

The Parke Society Newsletter

Clearinghouse for research on all Park/e/s immigrants from the British Isles.
Promoting Fellowship, Genealogical Research and the Preservation of our Heritage

From the President's Desk

BY SUSAN VAN ALLEN PS#1653



The February 2021 Meeting

Left to Right, top row: Jay Weber, Susan Van Allen, Lane Park, Ken Parks, Gary Parks; second row: Bette Bruce, Susan Park, Patrick Michael Parks, Wilma Handley, Phil Park; third row: Carey Parks, Joanne Rodgers, Marilyn Scanlin, Rick Wood, Anne Jeddelloh; bottom row: Fred Saar, Lisa Schultz, Tad Parks

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Happy 2021! Feels a little like we are living in Bill Murray's movie "Groundhog Day." In trying to beat the blues and patiently wait my turn for the vaccine, I am taking various online classes (from Beginner Tap Dancing [yes, it can be taught online!] and crochet, to art appreciation and current events) and playing as many games of pickleball, tennis and squash as I can manage. These activities

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THE PARKE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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THE PARKE SOCIETY (org. 1963) serves as a clearinghouse for research on all Park/e/s immigrants from the British Isles. Regular membership is open to any descendant. Associate membership is open to any interested person. Inquiries and requests for membership should be directed to the Registrar. Fees are:

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Application Fee | \$ 15 |
| Annual Dues | \$ 30 |

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, SSC, 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, SSC, 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, **Susan Van Allen** PS#1653 at scvanallen01@comcast.net.

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+** 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 materials, whether typed (preferred) or handwritten to

Fr. Michael Tad Parks+
P.O. Box 590
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0590

WEBSITE: Send all suggestions and comments to the webmaster, **Paul Jordan-Smith** at webmaster@parke.org.

From the President's Desk

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have provided me with a great deal of good diversion but I still can't wait to put COVID-19 in my rear view mirror. Here's hoping that happens sooner rather than later.

As I prepare this letter to you, it occurs to me how much the Parke Society has done in the past few months! Thanks to a suggestion made at this year's annual meeting, we are now gathering monthly via Zoom to discuss Parke Genealogy and share in fellowship. We were entertained with traditional Irish music by Carey Parks (who played all the instruments himself!), updated by Tad Parks on the running of our Society, and informed about Southern Park/e/s and the Park/e/s DNA project thanks to Ken Parks. In the next few months, we will talk about the DAR, various genealogical resources, and other topics of interest to the membership. We hope you will join us! To receive the Zoom invitation and/or sending meeting topics, please email me at scvanallen01@comcast.net.

Despite what Punxsutawney Phil said, here's hoping for an early spring!☺

A Wonderful Story of Discovery

by Jacqueline Jean (Beckman) Scott (wife of PS#1022, James Scott)

Around 1992, after my own parents had died, I became interested in doing "Family History." I had collected things from my parents' home, and I also had family history items from my husband's side of the family – it included things from his mother's side—the Parks side. I later found a computer program that was easy to use that a niece of mine had told me about and I put all of our family history on the computer. This has happened over about 10 years and I decided to do a book for each of our families for Christmas. (We had five children from 5 different parental sources—adoption, second marriages, and a child together.)

The child we had together 26 years ago met and later married a wonderful husband. When we met his grandparents, I told them that I was interested in their family history and that I would like them to fill out some forms that I had that would be entered into the computer. His paternal grandfather was very proud of his Plymouth Rock heritage, his Revolutionary and Civil War heritage, and his Salem Witch Trial heritage. He said he would round this all up and send it to me.

He did that and in May of this year a large manila envelope arrived in the mailbox. I glanced at it and realized it would be a project for the summer after school was out.

June came, school was out, and I set down one night to the computer. But then, just as I was about to shut down for the night, I noticed a "Thomas Park and Dorothy Thompson" on his lineage. I thought: "I've seen these names before." I showed it to my husband before we went to bed. The next day, I was quickly into the closet where I keep our family history materials and sure enough, I found the names I was looking for in the privately-printed 1983 book *Descendants of Bo'son Parks, 1744-1829* by Bessie Elizabeth (Hammond) Hope, PS#169.

I printed out the computer information as a family tree and in the upper left-hand corner is Thomas Parke. At the very bottom of the page (about 6 feet long when glued together) is the name of our newest grandson on his dad's side. Beginning again in the upper left hand corner and going across the page and then down the right side is my husband's Mother's side of the family, down to our daughter—and at the bottom of the list is the name of our newest grandson.

Our grandson is his own cousin (about 10-15 generations back) with Parks on both sides. We just couldn't believe it—that our new family are long lost cousins that we didn't even know we had!!!!

