

# 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*

## Parke Society 2020 Annual Meetings by Ken Parks PS#0000

As we are all aware, life has been altered in every way for the entire world, and so it comes as no surprise that the decision has been made to hold our 2020 annual meetings online via the Zoom platform.

To that end, the annual Corporate Meeting, open to all Parke Society members in good standing, will take place on Sunday, 27 September, 2020 at 4 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The corporate meetings have traditionally been fairly brief, with the main purpose of the meeting to elect the slate of trustees before the membership at that time. However, other business may be brought to the floor for discussion and voting, so we have set a tentative time frame of thirty minutes for this meeting. If more time is needed, the meeting will continue as long as it takes to address any issues brought before the Society.

Should the corporate meeting adjourn within the expected time frame, the board of trustees will then call to order its second trustee meeting immediately, and members would be welcome to view that meeting online, though only trustees are eligible to vote. The main purpose of this second trustee meeting is to vote to adopt the slate of elected officers adopted at the first trustee meeting held on Saturday, 26 September, 2020. Again, this meeting is generally extremely brief and, should that meeting quickly adjourn, if enough members wish to participate we could hold the Zoom meeting open for an extended period of time for an unofficial, informal "chat session" similar to the opportunities for social interaction among members that occurred back when we held in-person convocations.

To join the corporate meeting, simply contact Parke Society Vice President, Ken Parks PS#1406 via email at parksken49@gmail.com and an invitation to the meeting will be sent, with any pertinent information required to join the meeting, including a password. You do not have to have a Zoom account to attend a Zoom meeting. You will be prompted to download the software, once you have clicked on the link that you have been provided. You may also wish to create an ac-

### In This Issue:

Parke Society 2020 Annual Meetings.....	37
The Candidates for Trustee.....	39
From the President's Desk.....	39
From the Executive Director.....	40
Park/e/s DNA Project.....	42
Historian's Corner.....	45
Notes from Within.....	48
In memoriam.....	49
Welcome, New Members!.....	52

*continued on p. 39*

## THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**VOL. 56, No. 3**

© 2020 The Parke Society, Inc.

**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.

**President:** Susan Van Allen PS#1653  
Email: scvanallen01@comcast.net

**Immediate Past President:** Kenneth M. Parks PS#1406

**Vice President:** Kenneth M. Parks PS#1406

**Executive Director:** Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks PS#425H  
Email: 70741.2122@compuserve.com

**Secretary:** Mrs. Joanne G. Rodgers, PS#1523  
108 Crestview Drive  
Duncansville, PA 16635-6938

**Treasurer:** Ms. Lu Terock PS#861

**Interim Registrar:** Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks+ PS#425H  
Email: registrar@parke.org

**Registered agent:** W. Scott Park PS#264

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

**DNA Group Administrator:** Ken M. Parks PS#1406

**Archivist:** position open.

**Immediate Past Archivist:** Mrs. Corabelle E. DeClerg PS#842H

**Editor:** Paul Jordan-Smith  
Email: parkenews@parke.org

**Immediate Past Editor:** Percival D. Park PS#140

**Website:** <http://www.parke.org>

**Webmaster:** Paul Jordan-Smith PS#1451  
Email: webmaster@parke.org

**Immediate Past Webmaster:** Curtis H. Parks PS#1166L

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

P.O. Box 590  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590  
Phone: (414) 332-9984

**CONVOCATIONS:** Send questions to President and Convocation Coordinator, **Susan Van Allen** at scvanallen01@comcast.net

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

**MEMBERSHIP:** Send questions concerning Parke Society membership, requests for membership packets, and all application materials to our Interim Registrar, **Fr. Michael (Tad) Parks PS#425H** at registrar@parke.org.

**NEWSLETTER:** Send article submissions and comments to our Editor, **Paul Jordan-Smith** 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** at webmaster@parke.org.

## Parke Society 2020 Annual Meetings

*cont'd from p. 37*

count, but that is not required to participate in a Zoom meeting. When you send your email request to join the meeting, please make sure you have your Parke Society member number (PS#) available so we can confirm you as a member.☺

## The Candidates for Trustee

As we no longer have Annual Convocations, where we could do “meet and greets” of Board of Trustee nominees, we decided several years ago to provide you the members a brief synopsis of the candidates, their history with the Society, and their genealogical background. This is now even more true in this year as the Annual Meetings will be virtual, not in-person, using some sort of on-line application. With a smaller Board (reduced from nine to six several years ago) we feel that you ought to know just who we are asking you to elect. The Parke Society has survived over these 55 plus years, partially due to the fact that we have had an active and engaged Board of Trustees.

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

**Susan T. Van Allen, PS#1653**, of Haverford, PA, has been an active life member of the Society since 2016. An attorney by profession, she attended her first Annual Meeting the same year, was elected a Trustee the next year (2017), and Vice President in 2018. She became President of the Society in 2019 on the retirement of Kenneth M. Parks. Susan is a 13th generation descendant from Robert (01STW1) Parke (1630, MA) through his son Thomas (02T1). LK=T, Chart 6.☺

## From the President's Desk

by Susan van Allen, PS#1653

I hope everyone has been safe and keeping well during the pandemic. I have been home-bound since March 13, 2020. While things are beginning to reopen in parts of the country, the area around Philadelphia, PA remains red (although I hear we will go to the yellow phase around June 5th). I have been keeping busy with work and spending time doing genealogy research. My efforts are bearing results and I am excited to share them with my family. I had the idea of writing short stories but putting pen to paper (so to speak) was harder than I imagined. I was happily surprised to see this issue addressed in one of my favorite genealogy blog posts, Tyler Topics. I am including it here, with the permission of Norm Tyler, in the hope you can get encouragement from his suggestions as well.

