

# 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*

## From the President's Desk: 55th Annual Parke Society Corporate Meeting in Harrisburg, PA

BY KEN PARKS PS#1406

The annual meeting of the Parke Society was once again held at the Country Inns & Suites Hotel outside Harrisburg, with the following members in attendance, from left to right in the photo: Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks PS#425, Ronald Neal Parks PS#1458, Larry A. Mitchel PS#1213, Joanne G. Rodgers PS#1523, Susan T. Van Allen PS#1653, and yours truly.



It was a small, but lively group for some very productive meetings, we will give a recap of what was discussed and decided below and elsewhere in this issue.

### Trustee Elections

The following candidates were elected to three years terms, to end at the annual meeting in 2021:

Seat IV – William “Rob” Stamm PS#1428

Seat V – Lu E. Terock PS#861

### Officer Elections

The following candidates were elected to serve for the coming year:

**President** – Ken Parks PS#1406

**Vice President** – Susan Van Allen PS#1653

**Secretary** – Joanne G. Rodgers PS#1523

**Treasurer** – Lu E. Terock PS#861

**Historian** – Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks PS#425

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### Life Membership

Continuing discussion on this topic from the 2017 meeting, it was the decision of the Trustees to raise the Life Membership rate from the current \$250 to \$300, effective 1 January 2019. Since annual dues were increased from \$25 to \$30 several years

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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	\$300
(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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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**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  
Duncansville, PA 16635-6938

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  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590

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, **Kenneth M. Parks** PS#1406 at parksken49@gmail.com.

**LIBRARY:** Send all questions relating to the Library, including library loans, to **Kenneth 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. Wm. Robert "Rob" Stamm** 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

Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks PS#425H  
P.O. Box 590  
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.

## **From the President's Desk**

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ago, this change in the Life Membership rate reflects the reasoning for the amount of the Life Membership rate, i.e., to represent the equivalent of ten years of annual dues, by bringing it in line with the current annual dues rate.

If members are interested in converting their regular Annual Membership to a Life Membership, they simply need to contact the Secretary and send along a check for the Life Membership amount. This saves members the need to renew each year and ensures your continued connection to the Society. Since the Life Membership will increase on 1 January 2019, converting to a Life Membership before that date will enable you to take advantage of the lower rate before the increase takes effect.

### **Staff and Officer Reports**

Reports of the past year's activities were given, including the financial statement by the Treasurer, the report of activity by the Secretary, including membership renewals and other items, the Registrar's report of new member inquiries and completed applications. Fr. Michael Parks PS#425, acting as Interim Registrar, reported that duties will be handed over to the incoming Registrar, William "Rob" Stamm PS#1428 in a matter of days. In his capacities as President, DNA Administrator, and Librarian, Ken Parks PS#1406 gave a brief summary of the activity of each area. Some detail of the DNA project report can be found in the separate DNA Project article in this issue. In his dual capacities as Executive Director and Historian, Fr. Michael Parks PS#425 gave an overview of where the Society stands in terms of moving toward more digitization of past membership records and files, a challenging task considering the Society's long history.

### **A Call to Arms**

After the annual reports from staff and officers, we discussed at length the need to enlarge the number of current members who take an active role in the functioning of the Society, and the need to address the area of

succession planning—an area many organizations, genealogical and otherwise, find challenging to say the least.

In addition to the valuable input of the staff, officers, and trustees usually present at annual meetings, we were pleased to have long-time member Dr. Larry Mitchel PS#1213 contribute to the discussion. His background and training lent valuable insight into many of the areas we are seeking to address, and in keeping with the spirit of including members to become more actively involved in the Society, he has graciously agreed to serve as the Lineage Leader for two lineages, once thought to be the same, that of the Richard Parks line (LK=R) and the Lt. Richard Parks line (LK=Q). He has also agreed to offer his help serving on committees, which will be discussed below.

I will also take this opportunity to congratulate Susan Van Allen PS#1653 on her election as our new vice president. We thank her for agreeing to fill this position in preparation for agreeing to run for president in 2019. Her involvement in other organizations such as the DAR, among others, will bring a fresh approach to matters, something we all agree is needed.

Below is a brief summary of some of the areas in which we're looking for interested members to serve as volunteers.

### **Strategic Planning Committee**

In our discussion of succession planning, it was pointed out that what we are really facing is the issue of strategic planning, which encompasses the issue of succession as well as a range of other topics. Susan Van Allen and Larry Mitchel have agreed to serve as co-chairs, and welcome others with a background in this area and an interest in getting involved. If you'd like to familiarize yourself with the basic concepts of strategic planning, this is a good place to start: <https://www.balancedscorecard.org/BSC-Basics/Strategic-Planning-Basics>

### **Media Committee**

Divide (responsibility) and conquer! We (I) have been woefully lax in attending to up-

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## **From the President's Desk**

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dated information on our various media platforms, including the Society website as well as our Facebook page. If some interested members would volunteer to take one of these under their wings and, with suggestions passed on to them from staff and officers, post updates on a regular basis it would give a sense to the membership and to interested nonmembers alike that the Society is an ongoing, active organization. Also, someone familiar with the use of Twitter, which I am not, might agree to help create a Parke Society account and post items on a regular basis.

