

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

DEDICATED SERVICE AWARDS

BY **KEN PARKS PS#1406**

At the first Trustee Meeting, Dedicated Service Awards were presented, honoring two members whose service to the Society was recognized by the Board of Trustees as being worthy of such an award. The first award was presented to Robert Leon Parke PS#755L for his many years of service as a trustee, as well as his service as Lineage Leader for the Robert Parks of Massachusetts LK=T line.

The second award went to Ronald Neal Parks PS#1458, both for his ongoing service as trustee, and his decade of service as registrar, volunteering for that position at a critical time when the position was left vacant by the sudden passing of the previous registrar.

Framed certificates were presented (see photo) as well as a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees. We will post those resolutions below and heartily congratulate both gentlemen for these well-deserved awards!



From left: Pres. Ken Parks, PS #1406; Ronald Neal Parks PS#1458; and Fr. Michael "Tad" Parks, PS#425H; not shown: Robert Leon Parke, PS#755L

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD FOR ROBERT LEON PARKE, PS#755L

Whereas, Robert Leon Parke, a 12th generation descendant of Robert Parke, of the Winthrop Fleet through his son Thomas Parke, has been a faithful Life Member of the Society since 1986 and has steadily added to his Life Membership over the years, and

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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 three times per year by the Society for its members. 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
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590
Phone: (414) 332-9984 (evenings only)

CONVOCATIONS: 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:

Mrs. Joanne G. Rodgers PS#1523
108 Crestview Drive
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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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Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590

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.

Dedicated Service Awards

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Whereas, Robert Leon Parke has faithfully attended more than 10 Convocations last appearing with us in 2007, and

Whereas, Robert Leon Parke has been a Lineage Leader for the Robert of Massachusetts line through his son Thomas Parke (Lineage Key "T") and has been collecting data for the eventual publication of a volume to update the Frank Sylvester Parks work on the same line, and

Whereas, Robert Leon Parke has been the longest serving Trustee of the Society, having been elected to the position of Trustee Seat IV since 1988, and serving 29 years, to his recent resignation,

Now therefore, with great appreciation for his long-service as Lineage Leader and Trustee of The Society, the Board of Trustees honors Robert Leon Parke, PS#755L with its Dedicated Service Award.

Awarded this 18th day of September in the year of 2017, and in the 54th year of The Parke Society.

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD FOR RONALD NEAL PARKS, PS#1458

Whereas, Ronald Neal Parks, a 6th generation descendant of Hugh Parks, Lineage Key "GP", has been a faithful member of the Society since 2005, and

Whereas, Ronald Neal Parks has faithfully attended more than 11 Convocations up to the present year, and

Whereas, Ronald Neal Parks is serving as a Trustee now in his 6th year in that role, and

Whereas, Ronald Neal Parks has served with distinction as the Registrar of The Society, stepping up to the plate at a critical juncture, and for his decade of service in that role up to his recent resignation,

Now therefore, with great appreciation for his long service as Registrar and Trustee of The

Society, the Board of Trustees honors Ronald Neal Parks, PS#1458 with its Dedicated Service Award.

Awarded this 18th day of September in the year of 2017, and in the 54th year of The Parke Society.☺

From the President's Desk

By Ken Parks PS#1406

2017 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The 2017 annual Parke Society business meeting was held, as it has been for the past few years, at the Country Inn and Suites in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In contrast with the snafu of last year, where we were rather ungraciously booted out of our reserved meeting room on the second day to make way for a larger event, this year's meetings went off without a hitch. Indeed, management was so eager to atone for last year's problem that we were all given a very reasonable room rate, everyone was given a suite, and they did not charge us for the use of the meeting room!

Staff reports were given, and the business of the Society was discussed at length in the 1st Trustee Meeting, as is always the case. The trustee and officer slates were approved for voting at the two following meetings on the second day.

ELECTION RESULTS

At the Corporate Meeting, the following slate of trustees was elected to serve a three year term expiring in 2020:

Seat I: Joanne Gertrude Rodgers PS#1523

Seat II: Susan Tyler Van Allen PS#1653

Also elected to serve out the remaining year of the term of retiring trustee, Robert Leon Parke PS#755L, which expires in 2018:

Seat IV: William Robert Stamm PS#1428

At the 2nd Trustee Meeting, the following slate of officers was elected to serve a one year term:

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From the President's Desk

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President: Kenneth Melvin Parks PS#1406

Vice-President: Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks
PS#425H

Secretary: Joanne Gertrude Rodgers
PS#1523

Treasurer: Lu Etta Terock PS#861

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

REUNION NEWS

One topic of discussion at the Trustee Meeting was that we should make the Parke Society newsletter, website, and Facebook page available for news of the many Park/e/s family reunions that take place all over the country every year. To that end, we urge all members (and will try to reach non-members as well on the Facebook page) to send us news of any reunions they're aware of, along with dates, location, and any other details, such as the lineage of the Parke/s family involved. Let us hear from you! You may either contact me directly or our newsletter editor, and please give us as much lead time as you can in order to get the word out. By posting news of your reunion, we may help you find long-lost cousins or enable you to meet new ones!

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

As we've alluded to in previous newsletter issues, life has been a bit hectic lately for me and for Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks. Without revisiting the details, the end result has been that, while we try to keep up with the necessary business of the Society, such as processing new members, it has kept us from addressing projects and issues about which we would dearly like to see progress made. It appears things may be settling down for both of us in the coming year, and the annual meeting was a good opportunity to make plans to get things moving ahead on several fronts.