**750 Words, by Norm Tyler** (May 16, 2020, <http://tylertopics.com/writing/>)

During our months-long stay-at-home, many of us are thinking this might be a good time to do some writing. You may think—I always meant to begin my memoirs, or try writing a murder mystery, or wax philosophical. But there seem to be distractions and reasons not to begin.

Our son, Joseph, introduced us to an effective way to overcome such creative inertia. It is referred to as the 750-Word Exercise. There is one simple rule. Begin writing about a topic of interest to you and keep writing about it in one sitting, non-stop, for 750 words—no more, no less. If you are like most writers you will find that the first 250 to 300 words will represent your current thinking but following those initial words you should enter a freestyle writing where you don't know what will come off your fingertips. But keep writing anyway until you reach 750 words (approximately 3 pages). Then take a break and come back to it in a day or two and see what you have. You may be surprised at where your free thinking

*continued on p. 40*

## From the President's Desk

*cont'd from p. 39*

led you, and hopefully you have something worth developing further. It might serve as a section for a coronavirus journal, or the beginning of a piece of fiction, or a more reflective piece.

We encourage you to try this 750-Word Exercise. And let us know what happens if you do. (Note this blog posting is only 233 words. Oh, well.)

This pandemic has also given us the opportunity to use technology to keep in touch with family and friends. Since March, I have been on more video calls than I can count! The Society has decided to use technology to gather in September for our annual conference. I hope that many of you will join us at the Corporate Meeting on Sunday, September 27, 2020. More information about the meeting is detailed in this newsletter.

Normal life will return in due time. Until then, I hope everyone remains safe and healthy.☺

## From the Executive Director: Society Business

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

### The 2020 Annual Meetings

Over the past several months I am sure all of you have been reading announcements of things either being postponed to a later time or being cancelled altogether. Here in Milwaukee it's going to be a pretty boring summer now that the last major summer event, the Wisconsin State Fair, has been cancelled for the first time in 75 years. Those announcements always seem to begin with the words "After considerable discussions...."

So here's the Parke Society version of that announcement.

As the Society was talking about the COVID-19 situation and attempting to look into the future as to how that might affect us, we came to the conclusion that there were just

too many unknowns for us to plan our Annual Meetings in the usual manner. No one can say for certain what the COVID-19 situation might be like come late September. Can we get in touch with the hotel? Would they even allow us to reserve the necessary meeting space and rooms? What if we did reserve, but at the last minute the hotel had to cancel our reservations? We were looking for some level of certainty, but it was not there.

So, after considerable discussions about the situation, the Society will, for the first time in its 57 year history, not be holding the usual in-person meetings, but rather will accomplish the business of the Society with virtual Corporate and Trustee's meetings. The dates and times will generally remain the same, and further information will be provided elsewhere in this issue.

The plus for this is that there will be a wider opportunity for members to look in at the Society at work, and in some cases will be able to add to the discussion or to ask questions. The meetings format is as usual a First Trustee's Meeting on Saturday. It is at this meeting which is generally fairly lengthy, where the majority of the discussions and decisions get made.

The Annual Corporate meeting will take place on Sunday in the later afternoon, to allow for the time differences between the east and west coasts. Besides the presentation of reports, the main business of this meeting is the election of two Trustees for a three year period ending at the Annual Meeting in 2023. Then immediately follows a short Second Trustees Meeting, where we wrap up any necessary open business items as well as formally elect the officers for the following year.

As in the past, a Proxy Ballot is enclosed with this Newsletter. Whether you anticipate joining us at the virtual corporate meeting or not, we encourage all members to complete and mail in your Proxy Ballot. The proxies make clear that this is not some organization run, steered, and controlled by just one or two people. This is also your chance to pass along any comments you might have concerning the business of the Society.

Remember, because the meetings will be held on a virtual platform, it will be possible for members to join in the meeting. Indeed, we will welcome to have members actively participating. Further details about this will be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

### On back office opportunities

While our main activity may be about doing Park/e/s family genealogy (in the clearing house model) we could not continue to function were it not for certain important back-office personnel. Collecting dues, handing the finances, publishing the Newsletter, and maintaining our genealogical and administrative databases are all things that need to happen in a timely and accurate manner.

Over the years we have been very fortunate to have had people step up to the plate almost spontaneously to take up one duty or another. Much of that happened back in the day when we had are multi-day Convocations that involved the all-important social interactions.

Unfortunately, the multi-day society convocations just could not be sustained. They were an awful lot of work, and the environment had changed drastically. People just did not go to society meetings like they used to in the day. Now back-office positions are a lot harder to fill.

So the question is: Why should anyone want to volunteer for a back-office task? To be a core-staff individual? I can give a couple of answers for this question.

1. It helps the organization to move forward to its main goals. That is to help members make connections in their genealogy. The smooth integration of some of the aforementioned tasks, allow the others of us to work on the specific task of working with family genealogy
2. It gives these core staff members the opportunity to see the bigger picture of the organization; the functions that need to be done, and the issues that come along with those tasks

3. It gives you the chance to voice your opinions and in turn to help steer the organization into the future. Multiple voices are always good for an organization.

My hope is that as you read the opportunities available, you will consider the question: Is this something I can do for the Society? By the way: Annual Dues are waived for all sitting officers, another plus. Not huge, but something more that we can offer.

In the past, we have always sort of expected that certain officers would avail themselves of attendance at the annual meetings. With this year's move to a virtual meeting platform, the picture changes, while still useful, it should not be a show stopper for taking on one of these tasks.

At the moment there are two positions that will be opening up soon, and we are looking for volunteers. If you might have an interest in either one, write or email us and we can take it from there. (NB: to avoid the gender trap, I use a single pronoun strictly as a convenience.)

