

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

A LABAN PARKS GENEALOGY (LK=WR) BY RAYMOND GRANT PARKS III, PS#1443

I have enjoyed the life of a typical American “baby-boomer.” My father, Raymond G. Parks, Jr., was a commissioned officer for 30 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. He married my mother, Josephine H. (Switana) Parks in June 1945 during a brief leave between assignments on troop transports during WW II. I came along in 1950 (second child of three) while the family was stationed in Boston, MA. As a Coast Guard family, we transferred every two or three years to various duty stations up and down the East Coast from Washington, DC to Portland, ME. Both my mother’s and father’s families were located in northern New Jersey.

As I grew up and developed a sense of family, I became aware of a gap in the oral histories available to me. Three of my grandparents came to the United States through Ellis Island in the first decade of the last century. I

treasure to this day my immigrant ancestors’ first-hand accounts of their journey to a new land. But what about the fourth grandparent? That fourth grandparent is my Parks line.

Grandpa Parks (Raymond G. Parks, Sr.) was born in New Jersey in 1891. I knew his mother (my great grandmother) Sarah O’Toole Parks but the last time I spoke with her (1959) I was too young to ask the many questions every family researcher would love to ask a great-grandparent! Where was great-grandpa Parks? No one ever spoke of him. My curiosity would lay dormant for 40 years.

I went on about the business of growing up, finding a wife, having a career and raising my own family. I have been married for nearly forty-five years and have two sons and two grand-daughters. My formal academic training is in Chemical Engineering and I spent thirty-four years in the soap and detergent industry. This led to assignments in Sacramento, CA, Long Beach, CA and Cincinnati, OH. In 1999 we decided to “downsize” and sold our home in Folsom, CA. We spent nine months in an apartment waiting for our next home to be built.

During those nine months in the apartment, I was freed from the many time consuming

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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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PARKE SOCIETY Board members live all over the country. Before sending a request, inquiry, article, suggestion, dues, or lineage materials, please check the listing below to be sure the material is directed to the proper Board member.

ADDRESSES AND OTHER MEMBERSHIP 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
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DUES: Send dues and dues-related questions to our Secretary:

Mrs. Joanne G. Rodgers PS#1523
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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

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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.

A Laban Parks Genealogy

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chores so familiar to suburban homeowners. I found myself with a rare commodity—spare time. A co-worker was very active in researching his family and he awoke the curiosity I'd left behind 40 years ago. I decided to see what I could learn about this mysterious "Parks" line.

My early forays into genealogical research were quickly rewarded. The 1900 US Census, found on microfilm at the local LDS library, turned up an entry for my 8-yr old grandfather (Raymond, Sr.) and his mother Sarah (O'Toole) Parkes living in Garfield, NJ with Sarah's mother and sisters. With this location as a clue, I wrote to the local Catholic Church asking about any baptismal or marriage records. The reply I received exceeded my fondest hopes.

The church sent me photocopies of parish records documenting Raymond, Sr.'s baptism and Sarah's marriage! Both identified the father as Robert G. Parks. The marriage record further identified the groom as Robert G. Parks of Ohio, son of John Parks and Margaret (Scott) Parks. Now things really got moving. In 1999 our apartment had a DSL internet connection, one of the earliest of what we currently call broadband. I was astounded at the amount of information available on line for the Parks family. In a matter of hours I had the line traced back to Laban Parks, an early settler near what was to become Wayne Township in Jefferson County Ohio.

On a business trip to Ohio several years ago I extended my travel by a few days and headed for Steubenville, OH to do some research on my Parks line. I found the genealogical collection at the Schiappa branch to be an outstanding source of information. I was able to locate deeds, maps showing farms the family owned, as well as cemetery information. With these new leads, I hopped back into the car and visited the land farmed by generations of Parks. I also visited two cemeteries and found (and photographed) headstones of many Parks ancestors.

It was in the Unionport Cemetery that the story took an unexpected turn. Near the graves of my great great grandfather and great great grandmother, John Parks and Margaret (Scott) Parks, I found the grave of my "missing" great grandfather, Robert G. Parks. Next to his grave was that of his wife, Alice (Poe) Parks. Now a little information was leading to a whole bunch of questions. It seems Robert G. Parks was married at least twice and perhaps three times. He may have already been married when he married my g grandmother and he was certainly married to my g grandmother when he married Alice Poe.

What I haven't yet learned is what brought Robert G. Parks from Ohio to Garfield, NJ in 1891 and how he met Sarah O'Toole. It seems Robert worked for the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis railroad (the PC&SL main line ran across the edge of his father's farm) as a telegrapher. In addition to helping with the family boarding house, Sarah was employed as a linotype operator. This process was used in small print shops for local publications.

The 1880 census suggests that Robert G. Parks' great grandfather, Laban, was born in New Jersey. Perhaps a visit to some relatives? What the Church records document is that Robert and Sarah married on May 29, 1891 and that their son, Raymond, Sr. was born November 19, 1891. A little arithmetic suggests that there may have been some stress in the relationship. The next document I have for Robert is the record of his marriage to Alice Poe in Unionport, Jefferson County, Ohio on October 3, 1894. This is not something Sarah would have discussed with her 9-yr old great grandson but perhaps it begins to explain the silence that originally aroused my curiosity.