Isn't genealogy amazing? When you start digging you never know what you may find. This is enough to keep us digging.☺

Park/e/s Research B.P.S. (Before the Parke Society)

By Ken Parks PS#1406

I'm assuming most of you, as members, know that the Parke Society came into being in 1963 as a family association for descendants of Robert Parke (1580 – 1665), who arrived in America aboard the Winthrop Fleet. In a few short years, the Parke Society expanded its scope, becoming a surname society encompassing all Park, Parke, Parks, or Parkes lineages in North America. In the six decades of its existence, the Society has amassed an impressive database of Park/e/s-named individuals, drawing mainly from the lineage information submitted by its members.

What research did the Parke Society and its members have at their disposal back in 1963? Obviously, the age of online genealogical research was decades in the future, so I thought it would be interesting to take a look at what research was done prior to the Society's founding, how it was done back then, and some of the researchers who published their findings about our Park/e/s forebears.

Frank Sylvester Parks

Probably the first name that comes to mind is that of Frank Sylvester Parks (1861-1937) who grew up in Palmer, Massachusetts and Washington, D. C. In 1894 he went to Boston as an accountant and actuary. He published his first book, *Genealogy of the Parke Families of Connecticut* in 1906, and describes its origin thus:

"This book is the result of a casual visit to the Boston Public Library in September 1899. The compiler, then residing in Boston, noticed upon a shelf in that library a history of his native town, Palmer, Mass., and on looking over its pages, came across his own name, together with that of his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Up to that time he had not known his great-grandfather's name and had never had any curiosity to know it...From that point he started in systematically to discover the name of his great-great-grandfather, and for three

months spent all his evenings poring over genealogies and local town histories, in the Boston Public Library, looking for all items about the family name and taking notes of them.

Having obtained considerable information through this source, it was decided to send out circulars to other members of the family, and, if results would warrant it, publish in book form all the facts that were secured. At that time, however, it was not realized what a stupendous undertaking it would be."

Over the years, Frank Sylvester Parks published several other books on Park/e/s genealogy, and his books are available online at the following site: www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/frank-sylvester-parks.shtml

In his first book, Frank Sylvester Parks mentions a number of earlier Park/e/s histories published prior to his first book:

"As far as known this book is the first successful attempt to publish a list of the Parke and Parks families of Connecticut. It is said that Paul Park wrote a genealogy of Robert Parke's descendants in 1763. Hezekiah Ripley Parke is supposed to have compiled and written out his branch of the family about 1847. Hudson Hovey Parke attempted a genealogy of Robert Parke's family about 1887, but did not live to publish it. Mr. Edwin H. Park published a very good genealogy of his branch of the Robert Parke family in 1902.*

*The History of Windham County, N. H.,** contains a very complete account of the descendants of Alexander Park, who is supposed to have come from Ireland in 1728, and landed in Boston; finally settling in Windham. Bond's History of Watertown, Mass., contains several generations of the descendants of Richard Parke, of Cambridge, Mass., who came from London, in the ship Defence, in 1636. In 1888, Mr. Levi Wesson Park, of Chicago, published a small book: *Family Record of Levi Park, of Bernardston, Mass.* Levi was a descendant of Richard. Rev. C. C. Park published a record of the Peter Park family in 1876*; and W. J. Park, of Covington, Ky., published in 1880, *The Park Family of Washington Co., Pa.**

Dr. C. R. Parke, of Bloomington, Ills., compiled in Ms. a list of the descendants of Arthur Parke, of Pennsylvania, who came from Ireland before 1744. *The History of Rye, N. Y.*, contains a record of some descendants of Roger Park, who is supposed to have come from France before 1699.”

* These books are in the Parke Society Library

Charles Wellman Parks

Rear Admiral Charles Wellman Parks (1863-1930) was another researcher who, like Frank Sylvester Parks, worked in Washington, D. C. for a time, and the two may have met there. He had a distinguished career quite apart from his contributions to his Parks family research.

These two gentlemen worked in Washington, D. C. for a number of years, but it's doubtful they had access to census records for their research. The U.S. Census Bureau was established as a permanent agency within the Department of the Interior in 1902. Prior to that, the work was performed by a temporary office overseen by other agencies, including the Department of State and Department of Interior. The first censuses were conducted by U.S. Marshals and their assistants and replaced by specially-appointed and trained census takers in 1880. An online search failed to turn up the date when census data was first made available to the public, but it was most likely well after the two Parks researchers mentioned above published their findings. They likely relied on local town records, published histories, as well as the aforementioned circular letters sent out to acquire names and dates of various branches of the Park/e/s lineages they researched.