### Secretary:

The duties of our Secretary, like in most non-profit organizations are to take and publish the minutes of the various Trustee and Corporate Meetings. S/he also becomes the Proxy Secretary, collecting the Proxies and reporting the sum of them to the various meetings. More especially s/he acts as the Financial Secretary, receiving all receipts coming to the Society, depositing them to the bank and forwarding appropriate reports to the Treasurer and the Executive Director.

Except for the early months of the dues renewal cycle, this is a simple once a month task. During the months of December, January and sometimes, February, the Secretary might have to make two or more deposits during the month.

This position requires some attention to detail, timeliness, and some computer skills (emails, spread sheets, and perhaps some word processing). Attendance is always use-

## From the Executive Director

*cont'd from p. 41*

ful, but not a necessarily a breaker. The current secretary announced at the 2019 Annual Meeting that this year would be her last year. She will be available to help in the transition to the new person who takes over the position.

### Vice President:

The main purpose of the Vice President's role is to have a logical succession plan, and also to have someone able to step in should something befall the incumbent President. An understudy, if you will. With the Election of Susan Van Allen as the President at the 2019 Annual Meetings, the former President graciously allowed himself to be elected to the Vice Presidency position for one year. He was fairly clear that he didn't want it to go longer than that.

Any other duties of this office would be worked out in concert with the President, Executive Director and the Board of Trustees. Again, attendance at the Annual Meetings, while not mandatory, would always be useful as the understudy. It would be a reasonable expectation that the VP would have the ability to use email, and work with a word processor, and very simple spreadsheets and databases.

### Lineage Leaders:

Lineage Leaders were conceived as being aids to the Society Historian, handling the details of specific lines of descent, communicating with individual members of the lineage, and keeping the Historian in the loop as to additional information or adjustments to the record.

Over the years the experience has been mixed. The reasons for this are unclear, and needs further review. But with the recent loss of three major line lineage Leaders, we are again looking at these positions. With tight coordination to the Historian, these positions are extremely helpful to the Society.

## On dues and renewals

We are coming to the end of the 2020 Dues Renewal cycle. Generally you can tell you Dues status by looking at the envelop label that your Newsletter came in. If the year is anything other than 2020 or later, your annual dues need to be attended to. Now, note that there is a timing issue here, as these labels are generated and accurate as of the end of May 2020 and so if you mailed in your dues around that time, the label may not properly reflect your recent payment.☺

## Park/e/s DNA Surname Project

By Ken Parks PS#1406

For many years the Parke Society focused on cataloging the various Park/e/s lineages in the United States and Canada, and has done a tremendous job organizing the results of member research into a valuable database for Park/e/s descendants in North America. Most lineage information in our database either stops with an immigrant ancestor, or remains stalled with an early ancestor known to have been born in America but with no idea where the family came from originally. Once DNA testing became available around the year 2000, other avenues for advancing our knowledge were opened to researchers.

### Finding your genetic homeland

The use of DNA testing, and Y-DNA in particular, has enabled us to expand our knowledge of which Park/e/s lineages in the United States and Canada share a common male Park/e/s ancestry. In some cases, it enables us to connect a "fragment line" to a known immigrant, or at least suggest that such a connection exists, still to be discovered.

For a fortunate few in our membership, traditional research methods have identified the homeland of an immigrant ancestor and, in some cases, extended the lineage one or more generations back into the past. However, for many of us, our knowledge of where our Park/e/s ancestors came from remains a mystery. This article will suggest some strat-

egies for using DNA testing, combined with traditional research, to identify the genetic homeland of your particular Park/e/s lineage.

### Where to start your search

Though there may be exceptions, we can safely say that the vast majority of Park/e/s lineages in North America came from somewhere in the British Isles. For some of us, a family tradition may suggest a particular country, such as Ireland or Scotland, but finding the exact location within these relatively small countries remains a challenge.

Using my own genetic group (Group 008 in the Park/e/s DNA project) as an example, we were fortunate to have a participant turn up whose immigrant ancestor was known to have come to Canada from Ireland. This participant had no idea where in Ireland his ancestor came from, but at least we now had a clue as to which of the countries (England, Ireland, Scotland, or Wales) within the British Isles we may have come from.

Another bit of luck brought a participant who lives in England, but whose grandfather was known to have been born in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. Since this participant's Y-DNA matched our larger genetic group, and subsequent Family Finder (atDNA) test results showed a connection to the Canadian participant mentioned above, this lent weight to the suspicion that County Armagh might be the place our genetic Park/e/s line originated.

Armed with this information, we then began to look for all Parkses in County Armagh in available records. RootsIreland.ie gave us access to available Park/e/s birth, marriage, and death records and the National Archives of Ireland (census.nationalarchives.ie) gave us the ability to find many of these same individuals, primarily in the 1901 and 1911 censuses. By cross-working this information, we began to build family group sheets, in some cases discovering three or four generations in each family group.

With this database of many of the Park/e/s families in County Armagh, we then began to search for living male descendants of as many of these family groups as possible. In some cases, information uncovered in other record sources available on familysearch.org, ancestry.com, and fold3.com gave us information on some County Armagh Parkses who emigrated to the United States or Canada, or those who served in the military in the British Isles. Some of these records enabled us to then find descendants in records in the U.S. and Canada, and even in findagrave.com, thus enabling us to trace the line down to living individuals.

Another avenue was to search both Ancestry and FamilySearch for online trees containing Park/e/s individuals with County Armagh connections. Once a living male Park/e/s – a potential test participant—was identified and located, we were then able to have Y-DNA tests run and determine whether this descendant from a particular County Armagh family group sheet matched our group genetically. Thus far, all the participants located through this method have matched our Group 008 participants, thus lending even more weight to Armagh as our group's genetic homeland. Of course, at some point in the future we may find a Park/e/s family group in Armagh which does not match us genetically, but even that negative result would add valuable information. And, of course, at some point a matching test participant with known roots to another location may also turn up, but for now the preponderance of evidence points to County Armagh for our genetic group.