In addition to postings on our Society website home page, we could also put interested members to good use feeding content to our webmaster for both the public and members-only areas of the website. Ideally, this would involve individuals with some working knowledge of the technology of web design, not so much to do the work on the site itself, which would remain the responsibility of the webmaster, but in order to make communication with the webmaster smoother. There are opportunities for several individuals in this capacity, each concentrating on a particular area or several, as the case may be. One of these areas would be that of the long-proposed State/County Project.

I was pleased to hear from about a half-dozen members volunteering to help transcribe the Park/e/s entries in the 1850 census, and have not gotten this project underway yet. Part of the reason has been a lack of my time due to involvement in other organizations, and part lies in my lack of understanding how to get the content into a form that the webmaster can use. I hope those members who have volunteered have not lost interest due to my procrastination, and hopefully this project will be underway in the near future. We are, of course, always looking for more volunteers to do the transcriptions so please get in touch if interested.

Speaking of the members-only area of the Society website, we will be developing a

survey form for the next issue to ascertain how members feel about the kind of content which will appear there, especially in the area of individual member information. When this survey is available, please let us hear from you about the survey questions and feel free to offer any suggestions you might have for what you'd like to see in that area.

### **Library Committee**

This committee would likely be involved with the Society website, but have its own specialized area of interest. While we have a library of hard copy books collected over the years involving a number of Park/e/s lineages available for loan to members, it has not been utilized to a great extent in recent years. Part of this is due to the increasing availability of resources on the internet, including many of the books found in our hard copy library. There are, however, a good many books on the internet not found in our library, and we would like to compile those into an "e-library" to help members find them more easily. Since many of these books may be under copyright, our "e-library" would consist of a description of the Park/e/s lineages found in the books, when known, identifying them by LK if possible. The listing would include a hot link to the webpage where the book can be found rather than residing on our own website. Anyone interested in serving as chairperson for this committee could not only search for said books themselves, but would serve as the conduit for others to supply links as they come across them, and then do the requisite identifying research before supplying this information to the webmaster for inclusion on the website.

### **Other Possibilities**

We have discussed in the past creating a collection of obituaries involving Park/e/s individuals, a possible area for the members-only section of the website. Another possibility is a collection of Park/e/s family bible pages. Again, anyone with an interest in these or similar areas who would like to head up such a committee can get in touch.

I'm sure we have overlooked other areas of interest to many, so feel free to contact us



and share your thoughts. In the meantime, if you are interested in helping out with any of the above-mentioned committees we'd love to hear from you. There's plenty to be done if we have the people-power to tackle all these projects!☺

## **From the Executive Director: Society Business**

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

### **Corporate business concerns**

As reported elsewhere in this issue, on the weekend of September 22-23, Officers and Trustees of the Parke Society, Inc. met for their 55th Annual Corporate and Trustee's meetings at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a site that we have used for several years now. Its location is convenient for many of that group and the price is very reasonable.

Some would probably argue that such in person meetings are really not needed anymore with the advent of "GoToMeeting" technology, but I would contend otherwise. I like working with other members of the Core Staff of the Society in these face to face encounters. It's low tech, and gives each of us the chance to see how suggestions and proposals fly by the reactions that are indeed difficult to measure otherwise. Over the years I have participated in some of those electronic marvels, and frankly, other than, say, an emergency meeting to decide something that had a critical timing constraint, I have always come away feeling less than satisfied. These in-person gatherings also gives us a chance to socialize, an important aspect of being who we are, and a wonderful offset to the business of running a 50+ year old organization.

You know, that in and of itself is a landmark. It is unusual for a small historical or genealogical society to make it this far, let alone one as unique as the Parke Society, which has as its domain the ancestry of all the Park/e/s surnamed individuals that have existed in North America since the early 1600s. (I have often wondered if the early Society

Trustees knew what they were getting into when they decided to enlarge the scope of the Society.)

Of course, what most members probably don't realize is that there is an awful lot of back-office work that needs to go on to keep the organization viable. We have been really lucky over the decades to be able to find individuals that would commit to the needed tasks on a voluntary basis, sometimes for years on end. Many times they just seem to have appeared out of the blue. I am deeply grateful to each and every one of these principals for what they do on behalf of the Society.

Listed elsewhere in this Newsletter is the current roster of Elected Officers and Trustees. The one notable change is that Susan Tyler Van Allen, PS#1653, has been elected to replace me as Society Vice-President. I really had no intention or desire to move up to the top position, but rather was a place holder just in case something happened to Ken Parks, thereby avoiding a "constitutional crisis" as it were. As it was we had to amend the By-Laws to remove the term limit that applied only to the office of the President. That provision had outlived its usefulness and was more of a nuisance than a needed safeguard.

Most of the work of Annual Meetings gets accomplished in the First Trustee's meeting, which usually has quite an agenda and can become very lengthy. Ken Parks does a good job of setting the agenda and keeping us on course for an efficient and productive meeting. the Corporate Business Meeting and the Second Trustee's meeting is by contrast very short, basically just fulfilling the legal requirements of our corporate charter, the election of Trustees (Corporate Meeting) and the election of the Officers (Second Trustee's meeting).

One very welcome attendee was Dr. Larry Arthur Mitchel, PS#1213, who is taking over as the Lineage Leader for the Richard of Massachusetts lines (LK=R, and LK=Q). Dr. Mitchel has been working on the Richard lines for years, and it is through his efforts that it has

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## **From the Executive Director**

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been determined that the Lt. Richard Parks (formerly 3R2, now to be noted as 3Q2) was not actually related to the founding ancestor, Richard Parks who arrived in October, 1635 aboard the ship Defence. One of his main tasks is going to be separating the two lines, relabeling the group sheets and advising me of who is who so that the GIVENAME INDEX can appropriately be updated. We do need to extend thanks to Natalie Schutz, PS#1086, for her work as the former Lineage Leader for this line.