Likewise, other Park/e/s books found in the Parke Society Library published prior to the Society's founding in 1963 were likely compiled using similar sources and methods. Among these are the works of Nell Park Gum, Zella Armstrong and Janie Preston Collup French, Robert L. Park, Owen Biddle, Nathan Grier Parke II, John P. Wallace, Henry William Clark, Edward A. Parks, Leonard A. Morrison, Helen Kuhn Jackson Black, Rev. C. C. Park, and Edwin H. Park.

The more recent past

Those Park/s/s genealogists who began researching in the 1970s would have had access to microfilmed census records, but because of the 72 year restriction on availability to the public, the most recent census available in the 1970s would have been the 1900 census, which was made public in 1972. By the time I began making trips to the National Archives branch in New York City in the early 2000s, the 1930 census, which became available in 2002, began to make information available for my parents' and grandparents' generations.

The amount of information available online began to grow in the early 2000s, with many county message boards, and some dedicated exclusively to a surname, making it possible to connect with others researching their Park/e/s ancestors. Ancestry publishing, founded in 1983, launched Ancestry.com in 1996, paving the way for online family history. They launched the first online census images in 2000, and completed the 1930 census in 2003. In addition to a host of other databases, they became a major force in changing the way genealogical records became available to the wider public.

The LDS church has a long history of micro-filming records of genealogical interest, and for many years those records could only be accessed by visiting a Family History Center, or obtaining microfilmed records on loan, usually to a local library or historical society. More recently, FamilySearch.org, the online face of the church's family history organization, has made a concerted effort to digitize its collections, making more and more of its holdings available, free of charge, on its website. More online genealogical companies have come into being, but these two are arguably the two main players in the field of online genealogical research at present.

While there is definitely still a need for onsite visits to local courthouses and other repositories, the world of online genealogy has transformed the way we now conduct family research. Where once the only people able

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Park/e/s Research B.P.S.

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to actively research their roots by traveling, spending time and money on trips to various locations, were those who either had that freedom later in life when they were retired, or when their family and work obligations permitted travel and time spent in onsite research. Now anyone with a computer can access information anytime of the day or night without leaving home. Adding the relatively new tool of DNA testing in the early 2000s, we can now learn things about our ancestors that those early Park/e/s researchers could hardly imagine! Will our descendants in a generation or two look back and likewise find our research methods limited and quaint? To coin a phrase, "only time will tell."☺

From the Executive Director: Society Business

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

Concerning renewals:

Thank you to all the members who have already sent in their renewals. For once the first mailing of the renewal/information gathering notices went out in conjunction with the #1 issue of the Newsletter in November. The intent was for you to get your renewal/informational mailing around the same time as you were getting the Newsletter. In past years we have not always accomplished that goal. A second reminder mailing will be going out around the same time as your #2 issue goes into the USPS mails.

Do please take note of the contact information shown on the renewal form. It's important for us to know how to get in contact with you. On Email address changes, it is really helpful if you can write out the new address really clearly. There is no rhyme or reason on how we get the email addresses we end up with, which makes it hard to figure out just what you might have intended to write.

Can you help us?

From time to time, we lose track of members. This is particularly noticeable when we do the mailing concerning dues and status each November. It can also happen on the Newsletter mailings. The returned item is marked something to the effect as "Unknown" or "Moved, left no forwarding address." We make attempts to locate them, but sometimes all our efforts are for naught.

Currently we have two Life Members in this classification. Hopefully one of our readers know of these individuals and can be in contact with them. We really hate to lose members in this way.

PS#1246L Lyle Hughbert Parks. Last known address was 548272 3rd Sideroad, RR#1, Ravenna, Ontario, NOH 2E0. His line was LK=T, Chart 13, being Robert-Thomas-Nathaniel-Joseph-James-Cyrenius (6T1378). A while back he had asked to suspend mailings for the time being, but his November mailing came back to us "Moved-Unknown." He would be 70 this year. Perhaps some of our Cyrenius descended members had been in contact with him and can fill us in. I could find no obituary or death notice for him.

PS#1224L Gwenda Faye Harte. Last known address was 24082 Adelaide St. #1062, Park-sley, VA 23421-2934. Her line was LK=VV being John Parks of Accomack County VA who came to the colonies sometime before 1677. Mail is being returned as "Moved, Unable to forward." Attempts to locate her have thus far failed. She would be 72 this year. It's now been two Newsletters and the Renewal notice.

Your assistance in locating these two members will be greatly appreciated.