### How to begin the search

For each genetic group in our Park/e/s project, many have some participants whose country of origin is known or suspected. I wrote an article on Park/e/s research in Ireland which appeared in Vol.54No3 and if you have access to a back copy, either in paper or electronic form, it would be worth rereading for the sources mentioned there. As I noted in that article, the Park/e/s surname in Ireland shows a heavy concentration in

*continued on p. 44*

## **Park/e/s/DNA Surname Project**

*cont'd from p. 43*

Northern Ireland. I have not had a chance to do a similar survey for Scotland or England, but hope to do so in the future and will publish those findings here when available.

It is helpful to know where the surname is most represented in each country simply to give you a better idea of where to focus your search if you have no specific place of origin beyond the country itself. Of course, that doesn't rule out less represented areas, but if all you have to go on is a country, you might as well point your search where the numbers suggest the odds are in your favor.

As I did in my County Armagh research, you need to become familiar with what record sources are available online and for what time periods. I will put a brief list below of some available sources for each of the four countries involved with the clear statement that these listings are not complete, but serve as a baseline starting point for any research project involving making an overseas connection. Here are some of the basic resources:

### **Ireland**

- Census: 1901 and 1911 complete
- [census.nationalarchives.ie](http://census.nationalarchives.ie) - free
- Birth, Marriage, Death
- [rootsireland.ie](http://rootsireland.ie) – subscription
- [irishgenealogy.ie](http://irishgenealogy.ie) – free

### **Scotland**

- Census: 1841 – 1911
- Valuation Rolls: 1855 – 1940
- Birth, Marriage, Death: 1855 on
- [scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](http://scotlandsppeople.gov.uk) – free to search records, pay to view images

### **England and Wales**

- Census: 1841 – 1911
- England and Wales Census – [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) – free
- UK Census Collection – [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) – subscription

## **Finding living descendants for testing**

To avoid making this article overly long, I won't detail all the techniques for finding living descendants for targeted DNA testing. Below are some links to online articles describing what is often called "reverse genealogy" to find the individuals with the needed DNA to answer a genealogical question. A google search for "reverse genealogy" will turn up other results as well.

In brief, once a living descendant has been identified through this type of research, you may need to avail yourself of a variety of methods to enable you to make contact. Whitepages.com and other similar search sites may give you an address or phone number. Social media sites, primarily Facebook, may also be a way to contacting them, though I generally recommend writing either a letter or email, if their email address is available, before attempting to contact someone by phone. Calling someone out of the blue may risk arousing suspicion as to your motives for finding them, and could result in a refusal to cooperate. Better to introduce yourself in writing, with the opportunity to explain the reasons why you searched for them and the importance of their participation towards solving a family mystery. Once they've had time to read and consider your written message, a follow-up call would be less risky as they already know who you are and why you're calling. Of course, if they respond in writing, that's as good as a phone call if the end result is agreeing to test.

Here are blog posts about reverse genealogy:

<https://www.theoccasionalgenealogist.com/2017/01/whats-opposite-of-genealogy.html>

<https://www.theoccasionalgenealogist.com/2017/01/more-reverse-genealogy.html>

And here's a link to purchase a CD of a very thorough presentation on reverse genealogy which I found very helpful:

[https://www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product\\_view.php?id=2136](https://www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product_view.php?id=2136)



## Financial help is available

At our last Annual Meeting in 2019, the board voted to transfer \$1,000 from the Life Member Reserve Fund into the Park/e/s DNA Project's General Fund. These funds are to be made available, at the project administrator's discretion, to help subsidize, or pay for entirely, a Y-37 marker test for any qualifying individual belonging to an unrepresented Lineage Key, or to confirm a connection to a represented Lineage Key where documentation does not exist. This would also apply to any member wishing to test an individual from a Park/e/s lineage with known roots in a specific location in one of the countries in the British Isles. Should any member be interested in availing themselves of this resource, simply contact the project administrator to discuss the possibility of accessing this fund.

With the availability of increasingly affordable DNA testing, it remains our goal to genetically identify every Park/e/s lineage out there, and we hope this financial support will encourage those of you who haven't yet had your particular lineage tested to do so in the coming months.☺

## Historian's Corner

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

### What the Historian Does

I thought that this time around I would give you a glimpse of exactly what the Historian does, and how he goes about doing it, using a particular case.

NB: to avoid the gender trap I use a single pronoun strictly as a convenience.

First, let's remember the general caveat of the Society: we are a clearing house of Park/e/s genealogical information, nothing more. We have gathered up a lot of data, have indexed it, and we make it available to our members on an ongoing basis. We do not certify lineages. We do not hold ourselves out to be an organization like, say the Daughters

of the American Revolution (DAR), or perhaps the Founders and Patriots of America (F&PA).

What we provide are additional pieces of information that may or may not be of help to your own research. They are perhaps clues to the truth. Having established the caveat, let's see how this all works.

### Stage 1

When you join the Society, you come through the Registrar, who helps you get affiliated, assigns your PS#, sends you the official Welcome Letter, and then forwards your file to the Digitizer. He has included an additional form (F-3) which acts as a check-off and control document. Early on, I discovered that there are just too many steps that needed to be accomplished to leave it solely to the memory to make sure they were all accomplished.

### Stage 2

The Digitizer in turn creates digital copies of the papers you have submitted, together with any additional documents that the Registrar has created in order to process your membership, which are then distributed to a very small number of the core staff in order to get your membership fully integrated into the structure of the Society. Finally, the Digitizer sends your hard copy file, plus a set of the digitized files to the Historian.

Now you may well ask, since it is all in digital format, why not just discard the hard copy? Believe me, that has been suggested, but I am sort of from the old school and I like having a hard copy file sitting on my desk that reminds me that there is something to be done. I have discovered that it is all too easy for files or documents to get lost when it is only in an electronic format. The next Historian can do whatever he wants, I will continue working with the hard copy documents.