One of those fronts is the State/County project, which you may recall was announced several years ago. This is a project to abstract and identify by Lineage Key, whenever possible, every Park/e/s individual in every

state by county in every U.S. federal census from 1790 to 1940. We decided to begin with the 1850 census, as this was the first census to list every individual in the household by name, and would serve as a gateway to earlier and later censuses. Initial work was begun, but stalled as the aforementioned life issues took center stage. This information will then be posted on the Members Only portion of our website (not currently available) and will eventually become a valuable method for members to access the information found in our Parke Society database. Search a county where you know or suspect your ancestors lived during one of the census years, or search all counties for individuals from your own Lineage Key and see what you may learn!

With renewed determination to restart this project, it was suggested that the best way to make speedier progress on this was to enlist volunteers to aid in abstracting the needed information, enabling us to spend more time on the identification of the individuals by lineage using our Parke Society database resources. A classic example of the quote by the English writer John Heywood, "many hands make light work," we're hoping that several (or more!) members will step forward to help us out on this project. The only required tools are access to online census data, either through a subscription site such as Ancestry, or the free site, FamilySearch.org, basic computer and word processing skills, and some free time. We would determine what data from the census we would choose to abstract and have everyone employ the same format for uniformity's sake. No research required, simply pulling out the Park/e/s individuals in the assigned county and sending it along to me. You could either choose a state/county that has some relevance to your own Park/e/s family history, or simply help us work our way methodically through all the states until we have 1850 completed. Of course, when that happy day arrives, we would then move on to another census year, but one thing at a time! No long term commitments, and no hard deadlines, so if you are interested in joining the project, please drop me a line and we'll assign you a

county, counties, or state depending on your time and willingness to tackle them.

MEET THE REGISTRAR

As has been mentioned elsewhere, Ronald Neal Parks PS#1458 has retired as Registrar after serving in that position for the past decade. We are happy to announce that William Robert Stamm PS#1428 has agreed to take over that position. The transition is now taking place, and Ron has graciously agreed to make himself available to advise Rob as he learns the ropes. We express our appreciation to Ron for his many years of service and to Rob for agreeing to take over this vital role in the Society.☺

From the Executive Director: Society Business

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

WHO ARE WE?

Some years ago, the Society issued a trifold brochure subtitled “What kind of a Society are we?” It was an attempt to explain just who we are, what we do and what we don’t do. Years ago we always included this brochure as we sent out the application packets to inquirers. But then at some point we stopped doing that probably thinking erroneously that everyone knew just who we were and what we did.

Over the years we have talked about this a number of times, perhaps in oblique terms, or in notes in passing. While it was clear to us as Core Staff, it apparently was or is not all that clear to some of our members, potential as well as long standing.

As a result, some suggested language has been presented by one of our former Core Staff members, to clarify who we are and what we do in fairly precise terms. There is no change in our scope or purpose. It remains the same as was adopted formerly in the 1970-1971 By-Laws revisions.

1. The primary purpose of our Society is to act as a “Clearing House.” This means that the Society’s purpose is to see if we

already have a Lineage Key (LK) which connects to the individual’s line.

2. The above means that we do not do research for you—however we will provide you with names of other members who appear to be of your lineage. In case of Deceased Members of your line, we will send you paper copies of their relevant material.
3. We are not professional genealogists and most of us are busy with our regular professions, vocations, households, families, or other activities.

Now, as I used to say to my superiors in the many companies that I have worked for (for several decades I have worked as a CPA, mostly in tax practice), you make the general policy declarations, and I will add the if, but, or nor clauses that lays out the details. Sort of what the Code of Federal Regulations is as contrasted to the United States Code (the actual passed statutes).

As to the first point: Prior to the 1970-1971 By-Law revisions, we were more or less a family reunion society of descendants of one Robert Parke who came to the colonies aboard the Winthrop Fleet in 1630. But as the years went by, more and more people were coming to us looking for Park/e/s information that clearly didn’t trace back to that Robert Parke. Accordingly, the Trustees of the Society started to think in broader terms of helping Park/e/s of all stripes to find their ancestry. In changing the overall scope of the Society, we moved away from the “certifying” of Robert Parke connections to acquiring information about and cataloging the various Park/e/s lines that came into the Colonies and North America from the British Isles. I sometimes wonder if the Trustees then actually knew what they were getting the Society into. I really don’t think they did, as the Society’s work has ballooned beyond anything they could have imagined.

Our principle tool in doing our work as a “clearing house” of Park/e/s information is the GIVENAME Index. Its importance to our work cannot be overstated. As we added

From the Executive Director

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more and more Lineage Keys, and hence binders, and more and more family group sheets, the ability to look at a lineage application and identify it as Lineage Key so-and-so. There were just too many names to be able to remember all of them in that way. The GIVENAME Index is our gateway into those lineage key binders. For each Park/e/s surnamed individual found on our group sheets an entry in the Index lists their given name, dates and places of birth, death and marriage, as well as the spouse's name, dates, and places. One other field of importance to each entry is the one that gives the group sheet number of the parent.