As an aside, Raymond, Sr. did know his father was Robert G. Parks. I have a copy of his application for a Social Security account number where he identified both parents. He just never talked about it, not even to his own children.

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A Laban Parks Genealogy

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I joined the Park/e/s Society (I'm PS 1443) and did the 67 marker DNA test with FamilyTree DNA. The DNA evidence strongly suggests that the lineage fragment of Laban Parks (LK=WR) connects to Robert Parke (1630 MA) although my paper trail stops with Laban. I can't help but wonder at all the places I've lived that were rich in Parks history before I even knew it. I've lived in or near Boston, MA, New London, CT, northern New Jersey, and Cincinnati, OH, all locations that figure prominently in the family history. "Someday" I hope to reduce the voluminous amount of material I've collected into a more concise story. I've enjoyed sharing what I have with others as well as with the Parke Society and am very grateful for the material others have shared with me.☺

Note: the author of the preceding account was recently honored with the Lola Parks Spohn Nielsen Award for service to family history, volunteerism, or genealogical research. Raymond's lineage comes from Robert Parke of Massachusetts (arrival date in America 1630). At one point the Parke Society thought that this line could be traced as far back as 1424, but recent research indicates that the data might be suspect.

Many researchers have worked on this and other Park/e/s lineages to identify the links between our many branches, in some cases by name only. Lola would be proud to know that today many of her cousins and friends have taken up genealogical searching and family history. It is for Lola that Jeannie Patee and I created the Robert and Laban Parks of Ohio group and award plaques to researchers, historians, institutions, and volunteers who seek to find out our family history and make it available to us.

Researchers like Raymond Grant Parks III and others earn our respect and admiration for their tireless search for the truth about our history. We are proud to honor Raymond with the 2015 Lola Parks Spohn Nielsen Award.

—Richard Parks
The Robert and Laban Parks of Ohio

SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTES

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

BUSINESS OF THE SOCIETY

It was a long time in coming, but it appears that we are on the cusp of summer here in the Midwest. We had a long and cool spring, following a rather unseasonably warm winter. It is good to be able to go out and about in short sleeves again.

But of course that also means yard work and household projects. The medical issues encountered over the past several months did not help in getting yard work done this year. There is always another year and this time I promise I will have a really nice yard—next year.

Owning a house is a great thing. It's your own little dominion. As far as you can see (well, to the property lines.) But it also means maintenance, and sometimes renovations. In 2015 we had the floors refinished and repainting done all the way through the first and second floors. This year it is a renovation of the kitchen at long last. Renovation not remodeling. No walls will be moved. With four doors (in and out of the kitchen), and three windows (none of which can be closed off), there isn't much one can do other than a new floor treatment, cabinets and lighting. Our predecessors slapped together an update in order to make the house marketable, and that has now run its course. These activities take a toll on one's available time to do other things, like society genealogy.

This spring has brought us an unprecedented number of new members (as you will see in the New Member listings). While it means a lot of work for me as the Historian (i.e. the Society's genealogist-general, as it were), it also holds the expectation that just maybe something in a new member's paperwork will solve a genealogical mystery for us and perhaps help other members. For us to do our best job though, it helps to give us good documentation from the get go, and to be fairly responsive to our questions. While I may not directly respond in kind to your emails or letters to me, do rest assured that

I do read every communication, properly file it for future work and make a mental note of what has been said or added.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Once again that time of year is coming for the Annual Corporate Meeting of the Parke Society, Inc. We need to have these annual meetings in order to fulfill our legal obligations for being a non-profit organization. While it will still be held in September as has been the tradition, we are changing the actual meeting days from a Friday-Saturday to a Sunday and Monday (9/17-18). The main reason for this change being the working around various conflicts in the schedules among the core staff members that usually are at the meeting, and which we really wanted to accommodate if at all possible.

Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find a Proxy Ballot for the Annual Corporate meeting of the Parke Society. Its purpose is two-fold.

If you are going to be attending the meeting, we ask you to fill out the Section A of the Ballot, and to return it to us by September 1. This helps us to know who to expect and to be sure that we can accommodate you at the meeting. If you are coming with the intention of seeking help with your lineage, please so indicate on the Ballot. This is very important as we do not bring along the entire Lineage Library with us to regular business meetings, and so if you would like to have assistance, we need to know in advance so that we can be sure to have whatever materials would be appropriate.

On the other hand if you aren't going to be attending the meeting in person, we ask you to fill out the Section B of the Proxy Ballot, indicating your votes for Trustees for the three year period ending at the Annual Meeting in 2020. Elsewhere in this Newsletter there are brief biographies of the two candidates that have been (re)-nominated for Trustee. Again sign, date, indicating your PS# and mail it to the Proxy Secretary so she receives it on or before September 1.

The general format of the two days is unchanged from prior years. On Sunday af-

ternoon, the Trustees will meet to discuss issues, policies, and the future direction of the Society. Members are welcomed to sit in and observe (without voice or vote) how the Society accomplishes its business. The actual Annual Corporate Business meeting will be held at 10 AM on Monday, September 18. It is at this corporate business meeting that the election of Trustees is finalized, by receiving the report of the Proxy Ballots and those present voting, and the handling of such other business as is necessary for the operation of the Society. As meetings go, our corporate business meeting is known for its brevity. Following the adjournment of the Annual Corporate meeting, there is a very brief second Trustees meeting where we wrap up the necessary business items required by our corporate status.