### Stage 3

The very first thing I do upon receipt of the file is to take a quick look at the Lineage Application Form B. Is it a claimed line that I immediately recognize?

*continued on p. 46*

## Historian's Corner

*cont'd from p. 45*

Of the six new members who are listed in this issue of the Newsletter, five of them had claimed lines that were immediately recognizable, either because they were showing a line back to a known immigrant ancestor, or to an individual who I immediately recognized. Two of them were descendants of Roger of West Jersey (LK=K), one is a descendant of Thomas of Virginia (LK=C), and one was a descendant of James and Hannah (Handy/Hendy) Parks, (LK=KY).

The fifth new member started her Form B with a Josiah Park (1709, CT – ??) married to Sarah Benjamin (1797, CT – ??) in 1731 in Preston, CT. Here is where having many years of experience working with all these family genealogies comes in handy. I know that name. It belongs to the Robert-Thomas line (LK=T) and is the Family Group Sheet 05T52. From there I can add in the rest of the line back to Robert Parke who came across the pond in 1630 aboard the Winthrop Fleet.

At this point I compare what they have in their Application with what is found in our Lineage Binder System, and I note in red ink differences, and additional data. At this point it is terribly helpful if the new member has provided us with supporting documentation to help us correct our records too.

Completing the initial processing, I scan the marked-up Form B, and attach it to a welcome email adding comments, questions, and perhaps directions of where to go next. There's more to be done; more on that later.

Mind you, we don't do your genealogy for you. That's not our goal. However, my natural curiosity often leads me on research jaunts to see what other things I can learn about the ancestors. My task is not just a record keeper, but as a co-researcher with you, the member.

I have many times referred to our Lineage Binder System. It is the life blood of the Society and it has grown over the years to now 55

plus big three ring binders. It was started in 1976, by the late David L. Parke, PS#13, who created the Lineage Key system, the Family Group Sheets we use, and set up the membership numbering system. We could not do what we do without it.

The Lineage Binders are all well and good, except there are thousands of Park/e/s surnamed individuals on the group sheets. At one time, a long time ago, I could look at a name and have a general idea in which lineage that person could be found. As lineages multiplied (to well over 300 now), that became less and less a possibility. Enter the GIVENAME Index.

This Index is an Access database listing of all of the Park/e/s surnamed individuals found on the family group sheets in those Lineage Binders. Each entry lists the individual's name, and if known, the year dates of birth, marriage and death, as well as the state or provinces of those events, in addition to the spouse's name, and related information. Surname spelling is ignored; that is just too variable.

The final new member's line goes back to a Samuel William Park (1822, NC – 1899, TX) who married Martha Ann Martin (1841, GA – 1930, TX), 1865, Grimes, TX.

I did not immediately recognize this individual so I turned to the Index and I checked every name on his application, not only his direct line but also and particularly the names of the spouses. They are very helpful in cases of common given names like John, George, and Samuel. In truth, our index lists nearly 600 ancestors by the given name of Samuel.

Unfortunately, I don't find any suitable matches there. It is possible that we have his Samuel William in the Index, but with different data points, such as an absent or different birth date or place, or a different form of the name. Genealogy is sometimes messy in that regard.

Now, we have immigrant lines, individuals who clearly migrated to the colonies from the British Isles. And then we have what we

call “Fragment Lines.” These are individuals who show up someplace, clearly born on this side of the pond, but for whom we have no parental data. At this point, this member’s line is looking to become a new Fragment Line. I could generate group sheets and assign numbering, but first I like to do a little scrounging on the Internet to see what I can find.

If you know where to look on the internet there is an amazing amount of genealogical research materials available. You can find information about these sites on Cyndi’s List ([www.Cyndislist.com/categories/internetgenealogy](http://www.Cyndislist.com/categories/internetgenealogy)). If you haven’t made your acquaintance with this invaluable resource, you should do so now. She lists hundreds of categories of genealogical resources. Nowhere else will you find this kind of information.

In genealogy, we are often told that we need to do “an exhaustive search” of every possible resource, to find every scrap of information that may have a connection to our ancestors. Exhaustive means digging into every site that can possibly yield information. Many sites are free, but also some have paid subscriptions. You can often try them free for a certain number of days (just keep count and be sure to cancel in a timely manner) to see if you think they are worth the price.

My default favorite happens to be the paid site, Ancestry.com. I use it a great deal. The best part of the Ancestry is the sources that individuals have listed with their family tree entries: census returns, pension documents, grave site data. Yes, you should always have a jaundiced eye to any of these data points, but don’t just discard them as wrong. Note them on your research registers, and watch for collaborating evidence. That’s the key to doing good research.

In this case, the first thing I checked was to see if the member happened to have a family tree posted on Ancestry, which appears to be true (I need to verify that it is the right “Craig”). By finding this, I see some of his sources, and I get further names to check against our GIVENAME Index, including the names of any siblings. While I may not have

his specific earliest ancestor in our Index, I just might have one of the siblings.

As I work through the member’s papers, I document what I have found, and pass it on to the member for their consideration. In this way, we try to help each other to get to the truth of our genealogical records.

Now, I mentioned earlier that there is more to be done than just those initial letters and passing of data back to the members. We need to integrate their information into our own records, the Lineage Binders, the GIVENAME Index, and into the administrative files of the Society. That aforementioned Form F-3? That’s what helps us make sure every member is properly incorporated into the Society’s framework. This can take some time. Known lineages can be wrapped up in a couple of days. New Fragment Lines can take a good deal longer, perhaps a week or two (I am not fully retired as yet).