So our primary purpose is to gather information, classify peoples' genealogical data either into one of the already existing Lineage Keys, or to create a new key for them if not otherwise already catalogued. My first task upon receiving a member's papers is to see if any of the people in their lineage connects with information that we already have.

As to the second point: We are not your researchers; we are your helpers. Let's be honest here. We do not have the resources, time or expertise to be your researchers. What we do is to share with you what we have and to put you in touch with others that might be of assistance to you. For example, others who are in your same line. While I might do some poking around on the Internet, or in some of the source materials that I have on hand to see what I can find, I certainly do not consider myself to be doing research on behalf of our members. I might be able to add some clarifications to what the member has, but really nothing more than that. We have a lot of information, and often we can at least extend what a member knows back one or two more generations, if not to an immigrant ancestor.

As to the data that we will provide to members. In this age of identity theft everybody has become hyper sensitive to personal data being made publicly available. It is for this reason that we do not put a whole lot of the genealogical information that we have out on

the Internet. Individual's Lineage Applications are not on our web site. (In fact, only recently have the scanned copies of them been made available to certain trusted Core Staff members of the Society.) The GIVENAME Index will not be made readily accessible to the general membership or to just anyone who wants to see it, nor is it anywhere on the website.

However, we do ask that you list the genealogical data for yourself and your family and you parents on the lineage application and any group sheets you provide us. The information we are keeping track of will be available to future generations who are searching for their connections. Omitting that data leaves holes in our work.

What about passing information on to related members: We do this in a rather circumscribed manner. I will pass along the line of descent, showing the relationship. But I will not share a member's Lineage Application or more recent family group sheets. They can if they want to, but we will not. Concerning when a connection is via a deceased member, we will accordingly pass on their information in the same manner, and hopefully point the new person to a son or daughter (or other relative) of the decedent to get further information.

As to the third point: And this is crucial. Currently none of us on the Core Staff of the Society is a certified professional genealogist. And we certainly do not hold ourselves out as such. It might seem odd that an organization like The Parke Society doesn't have a genealogist with classy credentials. What we do is to share information on Park/e/s ancestry. The disclaimer that is usually included with any email or letter containing genealogical information says it all:

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.

We pass along what we have. We have usually done some reasonableness checks (for example births that don't agree with parental death dates and things like that). We will also have reviewed any documents that members have provided with their lineage application to what they have entered, and will question any discrepancies.

We request three things of any member who might for any reason want to pass along material received from us to a professional genealogist. First, always be sure to include our disclaimer statement with any materials passed along. Secondly, do not imply anything more as to those materials than what is stated in the disclaimer. Finally, please do acknowledge that the materials you are passing along were obtained from the Parke Society, a clearing house (only) of Park/e/s genealogical information.

We do ask that you remember that this is essentially an entirely volunteer organization. We give of our time because of our interest in the Park/e/s ancestry. This is not a job or career, but rather an avocation or hobby. We do it for our own pleasure and satisfaction. Most of us are busy with the rest of our lives, be it a profession, vocation, maintaining a household, whatever. Sometimes it might seem that letters to us fall into a black hole, but the Society gets only a share of us, not the all of us. We do read all letters and emails, we track them, and eventually we get back to them. In my case, the Society (like the household) has to share me with the Church as I am an active (unretired) Priest.

It may seem like we are playing a broken record, but recent remarks has make it clear that there is still confusion as to who and what we are. Hopefully this explanation will have cleared the air once and for all. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

DUES RENEWAL TIME, ONCE AGAIN.

Within the next month we will be sending out our annual dues notices. That will come

via first class mailing separately from the newsletter mailing. Our practice is to send a notice to all active members on the first mailing, regular annual dues members as well as life members even though they are fully paid up. We do this so that we can get any address, phone number or email changes they might have.

For annual dues-paying members, please remember that you are being billed for you dues for the coming calendar year (2018). Please be prompt in your renewals so we don't have to send out second notices. Technically, the renewals are due to us by December 31st. As to our Canadian members, please pay if at all possible in US funds as dealing with international currencies is a bit of a hassle.

Do check the data printed on the notice to make sure it is accurate. If you are changing your email address, please print it very clearly.

And finally, the annual dues amount is \$30 per year. Last year there was a discrepancy between what was printed on the notice produced from the Society Membership Database, and what happened to be on the pre-printed envelope: something we totally missed in producing the notices.☺

Historian's Corner

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

As of this writing, we have completed the initial scanning of the Lineage Application Binders.

Perhaps you will remember from earlier comments that as we complete the processing of the new member, the Forms A and B which the member submitted are pulled from their folder and placed in a set of binders known as the Lineage Application Set. Filed by hundreds, there are now 16 of those binders.

This works well for me. I don't have to pull their file or series of files to look at their

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Historian's Corner

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lineages; just pull the binders and open to the appropriate pages. The problem is: only I have this resource at hand; none of the Core Staff has them.

Some years ago we created paper copies of the Form B only (Lineage Applications) and distributed them to certain Core Staff. But they were difficult to maintain, and to keep in synchronization with the original binders. And further, not all holders of these Abstracts did the necessary maintenance when changes and additions were sent to them.

So early last year we started to scan the contents of these Binders into a digital format (PDFs). It has been a long-running job but we recently finished up the scanning and I have now completed the review of the scans.