Whether you intend to come or not, please do complete the appropriate sections of the Proxy Ballot and mail it in as soon as possible. Remember that we need those Ballots in on or before September 1. This is your chance as members of the Society, to participate in its operations. Feel free to add comments to your Proxy Ballot. They will be followed up on.

While all of the final arrangements have yet to be accomplished, we are expecting to be meeting at our normal location, the Country Inn and Suites just outside of Harrisburg (as shown on the enclosed Proxy Ballot). Last year we had some issues with the hotel management staff in that we got kicked out of our meeting room for the Saturday sessions, but after due complaints to senior level management we have been assured that there will be no such issues this year!

As mentioned in previous years, 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 might 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,

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Society News and Notes

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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, 2017, 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.

We should have arrangements finalized by the time you receive this Newsletter. To reserve a room for the meeting, call the County Inn and Suites Hotel (Pfeiffers Lane) at 717-558-9200 and ask for a room from the Parke Society block of rooms. We have not gotten a final pricing but as this article goes to press, we believe that the rate should be approximately \$125 per night plus taxes. Should there be any major changes in these arrangements, that information will be posted on our web site (www.parkesociety.org).

We look forward to seeing some of you at the Annual Meeting. It's a good time to learn more about the Society, and to meet the principal Core Staff.

DUES RENEWALS

Because of the aforementioned medical issues, we are behind in getting out the reminder notices for dues renewal for 2017. If you have not yet renewed for 2017 (as will be indicated on your Newsletter mailing label), please do so as soon as possible. Reminders will be sent out within the next 30 days for those who have not renewed. Please help us by following up on this as soon as possible.

TEMPORARILY AWAY AND OTHER MAILING ISSUES

We again ask you to be mindful of the Parke Society if you are moving or changing your phone number or email address. It is frustrating to receive Newsletters back due to "Unknown at this address" endorsements on the mailing envelope. Or when we discover that the phone number or email address is

no longer valid. This is one reason that we send the first round of Dues Status reminders to all members whether they need to make a payment or not. Help us to be able to help you efficiently.

CURRENT HEALTH STATUS

Going a little off-topic for a genealogical publication, I would like to bring you all up to date as to my recent medical issues. Having been a CPA in tax practice, as I pay my bills, the one thing I am thinking about a lot of the time is: Will I have an itemized medical deduction this year? And based on the events of the last 9 months, I am sure that I will!

At this time, I am considering myself to be at 95% recovery from before the December Cauda Equina Syndrome surgery. I am thankful for the encouragement to take advantage of In-Patient Rehabilitation. It was much more intense, and if any medical issues developed, the medical team was right there to recognize it and to take the appropriate actions. I am walking well, some balance and stability issues and still some strength issues, but in general they say the spring is back in my step. The only other unexpected event was a sudden admission to the hospital for sepsis in mid-March. This was a first time event for me. Sure I had known about sepsis, but never dreamed that I would actual have to deal with it. I am now back "full time" in my parish, and attempting to get caught up with all the reading material and work that has accumulated on my desk over the past several months.

Since most of us are heading into senior status, if not already there, it is important for us to keep the following four rules in our mind. Those rules are 1) Always be aware of where you are before suddenly changing direction. 2) After a certain age, see your doctor if you take a tumble, (we don't bounce as well once we become senior citizens), 3) Look beyond any presenting injury; you may have injured something more than originally thought, and finally, 4) Know your body, if something doesn't seem right, don't procrastinate, see your health care provider.

I thank all of you who sent cards and notes of concern. I truly appreciated them during my recovery period. Now let's get myself back to work for the Society.☺

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

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

GOING PAPERLESS

So why go paperless? What are the advantages of doing this, and what if anything are the down sides of digitization. To some people there are no downsides; why would anyone not want to digitize everything and go totally paperless? Perhaps I am just an old stick in the mud. While I can see the plus side of digitization, I am not blinded by its supposed brilliance. I do like my hard copy. There I've said it, I confess, hard copy is the simplest way to go as far as I am concerned. And hence I am the contrarian of the Society.

The biggest issue over the years has been the very limited access that core staff members have had to our genealogical collections. In the natural course of events all the records were housed in Milwaukee, in hard copy form. We have tried to alleviate this issue by supplying various abstracts of some of the records being kept in Milwaukee. While a great idea, in practice it just didn't work out as well as we would have hoped. The main issue was keeping the records in step, Milwaukee to distributed abstract copies. That was nearly impossible.

There has also been concerns about the safety and security of all of these records. What if there was a fire, or a tornado hit the house? What of the records? This is one of those things that can keep me awake at night. It was once suggested, several decades ago, that we maintain a duplicate hard copy set of records in a different location. Sounded good, except it would have been unmanageable. How does one keep thousands of records in step between the office and the hard "cloud copy" being handled by another person? That idea died almost as fast as it was suggested.

We continue to digitize the Lineage Application Binders, and are now starting the 1600 series. We have tripped on several issues concerning individual applications, which will take research to sort out in the future. Missing documents, or documents that were never properly completed by the members themselves are the main problems. Once we have made it through to the most recent application, we will be distributing the electronic documents to various core staff members who would find these records useful in their work. We still need to establish a methodology on how to keep these distributed records in step with the originals which will still be housed at the Milwaukee Office.

Once we get current with the Lineage Applications, we will start the process of finding missing files, or of completing files that were not done correctly in the first place.

