Henry Parks, how can I use this information to further my family research? Lacking any direct documentary evidence linking Jacob and Henry, let's see if I can begin to build a case using circumstantial evidence.

Jacob Parks appears in the 1830 Roane County, Tennessee census, as does a Samuel Parks who is old enough to be the father of Jacob. Jacob Parks married in Roane County on 24 March 1830, and Samuel Parks was the surety on the marriage bond. While this does not prove a father/son relationship, it

certainly indicates there was likely a family connection of some sort. Likewise, Jacob Parks was the surety on a marriage bond in Roane County in 1834 of a Narcissa/Narcissus Parks to James W. Bell, again, indicating a family connection. Given the genetic connection now found between Henry Parks and Jacob, we can begin to assemble a likely family group. A working hypothesis would be Samuel Parks as the father of Jacob, Henry, and Narcissa. There are, in addition, two other Parks individuals not known to be connected to the other genetically distinct Parks lines in this area of East Tennessee who can also be included in this hypothetical family group: John Parks and Sabra Parks. John Parks appears on the same page of the 1830 Roane County census, listed five households away from Samuel Parks. John is also in the age range to be a son of Samuel. Sabra Parks, also in that age range, married a Reuben Thomas. Henry Parks married Elizabeth Thomas, and after Henry died, she married a Thomas J. Bell. We have not confirmed the relationship between Elizabeth and Reuben Thomas, nor the relationship of James W. and Thomas J. Bell, but there is a strong likelihood that the individuals sharing common surnames are related. Thus, by connecting Henry to Jacob genetically, and using other circumstantial evidence, we now have avenues to pursue using more traditional research sources. We can also begin to search for descendants of some of these suspected family members in the hopes that atDNA may confirm a connection as well.

Another Example

From our Y-DNA project, we know there is a genetic connection between my Henry Parks line, designated LK=AP, and that of Hugh Parks, Sr. LK=IP. Both have roots in North Carolina, though we have not been able to find a connection to date. Interestingly, we have had a match using atDNA between a descendant of Hugh Sr. through his daughter Margaret Parks, with myself, my father, my aunt, and another third cousin of mine through our Parks line. The predicted relationship range to the Hugh Sr. descendant

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varies among our family members, varying from second to fourth, third to fifth, and fifth to remote cousin. Given the family tree information we both know, the Hugh Sr. descendant could not be any closer than a sixth cousin to my father and his siblings. What has happened is that we all seem to have inherited matching segments that are several times longer than one would expect when the degree of cousinhood is at the sixth cousin range. This can happen, as some atDNA appears to be more resistant to breaking into smaller segments over generations than most, and can lead to a predicted range of relatedness that appears closer than it actually is. This can be puzzling to resolve when the family trees of both matching participants are not complete for all ancestral lines going back six to eight generations or more.

But Wait, There's More!

Another quick example from our genetic Y-DNA Park/e/s group: Y-DNA shows a connection between a Parkes family in Canada whose great grandfather emigrated from somewhere in Ireland in the 1860s, and a family whose grandfather was born in County Armagh, Northern Ireland in 1886, and whose father was an Alexander Parks. While both lines show a genetic connection to all the other Park/e/s lineages in our genetic group, these two lines share two mutations with each other not found in the rest of the group, indicating their common male Park/e/s ancestry is closer in time than with the others. Given the fairly recent common location of Ireland in the 19th century, I suspect their earliest known ancestors may be related within two or three generations. An atDNA test between descendants of these two families shows a match in the third to fifth cousin range. Given the known family tree information of both individuals, if each participant's great grandfathers were brothers, they would be second cousins, so we have now reaffirmed that their likely common male Park/e/s ancestor is likely to be found going back one to three generations from their earliest

known ancestors. Though records for the mid to late 19th century in Northern Ireland are not as plentiful as for the same time period here in the United States, we at least have a narrower time frame and location to look for evidence of their common ancestry.

The Bottom Line

This article has barely scratched the surface of the subject of atDNA testing, and was merely intended to give an idea of its potential for breaking down those brick walls we all possess. The beauty of the atDNA test is that it opens up all our family lines for discovery, not just a direct paternal or maternal line. It's not easy, it takes effort and requires one to educate oneself in order to fully utilize the results, but the good news is that there is a great deal of good educational material online to help us better understand how to interpret our matches. I'll put links to some of the best I've found below, and you may find other sites which could be equally useful.

Whether it is Y-DNA testing or the atDNA test (mtDNA can be useful, though not to the same degree), if you are not including DNA as part of your genealogical toolkit, then you are cheating yourself of a resource that can answer questions other sources cannot, or point you in the right direction to look for other record sources. It has its limitations, as do other types of resources, but I cannot urge you strongly enough to take the plunge and dive into that gene pool headfirst!

Further Reading:

<http://dna-explained.com/>

<http://segmentology.org/2015/11/22/getting-started-with-autosomal-dna-part-i/>

http://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_statistics

<https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/autosomal-ancestry/universal-dna-matching/family-finder-test-work/>

<https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/autosomal-genealogy-matching/>

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Annual Corporate Meeting (together with its associated Trustee's Meetings) is our annual time to sit across from one another and catch up with things, check on our progress, and review where we are headed.

Included with this mailing is the Proxy Ballot. We strongly encourage you to fill it out and send it in to the Proxy Secretary. Since we rarely have full blown Convocations, the other years are just Business meetings to fulfill the requirements of our Corporate Charter. Few if any members bother to attend, which we can clearly understand. (Should you want to come and talk about your lineage issues, with prior notice, we will be glad to have whatever materials is needed to accomplish that.)