It was an interesting process to go through and to examine all of the Lineage Applications from day one (in 1963) till now. To be honest I had never before had the time to review every single form. It was also a humbling experience, as we found several discrepancies. In some cases the actual forms were never fully completed by members for one reason or another. That being the case, we really couldn't help them very much. Over the coming months we will be looking at the Discrepancy Log to attempt to clear up some of the issues.

We are going to distribute the complete set of the scanned Lineage Applications (Forms A & B, plus any additional information that might be filed with them) to certain of the Core Staff members who have need of this data at their finger-tips (the President, Registrar, certain of the Lineage Leaders). We still need to set up procedures as to how we will be keeping the distributed sets synchronized with the Historian's office set.

This completed project has already proven its worth to me. In the past I would have to traipse down two floors to pull the appropriate Lineage Application Binder to look at someone's papers. Now I just bring it up on

my computer. Maybe I will get to like the paperless route yet.

THE NEXT PROJECTS

Currently we are in the process of digitizing the three thousand or so LDS Family Group Sheet Temple Records pertaining to the Park/e/s surname that we were given back in 1982 at our Convocation in Salt Lake City. As with the Lineage applications, as these sheets are scanned they will be reviewed for the quality and completeness of scan. Apparently, we indexed most but not all of those sheets. We will be checking that all entries on all of the LDS sheets are indeed in the Index. As with the Lineage Applications, this collection will also be made available to the Core Staff members. Unlike most of the other digitizing tasks, this once completed will be stable and generally unchanging.

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. Thereby perhaps missing a connection. 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.

The next project following the LDS sheets, will deal with the Lineage Key Binders, and their digitization. What we have decided to do is to basically reproduce the former hard copy Lineage Key Abstracts in digital form. We had thought of just scanning those hard copy pages, but have more recently decided to do a fresh scan, and this time going to the fourth generation on each Lineage Key. This will be another long process, but it will be very useful to Core Staff, and may be an item that will be eventually put on the Society's web site.

We are currently discussing the possibility of digitizing the membership files of our deceased members. (Once a member, your file

never gets deleted.) Generally they are closed files and there would be no further activity in them. Hence they are a stable collection not requiring a lot of ongoing maintenance. All we need to do is to make decisions on how to scan and what the naming conventions and protocols will be.

Will we someday be entirely a paperless organization? Perhaps, but it will be a very long process, and will require a whole lot of discussion as to how to best digitize everything and do necessary maintenance. Most of our records are very dynamic in nature. Hence maintenance and updating would be a very time consuming task.

AN ALERT (AGAIN)!

As mentioned in the last two Historian's Corner columns, we still need to be on alert concerning the impending disaster that may be looming before us with some of the US Budget recommendations now before Congress.

Here is what we should be doing, now, today. 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. If we do not say anything they will happen, and it could have a very direct and negative effect on how we do genealogy.☞

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

Park/e/s DNA Surname Project

By Ken Parks PS#1406

It's been several issues since I last wrote about the DNA project, and there are a couple of topics that need to be addressed, so here we are.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT

At present, 34 genetic groups are in the project, containing approximately 240 individuals, most with the Park/e/s surname, but containing a few individuals with different surnames who show a clear genetic connection to others in their group, indicating a Park/e/s ancestry at some point in the past. At the suggestion of one of our co-administrators, I numbered the groups, while retaining the information about the various Lineage Keys found in each group, leaving a number of group numbers empty, reserved for any future groups that might appear as the project grows. Since we ordered the groups within the various haplotypes, the reserved group numbers are interspersed within each haplotype, rather than simply adding new groups at the end.

There is also an ungrouped section with 38 males bearing the Park/e/s surname, who show no connection to each other or to any of the groups in the project, but have genetic connections to other surnames, indicating some sort of NPE (non-paternal event) occurred at some point in the past. Some of these individuals might have a Park/e/s connection at the basic 12 marker level, but those matches do not hold up when taken to a higher level, indicating the common ancestry was likely in the distant past, possibly before the time surnames were adopted.

Lastly, another group of 59 individuals have ordered Y-DNA tests through the Park/e/s project, or have joined the project for some unknown reason. None of these males bear the Park/e/s surname nor show a genetic connection to others in the project. At some point, when time permits, we need to contact these individuals to ascertain their reason for joining the project. If they have a Park/e/s

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Park/e/s DNA Surname Project

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ancestry somewhere in their family tree, we could at least extend an invitation to them to join the Parke Society.

As I have mentioned before, though we have identified at least these 34 groups of genetically related Park/e/s lineages, comprising about 88 different Lineage Keys, this only represents about 25% of Lineage Keys the Parke Society has assigned over the course of its history. Were we able to obtain genetic representation of all Lineage Keys, we would most likely find that many of them show a genetic connection to one of the existing groups in the project, or to other previously unrepresented Lineages to form additional genetic groups with others bearing the Park/e/s surname.

PROJECT GOALS

Obviously, we need to take a look at all the unrepresented Lineage Keys and ascertain whether any eligible Y-DNA donors can be found for testing, either through members or by finding eligible males using a method called reverse genealogy, or descendant research. This would involve tracking a male Park/e/s line from some point in the past down to a living individual who could supply the needed Y-DNA. This is a labor-intensive process, and at present is beyond the capacity of the Society staff to accomplish. One tactic for accomplishing this might be to enlist a Parke Society member from the relevant unrepresented Lineage Key to spearhead such a search, with the Society staff then contacting other members of that Lineage Key to help fund the cost of a test.

