

# 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*

## 55TH ANNUAL PARKE SOCIETY CORPORATE MEETING IN HARRISBURG, PA BY KEN PARKS PS#1406

The annual business meetings of the Parke Society will take place on September 28–29, 2019 at the Country Inns & Suites Hotel at Union Deposit Road in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This is the site we have held our meetings for the past several years and the exact address is: 1025 Peiffers Lane, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109.

The 1st Trustees Meeting will take place on Saturday, 28 September from noon until 5 pm in a meeting room at the hotel. While only staff and trustees are involved in discussions and votes at this meeting, any Parke Society member is welcome to attend. The Annual Corporate Meeting will take place on Sunday, September 29 at 11 am, most likely in the hotel breakfast room area. All Parke Society members are welcome to attend and participate in discussions and vote for the

trustee slate of candidates. Members not able to attend are urged to fill out the proxy ballot included with this newsletter issue and return it to the Parke Society Secretary before the date listed on the ballot. It is important that we have a sufficient number of proxy ballots in hand in order to satisfy the requirements in our By-Laws, so do please take the time to fill out and return those ballots in a timely manner. This Corporate Meeting will be immediately followed by a short 2nd Trustees Meeting, after which the annual meetings will be adjourned.

We have reserved a block of ten rooms at the hotel, six of which will be taken by staff and trustees attending the meeting. The remaining four rooms are available for any members wishing to attend, and those rooms have been reserved for one night, Saturday, 29 September at a room rate of \$109 + tax. Should there be demand for more than ten rooms, the hotel will make rooms available at the group rate subject to availability. These rooms will be held until 27 August, after which any unreserved rooms will be released, so if you are planning to attend, make sure you make reservations prior to that cut off date. To reserve a room, call 717-558-9200 and ask for a room in the Parke Society block of rooms. Should you desire to arrive earlier

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## THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**VOL. 55, No. 3**

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

**DNA TESTING:** Send DNA questions to our DNA Group Administrator, **Kenneth 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.

## Parke Society Annual Meeting

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or stay later, the hotel will honor that group rate provided rooms are available at the time of reservation.

We always look forward to having members attend, as there is no substitute for meeting each other in person, something we miss from the days of annual convocations. If you plan to attend and wish to discuss any issues or brick wall problems about your particular lineage with Society staff, please let us know ahead of time so the Historian and DNA administrator can have the needed records on hand.☺

## From the President's Desk

By Ken Parks, PS#1406

Farewell but not goodbye

This will be my last article in this column as president of the Parke Society. I'm pleased that Susan Van Allen PS#1653 has agreed to take on the position at the next annual meeting in September (see separate article in this issue for details) and I look forward to the energy and skills I know she will bring to the office. I have realized for quite a while that it was time for me to step aside, as my life has taken a direction which has left me inadequate time to devote the attention to the Society which it deserves. I had ambitious plans early on as president, but was never able to successfully implement them, as Life had a habit of getting in the way, as I'm sure many of you can understand.

As a retired actor/singer, I have become involved with the local professional opera company here in the New York Catskills where we have now lived full time for the past three years. I recently took on the position of General Manager of the Delaware Valley Opera (not to be confused with a similarly named company in Philadelphia) and those duties, including staging and directing some of the season's productions, have kept me busier than I ever seemed to be when working as a professional actor. While I look forward to

the challenges of the job, there is a learning curve involved which demands a good portion of my day, and has left me precious little time to devote to other interests, including genealogy.

I am by no means walking away from the Parke Society and, if chosen, will be honored to serve as a trustee and will continue to administer the DNA project, which I feel has advanced our knowledge of the various Park/e/s lineages immensely. I thank you all for your support and kind words over the years, and only wish I'd been able to do more to advance our cause and put the Society in a better position to face the coming years. I will do whatever I can to support Susan's efforts in that regard.

It has been a pleasure getting to know many of our members, either in person at the convocations and annual meetings, or through correspondence regarding the Society and the DNA project. Though DNA may tell us whether we're genetically related or not, I think of all Parke Society members as my cousins, and I could not wish for a better extended family. Though we are not the only surname organization, I do feel the Parke Society, through its unique history and wide scope, is quite special, and I'm proud to be a member of such a wonderful organization. Lastly, though there are many I could single out here, I will limit myself to thanking the one person to whom I owe a great debt of gratitude. Fr. Michael Parks welcomed me into the Society years ago, and has been my colleague and supporter throughout my tenure as president. I cannot imagine the Parke Society existing today were it not for Tad, and I count him as one of my dearest friends.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your president and, as I stated above, this is only farewell, certainly not goodbye!☺

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

## From the Executive Director: Society Business

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

### On the business of the Society

While our main task and goal is doing genealogy, being a clearing house for Park/e/s information (as mentioned in the Historian's article), we also have to do business to do as an organization. Could we do our thing without having to get involved with by-laws, incorporation and tax law? Not really. There are just too many pot holes to risk trying to avoid a legal entity status. I know. As a CPA involved in tax matters, I have had to unravel too many misguided decisions in this regard. And sometimes, it just couldn't be undone. Fortunately, The Parke Society, had the forethought to be proactive in this regard.

The Parke Society, Inc., was organized as a non-stock, not-for-profit domestic corporation in the State of Connecticut, where the organization was legally founded on August 4th 1963 and incorporated on July 20th, 1964. A lot has changed over the fifty-five intervening years of our existence.