Back in 1982, when we met in Salt Lake City, the LDS handed over to us over 3000 family group sheet Temple Records pertaining to the Park/e/s surname. Apparently, we indexed most but not all of those sheets. We are reviewing that work, and making sure that it is complete. Once that is complete, we will scan them all in, and make that collection available to our core staff.

We are now considering the digitization of the member's individual folders. My proposal is to do the files for those members who are deceased. This is because once the member's file is closed there should really be no further activity with that file, and it could be safely digitized and the original sent to long term storage.

We are still contemplating what to do about the 55 Lineage Key Binders which contain all of the Park/e/s family group sheets belonging to the Society. Digitizing them would be a huge task. Much bigger than what we are doing with the Lineage Application Binders. What we are going to do in the meantime, is to create a digital version of the current hard copy Lineage Key Abstracts. The Abstract will basically be the first three generations of each Lineage Key, together with its

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Historian's Corner

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cover sheet. We will start work on that once we have completed the Application Binders.

When we were building the original GIVE-NAME INDEX, we included both the materials in the Lineage Key Binders and as well as the information from the LDS Sheets in that index. Later on, for reasons I do not now recall, we separated the two groups of data, creating two databases. What we have realized was that we were not normally looking at both of the databases when doing given name searches. So a couple of months ago we successfully re-merged the two sets of data, eliminating the possibility of missing a database match. One file, one lookup process.

As for the other records that we have here, we will continue to try to figure out how best to move from paper, to paperless.

AN ALERT! (AGAIN)

Once again I would like to call your attention to the impending disaster that may be looming before us with some of the US Budget recommendations now before Congress. I am repeating some of my text from the last Newsletter. Please take note of these items, and contact your congressman and senator to hopefully abort this changes. Some of these changes could have a very direct effect on how we do genealogy.

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI).

The SSDI has not been updated since January 1, 2014. That means anyone whose death occurred after that date will not be found in the SSDI. While they are supposed to be starting to input deaths reported during 2014, there is talk of further delay of SSDI data input.

Current proposals and their effects on genealogical research. There are a number of budgetary proposals that are being discussed in committee that will have a direct and desperate effect upon historical and genealogical research. Supposedly they will save taxpayer money, but in truth, it won't and the dam-

age that these proposals will cause will be a detriment to all future researchers. Here are just some of the agencies that are on the chopping block, and what their effect will be on us as genealogists. Further discussion of these points can be found on the @Rogue-NutfieldGenealogy blog from which much of this verbiage has been quoted.

National Endowment for the Humanities.

Budget \$150 million, cost per American \$0.46. The NEH funds research at institutions like museums, colleges, and libraries. These are the grants for small town museums and historical societies that genealogists depend on for local information. These are the grants that larger institutions need for oral history projects, preservation of documents and ephemera, research, digitization projects and other great ideas. Think of all the historic homes, archives and repositories that would be affected by this budget cut. And the Congress wants to shut down this program permanently, not just reduce its funding. They see this as a frivolous expenditure.

National Endowment for the Arts. Budget \$150 Million, cost per American \$0.46. The Republican Study Committee states "The federal government should not be in the business of funding the arts." This is another case of not just reducing the funding, but eliminating the entire department. Where would family historians be without terrific historical projects like the documentaries by Ken Burns, or memorial projects like the Vietnam War memorial? Both were funded by NEA grants. Many historical societies have received NEA grants to preserve culture such as local music or art from immigrant or ethnic groups. Many films were funded in part by the NEA to preserve the voices and stories of people such as holocaust survivors, immigrants, families from the Japanese internment camps or the Armenian genocide. NEA grants have supported the preservation of archival and historic materials all over the USA. Perhaps the RSC should listen to George Washington who said "The Arts and Sciences, essential to the prosperity of the State and to the ornament of human life,

have a primary claim to the encouragement of every lover of his country and mankind.” Again the NEA is being viewed as a frivolous expenditure.

The National Archives. Budget cuts risk public access to records. Cuts here are the worst of all for genealogy and family history. This is a violation of the Freedom of Information act (FOIA), for providing access. NARA took a big hit on their budget during the Great Recession a few years ago. Many regional NARA centers were closed, programs were reduced or eliminated, hours and days were reduced. Additional budget cuts will prove to be very detrimental to public access. These cuts affect genealogists in every aspect of their research. The most basic genealogy searches include federal records such as census, military and immigration records held at NARA. This is not just bad news for genealogists, but for researchers all across the board and in all disciplines and occupations.

The Library of Congress. While there are no rumors of particular cuts to the LOC, they did take substantial cuts in the 2013 and 2014 budgets, which slowed down digitization projects and caused backups for copyrights. Slow-downs in conservation projects meant that endangered manuscripts continued to decay instead of being preserved. Further cuts in this department could mean that new works and copyrights will linger instead of being registered with the LOC and preservation projects might be completely cancelled instead of being just delayed. Historians, genealogists and citizens will experience cuts in access as well as physical access to collections in the buildings in Washington, DC.

WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING.