Minutes for the meetings are available upon request to the Secretary of the Society, Joanne G. Rodgers, PS#1523.

### **The move to digital documents**

We continue our efforts at turning hard copy paper documents into scanned PDFs. While this could allow us to go paper-free, it has a much more immediate effect of making materials that were only in the Milwaukee Office of the Society, available on the computer screens of any of the Core Staff personnel who will find them useful to their work for the Society. A thumb drive containing a number of datasets and files was distributed at this gathering. Besides the usual ParkData database, Core Staff members received the complete set of Lineage Applications Form B, the scanned images of the LDS Temple Ordinance Group Sheets which the Society obtained in 1982, and the archive of the Parke Society Newsletters from Volume 1, No. 1, issued in summer, 1963.

We are working on resolving the reported discrepancies that were found in scanning the Forms B, as well as finishing up on the couple hundred LDS pages that for whatever reason were not numbered and probably were not entered into the GIVENAME INDEX.

While we might send additions and corrections to the Forms B and LDS sheets, it is our intention that we will just deliver to Core Staff members a new thumb drive with all the current files at the Annual Meeting each year.

We also did discuss at the Trustee's Meeting the privacy implications of distributing this data to key Core Staff of the Society. Each recipient needs to evaluate what data they are getting, and how to protect it from being compromised.

Probably the next scanning project will be the creation of a new set of digitized Lineage Binder Abstracts. Much like the Lineage Applications, Core Staff did not access to the family group sheets for each Lineage Key. At one point we had made Xerox copies of the first three generations of each lineage key, and distributed those copies to four key Core Staff members. Unfortunately their maintenance became problematic, and they became less useful as the years went on.

While we could just scan in those copies, we have decided to start anew and do completely new scans from the actual Lineage Key binders, which will have the most up to date information. This will be another one of those long-term projects probably taking several months to complete. Once completed these files will be added to the annual distribution done each year.

We continue to discuss what to do about the 1,700 membership files. These folders contain a wide variety of materials, in all shapes and sizes. Some pages are on the very thin manifold carbon copyset sheets, which can be difficult to feed through a sheet scanner. To determine our course of action, we'll work with files for deceased members first, as in theory they are now static (non-changing).

A few other resources are in binders that have seen little use over the years. One set contains group sheets for allied lines that connect in one way or another to a Park/e/s lineage. Another contains biographical materials for famous Park/e/s that the late "Lord High Everything" David Parke, PS#13 put together years ago. These binders probably can just be scanned as is, with little additional work. While of limited usefulness, it would be a shame to just discard this material.

### **Dues renewal time, once again**

Within a couple of weeks we will be sending out our annual dues notices via a 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, email changes or status changes they might have made.

For annual dues paying members, do remember that you are being billed for your dues for the coming calendar year (2019). 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. Your continued support of the Society is much appreciated. It allows us to continue to research, catalogue and review Park/e/s family information for you and for coming generations.

#### **And by the way...**

You should all know that the Parke Society Newsletter is available as a PDF document right now. There are advantages to getting the Newsletter in an electronic format. First, it is delivered about 2 weeks before the hard copy even goes into the USPS mail system, which means you will be reading the Newsletter typically three to four weeks before people get the hard copy in their hands. Secondly, it contains a lot more color as there is no extra cost to color in PDF files. Thirdly, it doesn't take up any shelf room. And finally it is conveniently distributed as an attachment to an email. You don't have to click on any link to down load the copy; its right there with the email. If you are interested in changing from hard copy to the PDF version, just let either me or the Editor know and we will put you on the list.☺

## **Trustees and Officers of the Parke Society, Inc.**

The Society is governed by a Board of Trustees, elected by the general membership of the Society. Six trustees are elected for three years each, two elected each year. The term of office runs from the date of their election at the Annual Corporate Meeting to the subsequent Annual Meeting three years later. The current slate of Trustees is:

#### **Term ending at the Annual Meeting in 2019:**

Ronald Neal Parks PS#1458 (Seat III)  
Curtis Harvey Parks PS#1166 (Seat VI)

#### **Term ending at the Annual Meeting in 2020:**

Joanne G. Rodgers PS#1523 (Seat II)  
Susan Tyler Van Allen PS#1653 (Seat I)

#### **Term ending at the Annual Meeting in 2021:**

William Robert "Rob" Stamm  
PS#1428 (Seat IV)

Lu Etta Terock PS#0861 (Seat V)

Officers of the Society are elected by the Board of Trustees at their second trustees meeting at the close of the Annual Meeting gathering. There are no term limits on any of these positions. The President of the Society acts as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

**President:** Kenneth Melvin Parks PS#1406

**Vice President:** Susan Tyler Van Allen  
PS#1653

**Secretary:** Joanne G. Rodgers PS#1523

**Treasurer:** Lu Etta Terock PS#0861

**Historian:** The Rev'd. Michael Tad Parks+,  
SSC PS#0425☺

The next editorial due date is  
**February 15, 2019**

## **Park/e/s DNA Surname Project** by Ken Parks PS#1406

At the 2018 annual meeting, I reported on the status of the surname project, and wanted to share some of those statistics here as well. I will also describe some areas where interested members can help with the project.