Our scope has been enlarged from being a descendant of "any Park/e/s surnamed progenitor born before 1630," to allowing regular membership to having a Park/e/s progenitor without regard to date of birth. Associate members (members without direct lines) can now hold office and vote

Dues rates have changed a bit over the past 55 years. Life Regular Dues were \$50, while Regular Annual Membership was only \$2. We also offered a child's membership for \$0.50 per year, but have since done away with that as being more of a nuisance than it was worth. We usually had to do the paperwork ourselves, and said Junior members almost never became full members after turning 18.

The one thing that has been a constant from the beginning was that we were only interested in dealing with Park/e/s ancestry coming to North America since 1620 from the British Isles. While there have been inquiries from other parts of the once British Empire, we

just did not have the tools or expertise to get involved in those areas.

Our governance structure is unique in that the general membership elects the Board of Trustees, and they in turn elect the operating officers of the organization. An interesting feature of our By-Laws, since the beginning, is that the President of the Society (elected by the Board) also turns out to be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The President didn't have to be a actual member of the Board, and in truth that has been the usual case. Other than the President (and that was eliminated a couple years ago) there are no term limits for officers and appointees. You are who you are until a successor is elected.

So, *in nuce* (in a nutshell, a favorite phrase that Systematic Theology introduced me to) that's the organization of The Parke Society, Inc.,

Annual Meetings of the Corporation has been a feature of our By-Laws since the beginning, and currently the Trustees meeting in conjunction with that meeting. You will note elsewhere in this issue the announcement of the Society's Annual Meeting on the last weekend of September, as well as information about lodging. Members are encouraged to attend, meet the officers and trustees, and, if desired, get assistance with your own lineage. All we ask is that you let us know ahead of time so we can be sure to bring whatever might be useful to that effort.

If you are unable to attend, you are strongly encouraged to complete the proxy with your Trustee choices and to return it to the Proxy Secretary in a timely manner. The filed proxies become part of the quorum for our meetings. You, the members are the base for our work, and we like hearing your input.

### History of the Society

One long term project that I hope to accomplish is to compile a concise history of the Society: its ups and downs, its battles over the years (oh yes, there were those in the earliest days), and what we have become. We have been relatively successful in that we have survived the passing of our founder

and all of the “charter” members. Few family surname societies can say that. Perhaps we have a couple ideas that we can pass on to other like organizations. What has probably saved us has been a strong active Board of Trustees and a close interaction with the operating officers.

### **Succession planning**

I am happy to note that at this fall’s meeting, Susan Tyler (Corney) Van Allen, PS#1653 will be taking over as the 17th President of the Society, replacing Kenneth Melvin Parks, PS#1406 who has served ably for the past seven years. Susan has been an active member, interested in the operation of the Society from the very beginning, having attended her first Annual Meeting very shortly after her election to membership, and every meeting thereafter. I look forward to having her at the helm of the organization in the coming years.

As he notes elsewhere, Ken isn’t disappearing. He’ll continue his involvement in the Society as a Trustee (upon election this fall), as well as the yDNA Administration for the Society, and as the Librarian.

### **Renewals are wrapping-up**

The 2019 Renewal cycle has pretty much concluded. Anyone who has not yet renewed by the time this issue of the Newsletter is released, will be marked as un-renewed, and dropped from our mailing lists. It should be noted that we never discard whatever data you have provided to us. It is in our documentation and databases for future use.

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

We recently discovered a pack of about 150 LDS Temple Ordinance sheets that had not been scanned or entered into our Givename database. That should be completed in a couple of more weeks. Then it’s on to the next part of our digital project: the scanning of deceased members’ files.☺

**Be sure to renew your membership!**

## **The candidates for Trustee**

Because we no longer have Annual Convocations, when we could do a “meet and greet” of Board of Trustees nominees, we decided several years ago to provide a brief bio of each, including history with the Society and genealogical background. With a smaller Board (reduced from nine to six several years ago) we feel that you ought to know something about those up for election. The Parke Society has survived over these 50 plus years due in part to having an active and engaged Board of Trustees.

Ronald Neal Parks, PS#1458 of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, running for re-election to Seat II on the Board of Trustees, has been an active member since 2005 and became Registrar in 2007 following the sudden death of Dan Park. Ron was first elected a trustee in 2011. He retired as the registrar in the fall, 2018, but has continued to be a regular contributor to the work of the Society, attending each Annual Trustee and Corporate Meetings. He is a retired Army Veteran and is a descendant in the fragment Lineage Key GP.

Kenneth Melvin Parks, PS#1406, of Lake Huntington, New York, is running for election as Trustee, Seat VI, replacing Curtis Harvey Parks, PS#1166, who recently declined re-election. Ken has been a member of the Society since 2002, serving as a trustee, Seat VI, 2007 to 2012, and as President, 2012 to 2019. Though stepping down as President, he will be continuing in his roles as the Librarian, and the yDNA Group Administrator. Ken is a retired stage actor and singer, and is a descendant in the fragment Lineage Key AP.☺

Got something to tell?  
Write it up and send it to  
[parkenews@parke.org](mailto:parkenews@parke.org)

## Historian's Corner

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

### The Lineage Catalogue

In this issue you will find installment 24 of the Lineage Key Catalog, an ongoing effort to publish abstracts of the contents of the entire Lineage Key collection held by the Society. The process has been going on since Vol. 45, No. 1 (Fall 2008) issue of the Newsletter, and will probably continue for another several years at the rate we are getting the material in shape for publication.