More announced budget cuts are happening every day. But just listing them, complaining and whining is not enough. Reach out to your senators and representatives. Reach out to the staff of these departments and organizations under consideration for elimination or budget cuts to see how you can make a difference. Reach out to your colleagues, research friends, and genealogists from both sides of the aisle about resolving these issues amicably. Continue to patronize these

institutions and help spread the word about their contributions to American Society. Get involved. Keep informed. Vote.☺

THE CANDIDATES FOR TRUSTEE

Following the reduction in the number of Trustees from nine to six over a three year period, we now elect only two candidates each year. We here provide you with a brief synopsis of the candidates, their history with the Society, and their genealogical background.

Joanne G. Rodgers, PS#1523, has been an active member of the Society since 2008, and was elected Secretary Co-Adjutor in 2010, becoming Secretary in 2011 upon the retirement of Arlene Parks Callahan from that position. She is a seventh generation descendant in the Fragment Lineage Key LO, John Parks of Scotland to Pennsylvania and his son John K Parks (1784 – b. 1860 who married Mary Ann Parkinson in 1816.

Susan T. Van Allen, PS#1653, has been an active life member of the Society since 2016. She is an attorney by profession. She is a 13th generation descendant from Robert (01STW1) Parke (1630, MA) through his son Thomas (02T1). She has shown a great interest in The Society and is well pleased to be asked to become a Trustee for The Society. She will be replacing Mr. David Cole Parke who retiring after serving 22 years on the Board.☺

Be sure to use the inserted form to notify us if you plan to attend the Annual Convocation. If you cannot attend, please vote and send in the proxy ballot.

GEORGE ALEXANDER PARKS, GOVERNOR OF ALASKA TERRITORY

by Ken Parks PS#1406

My thanks to our Parke Society Secretary, Joanne Rodgers PS#1523, for suggesting George A. Parks as a subject for this article. If any of our members have a suggestion for future articles like this, feel free to contact me, as I'm always interested in finding new Park/e/s/ individuals of note to profile.

Our subject, George Alexander Parks, was appointed governor of the Alaska Territory in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge. He was the fifth governor, and first resident governor of the territory, as well as the first to serve two full terms. He was also the first to travel extensively by air to visit the far-flung areas of the vast territory under his control.

EARLY LIFE

George Alexander Parks was born in Denver, Colorado on 29 May 1883, the son of James Parks and Mary Leach Ferguson. His father was born in 1842 (though many censuses suggest a birthdate as late as 1846) in either Pennsylvania, or Northern Ireland. In any event, both of his parents were born in Northern Ireland, though their names remain unknown to us as of this writing. Mary Leach Ferguson was born in 1855 in Canada, both parents being Scottish immigrants, and came to America in 1877 from Mosa, Ontario just prior to her marriage to James Parks on 1 October 1878 in Albany County, Wyoming.

James Parks is listed as a carpenter in the 1880 Jefferson County, Colorado census, and in the 1885 Colorado state census he is listed as a bridge builder, a profession he would be associated with for the rest of his career. By 1900 James Parks is now a bridge superintendent, working for the Union Pacific Railroad, and the family now includes, along with son George, daughter Sarah I. Parks, born in August of 1885. The 1900 census indicates two other children had been born, but were not alive by 1900, most likely having been born prior to George's birth in 1883.

According to a short article from 1912 in the Fort Collins Weekly Courier, James Parks was a veteran of the Civil War, having been wounded in action by a bullet wound to the arm, but we have not yet discovered his regiment. We do know he served with a T. L. Moore, quite possible Thomas L. Moore, who later served as an alderman in Fort Collins, Colorado. Further searching may turn up his Civil War service record and possibly a pension file, which could lead to locating him in Pennsylvania in earlier censuses and discovering the identity of his parents. James Parks died in Denver in 1937, his wife Mary L. Parks in the same city in 1941. Both are buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Wheat Ridge, Jefferson County, Colorado.

CAREER

George A. Parks was educated in public schools and graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1906. He worked as a mining engineer in the western United States, Canada, and Mexico before arriving in Alaska for the first time in 1908, working for the United States Land Office as a mineral examiner. As World War I approached, he enlisted in the Army Corps of Engineers, serving from 1 January 1917 until 12 December 1918, rising to the rank of captain. Though he didn't serve in World War II, we learn from his draft registration form for that war that he was 6' 1½" tall, with blue eyes, gray hair (he was by then 59 years old) and had a ruddy complexion.

After his military service ended, he returned to Alaska to work once again for the Land Office, and by 1920 was appointed Chief of the United States Land Office in Juneau. By 1924 he was working in Anchorage as Assistant Surveyor of Public Lands in Alaska. In July of 1923 he served as a tour guide to President Warren G. Harding, Herbert Hoover, and Hubert Work. They were impressed with his knowledge of the territory, and when President Calvin Coolidge took office after Harding's death in August of that year, cabinet members Hoover and Work recommended Parks as the next territorial governor. He was sworn in on 17 June 1925

and served until 19 April 1933, having been appointed to a second term by then-president Herbert Hoover.



George Alexander Parks
Source: Wikimedia Commons

Upon taking the oath of office, Parks declared, “the big need for Alaskans is to think, plan, and work constructively. Alaska has the resources, and there must be some reason why handicaps in development have not been surmounted. We shall try to discover what is wrong and get it corrected.” Spoken like a true engineer!