A message of caution concerning emails

If you haven't been already made aware, you really should take note now. Fraudulent emails are an easy way to create problems for you that can be very difficult to resolve. I know, because I once opened an email that appeared to be from a member, with an attachment. The message spoke about the attached file: Park.exe. Innocently I tried to

open the attachment, and something wasn't quite right. I closed it and telephoned the supposed sender. She hadn't sent me anything in weeks, so it wasn't from her. The attachment was a load bearing file that was dropping all kinds of weird processes onto my computer. I for the most part recovered, but it left some remnants that never could be fully rooted out. What I should have noted was the .exe extension, indicating an executable file. As soon as you clicked on it, it would start to operate and do whatever was hidden in that file.

Lately, there has been a rash of fraudulent emails. They will supposedly be coming from someone who you know, who is in your address book. The current ones ask you to respond back to them as soon as possible and want to ask a favor of you.

They aren't from who you think they are from. It's a scam attempt to get you to buy gift cards on their behalf, saying that they are terribly busy but will reimburse you for them.

If you get an email that has verbiage like the above, delete it and call on your phone (if you have their number) and let them know that this is going out under their name. They will probably be shocked. They should thank you, and they need to go to whoever helps them with technical stuff to figure out what to do. Follow that person's advice. If it is decided that you need to change your email address, do so, but also make sure that any emails you want saved are savable, and let us know your new email address.

For the safety of our members, I always request that any emails sent out on behalf of the Parke Society, whatever their nature, start off with the words: PARKE SOCIETY in the subject line. This will be our and your authentication device. If you get an email that seems to be from one of us without that subject line title, be cautious. Does the subject seem to make sense? Is it from someone who might be expecting something from? Is it pertaining to genealogy?

I learned my lesson the hard way. Foolish me. Sometimes I might send you a self-

extracting zip file of documents, a file that is executable. If I do, I will inform you of that in the body of my message. If in doubt check with me by emailing me at the address you have in YOUR address book (don't do a Reply to) and ask for clarification. I will respond back to you immediately.

This message is for your own safety and peace of mind.

Status report: on digitizing and member files

As mentioned elsewhere, the Society continues to digitize our materials. So far we have digitized all the member applications (Forms A and B) as well as the LDS Ordinance pages. Currently we are in the process of digitizing the 57 Lineage Binders. That task is about 21% completed.

The other task that is somewhat related to the above is the review of member's files, pulling out of them genealogical materials to be inserted with the appropriate family group sheets in the Lineage Binders. We probably should have been doing this from the get-go, but we never thought it through how genealogical documents get lost in members' files. With over 1,700 files this will take some time.

Back office opportunities

Every organization has its back office. While we may be about family genealogy (in the Clearing House mode) we could not continue to function without the able help of key officers. Collecting dues, handing finances, publishing a newsletter, and maintaining our genealogical database are all things that need to happen. The Society could not continue to exist otherwise. Two positions 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. (BTW: as a convenience only, to avoid the gender trap, I use a single pronoun.) Sitting officers have their annual dues waived.

Secretary

The duties of our Secretary, as in most non-profit organizations, are to take and publish

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From the Executive Director

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the minutes of the various Trustee and Corporate Meetings. She also becomes the Proxy Secretary, collecting the Proxies and reporting the sum of them to the various meetings. More especially she acts as the Financial Secretary, receiving all receipts coming to the Society, depositing them and forwarding reports to the Treasurer and the Executive Director.

This position requires attention to detail, timeliness, and some computer skills (emails, spread sheets, and some word processing). While attendance at the annual meetings (currently held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) is not required, it would certainly be beneficial both to the secretarial tasks and the Society. 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 last fall, the former President graciously allowed himself to be elected to the Vice Presidency position for one year, now two years. He was fairly clear that it didn't want it to go for ever.

Other duties of this office would be worked out in concert with the President, Executive Director and the Board of Trustees. Attendance at the Annual Meetings, while not mandatory, would certainly be expected as an understudy. It would be reasonable expectation that the VP would have the ability to use email, and work with a word processor, to be familiar with how spreadsheets and databases work.

As to attendance at Meetings, with the advent of Zoom meetings, that makes things a whole lot easier.

Zoom Town Hall gatherings

These Town Hall gatherings, via Zoom, have been an exciting adventure for us in the Core Staff of the Society. Each month brings us a few more participants who get to see us what we look like. At the January Town Hall, we ran a 7-minute video of the Parke Society head office here in Milwaukee. For the past couple of years it had been in disarray due to being in the basement, and having to have the water lateral replaced, which could only be facilitated by removing the cabinets and counter, as well as breaking through the concrete floor. It is really wonderful to have the space back in working order. One reason that I wanted to do that video was to show people that the Parke Society records don't just occupy a couple of desk drawers in a spare bedroom. Maybe we can post that video on line somewhere so others can see it.