The project currently comprises thirty-five genetically distinct subgroups containing 251 participants, with most subgroups representing multiple Lineage Keys (LKs) which show a genetic link to each other but whose connection has not been determined.

We also have a large group of 44 participants who bear the Park/e/s surname, but whose results match no other male Park/e/s in the FTDNA database or who show a clear connection to surnames other than Park/e/s. Those whose matches show a connection to other surnames may be due to a non-paternal event (NPE) occurring at some point in their ancestry. However, a number of participants don't seem to have any close matches but have numerous matches at a lower marker level to multiple surnames. This may be due to possessing a more common haplotype and many of those matches might fall out of the range of relatedness at a higher test level. A lack of matches with other Park/e/s surnamed individuals may also be due to the simple fact that no others in that particular lineage have tested to date. Though more common years ago when the project was much smaller and the database of all males more limited, even today it is still a distinct possibility that lack of matches is a matter of the right individuals not having tested. Time may place these individuals into new subgroups as matches appear.

As I've mentioned before, only about a quarter of the LKs in the Parke Society database are represented genetically in our project, and while many of the unrepresented LKs would likely show a connection to one of the existing subgroups, it is also likely that others represent genetically distinct Park/e/s lines not yet represented in our project. Our project's goal in the coming years is to

increase the percentage of LKs that have at least one participant in the DNA project database. Two or more would be ideal, but one would at least give us some idea of the genetic identity of the particular LK. To that end, I'll discuss below ways in which interested members can help the project and the Society achieve that goal.

### **Lineage-Specific Volunteers**

When a member joins the Parke Society they are either assigned to an existing Lineage Key or are assigned a new LK representing their line, which is generally called a fragment line, as it cannot be attached to either other members' lines or a known immigrant lineage. I will put a list below of all the LKs currently represented in the DNA project, and if your particular LK is not among those, please consider volunteering to help find an eligible participant to represent your LK in the DNA project. This can be done in several ways. First, and most obvious, is that if you are a male Park/e/s you can test yourself. If you are a non-Park/e/s male or a female with Park/e/s ancestry, you can enlist a male Park/e/s relative to test if they are known to you. If your Park/e/s ancestry is several generations in the past, you may not know any eligible male test candidates, but could volunteer to do the research needed to find an eligible participant. I have done this in the past but it can be a search requiring more free time than I am able to devote, but if those with a stake in seeing their own LK represented wish to take on that task, I am happy to advise and offer pointers in how to go about the search. Those wishing to serve as a group researcher for their unrepresented LK could serve as a contact person for anyone wishing to test or offer help in finding an eligible participant.

Another avenue of participation is to donate funds to our project's General Fund with specific instructions that the donation is to be used for helping subsidize a test for your particular LK. We can even create a section on the Parke Society DNA page identifying the lineage of your unrepresented LK with a note indicating the availability of financial help for testing.



Finally, it would be a valuable help if anyone has a basic knowledge of Y-DNA and an interest in serving as a Subgroup Administrator. This Subgroup Admin would help analyze the existing group results in conjunction with the lineage information of the participants and help determine when upgrades might be useful or when additional test participants might help answer questions that arise from the results. They could also help locate the eligible test participants whose results might answer those questions.

Anyone interested in volunteering in any of these capacities should contact me directly at parksken49@gmail.com

### Family Finder Coordinator

In addition to the nearly 300 male participants in the project who have tested using the Y-DNA test, there are a significant number of people with various surnames, both male and female, who have joined the Park/e/s project and have taken either the Family Finder test (atDNA) or a mitochondrial test (mtDNA). While they are welcome to join the project this way, we really have no way to help them interpret their results, or even a way to display results, due to the nature of those tests. However, the fact that these individuals have chosen to join the Park/e/s project indicates they probably have a Park/e/s ancestry somewhere in their family tree, and it is likely that by joining the Parke Society we might be able to help them learn more about that portion of their ancestry. Again, time does not permit me to follow up on these, and with more joining all the time, it's just not something I'll ever be able to do by myself. However, if anyone wishes to serve as a contact person and reach out to these individuals, it would be a wonderful way to bring new members into the Society and could be advantageous to the Society by adding lineage information on their particular branch to an existing lineage, or making the Society aware of an previously unknown Park/e/s lineage not yet in our database. And, of course, the individual would benefit from information the Society might be able to offer them as well.

To serve as a volunteer in this capacity would require no knowledge of either type of DNA test, but would simply be a matter of communicating and passing along information to the Society if the individual is interested in pursuing their Park/e/s research with the Society as a member. Good communication skills and an email account would be the requisites for this position. Again, contact me if interested. I hope some of these volunteer opportunities will appeal to someone out there, and I look forward to hearing from you!

### Lineage Keys Currently Represented

A	CV	GZ	NP	VN
C	CW	HP	NW	VO
G	CX	HS	NY	VP
P	DO	IP	OO	VU
Q	DP	IU	OX	WP
R	DR	IW	PN	WQ
S	DU	JJ	PZ	WR
T	DX	JN	QO	WZ
X	EN	JO	QP	XO
Z	EO	JP	QR	XP
AN	EV	JQ	RO	XW
AO	FO	KY	RP	XZ
AP	FR	LL	RU	YN
AR	FT	LO	RY	YO
AS	GO	LQ	SO	YZ
BO	GP	MN	SN	ZN
CC	GU	MO	TZ	ZY
CU	GW	MP	UO	ZX

### Historian's Corner

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

#### What the heck is the Historian? The title and the task

Over the 38 plus years that I have a part of the Parke Society, I have more than once been faced with trying to explain exactly what it is that I do as Society Historian.