One of the issues Parks dealt with as governor was transportation. To offset reduced federal funding, rates for the Alaska Railroad were raised and the Richardson Highway, the first major road in Alaska, became a toll road. Because of the size of Alaska, Parks became an early advocate of air travel, making extensive use of it to visit all parts of the territory. He made news in June of 1929 when he flew from Juneau, Alaska to San Francisco, a flight which took over 14 hours, to attend the graduation of his niece, Mary Catherine Thompson, from Mills College.

After leaving the governorship, Parks went back to work for the Bureau of Land Management, serving as District Cadastral Engineer until 1948. After his retirement from government service, he worked for the R. J. Sommers Construction Company and served as vice-president of the First National Bank of Juneau.

LATER LIFE

Never married, in the mid 1970s Parks was forced to leave his Juneau apartment and move into a nursing home. In 1975, the newly built highway between Anchorage and Fairbanks was named the George Parks Highway. George Alexander Parks died on 11 May 1984, just days shy of his 101st birthday. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Juneau, Alaska.☞

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

The next editorial due date is
October 15, 2017

LINEAGE KEY CATALOG—PART 19

by Society staff

Beginning with Newsletter Vol. 45, No. 1, we've been publishing the Society's 300+ Lineage Key Catalogue, including data as to the founder and other details for the general information of Society members.

As most Society members know, we keep track of the various Park/e/s lines by assigning them individual lineage keys consisting of one or two letters like A, or JJ or RX. When new members join the Society, we try to match their Park/e/s ancestry with an existing lineage key. If not, we create a new key. Some keys represent immigrant lines, others fragment lines such as Park/e/s who suddenly appear in Ashton, Ohio, with no reference to where they came from or to whom they are related.

Sometimes, through identification of matching individuals, or DNA evidence, we discover that a fragment line is actually part of another line. With positive identification, the line is merged with the larger or earlier line, and all group sheets and related materials are relabeled with the new lineage key. Line mergers are indicated in the narrative.

Not all lines are represented by Society members, and not all members are active in the Society. The word "represented" following the lineage key in the description indicates that a current member belongs to that line. Where children are listed, if the name is in boldface, then we have descendants from that child; otherwise, we know nothing further. We also indicate when the line has had DNA testing.

The lineage keys published to date are: all single-letter keys (Vol. 45, No. 1 through Vol. 46, No. 1), double-letter keys AA-ZZ and AX through ZX (Vol. 46.2–Vol. 47.2), AY-ZY (Vol. 47.3, Vol. 48.1, and Vol. 49.1), AZ-ZZ (Vol. 49.2 and Vol. 50.1), AW-TW (Vol. 50.3 and Vol. 51.1). TW (corrected)-ZW, AV-ZV (Vol. 51.2, 51.3, and Vol. 53.1). Further Lineage Keys will appear in subsequent issues of the Newsletter.

AU Thomas (01AU1) **Park**, (ca 1776, NC/SC – 1852, TN) (Represented) m1) Mary Gingle, m2) Jane Graves (of Boliver, TN), probably around 1840, other dates and places unknown. Four known issue to first marriage, one known issue to second marriage.

Source Materials: Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant members.

Children By First Marriage:

- Charles Park (02AU1), lived and died in Memphis, TN. Nothing further known.
- John Mark Park (02AU2), dates unknown, apparently married, had one child Fannie who married a Ralph Lambeth. Nothing further known.
- **James Amsia Park** (02AU3), (1834, ?? – 1870, TN) married Maria F. Crawford (1837 – 1913) 1856, location unknown, five children.
- Isaac William Park (02AU4), (1837, ?? – 1888, TN) married Lisa Jane (maiden name unknown), other dates and locations unknown. Eight children.

Children By Second Marriage:

Eleanor Adilard Park (01AU5), (1841, ?? – 1930, TX), married Dr. John Steel Neely, (?? – 1911) date and place unknown. No issue known.

(PS#722R, 723D [no active members on this line])

BU James Parks (01BU1), (1797, NC – 1875, TN), (Represented) m. Margaret "Peggy" Stroud (c1800 NC – 1855, TN) c.1824, probably North Carolina. Ten children usually listed however, researchers differ on names and dates.

Ten children known, however information is thin and there is confusion among researchers

Source Materials: Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant members.

Children:

- **George Washington Parks** (02BU1), (1824, TN – 1863, AR), married Elizabeth Jane King (1826, TN – 1899, MO) ca 1843, place unknown. Nine children.
- **John H Parks** (02BU3), (1828, TN – 1912, MO) m. Zilla Jo King (1829, TN – 1915, MO). At least one child.
- Calvin (02BU2) Parks, (1826, TN – 1865, MO) m1) Margaret Bradley (1830 – 1854, MO) four children; m2) Martha McBride (1828, TN – 1889, MO), 1854, MO, four children.
- Other children with some known facts: Thomas Jefferson Parks (c1831, TN – 1862, AR);
- Mary Parks, b. ca 1834, TN;
- Carolina Parks (1835, TN – 1885, TX) m. John Dillard Braly (1825, TN – 1875, TX) in Grundy Co., TN, 1852, nine children;
- Jane Parks (b. ca 1836, TN)
- Martha Parks (1838, TN – 1906, AL)
- Nancy Parks (b. ca 1840, TN)
- Sarah Parks (b. ca 1842, TN)

(PS#748R, 1566R, [no active members on this line])

CU Lineage Key CU encompasses two known brothers. A third person thought to be another brother is listed here briefly, but is catalogued under a separate Lineage Key.