Why is this such a long-term process? To answer question let's look at what our Lineage Catalog is, and how our lineage materials are organized.

As a surname organization, we work exclusively with genealogical lines bearing the surname Park/e/s that came to North America from the British Isles. We trace these lines individually, that is, as groups of descendants from a particular individual. Some of these are immigrants from across the pond, and some are what you might call brick wall ancestors, loose ends for whom we know neither parentage nor prior locations. We call those particular groups "fragment lines." The hope is that eventually these lines will be connected to some immigrant ancestral line. While all of these different lines are seemingly unrelated on paper, some of them may have some genetic (via yDNA analysis) relationship, but which is yet unclear

Currently we are tracing well over 300 different lines, with group sheets contained in some 55 big three ring binders. With that many different Park/e/s lines to keep track of, it should not be surprising that some have not been looked into in decades (the Parke Society has been in existence and collecting data for over 50 years).

It's important to remember that the Parke Society is a "clearing house" of genealogical data regarding Park/e/s surnamed families. While the Park/e/s surname is nowhere as common as Jones, Smith or Johnson (the top three most common surnames in the

US), the Park/e/s surname is hardly rare. And again not surprisingly, we keep finding new Park/e/s lines as new members come into our organization or we come upon new research somewhere.

What does the term "clearing house" mean? It means that we gather information from wherever possible. And we document and catalog that information as best we can, in our records and databases. We then use that collection of data to hopefully help other members find clues to their ancestry. We neither certify lineages, nor are we a patronal society. We find, we catalog, we disseminate what we have found.

The sources we come across have varying levels of quality of work and assuredness of accuracy; a caveat that we pass on to all our correspondents. We don't have the resources to go any further. Our only test is as to reasonableness. If nothing else, our information could give possible clues to break through those brick walls, or else to fill in gaps in information correspondents already have. It is of course left up to the correspondent member to research what we report to them, and for them to keep us informed on what they found. It could be right and helpful, or it could be wrong. In both instances, it helps us to help others better in the future.

While the amount of information stored in the Lineage binders is tremendous, it is of limited availability, even to the Society's core staff. Even though we have a Givename Index for every Park/e/s surnamed individual that appears on our group sheets, that gives a limited amount of detail and is short on showing family relationships. Over the years we have tried to provide better access to what is in the Lineage Catalog, but the efforts have not been very successful.

The current effort attempts to publish a short abstract of the first two generations of each existing lineage key, including dates, locations (if known), spouse(s), marriage dates and location, together with similar information about their offspring. Sometimes we also add cautionary data if a particular line seems to have some problems with what has been

submitted. Finally, we also note when the founding members of a fragment line might indeed be related to another, older line, only awaiting some evidence that will make that connection sure. We decided that while the two generations requirement was somewhat limiting, we also realized that going another generation would have made the whole process far more complex and time consuming to prepare for publication. As it is, far more data is being made available to the Society as a whole than has ever been done before.

As mentioned earlier, this effort has given us an opportunity to review lines that have laid dormant often for many years. In preparing abstracts for publication we review the existing group sheets, member's folders associated with those keys, and do some online scrounging to see what else might be out there that we haven't seen previously. Ancestry.com has been a great starting place for many of these older lines.

We hope to put the entire Lineage Catalog online one day as it has been abstracted and published. We need to figure out how to do that and even more importantly, how we will maintain it and keep it up to date as time goes by.

### **The disappointments of lapsed memberships**

You will notice at the end of each Lineage Catalogue entry we list, by membership number, any members who are tied to that specific Lineage Key. Many of those numbers will be followed by a single letter, like "D" for deceased, or more often an "R" for individuals who have quit the Society. This is unfortunate.

Perhaps for many new members expectations are set too high. They naturally expect quick answers to their brick walls, and if they do not come, they often quit the Society after only a year or two. Patience is what is needed. It may take some time before the appropriate answers make themselves known. But we continue to always be on the lookout for the members.

The issue with quitting the Society is that we often will lose contact with you. Should you move, or should your status change for one reason or another, we probably won't find out, and if we do find something for you, we will have no way of communicating that new information to you.

### **We do find breakthroughs.**

Yes, it does happen from time to time. Sometimes it happens as we analyze a new member's Lineage Application; sometimes it happens in this current Lineage Catalogue process, and sometimes it just happens by serendipity.

We've made two recent discoveries. In processing the Lineage Application for new member PS#1684, we discovered that a Baptist Parks (02FZ2) was one and the same individual shown as Baptist Parks (03U43). Lineage key U is not an immigrant line, but at least we have repositioned Baptist Park back a generation. I missed previously the names of the parents recorded on their individual group sheets as Garret W. and Wilson Parks respectively. I will soon be merging LK=FZ into the LK=U, vacating the FZ Lineage Key. Of the two members assigned to LK=FZ, one is deceased and the other dropped out after 2014, and we have lost track of her.