The risk is a lack of transparency which could be detrimental to the well-being of the organization. Accordingly, we report extensively on discussions and actions taken at those meetings so you know what we are about. If you can't be at the meeting, at least participate by giving us your preferences on Trustee elections, and this year, for the minor change in the By-Laws.

Speaking of membership, have you paid your dues for the calendar year 2016 yet? If you haven't yet paid, the label on your newsletter envelope reflects your status. A second mailing to unpaid members will go out concurrently with this issue of the Newsletter and may be in your hands already. Please act on it now so you won't miss an issue.☺

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that the Parke Society reports the death of Cecilia Bertha (Parke) Kasberg (as so many researchers knew her) Parke, on August 11, 2015 at the age of 91. She lived a long, productive, and fruitful life. She was a prodigious researcher, and gets most of the credit for sorting out much of the New Jersey genealogical mess. (New Jersey is not an easy state in which to do genealogy,

having been much mucked up by well meaning, but too often faulty research and terrible assumptions that were unsupportable.)

She first got in touch with the Parke Society in late 1982, and shortly thereafter became a member of the Society. By then, she had only been able to trace her line back to a Joseph Parke born in New Jersey in 1794. With that information, we had assigned her to the Fragment Lineage Key YZ until such time as we could find further ancestral connections. We had hopes that in time she would at least connect to another fragment line, LK=FX, which seemed to have similar names and locations. Through the names of members we had provided to her, she was able to find a connection to the immigrant Roger Parke of West Jersey, LK=K, and in 1992 she agreed to take on the role of Lineage Leader of the Roger Parke line, a new task concept that the Society was moving into.

As I said, she was a prodigious researcher, and nary a month went by that she wasn't sending me a fat envelope of research she had gathered that she thought might be of interest to me. Unfortunately, I was often overwhelmed with her materials and so it wasn't until recent years that we were able to find someone—Gary Alexander Parks, PS#1528—who could take the time to sort and catalog all of her contributions.

In her later years, she married, thirdly in 1998, David Livingstone Parke, PS#13 (no genealogical relationship). The one thing I remember about that marriage was that Cecilia was very heavily into using the computer and doing email, something David was not. When I happily pointed out that he might now become more adept with computers, his one comment was "Oh shoot, that wasn't something I was anticipating."

It is a credit to Cecilia, that in 2005, she contacted our present Editor of the Newsletter, Paul Jordan-Smith, and strongly urged him to take up that important task. She also found a worthy successor to her as the Roger Lineage Leader, Susan Avery, PS#1331.

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In memoriam
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Cecilia was a Life Member of the Society and in 2001 was awarded a Dedicated Service Award for her contributions to the Parke Society. Her line was from Roger (01K1) Parke, through his son, Roger² (02K3) Parke, thence to Joseph³, Joseph⁴, Micajah⁵, Joseph⁶, Micajah⁷, Joseph Thomas⁸, William McKinley⁹, to Cecilia Bertha¹⁰ Parke.

Editor's note: please see "Remembering Cecilia B. Parke," the lead article in this issue.

We recently received news regarding the death of **Bonita "Bonnie" Luella (Park) Atkinson, PS#361** of St., Anthony, Idaho on December 19, 2015 at the age 90.

She was born on April 10, 1925, the daughter of George Leslie and Florence Luella (Luella) Park in Rexburg, Madison Co., ID. With short stays in Medicine Lodge, and Idaho Falls, she mostly grew up in Rexburg where she attended school, graduating in 1943. She attended Ricks College for business and secretarial science.

She married Max Atwell Atkinson on September 4, 1947, and raised a family of five. After getting an advanced degree from Brigham Young University he taught history for many years at Ricks College. Bonnie worked in the Ricks college Accounting office and for many years at the Beehive Credit Union. Max passed away in 2003 after a short battle with cancer.

Bonnie Atkinson is survived by her children Nikki (John) Voelkel, Jill (Wayne) Downs, David (Cody) Atkinson, and Kim (Darius) Abeggien), 21 grandchildren and 45 great grandchildren. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, and one son, Leslie Thomas Atkinson.

Bonnie's lineage starts with James Pollock¹ Park (1821, Scotland – 1889, Utah), to James Findley² Park, George Leslie³ Park to herself⁴. They have traced the line back in Lanark County, Scotland to a James IV Park (b. ca 1714 Glasgow, Lanark, Scotland, LK=XX) who married in 1739 Agnes Knox, also of Glasgow.☺

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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

1650 Duell Eugene Parks

Ukiah, CA

Lineage is fragment line LK=PN, commencing with Joseph Musey¹ Parks (ca.1833, VT– 1917, MN), who married in 1854, Franklin Co., NY, Henrietta Sarah Stuart (ca. 1837, VT – 1896, MN), thence to Charles Nelson², James Wilbur³, James Leighton⁴, to member⁵. We now believe that the parents of Joseph Musey Parks were Musey and Mary (Johnson) Parks.

1651 Raylene Margaret Hunt

Camden, ME

Lineage is a new fragment line, LK=WN, commencing with Peter¹ Parks (1799, Scotland/England – 1867 Saugus, MA) who married Mrs. Susanna (Wood) Hooker, 1829 Marblehead, MA, to Peter Parks, Jr², Albert Woodward³, Helen Alice⁴ Parks, who married Burton Sands Hunt, 1882 in Wakefield, MA, to Arthur Sands⁵ Hunt, to Howard Sands⁶ Hunt, to member⁷.

According to the death registration of Peter Parks, Sr., his parents were Peter (born in Scotland) and Mary (born in England) Parks. We do not know her maiden name nor do we know whether they emigrated to the US. The Peter Parks (born in 1799) apparently emigrated to the US between 1799 and 1829 when he was married in Marblehead, MA. We have yet to find any ship's passenger lists that shows a Peter Parks.☺

The next editorial due date is
October 15, 2016