Just know that this is the process that we use for every member. Nor are we ever “finished” with your file. Should we find other members in your line, or find connections to other Lineage Keys, we will be back in touch with you. This is why we do encourage members to stick with the Society. We are never done with your file.

By the way: the line from Samuel William Park has been assigned the Fragment Line lineage key of YN, until such time as we find a further connection for his line. Also it should be noted that yDNA would be extremely helpful, if it has not already been done. That may indeed point to the proper immigrant ancestor.☺

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

The next editorial due date is  
**February 15, 2021**

## Notes from Within the Society in this time of Pandemic

The President writes:

We live in interesting times. Philadelphia went into shelter in place the second week of March and as of this writing, remains in that state. I've had to create a new normal, working remote from home during the work week, shopping less and "off" hours, virtually visiting with friends and families, and in general living a quieter/slower life. After the initial shock of it all I've come to appreciate some aspects of this time, namely having more time to work on my genealogy projects. I've been employing new research techniques learned at the Spring 2019 NERGC conference and trying to document my findings for general family enjoyment. The latter is proving more difficult than I thought. I expect some of you are experiencing similar writer's block, so I am including helpful advice from a blog author I follow in my President's Message. I hope it encourages you to push forward as well.

I am not sure when we will return to normal life and activities, but I take comfort in knowing this will not last forever. I am thinking of you all and looking forward to better days.

The yDNA Administrator writes:

Life here in the New York Catskills has been affected by the pandemic, as it has everywhere. I serve as general manager of our local opera company, and we managed to hold our NYC and local auditions in mid-March, just before businesses began shutting down. Though we went ahead with casting for our productions of "The Pirates of Penzance" and "Rigoletto" (and each had a wonderful cast of talented singers lined up) we, like all other theatrical companies, were forced to cancel our season. Our holiday offering of an operatic version of "The Gift of the Magi" based on the O. Henry short story remains on our schedule for early December, but it appears increasingly likely that may have to be postponed as well.

While dealing with the opera company details, and there remains a fair amount to keep me occupied there, I have nevertheless gained a good bit of free time this summer which would not have been the case once our summer season got underway. I've already made progress on some projects around the house, both inside and out, and look forward to getting even more accomplished before the snow flies at the end of the year, so it's been a case of making lemonade out of lemons, I suppose.

As we write this, restrictions on businesses are gradually being relaxed, but no theatrical productions are likely to occur until sometime in 2021, and possibly not until a proven vaccine or effective medical treatment for the virus is available. So, we hunker down, do what we can and take life one day at a time, as I'm sure is the case for all of you. It is my hope that all our members and their families are well and safe and that this situation soon becomes a memory rather than a daily reality.

The Historian/Executive Director writes:

As I started writing this little blurb, Wisconsin went from a Stay Home – Stay Safe Public Health Emergency Order, issued by the Governor, to having no restrictions whatsoever thanks to the Wisconsin State Supreme Court, except for what local jurisdictions might establish. This has caused a lot of chaos across the state. You can't get a haircut here in Milwaukee, but drive north 2 miles and you can get one in Mequon.

As for Church activities: As an Episcopal/Anglican priest, currently assigned to a parish in West Allis, WI, the Emergency Order shutdown all entertainment venues including Churches. Up to this time I never realized that people looked at churches as just another entertainment venue. What a surprise! Public worship services are not allowed by our Bishop, and that is currently extending through July 1. After that point we have to develop a plan and ask permission to start public services again. That will be fun.

With regard to the activities of the Society: the Stay-Home Order has provided me with more un-distracted time to devote to society affairs than has been the case over the past couple of years. This has allowed me to move ahead with some items that have been stalled. The basement office for the Society is finally getting put back together following the replacement of the lead water lateral. We continue to move ahead with the digitation of the Lineage Catalogue Abstracts, Finally, I have been continuing my efforts to document procedures used within the Society for emergency situations such as the loss of a key Core Staff member.

So that's where things have been and are in Milwaukee. We're both doing fine, seemingly healthy, but who knows? We may be infected and just asymptomatic. Will we ever return to the "normal"? I don't see that happening any time soon. So we bear with it all and make the best of the situation.☺

## In Memoriam

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

**William John Park, PS#337**, past President and CEO of the George W. Park Seed Company, died Sunday July 7, 2019, in Greenwood, SC, at the age of 93.



Born the second son of George Watt and Carol Mary (Barratt) Park on October 17, 1925, he grew up in Greenwood, SC, and matriculated at Clemson University in 1942. The following

year he enlisted in U.S. Navy's V-12 program and commissioned Ensign in midshipman's school at Northwestern University, followed by additional communications training at Harvard. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor for a year prior to his discharge from the Navy, completing his degree at Clemson in 1948.

He married his long time sweetheart, Myrtle Jean Jones, on June 26, 1948 at Greenwood, SC and joined his brother, George Barratt Park (PS#336), in running the Park Seed Company, the family business. In 1964 he sold his interest in the seed company to his brother and started Parkwood Nurseries (now Greenwood Nursery). Following the tragic death of his brother and his brother's wife in a private plane crash in 1967, he returned to the seed company to run it for his brother's four children. During his tenure at the company, it grew to be one of the major mail order horticultural companies in the US.

He was often considered a "Renaissance man" for his wide range of interests and abilities. He built from scratch a four manual electronic organ, later donated to Clemson. He also restored a number of classic automobiles (his favorite being a black Lincoln Continental), and restored an antique player piano that once belonged to his father. He was a carpenter, brickmason, plumber and electrician all rolled into one. After their home burned to the ground in 1960, he served as his own general contractor to rebuild the house, this time out of concrete so that it wouldn't happen again.

William John Park is survived by his wife Jean Jones Park; a son, Dr. William John (Lila) Park, Jr.; a daughter, Barbara Elizabeth "Bess" Park, and a grandson, Dr. Isaac Park. He is also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and the employees of the George W. Park Seed company.