The second discovery involved the processing of new member PS#1685, who clued us into the fact that John G. (01GT1) was one and the same person as John Gray (05C356) Parks. Not only have we discovered John Gray's forebears, but he is now connected with a very early line (though we are still unsure of his ancestry). Fortunately, the member associated with the GT lineage is a Life Regular member of the Society and still active. I will soon be putting the two in touch with one another.

So you see, sometimes we do have breakthroughs. It may take a while, and it may be by serendipity. But it does happen, we just need to hang in there, and never give up hope.☺

## Park/e/s DNA Surname Project

by Ken Parks PS#1406

### Update on DNA and law enforcement

At the time of our press deadline for the last newsletter issue, the topic of law enforcement's use of DNA databases, and that of Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) in particular, was still a developing story.

Shortly after we went to press, I headed to FTDNA's annual administrator's conference and, as expected, this was the topic on everyone's mind as we gathered in Houston. Indeed, FTDNA was prepared to meet this issue head on with a lengthy session covering all aspects of the controversy. We heard from a representative of the Houston branch of the FBI who deals with this subject, as well as a bioethicist from Baylor University's College of Medicine. Bennett Greenspan, founder and CEO of FTDNA, gave a recap of the history of his company's involvement with law enforcement and provided an update on their new policy regarding the ability of law enforcement to access their customer's DNA information. This was followed by a lengthy Q&A session involving all the speakers.

The brief takeaway for FTDNA customers is that we now have the ability to opt out of having our results available to law enforcement. Customers from the EU, covered under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are automatically opted out, while retaining the right to opt in. American customers, however, must proactively exercise the opt out choice.

Rather than go into all the details here, I will put the URLs below for FTDNA's FAQ page on the subject, as well as another link to the page outlining the procedures and policies for any law enforcement agency wishing to utilize the FTDNA database.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/ftdna/law-enforcement-faq/>

<https://www.familytreedna.com/legal/law-enforcement-guide>

### What it means for our project

While the debate continues on this topic, and there are valid points on either side, the take away for our Park/e/s Surname Project is that it doesn't really have an effect directly on our project's primary purpose: to genetically sort the many Park/e/s lineages using Y-DNA to track the direct male lineages.

The type of DNA test being accessed by law enforcement is the autosomal DNA (atDNA) test. This is the type of test sold by Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage and others, including FTDNA's version, the Family Finder test. Y-DNA is of no practical use to law enforcement, which utilizes familial searching (see my DNA article in V55#2) to locate close relatives of the DNA from a victim of a crime or that of a suspect. While a Y-DNA match might give law enforcement a clue as to the possible surname of a suspect, it would yield no further useful information. Even a perfect match at a high level would not prove a close relationship between the match and that of the suspect's Y-DNA. We have a case in my own genetic group in the project of two individuals who match perfectly at 111 markers, and given the known paper trails of each individual, they could not be any closer than sixth cousins. Because of this, law enforcement is not interested in the type of DNA we utilize in our project. Now, many participants have chosen to do an atDNA test as well, and in those cases the decision to opt in or out of making their results available to law enforcement is theirs to make and is of no concern to our project directly.

Bottom line for me: let individual participants decide for themselves whether to allow law enforcement to use their atDNA test for matching, but as far as our Y-DNA project is concerned, we "have no dog in this fight."☺

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

## Using DNA Testing to Break Down Brick Walls – A Case Study

By Ken Parks PS#1406

As you may have noticed, several newsletter articles in the past few years by Parke Society members shared their use of DNA testing to help solve their own particular brick wall problems. Two recent ones that come to mind are those by Valerie Parks Vroom PS#1616 in V55#2 and by Tonya Parks Pettit PS#1583 in V53#2. I'd encourage any member with a similar success story to consider writing about it for a future issue, as it reinforces the concept that no genealogical research project can be considered exhaustive unless DNA testing has been brought to bear on the problems facing the researcher. To that end, I'll give an overview of my own Parks family research, illustrating how valuable DNA testing has been for me and my genetic Parks cousins.

### Let's start at the very beginning

When I became involved in genealogy about 1999, we had a small bit of information on our Parks family thanks to a cousin who'd worked for the federal government in Washington, D.C. many years ago and had access to records at the National Archives long before the age of computers. However, that information only took us back to the Civil War era, and our Parks line ended with my gg grandfather, David Parks, and his brothers. Their father's name was unknown to us until we discovered the name of Henry Parks on the death certificate of one of David's brothers who had lived into the era when such documents came into existence.

While we then had the names of Henry Parks (and his spouse, Elizabeth Thomas), we knew only that he was supposedly born in North Carolina and appeared to have died before 1840. Henry, now identified as my third great grandfather, was our brick wall for many years, until DNA slowly began to reveal clues about our early ancestry.

### Open a new window

In 2003 I took a Y-DNA test, which tracks the direct male lineage, in this case my male

Parks ancestry. About that same time, I was able to have several Parks males test who were descended from other Parks families I'd researched in the same geographic area of East Tennessee where my line lived. Unfortunately, I matched none of them and indeed, they didn't match each other, seeming to confirm my suspicion that there were in fact several genetically distinct Parks lineages in that area from the earliest days of settlement. That suspicion was proven true as others began to appear as matches to them, supporting their identities as genetically distinct Parks lineages.