Another goal for the DNA project is to strive to enlist more Park/e/s males currently living in the British Isles, as well as in locations such as South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand where Park/e/s families migrated, to test and join the project. How best to reach such individuals is the question, and I need to reach out to other project administrators to learn if they have any methods for doing so. There are projects in place to try and recruit more DNA participants in the British

Isles, and we have a standing offer to pay for a Park/e/s Y-DNA37 test for any individual in the British Isles who can provide at least a three generation family history in exchange for the subsidized test. We've only had one taker to date, and that line (in England) traced back to a distant, known illegitimate son born to a Park/e/s female, so the Y-DNA did not represent the mother's Park/e/s line, but the unknown father's. Still, someday we may get another taker or two, and their results, if they happen to match others in the project, especially in the U.S. or Canada, could lead to a breakthrough in one or more lines.

So, how might a fuller representation of all Lineage Keys and more overseas participation be of benefit to all Park/e/s researchers, as well as to the Society? As mentioned previously, learning which Park/e/s lines in the U.S. and Canada are genetically related allows researchers to focus on when, where, and how those lines connect to a common male Park/e/s ancestor. Of course, those lines may not connect here, but back in the British Isles at some point in the past. By knowing which lines connect genetically, one can take a closer look at the known lineage information, and in some cases more origin information is available for one line in the group than for the others. For instance, we have several groups that contain many lineages with an Irish origin, though some may not have specific location information. However, if one line in the group does have a connection to a specific county in Ireland, that can focus the search on records that may exist in that area. Irish research can be difficult without fairly specific location information, and this method can help narrow the area of research.

Also, by having more participants from various countries within the British Isles who match lines which emigrated to the U.S., Canada, or other countries like Australia, we can again narrow the area in which to look for more traditional genealogical records. As an example, in my own genetic group we have four Parks lineages known to have been in America prior to the Revolution. Not having found a connection among

them, that connection may be overseas, but where to look? Then along came a matching participant from Canada whose Parkes family came to Canada from Ireland around 1860, but with no specific information about what county. Luckily, a participant who lives in England then turned up as a match, and his grandfather was born in County Armagh, in Northern Ireland, in 1886. Bingo! Now we have a specific county in which to look for more records, and I plan to make a trip to County Armagh in 2018 with several DNA test kits in my bag. There are still Parks families living in County Armagh, and getting several individuals to test could be of great benefit to advancing our knowledge of our common Parks origins within the group.

One further goal, which I'll touch on in more depth in our next newsletter, is to recruit more Park/e/s test participants of African-American descent. I need to reach out to connections within the larger genealogical community to explore ways in which to accomplish this.

AUTOSOMAL DNA (atDNA) AND THE PARK/E/S DNA PROJECT

Like all surname projects, we utilize the Y-DNA test to track the direct male lineage, as it follows the surname in most instances. However, as I'm sure you're aware, the increasing popularity of the atDNA test, such as those offered by Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage and, of course, the Family Finder test from our testing firm, Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) have led many to order that test, in many instances through the Park/e/s project. However, there is no effective way to display atDNA results, as you don't get a string of STR values to compare with other matching participants as in Y-DNA testing.

However, Parke Society members and others who have a Park/e/s connection have asked if there is a way to incorporate their atDNA test into the Park/e/s project. I have done some preliminary research into this, and it appears there may be a way to at least list participants on our Parke Society DNA page within the relevant group for their Park/e/s Lineage Key. I still need to learn more, but

for those who have inquired about this, please know that we're working on it!

I welcome your feedback on any of the areas discussed above, and for heaven's sake, if you're a Park/e/s male whose Lineage Key is not represented, what are you waiting for?!

“Slicker” Parks

By Ken Parks PS#1406

Vernon Henry “Slicker” Parks is our subject, and baseball was his game. He was a pitcher, and apparently quite a good one, having led his University of Michigan Wolverines team to a Big Ten Championship in 1919 and again in 1920 as captain of the team. He was voted the best pitcher in the Top Ten both years.

EARLY LIFE

Vernon Henry Parks was born in Fowler, Clinton County, Michigan on 10 November 1895, the son of Henry Albert and Eloise (Brooks) Parks. He was one of five children, four boys and one girl: Bert (Henry Albert Jr.), Linda (m. Gerard B. Pershing), Glenn Albert, Vernon Henry, and Leon A. Parks. Vernon Henry Parks is an 11th generation descendant of Robert Parke of Massachusetts. His line of descent was known to the Parke Society down to his grandfather, Orrin B. Parks (09T22094), but his branch of the family was not recorded in our database.

During WWI, Vernon Henry Parks enlisted in the Navy on 14 December 1917 and served as a member of the Armed Guard aboard the U.S.S. Trinidadian from 12 April to 7 December 1918. Upon completion of his military service, he entered the University of Michigan, where his pitching ability would begin to earn him wide recognition.

BASEBALL CAREER

As mentioned, “Slicker” Parks led his team to the Big Ten Championship in both 1919 and 1920. He was elected captain of the team in 1920, and again in 1921. He almost single-handedly brought the championships to Michigan, working on the mound for three-

continued on p. 12

"Slicker" Parks

cont'd from p. 11

quarters of the schedule and only losing one game, his final start of the 1920 season against Illinois after Michigan had already clinched the championship.