Graveside services were held on July 11, 2019, at the Edgewood Cemetery in Greenwood, SC.

William John Park's ancestry is tied to the line often referred to as John Park, Manor of Maske, (now Adams County, near Gettysburg), Lineage Key JJ. The predecessors of this John are under considerable discussion, and there has been reason to believe that this line may somehow tie into the Arthur lines (LK=A). Nevertheless, William John's line comes through this John Park, born in

*continued on p. 50*

**In memoriam**  
*cont'd from p.49*

1720 in Lancaster Co., PA, who married Rachel Crooks to John, John, John, to George Watt Park, and finally to William John Park.

**Philip Norman Parks, PS#912**, a Lineage-Leader in the society, passed away at his home in Hancock, MI, on September 17, 2019, surrounded by his loving family, having just passed his 87th birthday.



He was born in his family home in Newberry, MI, on September 9, 1932, the son of Philip Grant Hemmingsen and Anna Louise (Holm) Park. Graduating from Newberry High School in June 1951, he attended

Michigan Technological University with a BS in Physics, and later a Master's degree in Nuclear Physics. He also had completed all his work for a doctoral degree except for a dissertation at Kansas State University.

Following his graduation from MTU, he worked for five years at NASA in Cleveland and then returned to MTU to teach physics for the next 35 years. Following retirement, he and his wife enjoyed traveling and visiting family.

Philip was well published in professional journal articles and conducted research for the US military and contributed to the writing of a book that prepared engineers for their professional exam.

Philip was active in the Christian Community all his life, working with the Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship, the Gideon Bible Society, and local churches where ever he was working.

He is survived by this wife, Judith May (Limatainen) Parks, whom he married in Aura, MI on October 22, 1955; two sons, Norman Grant, and Evan Daniel Parks, and a daugh-

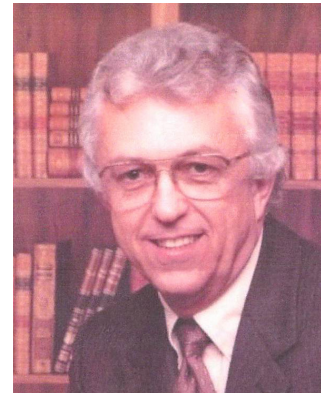
ter, Coleen Kathryn Ulrickson, several grandchildren, other relatives, nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church of Calumet (Michigan) on September 21, 2019, and he was buried at a later date at the Aura Cemetery.

Philip Norman Parks' line is through the Robert Parke, of the Winthrop Fleet that came to Massachusetts in 1630, and through his son Samuel, thence to Robert, Joseph, Robert, Robert, Robert Smith, Edwin Robert, George Frank, to Philip Grant Hemmingsen Parks, to Philip Norman Parks. LK= S.

On Sunday, March 8, 2020, **Gordon Corey**

**Ralls, Jr., PS#500**, long time member of the Society, and sometime Internet Monitor, passed away in Pleasant Hill, CA, at the age of 89 years.



He was born in Martinez, CA, son of Gordon Corey Sr., and Frances Rhoda

(Durham) Ralls. Following his graduation from Alhambra High School in 1949 as the valedictorian, he attended the University of California at Berkeley, receiving a BS in 1954 and an MS in 1955 in Mechanical Engineering.

As a four-year ROTC student at Berkeley, Gordon received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army ordinance Corps. After completing his MS he entered active duty serving two years at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, MD. Following his discharge from active duty he remained in the active Army Reserve for a several years, retiring with the rank of Captain.

Gordon spent his career with both the Shell Chemical and Shell Oil Companies, retiring from the latter in Martinez after 34 years of service in 1988. As a Registered Professional Engineer, he was involved with many grass

roots construction projects for the various Shell companies.

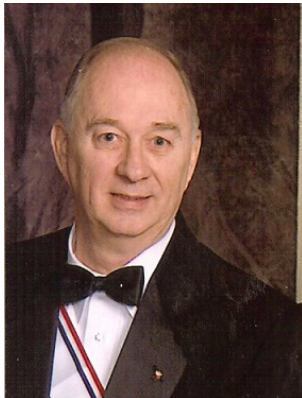
Gordon is survived by his wife of many years, the former Bernice Ann Slater, sons Michael Gordon of San Francisco, and Matthew Francis (Tina) Ralls of Concord, CA; daughters Ann Elizabeth Bradley of Walnut Creek, CA, and Caroline Marie Whitcomb of Eldorado Hills, CA; and step-son Edward D (Lorie) Flyton of Folsom, CA, and a step-daughter Dana A (Duke) Dowell of Martinez, CA, 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, other relatives and many friends and acquaintances.

Services were held on March 13, 2020 at Oakmont Memorial Park, with a private interment later.

Gordon was for many years our eyes and ears on the Internet, watching for items concerning Park/e/s genealogy, following up and redirecting as was appropriate.

Gordon Corey Ralls' line is LK=T, Chart 06, from Robert Parke, who came to the Colonies in 1630 aboard the Winthrop Fleet, to his son Thomas, thence to Thomas, Thomas, Josiah, Amos, Prudence who married Joseph Alvin Corey, to Joseph W. Corey, Joseph Lester Corey, to Carrie Elizabeth Corey who married Richard French Ralls, and finally to Gordon himself

It is with great sadness, that the Society reports the passing of **Robert Leon Park, PS#755L**, of St. Cloud, Florida, a longtime member of the Society, sometime Trustee, and Lineage Leader.



A devout Roman Catholic layman, he died on April 6, 2020 at the age of 79. He was the retired Manager of Logistic Services for Vista-United Telecommunications. Family surrounded him in prayers and spirit as he went to meet his Savior.