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## Historian's Corner

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Frankly, it's really a misnomer. Because, what is usually implied by the title of Historian isn't really my sole, or even, main purpose in the life of the Society.

I don't know what was in the mind of the Founder of the Society, Ruby Rilla Anderson, PS#1, when she decided to put together some descendants of Robert Parke, who came to Massachusetts aboard the Winthrop Fleet in 1630. Perhaps she was thinking more of keeping the history of that founding ancestor, and his descendants than anything else. I never met the Ruby. She had died in 1979 before I came into the Society (in June of 1980), and anyway, relations between her, her family, and the Society, by the time I arrived, under the control of its Board of Trustees had been very strained for years. But I can only suppose that is why she picked that position title and enshrined it in the organization's By-Laws.

But my role as the Historian is really far more than just keeping the organizational corporate memory, or even keeping the history of any one particular immigrant founder.

I am, in reality and for better or for worse, the Genealogist General of the Society. I have possession of, and maintain, all of the Park/e/s related genealogical materials held by the Society. I review incoming member's lineages and assign them to one (and sometimes, or more) of the lineage groups (or Lineage Keys in our parlance), sometimes having to create a new Lineage Key for previously unknown Park/e/s lines that keep turning up.

We could have changed the position title. This would have been easy to accomplish when the organization was sort of re-structured back in 1970-1971. But alas, I think the Trustees were more concerned about getting their arms around what was then left of the Society than to be thinking about titles and what they might mean.

But even that supposed title of Genealogist General would not be entirely accurate. My

functions are not like those of a Genealogist General, say, or the Daughters [Sons] of the American Revolution or other such groups. I don't put an imprimatur on lines of descent. I don't bless lineage papers with being the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the whole truth. And finally I do not hold myself out as a professional genealogist.

No, my function is to keep the multitude of records that the Society holds sorted out in order to help other individuals who come looking to the Society to help them with their Park/e/s connections back to their immigrant ancestors.

And that is a horribly big task. With over 300+ lineage keys currently in use, the landscape of names, dates, and places are almost too great to get one's arms around all of the information. That is one reason why early on, we needed to create an index of all of the various Park/e/s given named individuals found on the family group sheets. Back in the 80's it was one thing to look at a new member's Lineage Application (Form B) and to say, "Oh, yes, that ancestor probably is in the Thomas of Virginia line," and quite another when you have almost 40,000 Park/e/s surnamed individuals on all those binders of group sheets.

I suppose you could call me the Record Keeper General but that's an awful unwieldy title, so I guess I am stuck with being the Historian for better or for worse. Just remember, I'm the guy who sets on top of all of this Park/e/s data (over 80 3-ring binders, 6 file cabinets, and untold number of file folders).

### **Genealogical frustrations.**

Life in general can be terribly frustrating. I mean, for some of us, smart phones can be a real trial. Computers can seem to have a mind of their own. And then there is always that lurking fear that (a) we are being tracked and watched, or (b) someone is about to do harm to our financial well-being, by hacking our financial accounts, or worse yet (c) where we become a victim of a ransomware attack on all of our pictures, documents and other files.

In doing family genealogy the frustration comes when you seem to have run into a brick wall that is impenetrable. As much as we look and look and look, there just doesn't seem to be any way to break through that wall.

This is where the Parke Society hopes to offer help. Because we do have the largest collection of Park/e/s related genealogical materials in one place, we offer perhaps the best chance of making a break-through. But sometimes it might seem like we are of little help either. You give us your information, and all we can say is, "Nope, we don't have your ancestor in our files, but, we will establish the line under the Lineage Key —' and keep our eyes open for further information."

I realize that type of answer isn't terribly helpful to you, and adds just a little more frustration to your genealogical life, at a price at that (the cost of the dues).

Unfortunately, this sometimes causes members to decide not to renew and to walk away from the Society within a year or two of having joined. When that happens, we will probably lose contact with you (and your family). You will move, your life circumstances will change, and we are totally in the dark about where you are at. And if we do find a break-through we may be unable to give you the good news.

This is one reason why we do think that it is a good investment to continue your membership in the Society, so that when something good happens, we can work with you to confirm the news and to extend the data both for you and for us. The Society has helped numerous people through the years, and hopefully, if you are one of those fragment lines, we will eventually be able to help you.

### **Finding connections**

Recently we had one such break-through. A new member (PS#1682) recently joined the Society with a lineage that traced back to one Josiah Heritage Park. Now that is an unusual given name combination. When I start my records search I often go with the spouse names, as that is less frustrating than trying

to sort out the given names of George, John, or Robert. But Josiah Heritage? Or perhaps even a Josiah H.? That holds some possibilities.

And indeed there he was in our GIVENAME INDEX (the database that contains all the records of the Park/e/s surnamed individuals found on our family group sheet collection in the Lineage Binders). Under Lineage Key BZ, which means that there is probably another member in the Society who has this same ancestor.

There was. PS#476 who came into the Society in 1982 but dropped out back in 2014, no particular reason given, but we assumed it was due to age.