Silas Leonard Parks (01CU1), (1801, VT – 1876, MI) (Represented) m1) Lozina (unknown) (c1803, VT – 1860, VT), married before 1824 probably in Vermont, nothing further known; m2) Elizabeth Betsy Brown (??, Canada – 1858, MI), married before 1834, 12 children; m3) Philena J. Currier (c1826, VT – c1903, MI), married 1858 in Shiawassee County, MI, two children.

Source Materials: Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant members.

Children by Brown, second marriage:

William James (02CU1) Parks, (1834, NY – 1913, MI) m. Sarah A/ Mattison (1837 – 1908) 1857, in Vernon, MI. Two children.

Peter (02CU2) Parks/Chief Jim Fitcher (spelling varies) (c1837 – 1901, MI) m. Julia David (1848, 1907) 1881 probably in MI, three children. This is the child that was kidnapped by the local native Americans, at a very early age, and raised as one of them. He eventually became the chief of the tribe, being known as Chief Jim Fitcher. He did not learn the truth about this until late in life. Even after he re-connected with his biological family, he remained with the tribe as that was the tradition he had been raised in, and he knew no different. There were three children, surnamed Fitcher. There has been no further research submitted as to their descendants.

Emma (02CU3) Parks, (1853 – 1879, MI), married Franklin Fowler in 1877 in Genesee Co., MI, no issue, nothing further known.

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Lineage Key Catalog

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Amanda Mulonia Parks (02CU4), (1839, MI – ??) m1) Francis Clark (c1829, NY – ??) two children; m2) Johannas Decker in 1885, no issue, nothing further known.

John W. (02CU5) Parks, (1841, MI – b1900) married Lucy (unknown) (c1840 – ??), five children, nothing further known.

Lucinda (02CU6) Parks, (1842, MI – 1906) m1) Francis DuPaul (1818, France – 1891, MI) about 1860, one child, m2) Aaron R. Findley (1831, OH – 1904, MI) about 1872 in MI, four children.

Leonard (02CU7) Parks, (1844, MI – 1846, MI), died young.

Mary (02CU8) Parks (1845, MI – b1920) m. Alvin S. Albaugh (c1846, NY – ??) ca 1876, q child known, nothing further known.

Anson (02CU9) Parks, 1846 MI – 1927, MI), m. Mary Ann Fowler (1846 – 1927) in 1869 in Genesee Co., MI, two children.

Elon Galusha Parks (02CU10), (1849, MI – 1924, IL) m. Ann Eliza Seymour (1847, MI – 1925, IL) in 1875 in Genesee County, MI, four children

Heneritta (02CU11) Parks, (1851, MI – ??) m. Jeremina Thompson (c1862, NY – ??) ca 1866. Seven children.

Albert (02CU12) Parks, (1852, MI – 1879, MI) m. Margaret (unknown) (c1862, Scotland – ??), one child, nothing further known.

Children by Currier, third marriage:

Frank (02CU13) Parks, (1860, MI – ??) m. Margaret Skaritt (1864, MI – 1941, MI), three children.

Freddie (02CU14) Parks (c1868, MI – 1870, MI), died young.

Peter Glick (01CU2) Parks, (1807, VT – 1891, MO) (Represented) m. Charlotte Lamb (1805, NY – 1887, IL) ca 1825, New York. 13 Children.

Source Materials: Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant members

Children:

Janette B (02CU20) Parks, (1826, NY – ??) m. John Kern (ca 1810, Ire), three children.)

Jerome J (02CU21) Parks, (1829, NY – ??) Nothing further known.

Jane E (02CU22) Parks, (1831, NY – 1873, ??) m. John Nugent (1821, IRE – 1878) five children.

Loretta (02CU23) Parks, (1833, NY – 1865) m. Fred Class (born in Prussia) 1858, McHenry, IL, four children.

Lucinda R. (02CU24) Parks, (1835, NY – ??) m. Zina Z. Dow (?? – b1880), one child, nothing further known.

Minerva M (02CU25) Parks, (b. 1837, NY), nothing further known.

James Lewis (02CU26) Parks, (b. 1839, NY) m. Caroline N. Burlingame (b. 1834, NY), one child, nothing further known.

Oscar Oren (02CU27) Parks, (1840, IL – 1917, KS) m1) Ellen Jane (unknown), (d. 1883) in 1865, McHenry, IL, no known issue; m2, Hester Catherine Beard (1860, MO – 1923, KS) in 1886, in Lamar, MO, five children.

Morris J (02CU28) Parks, (1842, IL – 1897, OK) m. Mary Lizzie Hanaford (1837, VT – 1918, WA) in 1864 in McHenry, IL, three children.

Aurilla Ann (02CU29) Parks, (b. 1843, IL) m. John D. Wilcox (b. c1847, VT), six children, nothing further known.

Nathan Euryal (02CU30) Parks, (b. 1846, IL) m. Susan Turner (1843, England – b. 1920) in 1871, in Winnebago Co., IL, five children.

Peter F. (02CU31) Parks, (b. 1850, IL) m. Mehitable Barnes in 1869, McHenry, IL, no known issue.

Alford (02CU32) Parks, (b. 1856, IL), nothing further known.

Loudon H. (01IO1) Parks, (c1802, VT – b. 1870) m. Sarah (unknown) (c1809, VT – b. 1900), 11 children. Nothing further known. Loudon is thought to be another brother to Peter Glick and Silas Leonard Parks. Nothing has been proven conclusively. He is listed here for informational purposes, but his line is carried out under the Lineage Key “IO”.