The Zoom Town Hall gatherings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 3 PM EST. So watch your time zone. All members are invited to join in. Drop an Email to Susan Van Allen: scvanallen01@comcast.net. Keep the reply since it is the same every Town Hall.

We look forward to seeing you at the Town Hall.☺

The Park/e/s DNA Surname Project

By Ken Parks PS#1406

A guy can dream, can't he?

I hope more of you will be attending some of our new monthly Town Hall meetings on Zoom. We've been pleased with the response to date, and we're hoping the numbers continue to grow as the word gets out. As this newsletter goes to press, we just finished our fourth online meeting, and this meeting focused on the various Southern Park/e/s lineages. Future meetings will either have a theme topic or be more of an open forum, but all afford an opportunity to meet other Society members, staff and officers, and exchange information, ask questions, and

generally get to know each other better. To join a meeting, held on the second Saturday of every month at 3 pm Eastern time, simply contact Parke Society President Susan Van Allen at the email address found in this and every newsletter.

The reason I mention the online meetings here is that, while preparing for the meeting on Southern Park/e/s lines, I took a quick look at our Given Name Index to get an idea of how many Lineage Keys (LKs) had a connection to the South. To my surprise, there are quite a lot of them, and unfortunately, most of these fragment lines are not represented genetically in our DNA project. I know I've mentioned this in the past, but if you have not utilized DNA testing in your family research, you're missing out on an extremely valuable tool and source of information.

While our surname is far less common than say, Smith, we really have no good idea how many genetically distinct Park/e/s lineages actually exist. That number, whether large or small, is a finite number that could, ideally, be ascertained by having every single LK in our records represented genetically utilizing the Y chromosome test. Based on the knowledge we've acquired to date, we are pretty certain that many of these unrepresented LKs will show a connection to others and once we get a better idea of how many of these large genetic groups exist, the "big picture" of the genetic history of our surname will begin to emerge.

This expanded knowledge will not only be of value to the Parke Society and all Park/e/s researchers, but I feel this large overview of one surname could be of interest to scientists or anthropologists as well. I'm a big fan of trying to extract metadata about our surname, and feel it could contribute in some significant way to a larger field of research. But the key to gaining this "big picture" of our common surname is the greatly expanded use of DNA testing.

Sadly, as a volunteer organization, our staff and our time are both limited, and that is why I continue to appeal to our members whose LKs have not been tested to reach out

to me, as my ability to contact everyone is just not possible at the moment. Of course, if a problem or question arises in the course of dealing with a member's lineage, we may be spurred to find someone to contribute the needed DNA to help answer questions that may occur, but this is a rather hit-or-miss approach and is not likely to get the expanded representation we seek. If you're unsure whether your LK is represented in the DNA project, take a look at the DNA project page on the Parke Society website. Simply scroll down to "Seeking unrepresented Park/e/s lineages" for the current list of LKs in the project.

So, as I said above, a guy can dream, can't he? I dream of having all our Lineage Keys represented genetically, and I'm asking you, our members, to join me in this dream. We can do this!

One more thing

In addition to our monthly Town Hall meetings, I hope to take advantage of our newfound skills, in terms of online meetings, to schedule periodic meetings dedicated to the various genetic groups in our project. These would take a fair amount of preparation on my part, so these meetings are not likely to happen too frequently, but once I'm up to speed on a group we would ideally have as many of the test participants in the group participate as possible, as well as other Society members from the LKs, in addition to staff (Historian and Lineage Leader, if one exists.) We could assess what has been learned to date, whether upgraded tests would be useful, and identify some areas for targeted potential test participants to help answer remaining questions. As I'm able, I'll post dates for these meetings well in advance, here in the newsletter, on our website, and on the Parke Society Facebook page.☺

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

Historian's Corner

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

About Lineage Leaders

We need to revisit the Lineage Leader (LL) proposition again. First articulated by the late David Parke, PS#13L, the idea was that they would assist the Historian in keeping track of the genealogy and family history of specific Lineage Keys. One of the earliest was the Robert-Thomas line (LK=T) handled by the late Robert Leon Parke, PS#755L.

Soon thereafter Cecilia Kasberg (later Parke), PS#535H, started tracking the Roger (LK=K) of West Jersey line and the late Phyllis Kummer, PS#525L, tracking the Thomas (LK=C) of Virginia. Over the years there were others who pitched in and covered more of major lines.