However, his college pitching career ran into serious trouble in 1921, as it was discovered he had played ball over the summer of 1920 for the Portland Beavers of the Pacific Coast League under the name of Harold Brooks (Brooks being his mother's maiden name.) When he returned to University of Michigan to play in 1921, rumors of his playing for a professional team reached the college authorities and an investigation confirmed that Parks and Harold Brooks were one and the same person. His departure from the team was a serious blow to the Wolverines, and they would not win another Big Ten baseball championship again until 1923.

Parks had a good deal of support during this controversy, both within the University of Michigan and elsewhere. In the university's paper, *The Chimes*, we find an editorial sympathizing with him:

"Slicker" Parks is warming the bench. He is there neither by choice nor by any indiscreet act on his own part. He is merely the victim of two existing circumstances: first, the need of financial support and, second, the application of college eligibility rules. The first cannot be changed, but the second is surely capable of alteration.

A man the type of Parks should be allowed to play summer ball so that he may be able to finish his college course. His record plainly shows that he came to the University for other things besides baseball. The professional is of an entirely different type. He comes to the college because of the pecuniary reward he is to receive for participating in Varsity sports. He is the man to whom the law should apply.

Apparently, though declared ineligible to play for the Wolverines, Parks continued to work with the team, pitching batting practice and

helping the team even though unable to compete. A later article in *The Chimes* gives us a glimpse of how Parks handled his suspension from the team:

"Slicker"? You don't know "Slicker"? Well, let's see—oh, there! There he is over by the big water bottle with the dipper in his hand—stocky-built chap with the Pep-sodent grin. Best pitcher the Conference has turned out in years. He's around here on the practice field afternoons aiding Coach Fisher with the new pitchers. Big help, too, in batting practice, for if anybody is able to connect with his twisters consistently it's a lead pipe cinch he'll be able to bombard anything the Conference can offer. Gosh! I wish he were eligible! None of these Conference teams would have a look-in if he were in the box for us. Oh, yes. He romps over to Chicago week-ends to play on one of the big semi-professional teams there. You heard, I suppose, that he's going to join the Detroit "Tygers" after he graduates in June? Yep, actual fact.



And an actual fact it was, as “Slicker” Parks did indeed pitch for manager Ty Cobb’s Detroit Tigers in the 1921 season. He appeared in 10 games, once as a starter. He won 3, lost 2 with an earned run average of 5.68. He had one hit, a single, and one base on balls in nine at bats for a batting average of .111. He made no errors for a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage. Though he never pitched in the majors after 1921, he continued to play for numerous minor league teams, including the Portland Beavers, Seattle Indians, Syracuse Stars, Jersey City Skeeters, Williamsport Grays, Reading Keystones, and Buffalo Bisons. He pitched up until 1932 before hanging up his cleats.

LATER LIFE

After finishing his season with the Detroit Tigers, Vernon Henry Parks married Violet Areta Bradt on 9 December 1921 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, which is just across the river from Detroit. It would appear they may have met when “Slicker” was pitching for the Tigers. The couple soon departed for Portland, as Parks returned to pitch for the same club that was the cause of his college suspension earlier.

Though I failed to find the couple in the 1930 census, we find them living in Hazel Park, Oakland County, Michigan in the 1940 census, which indicated they had been residing in the same place on 1 April 1935, so they must have settled there not long after “Slicker” finished his baseball career. The couple does not appear to have had children. In 1940 Vernon Parks was an insurance agent, an occupation one of his brothers also followed. Vernon Parks’s WWII draft registration in 1942 lists his residence still in Hazel Park, and by the time we find him in the city directories for 1955 and 1956 the couple had moved to nearby Royal Oak, Michigan, north of Detroit. Vernon Henry is listed in all these records as being in the insurance business. Having an uncle who was a successful insurance agent, I know how valuable the ability to “schmooze” with potential clients can be when trying to sell a policy, and I’m sure “Slicker” used his notoriety as a well-known Michigan pitcher to his advantage.

The couple was still living in Royal Oak when Vernon Henry Parks died on 21 February 1978. Violet Parks died later that year, on 24 November. Violet Parks was born in Canada, and that may be the reason we find Vernon Henry Parks buried in Greenhill Cemetery, Kingsville, Essex County, Ontario. However, Violet Parks is not found there, nor anyone with the Bradt surname, so it’s unclear why that location was chosen unless the cemetery has not yet been fully recorded on Findagrave.com and Violet or members of her family are in fact there.

THE PARK/E/S LINEAGE

As mentioned earlier, Vernon Henry Parks is an 11th generation descendant of Robert Parke of Massachusetts. His direct line of descent, with the Parke Society’s Lineage Key designations of each individual, is as follows:

- Robert PARKE (01STW1)
- Thomas PARKE (02T1)
- Nathaniel PARK (03T4)
- Joseph PARK/S (04T31)
- Smith PARKS Sr. (05T196)
- Smith PARKS Jr. (06T1386)
- Davis PARKS (07T1841)
- Samuel Henry PARKS (08T7364)
- Orrin B. PARKS (09T22094)
- Henry Albert PARKS (10Tnn)
- Vernon Henry PARKS (11Tnn)☞

Who was Richard Henry Park? by (Fr.) Michael (Tad) Parks+, PS #425H

The local Milwaukee Journal Sentinel newspaper each Wednesday dips into its archives, sharing photos and stories from the past that connect, reflect, and sometimes contradict the Milwaukee we know today.