Well, that's nice, but since it's well over 35 years since we first documented this line, something more might have come up in the meantime. Both members had pointed to a forebear to Josiah Heritage Park named Benj (an old time abbreviation used for the name Benjamin) with locations marked as Mantua, Gloucester Co., NJ. That was enough for me to go checking materials from the Lineage Leader for the Roger Parke line of West Jersey (LK=K) for possible connections.

And again, there it was: Benjamin Park with a son Josiah Heritage. We had a eureka moment. We had found a break through. But only because a new member had come into the Society looking for a break-through. Come to find out, as we were re-working the family group sheets, the two individuals were in fact sisters. Whether PS#476 ever told PS#1682 about belonging to the Society, is unknown to us.

So the long and short of this is that the family group sheets formerly in the LK=BZ lineage have now been rewritten and folded into the Roger of West Jersey binders Lineage Key K, BZ now becoming a vacant Lineage Ley.

By the way, at one time we were re-using lineage keys that had become vacant through such discoveries, but we have since abandoned that practice. To avoid any future confusion, we would need to change every single

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## Historian's Corner

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reference, anywhere in the system, in this case BZ, to the new Lineage Key, in this case K. This would be quite a massive task, and frankly, it's just easier, not to re-use a vacant lineage key. I doubt that we will ever run out of lineage keys, but if we come to that point someday, we'll deal with it then. Probably by expanding the lineage key from two characters to three.

### Frustrations of the Historian

There are two things you do need to know about my role within the Parke Society. First with nearly 1700 membership records, of which over 400 are currently active, it is absolutely impossible for me to be regularly in touch with all of you, or even some smaller subset of members. I have a hard time just keeping in touch with all of the Core Staff people.

I realize that this can be a source of frustration for some of you. But do know this: I do read everything that comes to my desk, it gets briefly evaluated, usually meaning that I pull your membership file, and then it is placed in the To Do stack. I wish I could crank out some sort of acknowledgement for each and every communication that I get, but that is just not feasible.

Secondly, with over 300+ Lineage Keys in use at currently, only a hand full of them are at any given time actively being reviewed or worked on. When something does bring me to a different line, it has my full attention until I am satisfied that I have done everything I can with it at that time. Often it is a new member which brings up a long dormant line, such as what happened with the Lineage Key BZ discussed above. In many ways, the start of the publishing of the Lineage Catalogue has been a blessing in disguise.

### Regarding publication of the Lineage Catalogue

As mentioned numerous times, we keep the various lines of Park/e/s descendants sorted out by assigning a specific alphabetic code, one or two alpha characters, to their particular line. This is known as the line's Lineage Key. Over the years the number of such Lin-

age Keys has grown from an initial, more or less, 26 to now some 300+ identifiers.

The problem with all of these Keys was that other than a few Core Staff members, these keys were a mystery to the general membership. Who did they represent, and how do we get that information? Basically it wasn't really available anywhere. We had tried doing a listing of the principle individual of each Key, but that wasn't very satisfying. We also created an abstract of each lineage key which was in the hands of a couple of the core staff. But this also really didn't help the general membership. If I have an early ancestor named George, it would awfully difficult for anyone to sort through those abstracts to see if that particular George was perhaps shown in the Abstract. We had to do something more, and hence came about the Lineage Catalogue.

Starting back in 2008, with Vol. 45 No. 1 of the Newsletter we have undertaken publication of a catalogue of all of the Lineage Keys that are in use, giving essential facts concerning the first and second generation of each. The latest part of the Catalogue to be published was in Vol 54, No. 3, Summer 2018, Part 21 which covered the Lineage Keys MU through UU. Part 22 is being published in this number.

For me, as I work up each group for publication, this has been a rare opportunity for me to revisit Lineage Keys that have perhaps not been reviewed in years, and to see if there is any more information that will enlarge on what we already have in our records. In some cases I have run across clues that point to a possible connections to an earlier (ancestor wise) individual already in our catalogue. Such finds are most satisfying. But even without that, doing searching in the various sources that I have available to me, I have been able to clarify individual entries, (or maybe to confuse them some more). This has also been a very satisfying activity.

In any case, this is where I want to go back to that (or those) members to see if this helps them at all in their family genealogy search. That is, if they are still active within the So-



ciety, or at least are still reachable. As mentioned above, once a member drops out of the Society, that becomes problematic.

With the Part 22 being published in this issue we are moving into the so called T group of lineage keys, that is, lineage keys from AT to ZT. After all those are published we will move subsequently into the Groups S, R, Q, M, and N which is currently where we are in the assignment of lineage keys. As you can see this project is going to go on for a few years more. It is our hope that the entire catalogue can be placed on our Web site in the future. Whether this will be on the public side or behind a pass word protected members-only page is yet to be decided.

And yes I do, from time to time, get questions from members who see an entry in the Catalogue which engenders an question to me. The most recent such inquiry was concerning Lineage Key MU Hiram Parks (c1765, MD – c1835, TN) who married Lucy Vaughn in 1799, Caswell County, NC. I will be sending the respondent copies of the group sheets for her review.☺

## **For your Safety: Dealing with Scams and Device Issues**

Today, more than ever it seems, we need to be on guard against getting taken in by an ever increasing number of scams and computer intrusion events. Here are, once again, a number of cautions that it is wise for us to consider. I realize that you have probably heard some of these things before, but it never hurts to be made aware of the dangers that are lurking with technology today.