Meanwhile, I had no matches to anyone else in the database with any surname, let alone Parks or its variants. This was not unusual back then, as FTDNA, the testing firm, had only appeared in 2000 and the number of people in their database was still extremely small. Still, other than a third cousin I had enlisted to test in 2004, the two of us had no matches for nearly two years. By then we had learned relatively little from our DNA testing other than who we were *not* related to. Though that information was still of value, it did little to further our quest to discover who the father of Henry Parks might be.

### And the walls came tumbling down

Our patience was finally rewarded in late 2005 when a match appeared with a Parks male whose earliest Parks ancestor had fought in the Revolution in Pennsylvania. Though we had no idea how, when, or where our lines connected, the DNA match confirmed that we were part of a genetically distinct Parks lineage, thus removing the possibility that our line had encountered a non-paternal event (NPE) along the way and our Y-DNA and surname did not match.

This encouraging news was followed the next year with a match to the Hugh Parks Sr. lineage, designated LK=EW by the Parke Society. Hugh Parks Sr. had also fought in the Revolution, in this case in North Carolina, giving us further cause to hope we were learning more about a possible connection between Henry Parks and a Parks family in

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## **Using DNA Testing to Break Down Brick Walls** *cont'd from p. 45*

North Carolina. No clear connection has yet been found, but further discoveries awaited.

More matching test participants began to appear as the number of people testing increased, and we discovered another North Carolina connection, albeit the genetic distance between us suggested it might not be the direct connection we were seeking. More recently, I stumbled across a Parks family that appeared to be related to my Tennessee line, identifying their earliest ancestor as a Samuel Parks, who I'd long suspected might be the father of my Henry Parks. Long story short, we found male descendants of this line, had one of them tested and sure enough, not only was he a match, but his Y-DNA contained a mutational marker value which only those in our family carried within our larger genetic group. This, combined with documentary evidence, built a strong circumstantial case for Samuel Parks as the father of Henry and my fourth great grandfather.

As time went on, more matches began to appear that gave us a glimpse into the "bigger picture" of our Parks origins.

### **Over the bright blue sea**

A very distant match appeared in 2006 to a man in western Canada with the surname Park, whose line goes back to about 1700 in Westmorland in Northern England. Interesting, but the genetic distance suggested this was a connection quite far back in time. However, in 2013 we had a match with a Parkes gentleman in Toronto, Canada whose great grandfather came from Ireland about 1860. However, no one knew what part of Ireland he came from, that is until...

### **It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas**

Right after Christmas in 2013 a match appeared with a gentleman whose surname was not Parks, but who was clearly genetically related to all of the Park/e/s participants in our group. Upon contacting his sister, who is the active researcher and who had urged him

to test, we discovered that their grandfather had been born out of wedlock in County Armagh, Northern Ireland in 1886. Through a clerical error the birth father's name was included on the birth registration and it named the father as one Alexander Parks. Aha! Now we had a male Parks in a specific location in Ireland whose DNA connected to our larger Park/e/s genetic group. This Christmas gift is still providing valuable information today!

In 2017 I contacted two researchers, one of whom had done extensive onsite research on their County Armagh Parks ancestors during two trips to Northern Ireland in the early 2000s. She was generous enough to share her extensive documentary evidence and we began the search for a male Parks from this lineage. Sure enough, this Parks family matched our genetic group and we began to look for males descended from other County Armagh families thought to be related but for whom the connection had not been found in documentary evidence. To date, we have one more family line confirmed as genetically related which brings the number of County Armagh lineages to four in our group, all related to each other and to the larger group as well. I'm hoping to make a trip to County Armagh later this year and will take along test kits for any willing Parks males I'm able to meet while there. Our goal will be not only to find Parks cousins, but to determine whether there are any Parks lineages in County Armagh which are not genetically related to ours, as that will help us sort the family groups we've created from the available records and give us a better picture of who's who in that geographically small area.

Autosomal DNA (atDNA) testing also proved helpful, as some of these County Armagh lines have atDNA connections to each other, both male and female, with these connections giving clues as to how recently the lines might connect. The same use of atDNA has helped broaden our research on the Parks lines known to be in the pre-Revolutionary United States.

Given our knowledge of the genetically related Parks families in County Armagh, we

can only take these lines back to about the 1780s. Since we know our American Parks lines were almost certainly in the New World before the American Revolution, any common ancestry had to take place at least one or two generations earlier than the earliest known Parkses in Ireland. Given the dearth of records which could help determine how the American and Irish lines are connected, we may never solve that particular puzzle. Still, given that County Armagh is, to date, the only area of Ireland with a known genetic connection to our American lines, we can at least lay claim to this as our ancestral homeland, at least until evidence to the contrary arises. Given how little any of us knew before we all began this journey, I am both amazed and extremely pleased at what DNA testing has revealed to us. I can only hope that many of you, by combining DNA testing and traditional research methods, might make similar discoveries.

As more DNA testing occurs in the British Isles and around the world, it is my hope that one day we will have a clearer genetic map of the where all Park/e/s lineages originated and to what parts of the globe they spread. In our own genetic group, we recently discovered that one branch left County Armagh in 1887 and settled in Queensland, Australia. We're in the process of making contact with living Parkes males in that area to confirm their connection to us with DNA testing. Other siblings in this same branch came to America in the late 1890s and settled in Pittsburgh, some later moving to Chicago and points west. I'm confident this diaspora story can be repeated in all the genetically distinct Park/e/s lineages found in our Parke Society database, and it is my hope that many of you may be inspired to pursue this line of research. It can only be done using the combination of DNA testing to offer clues, followed by supporting evidence using traditional research sources. What might have seemed impossible a decade or two ago is now a realistic possibility, and I hope some of you will accept the challenge to widen the scope of your Park/e/s family research!~

## Lineage Key Catalog—part 24

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.