A recent installment told the story about how the destruction of a local mansion rebuilt preservation efforts in the area. What was of interest to me, was the name of Richard Henry Park, a prominent American sculptor who worked in marble and bronze. He was well known and was often commissioned to

Who was Richard Henry Park?

cont'd from p. 13

do work by the wealthy of the nineteenth century. In the early 1890s he moved to Chicago and there created sculptures for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

In the 1880s, the meat packing magnate John Plankinton decided to build a castle for his daughter Elizabeth near his own home on Grand Avenue in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Grand is now known as Wisconsin Avenue and the site of this mansion is now part of the Marquette University campus.

It was supposed to be a wedding present. Elizabeth was engaged to the sculptor Richard Henry Park, the artist who made the statue of George Washington now standing across the street from the Milwaukee Central Library and opposite the now closed St. James Episcopal and other local landmarks.

There was just one problem: As Milwaukee historian and architect H. Russell Zimmerman wrote in the Milwaukee Journal on February 18th 1968, Park had run off and married a dancer from Minneapolis instead.

Elizabeth Plankinton, the story goes, took one look inside the completed Romanesque stone mansion at 15th and Grand, and decided she was never going to live there.



Poor Elizabeth, the jilted bride, never married and died in Switzerland in 1923, age 70.

The mansion itself was finally bought by Margaret A. Johnson, the widow of Hugh L. Johnson, the founder of a well-known regional cookie maker. After her death in about 1910, it was sold to the Knights of Columbus for their fraternal organization's club house. In 1965, the property was included in a downtown urban renewal project and in January 1974 it was acquired by the Redevelopment Authority. And the battle was on to preserve the mansion.

Over the next six years the preservation battle raged between the federal courts the City of Milwaukee, the Redevelopment Authority and local preservationists. Unfortunately all those efforts failed and early on Saturday morning, October 11, 1980, a bull dozer suddenly pulled up to the mansion and sheared off the 90-year-old front porch and carriage entrance, even as the City Common Council was announcing a scheduled meeting the following Tuesday to adopt a plan for its saving.

Fingers were pointed as a result of the weekend deconstruction and it didn't help matters that the company that was handling the demolition didn't actually apply and receive the necessary permits until two days after the work had begun.

The demise of the Plankinton mansion spurred efforts for tougher protections for historic buildings in the city. In the 60s and 70s a string of demolitions razed many very fine historic structures. Thanks to the realization that deconstruction was not the only option, the city is graced with several notable buildings today.

But what about that cad, Richard Henry Park (known in some places as Richard Hamilton Park)? He was born in Hebron, Tolland Co., Connecticut on February 17, 1832.

In the 1850 Federal Census we find Richard in the City of Troy, Rensselaer Co., New York with his parents, John S. and Sarah Jane (Hendersen) Park and his younger sister (then age 12) Sarah J. Park. He had been inspired by a Hiram Powers exhibition to become a sculptor, and from 1855 he worked in the Albany, Albany Co., New York studio of Erastus Dow Palmer, the foremost neoclas-

sical sculptor of his time, starting out as a marble cutter's apprentice. In 1861 he moved to New York city to establish an independent career before moving to Florence, Italy, around 1871. His early work was in marble, later changing to bronze for natural sculptures in line with the American trend for the late nineteenth century sculptures.

Elizabeth Plankinton met Richard in 1879 in Florence, on one of her travels to Europe. On her return to Milwaukee, Elizabeth convinced her father to let her commission Park to sculpt the first piece of public art for Milwaukee, the aforementioned monument to George Washington which was dedicated in November 1885. The sculpture is currently undergoing restoration in Chicago. Sometime in the 1880s they became engaged, and it was in 1886 that Elizabeth's father commenced the building of the mansion.

Richard was married to Clara I. Thompson in Grand Haven, Ottawa Co., Michigan on September 18, 1887, by the congregational minister A. Cato Kaye. It must have been a small affair, as the witnesses were Lillian and Ionia Kaye, relatives of the minister. At that time he was 54 and listed his residence as Florence, Italy, whereas Clara was listed as 36 and born and resided in Baltimore, Maryland. How they met and where is unknown.