Unfortunately, as the years have rolled on, we lost some of these lineage Leaders to age and death, leaving big gaps in our ability to be on top of things concerning some of these lines.

So what does a Lineage Leader do? Working with the information we provide them, they handle inquiries and other communications with members of their respective lines. They relay new information to me as the Historian, and we encourage them to write up their respective lines for the Newsletter, if they are so minded.

To get them on a good footing, we provide them with everything we have on their line: copies of the appropriate Lineage Binders with all of their family group sheets, copies of all the application forms for all members in their line, the membership database and anything else that might be useful. We refer to them new members in their lines for further assistance (keeping me in the loop by copying me in their communications). They are encouraged to do some independent researching on their line, keeping me posted on their finds. All this lets me concentrate on the smaller lines with perhaps one or two members, instead of being overly concerned with the major lines.

Currently, PS#1331, Susan Avery is the LL for the Roger of West Jersey, (LK=K), picking up from where Cecilia Kasberg left off. PS#861, Lu Terock is the newly appointed LL for the Thomas of Virginia line. PS#1528, Gary Alexander Parks is watching over the Alexander line of the Jerseys (LK=KY) and early New Jersey information in general. PS#1213, Larry Arthur Mitchel is currently handling both the Lt. Richard Parks (LK=Q) and the remaining Richard of Massachusetts line (LK=R).

Where do we need help specifically? Of the various Robert of Massachusetts lines, subdivided into 13 subdivisions called Charts, only two are covered. Neither lineage of Robert's sons—Samuel (LK=S) and William (LK=W)—are currently being monitored, nor is that of the Peter line (LK=P).

Of course, even if the lineage that you are a part of does have a Lineage Leader, they might appreciate having others in that same line working with them.

But Lineage Leaders aren't just for the major lines that I have cited. If you are the only member in your Lineage Key, technically you are the Lineage Leader for that key.

So here's the deal. Would you be interested in helping the Society to fulfill its goal of becoming the best source of information on all the various Park/e/s lines that have come into North America from the British Isles? I have just so many hours in a day, and I have an awful lot of lines to keep track of. I would certainly appreciate any offers of assistance that I can get.

If you are interested, drop me a note either via USPS or email (the addresses are given elsewhere in this Newsletter), and let me know and I will get back to you for further discussion.

Historian's work—the constant review of lineage keys

There are many aspects to what I do as the "Historian" (read "chief genealogist") of the Parke Society.

I process the paperwork for new members, incorporating their materials into the Society systems (Lineage Keys, Indexes, etc.) and work with members on issues on their own lines. I answer various questions put to me by members which can sometimes be quite varied. I am also in the process of digitizing our materials, not so much for safety sake, but to be able to give core staff of the Society access to those materials that are housed here in the Milwaukee Head Office.

But perhaps the most unsung part of my job as “Historian” is to periodically go back and review the various lineage keys in an effort to see if anything new has turned up that might answer the unanswered questions. There is no specific path in doing this. What with over 300 different lineage keys, many of which are immigrant lines, but most are what we title as “Fragment Lines,” if we started with the Single letters and moved through all of the binders, we would never get to those lineages that probably could use the most help.

A case in point is that of the immigrant line of William Parks (1801, England—1878, Iowa), LK=LY, who married Sarah Redfern (1801, England—1872, Iowa) in 1825 in Duffield, Derbyshire, England. For the longest time a tag had been hanging on that particular Lineage Binder saying that LK=LY needed updating into the GIVENAME Index. Because I really hate having tags hanging off of binders I decided that it was time to take care of this little problem.

But first let’s clarify the terms I am using.

For us in the Parke Society:

1. A “line” or “lineage” is a specific group of individuals who descend from a particular person.
2. Some of these “persons” are proven immigrants to this side of the pond, many represent “Fragment Lines,” that is individuals who have shown up at a place and time with no reference to who their ancestors were.
3. Each of these individual lines are assigned a one or two alpha designation

known as a “Lineage Key,” abbreviated LK, which is used to identify all descendants from that founding ancestor. It has been said that this is the most ingenious thing that the Society has ever done, and frankly we have to give thanks to David L Parke, PS#13, (deceased) who came up with this system to keep all of the similarly named individuals from getting confused.

As all too often in the Society, the LK=LY Lineage had not really been looked at in years. This was the line for Homer Lloyd Parks, PS#328D. His wife carried on his work following his death. She is also now deceased. As is not unusual, no one in the family has shown an interest in keeping up with the family genealogy. Nor has anyone else shown up connected to this line. So in many ways the line has stagnated. But it is still important for us to document the line as well as we can for future reference.