Lineage keys published to date are: all single-letter keys (Vols. 45.1–46.1), double-letter keys AA-ZZ and AX-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-ZU (53.3, 54.2-3, 55.1–55.2), and AT-HT (55.2). Further Lineage Keys will appear in subsequent Newsletters.

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## Lineage Key Catalog, Part 24

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**IT**     **Rev'd. Martin Phillips** (01IT1) **Parks** (1804, NC – 1853, at Sea) (Represented) m. Georgianna Clough Mabry (1814, VA – 1925, OH) 1832, Petersburg, VA. Nine children.

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

### Children:

- Mary M. (02IT1) Parks (1833, VA – ??) May have married an Osbourne, nothing further known.
- Ann Polk (02IT2) Parks (1836, VA – before 1879). Nothing further known.
- Georgiana (02IT3) Parks (1837, VA – ??) may have died at Norfolk, VA, nothing further known.
- Sarah Susan (02IT4) Parks (1839, VA – 1878) m. William W. Hays (1837, ?? – 1901, ??) 1862, place unknown. Three children.
- Martha W. (02IT5) Parks (18423, NY – 1908, NY). Nothing further known.
- **The Rev'd. James Lewis** (02IT6) **Parks** (1848, NY – 1912, NY) m. Julia Bridges Waring (1852, OH – 1938, PA), 1872, Schenectady, NY, Five children. He was Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, in NY City for many years.
- Laura Gertrude (02IT7) Parks (1849, NY – 1897, NY) m. Edward Windsor Mealey (?? – 1911, ??) 1876, place unknown. No known issue.
- The Rev'd. Leighton (02IT8) Parks (1852, NY – 1938, London, England), m. Margarita Alden Haven (1855 Switzerland – 1910, Italy), date and place of marriage un-

known, Three children. He was the Rector of St. Bartholemew's Episcopal Church, NY City 1904 to 1925, and also a leading "modernist" in church beliefs as opposed to being a fundamentalist.

- Lt. Martin Phillips (02IT9) Parks, Jr. (1827, NC – 1852. Nothing further known.

(PS#1027R; no active members on this line)

### JT

**Andrew** (01JT1) **Park** (1781, Ireland – 1861, TN) (Represented) m. Eleanor (Ellen) Brown (c. 1784, Ireland – 1826, TN), 1807, Greene County, TN. Ten children. This is an Immigrant Line.

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

### Children:

- Alexander (02JT9) Park (1806, TN – 1880, TN) m. Margaret Meloy (1811, TN – 1880, TN) 1833, Greene County, TN. Thirteen children.
- Andrew (02JT1) Park (c. 1808, TN – c. 1836, TN) m. Margaret Luckey (1806, TN – 1850, TN) 1826, Greene County, TN. Three children.
- Leah (02JT10) Park (c. 1809, TN – ????, TN). Nothing further is known.
- **Margaret Brown** (02JT2) **Park** (c. 1811, TN – 1876, TN) m. Alexander Lewis Moorehead (1807, PA – 1873, TN) 1833, Greene County, TN. Nine children.
- Anna Maria (02JT3) Park (1815, TN – 1876, TN) m. William Boyce, 1850, Greene County, TN. Two children.
- George Brown (02JT4) Park (1812, TN – 1896, TN) m. Elizabeth Ann

Wilhite (1821, TN – 1882, TN) 1845, Greene County, TN. Eight children.

- James B. (02JT5) Park (c. 1822, TN – 1894, TN) m. Margaret Armitage (1834, TN – 1909, TN) 1850, Greene County, TN. Five children.
- Nancy (02JT6) Park (1824, TN – 1894, TN). Nothing further known.
- Eleanor (02JT7) Parks (1810, TN – 1835, TN) m. Elijah Randolph Self (1809, TN – 1880, TN) 1831, Union Co., GA. No issue known.
- Catherine (02JT8) Park (1822, TN – bef. 1900, TN) m. William Addison Withers (c. 1813, VA – bef. 1860, TN) 1833, Greene County, TN. Three children.

(PS#1016R 1222DL; no active members on this line)

**KT Robert (01KT1) Park** (1773, Ireland – 1874, WV) (Represented) m. Margaret Erwin (c. 1777, Ireland – 1837, WV) location unknown, one child known; there probably are more children, unknown at this time. This is an immigrant line.

**Source Materials:** Lineage Papers and correspondence of descendant member.

**Children:**

- **Robert (02KT1) Park** (1817, VA – 1872, WV) m. Isabella Kirk (1816, PA – 1897, ??) 1839, Brook Co., VA, Three children, detailed below.

**Children of Robert and Isabella:**

- **George Washington (03K1) Park** (1856, VA – 1932, WV) m. Annie Laurie Harwood (1858, VA – 1939, WV), 1885, Ravenswood, Jackson Co., WV. Five Children.
- Robert E (03KT2) Park (1847, VA – 1913,??). Nothing further known.