He was born on August 28, 1940 in Jersey City, New Jersey to the late Edwin Gager and Alice Elizabeth (Servis) Parke. He spent 39 years in New Jersey before moving to Kissimmee, Florida in 1979, and then to St. Cloud in 1989. He was a faith-filled member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in St. Cloud, serving for a long time as a Eucharistic Minister and assisting in other Church Functions.

Left to cherish his memory is his loving and devoted wife of 53 years, Geraldine Rita (Pavlick) Parke; two daughters, Cheryl Lynn Heineman, PS#831, of St. Cloud, and Tracy Ann (William) Pullen, PS#832, of Magnolia, TX; and one son, David Scott (Alanna K) Parke, PS#833, of Pittsboro, NC. He is also survived by one brother, Edwin G Parke, two sisters, Jean Stewart and Edie Dichiaro, eight grandchildren, as well as many other loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mr. Parke was a member of a great number of organizations including: Knights of Columbus #15357, The Society of the Descendants of the Colonial Clergy, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, The Winthrop Society and the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.

He was a long time member of the Society, first affiliating in 1986; he served as a Trustee of the Society from 1988 to 2017, retiring from that position due to health issues. He also served as the General Lineage Leader of the Robert Parke line of Massachusetts, LK=S, T, and W, with a concentration on the Robert-Thomas line.

Mr. Parke had a total of five different lines of Park/e/s descent, the main one being LK=T, Chart 10, of which he was a 12, generation descendant of the said Robert Parke, through his son Thomas, thence to Robert, Hezekiah, Rev'd. Paul, Hezekiah, Asa, Edwin Albert, Russell Martin, Leon Ray, Edwin Gager to Robert Leon Parke. He also had lines through Robert-Thomas-Martha who married a Wheeler (Chart 3); Robert-Thomas-John-Abigail who married an Avery (Chart 15); another line through Robert-Thomas-John-Dorothy who married another Avery (Chart

*continued on p.52*

**In memoriam**  
*cont'd from p. 51*

15 again); and finally he had a line through Richard Parke (1935, MA, Lineage Key R) through his daughter Isabel who married a Wheeler.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Funeral Mass will be held at a later date.☺

## Concerning Addresses

Some of our members prefer using a business address for a postal or email address as a convenience. This can also be problematic. Should you leave that firm or should the business cease to exist, then our mail, be it snail or email, gets bounced back to us with no idea of a new address. Firms rarely let us know their former employee's new address. So if you're using a business address, we'd appreciate changing to a domestic address or P.O. box. We'd hate to lose track of active members because of this issue.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

### 1690 Marilyn Sue Scanlin

Little Rivers, SC

Lineage is LK=KY, commencing with Alexander<sup>1</sup> Parke of either Scotland or Ireland, b. ca 1709, spouse unknown, thence to his son James<sup>2</sup>, Alexander<sup>3</sup>, David J<sup>4</sup>, James Jackson<sup>5</sup>, David J<sup>6</sup>, James Zolla Sr<sup>7</sup>, James Zolla Jr<sup>8</sup>, to member<sup>9</sup>.

### 1691 Michael David Park

Plano, TX

Lineage is LK=K, commencing with Roger<sup>1</sup> Parke of West Jersey, (1658, England – 1737, WJ) married Ann Patison (1583, England – 1731, WJ) thence to John<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Moses<sup>4</sup>, Moses<sup>5</sup>, John Moore<sup>6</sup>, Andrew Jackson<sup>7</sup>, Robert Lee<sup>8</sup>, Henry Lee<sup>9</sup>, Jack Gordon<sup>10</sup>, to member<sup>11</sup>.

### 1692 John Franklin Parkes

Madison, AL

Lineage is LK=C, commencing with Thomas<sup>1</sup> Parkes of Virginia, (1673, VA – 1761, VA) spouse unknowns) thence to his son Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Ambrose<sup>3</sup>, Allen Waller<sup>4</sup>, Rufus Burton<sup>5</sup>, Rufus Alonzo<sup>6</sup>, Roy Hamilton Sr<sup>7</sup>, Roy Hamilton Jr<sup>8</sup>, Robert Jackson<sup>9</sup>, to member<sup>10</sup>.

### 1693 Gerry Lou Winters

Wichita, KS

Lineage is LK=T, Chart #6, commencing with Robert<sup>1</sup> Parke of Massachusetts, (1580, England – 1665, CT) married Martha Chaplin (1583, England – 1644, England (?)) thence to Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>6</sup>, Joseph<sup>7</sup>, Samuel Chase<sup>8</sup>, Martha Jane<sup>9</sup> Park who married Andrew Jackson Beverlin, to Mary Bell<sup>10</sup> (Beverlin) Upton, Estella Rosa<sup>11</sup> (Upton) Garrison, Mary Jane<sup>12</sup> (Garrison) Rieckenberg, to member<sup>13</sup>.

### 1694 Heather L. Coleman

Irmo, SC

Lineage is LK=K, commencing with Roger<sup>1</sup> Parke of West Jersey, (1658, England – 1737, WJ) married Ann Patison (1583, England – 1731, WJ) thence to John<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Moses<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>5</sup>, Isaac<sup>6</sup>, Comadore Upton<sup>7</sup>, Hugh Littleton<sup>8</sup>, James Carlos<sup>9</sup>, Carolyn Frances (Park) Achenbach<sup>10</sup>, to member<sup>11</sup>.

### 1695 Craig Edward Park

Georgetown, SC

Lineage is a new fragment line, LK=YN, commencing with Samuel William<sup>1</sup> Parks (1822, NC – 1899, TX), married Martha Ann Martin (1841, GA – 1930, TX), At Grimes, TX, 1865. Thence to Jesse Warren Sr.<sup>2</sup>, Jesse Warren Jr<sup>3</sup>, to member<sup>4</sup>. This is a perfect example of where yDNA testing might give us a clue to prior heritage.☺