For Silas Leonard: (PS#1556L, 1606, 842D, 1315R)

For Peter, Glick: (PS#1371, 197D, 279R)☺

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

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

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

1658 Wayne Howard Parks

Bishop, GA

Lineage is a new Fragment Line, LK=XN, commencing with a Samuel1 Parks (19th Century, probably PA), married Rebecca Potter/Patter, (Also 19th Century, probably PA). Thence to Lewis/Lemuel², to Frank Sheriff³, Wayne Richard⁴, to member⁵.

1659 Susan Patricia Burke

Murphysboro, IL

Lineage is Robert of PA, LK=IX. Line is Robert¹, David², David³, Rebecca Gibson⁴ (Parks) Sawyer, Francis Marion⁵ Sawyer, Cyrus Hartwell⁶ Sawyer, Francis Marion⁷ Sawyer, Francis John⁸ Sawyer, to member⁹.

1660 Kristin Lee Slagle

Fayetteville, GA

Lineage is a new Fragment Line, LK=YN, commencing with a Thomas1 Parks (1776, IRE – 1874, IA), married Elizabeth Root (1778, IRE – c1845, MD). Thence to Joseph², Joseph A³, Joseph A⁴, Joseph Albert⁵, Joseph Albert⁶, to member⁷.

1661 Charles W. Walker

Tulsa, OK

Lineage is Roger of NJ, LK=K3. Line is Roger¹, Roger², Nathan³, Charles⁴, Charles⁵, James Quick⁶, Guildford Benton⁷, Charles Fremont⁸, Elva Anna⁹ (Park) Thomas, Alpha Malinda¹⁰ (Thomas) Walker, to member¹¹.

1662 Dianne Patricia Smith

Charleston, WV

Lineage is Thomas of VA, LK=C. Lineage is Thomas¹, Thomas², Frances³ (Parks) Mays, Mary⁴ (Mayes) Chewn-

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Welcome, New Members

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ing, Albert B⁵ Tuning/Chewning, Melissa⁶ (Chewning/Tuning) Shreve, Emerson Wamsley⁷ Shreve, Neil Harper⁸ Shreve, to member⁹.

1663 Allison Marie Belknap

Lutz, FL

Lineage is Arthur of PA, LK=A. Lineage is William¹, Arthur², John³, William⁴, Elihu⁵, Frabces⁶ (Park) Bishop, Benjamin Franklin⁷ Bishop, Aveda⁸ (Bishop) Martin, Helen Irene⁹ (Martin) Moss, to member¹⁰.

1664 Angela P⁷ Masand

New York, NY

1665 Matthew David⁷ Parks

Buford, GA

1666 David Rene⁶ Parks

Marietta, GA

Angela and Matthew are brother and sister. David is their father.

Lineage is a new Fragment Line, LK=ZN, commencing with a James G1 Parks (ca 1794, NC – ca 1830, GA), married Elizabeth Biggers Woolfolk, (1800, NC – 1853, AL). Thence to James Sowell², John Henry³, Edward Schley⁴, Richard Anthony⁵, to David Rene⁶ (member), to member(s)⁷.

1667 Morgan Ernell Parke

Sharon Center, OH

Lineage is Roger of NJ, LK=K3. Line is Roger¹, Roger², Joseph³, Joseph⁴, Micajah⁵, Thomas Harris⁶, Charles Curtis⁷, John Patillo⁸, Elva Charles Curtis⁹, Elbert Ernell¹⁰, Duane Durfey¹¹, to member¹².

1668 Elsie Jane Wendland

Peachtree City, GA

Lineage is the Fragment Line, LK=ZN, commencing with a James G1 Parks

(ca 1794, NC – ca 1830, GA), married Elizabeth Biggers Woolfolk, (1800, NC – 1853, AL). Thence to James Sowell², John Henry³, William Henry⁴, John Adolph⁵, to member⁶. to member(s)⁷. Elsie Wendland is a 2nd cousin, once removed from Angela Parks Masand, PS#1664, above.

1669 Kristin Kimbell Jones

Ocean View, DE

Lineage is Robert of MA, LK=T, Chart 11. Line is Robert¹, Thomas², Robert³, Robert⁴, Hezekiah⁵, Eunice⁶, Parks who married Gershom Brown, to Robert Gordon⁷ Brown, Castanus Gordon⁸ Brown, Bertha Agnes⁹ Brown who married Ossian Jabez Ramsdell, Archer Myron¹⁰ Ramsdell, Miriam Natalie¹¹ Ramsdell who married Carl Herman Krause, to member¹².

1670 Camille Yvette White

Goulds, DE

Lineage is a new Fragment Line, LK=IM, commencing with a Ephraim1 Parks (1824, PA – 1891, PA), m1) Elizabeth (Unknown), m2) Catherine Johnson (ca 1821, ?? – ca 1883, PA), 1851, Bloomsburg, PA. Thence to John Frank², Helen Margaret³, who married Conrad Hutchison, to Harriet Mary⁴ Hutchinson, to member⁵.☺

Be sure to use the inserted form to notify us if you plan to attend the Annual Convocation. If you cannot attend, please vote and send in the proxy ballot.

The next editorial due date is
October 15, 2017