- John K ((03KT3) Park (1844, VA – 1862, VA). Nothing further known.

(PS#999R; no active members on this line).

**LT Evan (01LT1) Park** (18204, VA – 1878, KS ) (Represented) m. Elizabeth B. Barton (1835, OH – 1908, KS), 1859, Washington Co., IA. Five children known. There is a distinct possibility that this Evan may be a descendant of Roger Parke of West Jersey, LK=K.

**Source Materials:** Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant member;

**Children:**

- **Frank Evan (02LT1) Parks** (1872, IA – 1943, OK) m. Mrs. Mariah B (Brandon) Herrington (1873, OH – 1951, OK), 1899, Alva, Woods Co., OK. Three children.
- John Preston (02LT2) Parks (1866, IA – 1938, KS) m. Climena Augusta Jordan (1874, KS – 1976, KS) 1894, Kansas. Three Children.
- Charles Hiram (02LT3) Parks (1860, IA– 1936, CA). m. Rose Belle Keith (1875, KS – 1970, CA) 1894, LaCygne, Linn Co., KS. Five Children.
- Isa May (02LT4) Parks (1871, IA – 1955, OK) m. Byron George Beard-slee (1864, MI – 1911, ??) 1900, Alva Twp., Woods Co., OK. Nine children.
- Minnie Claire (02LT5) Park (1868, IA – 1960, CO) m. Edgar C Dragoon (1864. MO – 1952, ??) 1900, LaCygne, Linn, KS. Four children

(PS#1050R; no active members on this line)

**MT Nancy (01MT1) Parks** (c. 1795, NC – 1844, IL) (Represented) m. William

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## Lineage Key Catalog, Part 24

cont'd from p. 49

Kell (1790, NC – 1846, IL) 1811, Surry Co., NC. Various accounts put the number of children from 11 to 14. All 14 are shown here though there are questions. It should also be noted that Nancy's name is sometimes shown as "Parker." This could be an error in interpretation of the handwriting, or the actual surname. It should also be noted that William Kell's parents are listed as William and Nancy Isabella (Parks) Kell. No parentage is shown for either Park/e/s entry.

**Source Materials:** Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant member;

### Children:

- Thomas (02MT1) Kell (1812, NC – 1860, TX), m. Elizabeth S. Dove (1818, VA - ??), 1838, Madison Co., IL. Six children.
- Margaret (02MT2) Kell (??, PA – ?). Nothing further known.
- Jane (02MT3) Kell (1815, TN – 1897, IL), m. Austin Bowles. Nothing further known.
- Elizabeth Phoebe (02MT4) Kell (1818, TN – 1880, TX), m. Jonathan C McManus. Nothing further known.
- John (02MT5) Kell (1820, IL – 1903, MO). Nothing further known.
- Hannah (02MT6) Kell (1821, PA – 1914, IA), m. William Ditts (1798, PA – 1880, IA) 1845, Richmond Co., OH. Nine children.
- James C (02MT7) Kell (1822, IL – 1876, IL), m. (1) Lucinda Smith (1826 – 1845, IL) 1844, Macoupin Co., IL. One child. m. (2) Nancy King Davis (c. 1827, OH – aft. 1880), IA. Two children.
- Robert (02MT8) Kell (1826, TN – 1879, TN), m. (1) Emily Smith (1820, TN – bef. 1850, IL) 22 July 1847, Macoupin Co., IL. One child. m. (2) Elizabeth (unknown) (no dates or locations) 3 June 1847, Illinois, no issue. m. (3) Julia A Funderburk (1825, IL – 1906, IL), 22 June 1854, Macoupin Co., IL. Seven children
- **Nimrod** (02MT9) **Kell** (c. 1827, IL – c. 1857, IL), m. Elizabeth Wilcox (c. 1828, IL – ??), 1846, Madison Co., IL. Two children.
- William (02MT10) Kell (1828, TN – 1906, CA), m. Sarah Ann Sharp (c. 1833, IL – bef. 1900, CA) Two children.
- Nancy (02MT11) Kell (1830, IL – 1912, TX), m. Evert Sinclair. Nothing further known.
- Anna (02MT12) Kell (1830, IL – 1916, OH). Nothing further known.
- Sarah Albinah (02MT13) Kell (1832, IL – 1914, IL). m. Kimbro T Barnett. Nothing further known.
- Isabella (02MT14) Kell (1835, IL – 1856, IL), m. John M. Best. Nothing further known.

(PS#875R; no active members on this line)

### NT

**William** (01NT1) **Park** (1720, Sct – 1799, Ire) (Represented), m. Margaret Smith (1722, Scotland – 1745, Scotland). Normally we do not start a Lineage Key with someone who did not immigrate to the colonies, but since at least three of his offspring did, we felt it better to start with him so we had the relationships clear. Eleven children, all born probably in Scotland, We have a line from one of the children but will show what we know as to other immigrants. This is an immigrant line.