1. No matter how savvy you believe yourself to be in regards to computers, technology or unwanted phone calls, find yourself a mentor, someone you can turn to for questions that you might have. You may need more than one depending on what all you are using, laptops, desktop computers, android devices or iPads and iPhones. Treat them nicely, and listen to their advice. If there are classes or seminars available to you in your area, make

use of them. They will have the latest information. The environment changes rapidly, and what I say here can be easily outdated.

2. Then secondly and foremost, back-up your device data, both locally and off-site by making use of some third-party vendor, like Carbonite, SOSonLine, or such similar services. You want this in case you have to go back and restore files that have been compromised or lost. Make sure that the off-site back-ups are accomplished on a continuous basis, at least daily or every time you turn on your device.
3. Get to know where your files are stored on your computer (have your mentor tell you about this if you don't already know), and set up a way to back up those datasets manually, and locally, preferably on a daily basis. This is especially true if you keep your genealogical information in some type of computer software.
4. The words "back-up" should be primary in your vocabulary to prevent you from losing all of your work.
5. Be cautious about emails you receive. Generally don't click on any link, or open any attachment unless you are absolutely sure of the trustworthiness of the source. And even then, if you weren't expected an attachment, check back with the sender. (I once got stung by an email supposedly from one of our Lineage Leaders that had an attachment. It was called "Pretty Park." There were problems opening it, so I emailed the supposed sender and she told me that she hadn't sent it. Unfortunately, it had actually opened and had installed malware (naughty software) on my laptop.) We tell all of our members when communicating with the Society or to other members of the Society, to always start the subject line with the words "Parke Society". This is for the protection of everybody
6. Be very cautious about any pop-ups that appear on the screen of your devices that

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## Dealing with Scams and Device Issues

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tell you to click on something to download and install some update. This is a hard one to make judgements on. You may want to consult with your mentor if in doubt. More than once a fake update which will do harm to your device has come by way of such a pop-up. Usually you can click off of the pop-ups by hitting the red X in the upper right hand corner of the pop-up. Sometimes that won't work, the pop-up has essentially taken control of your device. At that point, you just do a "restart" of your device. If the pop-up comes back up, it is probably time to talk to your mentor. Well behaved pop-ups should allow you to close them.

7. Concerning phone calls: This is the key thing to remember – (a) The IRS never makes cold phone calls to you concerning your taxes. Never, cannot be too highly stressed. The only time that you would be talking with the IRS over the phone is if you have had an on-going discussion with them about some issue started out by a USPS mailing to you. Then and only then! (b) Microsoft never calls you concerning suspicious messages that they are receiving from your device. There may be some communication between your device and Microsoft, depending on settings you have made, but they will not call to offer you help. Those phone calls only want to get you to give them access to your device, and they will do harm to it. (I have yet to hear of some such ruse coming in the name of Apple Computers; wonder why.)
8. Recently Microsoft released their Windows 10 October 2018 software update. Unfortunately, there was a bug in the update, that was deleting files as it installed the update. In one case it deleted a user's 223 gigabytes of photos, to his dismay. Microsoft has since pulled back the update and advised people who may have downloaded the update but not installed it yet to delete the download, as they will

be re-releasing it in the future. Fixed! This is a tough one for users who are not especially tech savvy to get a handle on their own. Pay attention to the media, and to your mentor. And again "Back-up" is a key word here.

9. Finally, I had a strange occurrence happen to me recently. I got a phone call on my secondary line, supposedly from myself on that same number. I had ignored it because that line goes to my fax machine. But out of curiosity I picked up the phone. The message was that I was having my IP Address deleted (the address the internet knows to talk to your device), and that all of my passwords would be erased unless I pressed "1" immediately. Obviously, I hung up on that call without hesitation. Technically they can't do anything to your device unless you give them access to it, and that is the last thing you want to do. Never give access to your device to someone who is cold calling you, but do give access if you have initiated the call for help with some issue.

We have enough frustrations in our life as it is; it's too bad that the use of modern technology can add to those frustrations. Mentors, back-ups, and common-sense precautions go a long way to be at peace with all of your devices.☺

## Lineage Key Catalog–part 22

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 see whether their Park/e/s ancestry matches any 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 might discover that a fragment line is actually part of another fragment or immigrant line. With positive identification, the line is merged or consolidated into the larger or earlier line, and all group sheets and related materials are relabeled with the new lineage key. Line mergers are indicated in the narrative.

Not all lines 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. The word “DNA” appears after the lineage key if the line has had DNA testing.

The lineage keys published to date are: all single-letter keys (Vols. 45.1–46.1), double-letter keys AA-ZZ and AX through ZX (46.2–47.2), AY-ZY (47.3, 48.1, 49.1), AZ-ZZ (49.2, 50.1), AW-ZW (50.3–51.2), AV-ZV (51.2–53.1), AU-UU (53.3, 54.2-3). Further Lineage Keys will appear in subsequent issues of the Newsletter.

**VU Peter Paul (01VU1) Parke** (1883, Ireland – 1961, KS) (Represented) m. Rose Kvasnicka (1897, NB – 1979, KS), 1916, Collyer, Kansas, five children.

**Source Materials:** Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant members.

**Children:**

Helen (02VU1) Parke, (1917, KS - ??,??) m. Dr. Joseph Molinaro (1916, ?? – 1964, MO) 1942, Collyer, Kansas. Three children.