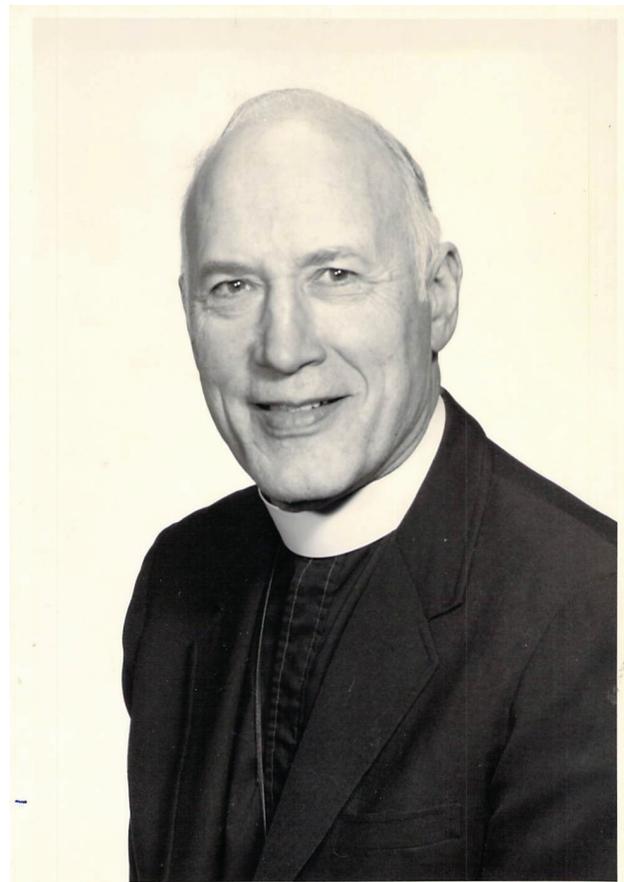
Art Historian Lauritta Dimmick records that Park died in 1902 in Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., Michigan. Though others believe he died in New York City, an obituary in the Chicago Tribune, dated November 8, 1902, said that he died at the Battle Creek sanitarium.

Tracing the ancestry of Richard Park has thus far been unsuccessful. From the 1850 Federal and 1855 New York state census we know his father was John S. Park, and at that time they resided in Troy, New York. His date and place of death is as yet unknown. Richard's mother, from the Connecticut marriage records was Sarah Jane Hendersen. They were married in Saybrook, Middlesex Co., Connecticut on December 12, 1830. From the census records she appears to have been born circa 1811. Further work will need to be done to finally trace their ancestry.☺

In memoriam

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

It is with deep regrets that we inform you that the Society's long time Chaplain, the Rev'd. Canon John Holbrook Parke, PS#62, entered into eternal life on March 15, 2017. He had just celebrated his 100th birthday in October, 2016 and had recently celebrated 74 years of ordained Priestly ministry. He died at his Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing, Springfield, MA.



The Rev'd. Canon John Holbrook Parke, PS#62

He was born October 2, 1916, to The Rev'd. Hervey Coke and Ethel Margaret (Cushman) Parke, in the Emily Dickinson Home

In memoriam
cont'd from p. 15

in Amherst, MA, which his family owned for fifty years. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Kent School (1934) and from Princeton University, with a BA (Phi Beta Kappa) in 1938. After completing three years of study at General Theological Seminary (an Episcopal institution) in New York City, he earned an M.Div. degree in 1942. He was ordained Deacon that year, and was ordained February 2, 1943 at Grace Church, Amherst, MA (where his father served as Rector) by the Rt. Rev'd. William Appleton Lawrence, Bishop of Western Massachusetts.

Fr. Parke married Joan Lee Cole from Dublin, Ireland on June 19, 1942, again at Grace Church, Amherst, Massachusetts. They had four children.

In 1944, Fr. Parke joined the Army's 65th Infantry Division as Chaplain in the European theatre. Upon returning home he served parishes in Massachusetts, Newport Beach, California, Scottsdale, Arizona and Falls Church, Virginia.

The Healing Ministry was very important to Fr. Parke, and for ten years he served as the Warden of the International Order of St. Luke the Physician, leading healing missions throughout North America and Australia. In retirement he had remained active in the Order, doing healing missions at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, Massachusetts. He had published two highly respected books on the healing ministries of the Church.

Following Joan's death in May, 1981, Fr. Parke married secondly Eleanor Bowdoin Anderson on July 10, 1982 in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Fr. Parke is survived by Eleanor, his wife of 35 years; sons Richard Cole Parke, David Cole (Janice) Parke (PS#52), Col. Robert Cushman (Beverly) Parke (PS#1154) and a daughter Emily Vera (Gene) Chase; and by 8 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by two brothers, Hervey Cushman Parke, PhD (PS#162) and David Livingston Parke (PS#13), and by two sisters,

Mary Allerton Fairfield (PS#61) and Priscilla Cushman Parke (PS#41)

Fr. John Holbrook Parke was a 10th generation descendant of Robert Parke¹ (1630, MA, STW) who came to the colonies aboard the Winthrop Fleet through his son Thomas² Parke, thence to Nathaniel³, Joseph⁴, Joseph⁵, John⁶, Ezra Smith⁷, Hervey Coke⁸, Hervey Coke⁹, Jr. to John Holbrook¹⁰ Parke, LK=T, Chart 13.☺

The next editorial due date is
February 15, 2018

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

1671 Hope Crooks Furlow

Cherry Hill, NJ

Lineage is the Alexander line, LK=KY. Line is Alexander^{1KY}, John^{2KY}, who married Mary Gordon, to Joseph^{3KY}, to Andrew A^{4KY}, William Apgar^{5KY}, Julia Ann^{6KY} Park, who married Harry Spencer Browand, to Earl Spencer^{7KY}, Browand, to Robert Cecil^{8KY} (Browand) Crooks, to member^{9KY}.

1672 Nancy Caroline Farrar

Seattle, WA

Lineage is the Fragment Line, LK=KO. commencing with a Wilson¹ Parks (ca1805, TN – c1830, TN), who married Manerva Goodman, (ca 1805, NC – b 1870, IL) in Maury Co., TN, 7 February 1821. Thence to John², Wilson (Willis)³, Marion (Dink)⁴ Parks to Leo W⁵ Parks, spouse to member.☺

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