The interesting thing about this line is that exploring it has given us examples of bad genealogical assumptions, and also dealing with the issue of a NPE (non-parental events).

So let’s start at the beginning.

When I start reviewing a Lineage Key, I pull whatever information that I might have, member’s files connected with that line, whatever. I also start to scrounge on the Internet to see what can be found.

Now I will admit that one of my favorite hangout is Ancestry.com. Yes, it is a paid site, but what you can get there is absolutely amazing. Do I accept everything I might see there as absolute truth? Heavens, No! Much of the materials found there has been submitted by family/amateur genealogist who might not be really following the “Generally Accepted Genealogical Standards” (GAGS). [That’s a play on my other field of interest as a CPA, “GAAS,” Generally Accepted Accounting Standards.]

So, no, I evaluate what I see, and test for reasonableness and practicality.

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Historian's Corner

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But we also need to remember just what is the Parke Society about anyway? We are not like the DAR or such similar organizations. We hold ourselves out as a "Clearing House of Park/e/s data," and to the best of my knowledge we are the largest such organization in the US (or even perhaps the world).

Homer's line is interesting because it is a conjunction of two separate lines. The first one is from Roger of West Jersey (LK=K) coming down nine generations (Roger-Roger-William-Zebulon....). Homer's mother was Minnie Irene Grace (08K11595) Park.

Now Homer would probably have ended up with some other surname, except that Minnie married a Harold John (04LY83) Parks, a completely different blood line.

This was traced back to a William (01LY1) Parks, who arrived in New York City from Liverpool, on 12 June 1849 from England. He was born February 8, 1801 in Derby, Derbyshire, England and married Sarah Redfern, the daughter of Henry and Kenturah (Stover) Redfern on May 27, 1825. All their children were born in England.

We find William and his family on a ship's passenger list as William and his wife, Sarah, both aged 47, and a Thomas, 23; Alfred, 20; Sarah, 19, Sarah, 17, and William, 10. The question that has nagged us for years is why are their two children named Sarah, being just two years apart. In the 1850 US Census for Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin, William is listed with his wife Sarah and children, Thos, Alfred, Sarah, and a S P Parks, but no William. Subsequent censuses are consistent, including the Wisconsin Census of 1855. While there are reported differences in the birthdates, we have adopted, until better evidence is found, to use the reported ages in the passenger list.

All reports say that while his son Thomas married Catherine Morgan, there was no

known issue. Whether there were still-borns, or children dying in infancy, we have no record. Nothing more is known about the son William. Some think he may have returned to England, but the vital information doesn't match. We are doubtful. Perhaps William died before the census on July 15, 1850.

(We will explore the two Sarahs another time, as that is beyond the scope of this present piece.)

It is with J. Alfred (02LY2) Parks, born November 21, 1828 in Derbyshire, England, where we find an interesting situation. Alfred married Sarah Simms in 1849. The 1860 Census gives his age as 31, with seven children born from 1851 to 1853 (five of whom survived to adulthood). Alfred died in 1864 leaving Sarah a widow with five young children.

She then married Alfred Slack (1828, England—1882, IA) and had two more children, properly surnamed as Slack. But that marriage failed in 1871, and she divorced Alfred Slack. Sarah (Sims) (Parks) Slack then took back her previous married name of Parks, and raised the two Slack children with the surname of Parks. Whether they were officially adopted by Sarah is unknown. In a way, I sort of doubt it. Such things just happened out there on the frontier.

In the 1860 US Census, where the surname was interpreted as "Karks," you find Alfred Parks (Karks), wife Sarah, children Millie, EL, MW (census takers took whatever name they were told, so you have to do a little interpretation yourself). Curiously there was also listed in that household an Alfred Slack (interpreted as Sluck), age 31, from England, and a Put Connell, age 25, from Ireland as farm laborers. In the 1870 US Census, the entry is for Alfred Slack, wife Sarah, and children William T, 18; Arnett L, 14; Minnie A, 11; James A, 10; and John F, 8, Parks together with a Sarah Slack, age 3. Then, in the 1880 US Census, we find Sarah Simms under the surname of Parks, with children Francis J, 19; John, 17; Eliza, 14, and Henry, 12; all surnamed Parks. The last two were actu-

ally children by Slack and should have been listed with that surname.

Here is where it gets interesting. The above Henry Oscar Parks was actually a Slack. He did not carry the yDNA of the William (01LY1) Parks, but that of Alfred Slack. As for Alfred Slack, we know of his parents in Nottinghamshire, England, but little more. After his divorce from Sarah Simms, he remarried a Levonia Morse in in 1880 in Iowa, and eventually died there. Henry Oscar (03LY19) [Slack] Parks subsequently married a Bertha May Ogan, who had Harold John (04LY83) Parks, the father of our Homer Lloyd Parks, PS#0328.