Thomas Patrick (02VU2) Parke (1919, KS – 2007, KS), m1) Louise Riedel (1929, KS – 1984, KS) 1947,

Location unknown. Five children. m2) Mrs. LaVonne (Reidel) Linenberger, in 1984, other dates and places unknown. Nothing further known.

**Robert Joseph (02VU3) Parke** (1921, KS – 2007, KS) m. Barbara Eileen Nemechek (1929, KS – s.l.) 1952, Wakeeney, KS. Seven children.

Leo J (02VU4) Parke (1924, KS – 1985, ??) m. Marion R. Crawford (1938, ?? – 1985, ??) 1963. Six children

Curtis E. (02VU5) Parke, (1929, KS – 1957, ??) m. Pauline Riecheck (1938, ?? – s.l.) 1957. Five children.

(PS#896D; no active members on this line)

**WU** Lineage Key “WU” is currently vacant, and not in use. Formerly, This key was used to describe: 01WU1 Eze-kial Park, (b1808, VA – 1891, OH), m. Elizabeth Crist (1811, PA – 1863, OH) 1830 in Franklin Co., KY, and is now classified as 06K21 in the Roger of West Jersey Lineage.

**XU Ann (1XU1) Park,** (c1658, VA – c1730, VA) (Represented) m. Richard Goodall (c1665, VA – c1692, VA), date and location of marriage is unknown. Two children are known.

This has been rather problematic line. The original entry of this line was an unknown Parke woman who married a Richard Goodall, sometime in the late 17th century. She was supposedly the daughter of Sr. John Parke of New Kent Co., Colony of Virginia, or sometimes referred to as of London, England. Specific dates and locations are uncertain, all dates are in question. Attempts to connect to various other Park/e/s in early Virginia have not proven profitable. The data given here is the best available through consensus.

## Lineage Key Catalog, part 22

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**Source Materials:** Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant member (very thin).

### Children:

**Charles** (2XU2) **Goodall**, (c1692, VA – c1766, VA) married Sarah McKinney (c1700, VA – c1756, VA), date and location unknown. Number of children uncertain, at least 2, perhaps as many as 8.

Parke (2XU1) Goodall, (c1691, VA – ??, VA), nothing further is known.

(PS#971D; no active members on this line)☞

## Corrections and Revisions

**Lineage Key Revision:** In Vol. 49, No. 1 of the Parke Society Newsletter, we listed Lineage Key BZ. That key has now been identified as belonging to Lineage Key K. The corresponding entry for LK=BZ should now read as follows:

**BZ** Currently vacant and not in use. Formerly, this key was used to describe 01BZ1 Benjamin Park, (bef. 1800 - ????) located in Mantua, Gloucester Co., NJ, with a son named Josiah Heritage Park (c1816, NJ – 1885, NJ) m. Martha A. Morris, ca1854, and who is now classified as 05K345

**Lineage Key Correction** for Part 20 (Vol. 54, No. 2), LK=IU. The first line should have read **James** (01IU1) **Park** (not 01HU1).

**Membership correction:** Due to an editing error, the following correction is noted for PS#1677: full name should be: Christine Ellen Park, not Christian Ellen Park.☞

<p>The next editorial due date is <b>February 15, 2019</b></p>
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## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

### 1679 Barry James Parks St.

Augustine, FL

Lineage is the Fragment Line, LK=ZN, commencing with a James G<sup>1</sup> Parks (ca1794, NC – c1830, GA), married Elizabeth Biggers Woolfolk, (1800, NC – 1853, AL). Thence to James Sowell<sup>2</sup>, John Henry<sup>3</sup>, William Henry Sr.<sup>4</sup>, William Henry Jr.<sup>5</sup>, to member<sup>6</sup>.

Barry Parks is a cousin to Elsie Wendland as well as cousins to PS#1664, PS#1665, and PS#1666. There are now five members recently enrolled on this Lineage key.

### 1680 Teresa Louise Parks

Camarillo, CA

Lineage is the Roger line, LK=K. Line is Roger<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Solomon<sup>5</sup>, Lorenzo Dow<sup>6</sup>, William G<sup>7</sup>, Isaac R<sup>8</sup> Henry Arthur<sup>9</sup>, Bobby Joe<sup>10</sup>, to member<sup>11</sup>.

### 1681 M. Andrew Hampton

Gainesville, GA

Lineage is the Robert Thomas line, LK=T, Chart 9. Line is Robert<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Robert<sup>5</sup>, Nathan<sup>6</sup>, Keziah<sup>7</sup> (Parks) Burk, Lyman Richard<sup>8</sup> Burk, Silas Morgan<sup>9</sup> Burk, Martha<sup>10</sup> (Burk) Posey, Kate<sup>11</sup> (Posey) Sheppard, Ruth<sup>12</sup> (Sheppard) McMurry, Katie Fay<sup>13</sup> (McMurtry) Hampton, to member<sup>14</sup>.

### 1682 Dena Amelia Ward

Noblesville, IN

Lineage is the Roger line, LK=K. Line is Roger<sup>1</sup>, Roger<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>3</sup>, Jacob<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin<sup>5</sup>, Josiah Heritage<sup>6</sup>, Samuel Fisler Ashcroft<sup>7</sup>, Roy Allison<sup>8</sup>, to member<sup>9</sup>. This Lineage from Benjamin forward formerly was classified as a Fragment Line, LK= BZ. PS#476 is also of this lineage and has likewise been reclassified.☞