**Source Materials:** Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant member;

**Children:**

- Matthew (02NT4) Park (1750, Ire – 1819, PA), m. Martha Cooper (1765, PA – 1820). Perhaps four children.
- James (02NT5) Park (1754, Ire - ??, PA), m. (?) Peoples, no dates or locations, said to have had five children..
- Elizabeth (02NT6) Park (1754, Sct - ??, PA) m. a McPherson, four children. Nothing further known
- **Joseph (02NT10) Park** (1769, Ire(?) – 1851, Ire), m. Rebecca Torrens (1766, France – 1852, Ire) 1793, probably Ireland. Nine Children. His son, Joseph (03NT35) Park (1802, Ire – 1860, OH) m. Sarah McAdoo (1803, Ire – 1861, OH, is the descendant line being followed. Six children.

Other children that either stayed in Scotland or Ireland, about which little is known: Agnes (02NT1, b. 1746); William (02NT2, b. 1747); Janet Margaret (02NT3, b. 1749); Mary (02NT7, b.1758) m. a Patterson; Martha (02NT8, b. 1760), m. a Kelso; John (02NT9, b. 1673), had two marriages; and Margaret (02NT11, b. 1768), m. Robert Grahame, three children

(PS#1054R; no active members on this line)

- OT William (IOT1) Parke** (1839, Ire – c. 1898, Ire) (Represented) m. Anne Jane Patton (1859, Ire – 1897, Ire), 1891, Ireland. Four children. Three of the children came to the United States in 1923. We have this line back one further generation to a Robert (IIOT1) Park (1805, Ire – 1893, Ire who married Isabella Stevenson (1821, Ire – 1893, Ire). At least five children,

maybe more. This is an Immigrant line.

**Source Materials:** Lineage papers and correspondence of descendant member;

**Children:**

- **Robert Elmour (Elmer) (01OT1) Parke, Sr.** (1892, Ire – 1981, UK) m. Mary Margaret Hutchison (1890, Ire – 1960, FL) c. 1917, County Tyrone. Four Children. Apparently died on a trip back to Ireland, buried in Plant City, FL.
- John (01OT2) Parke (1893, Ire – 1983, PA). m. Helena Margareta Brown (1900, Ire – 1985, OH) 1926, Pittsburgh, PA. One child only, a daughter.
- William (01OT3) Parke (1897, Ire – 1982, FL). M. Mary Elizabeth Brown (1924, Ire – 1989, FL) in Pennsylvania. Three children.

(PS#1055R; no active members on this line).☺

Got something to tell?  
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Have you renewed?  
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## IN MEMORIAM

It is with deepest sorrow, that the Society has learned of the passing of Margaret Ellen Parke, PS#1567, unexpectedly on January 22, 2019, in Miami, Florida, at the end of a Caribbean cruise.

Ellen was the daughter of the late Everett Austin Parke, CDR, USN (Ret.), PS#557, and the late Margaret Rebok. She was born at Bethesda Naval Hospital on February 12, 1950. Due to her father's Naval career, the family lived in many different places in the US and around the world.

Following graduate from Hollins College, Roanoke, VA with a BA in French, she joined the Central Intelligence Agency for a 34-year career as an intelligence officer. She spoke fluent French and had a more than working knowledge of several other languages. She mentored many young CIA officers during her career and left a lasting impact on subsequent generations of Officers. Upon retirement, she became involved with many different organizations, including the Circumnavigators Club, an international organization of men and women who have circled the globe, where she served as International President for two terms.

Ellen never married but is survived by a sister, Cindy (John) Beukema, one aunt, nieces, nephews, many cousins, and numerous friends.

A memorial service was held for Ellen Parke at St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC on April 2. In lieu of flowers, gifts in here memory were requested for St. John's Church.

Margaret Ellen Parke was a 10th generation descendant of the Roger Parke line of West Jersey, through his son Roger, to Joseph, Timothy, Robert Shipton, Curtis, George Pearson, Benjamin Everett, Everett Austin, to herself. LK=K.☺

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

### 1683 Patrick Michael Parks

Kansas City, MO

Lineage is the Lt. Richard line, LK=Q. Line is Lt. Richard<sup>3</sup> Rev'd Joseph<sup>4</sup>, David<sup>5</sup>, Dr. Joseph<sup>6</sup>, Floyd<sup>7</sup>, Joshua B<sup>8</sup>, John Floyd<sup>9</sup>, Walter Elsdon<sup>10</sup>, Robert Fenton<sup>11</sup>, to member<sup>12</sup>.

### 1684 William Harlow Park

Apex, NC

Lineage is the Fragment Line, LK=U, commencing with a Robert<sup>1</sup> Parks (ca 1744, NC (?) – ca 1802, GA), married Mary (Stone, Young, or Jordan ?), (1728, GA – ca 1805, GA). Thence to James<sup>2</sup>, John Miller<sup>3</sup>, William Asbury<sup>4</sup>, Samuel Horace<sup>5</sup>, William Harold<sup>6</sup>, Ralph Kennedy<sup>7</sup>, to member<sup>8</sup>.

### 1685 Susan D. Blackmon

Graham, TX

Lineage is LK=C, commencing Thomas<sup>1</sup> Parkes of Virginia (ca 1670, VA (?) – 1760, VA) (spouse unknown), thence to John<sup>2</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Linsfield<sup>4</sup>, John Gray<sup>5</sup>, Susan Adeline<sup>6</sup> Parks who married Jesse Richardson Grantham, to Ira Foster<sup>7</sup> Grantham, William Bryan<sup>8</sup> Grantham, Mary Ruth (Grantham)<sup>9</sup> Black, to member<sup>10</sup>.☺

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