So is Homer a Parks? Yes, from his mother's side. But from his father's side his yDNA would be Slack. Nevertheless, he carries the Parks name surname as does his children.

So, here are the takeaways.

1. What you may find in the Census records may not always be the full story.
2. Be wary of how names are interpreted in indexes. Look for yourself. Can you see where it might be something other than what the indexer thought was written by the enumerator?
3. Remember, Census enumerators were not being paid to be necessarily accurate, but to come up with the number of people residing in their district. Hence, they didn't usually ask a lot of questions. What the head of the household, or whoever answered the enumerator's questions stated, was what was recorded. There were not making official vital records.

This was fun, now to go back and make sure it's all recorded in our indexes properly.☺

The next editorial due date is
June 1, 2021

In memoriam

Parke Society membership is located all over the United States and Canada, and as such it is not always easy to keep track of our members. Unfortunately members just sort of drop away: they don't renew. We might hear that there are health or finance issues, or that they have just lost interest in genealogy altogether. Sometimes we hear nothing at all, and our correspondence goes unanswered. Later, one way or another, we learn of the member's death. This may be some years later. Nevertheless, we still think it is good for the Society membership to know of these passings, and so we list those here as they come to our attention.

Jeane Helen (Schwalm) Fitch, PS#1177L, 92, a long time Life Member of the Society, passed away on Friday morning, April 24, 2020.

Born November 6, 1927 and raised in Boston, she was one of five children of William Edward Walter and Helen Miller (Helmsdorff) Schwalm. She married Hilbert Elwood Fitch on June 10, 1950 and was employed for many years as a secretary in various school environments in the Burlington, MA area.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 70 years, Hilbert, and sons David Allen (Janet) Fitch, and Warren Frederick (Laurie) Fitch, a sister, Geraldine Knapp, and brothers William and Charles Fitch, six grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Her certain genealogical lineage starts with James¹ Park (1784, PA – 1857, PA) who married in 1809 Jane Watson (1795, PA – 1863, PA) to William Matthew² Park, Frances Elizabeth Tillbrook³ (Park) Schwalm to William Edward Walter⁴ Schwalm, Fragment LK=IU.

There is good evidence that this line may be related to LK=XW being the offspring of James Park and Fanny Kerr. While it is still in dispute, it is believed that this James Park is part of the larger, and immigrant line of Arthur Park, LK=A.

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In memoriam
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James Warren Scott, PS#1022L, 80, passed away on the November 7, 2020, in Woodlands, California, after a brief battle with bladder cancer.

Jim Scott was born the second child and only son of Aaron Wilson and Blanche Lydia (Parks) Scott on the April 29, 1940 in Fallbrook, California. In 1945, the family had moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon where his father was working on the Dorena Dam, and to do some farming. Unfortunately, his father was killed in a tractor accident in April, 1950. After graduating from high school and getting a BS degree from Chico State College in Agriculture, he joined the Peace Corps and served in Nepal with his first wife Frances Ann Conway, whom he married in 1962 in Pomona, California. Following his return, he worked for several organizations, finishing his career with the USDA.

Jim is survived by his wife, Jackie; his five children, Katherine, David, Jaimie, Amy and Amber; his three sons-in-law; 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Arline Bracken (PS#1023) and a step-brother Bill Anthony as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

James Warren Scott was an 11th generation descendant of the Robert¹ Parke who came to the New World aboard the Winthrop Fleet in 1630, through his son Thomas², to Thomas³, Thomas⁴, Josiah⁵, Josiah⁶, Moses⁷, Silas Thomas⁸, David Warren⁹, to Blanche Lydia¹⁰ (Parks) Anthony, (PS#276D), to himself¹¹. Lineage Key T, Chart 6.

Leona Carrie (Mason) Heitsch, PS#0846L, passed from this world on December 30, 2019 in the arms of her daughter, Grace. [While the family states that she died at 8:32 in the evening of the 30th, the official's death certificate gives the official date of death as the 31st: another example of where variations can enter the genealogical picture.]

A pacifist, environmentalist, whole foods enthusiast, she wished that contributions be

sent to the American Friends Service Committee, in lieu of flowers.

Born January 6, 1931, in Pontiac, MI, the daughter of Russell Leonard and Margaret Matilda (Arnold) Mason, she earned a degree in chemistry from the University of Michigan and in 1952 she married Charles Weyand Heitsch in Monterey, California. In 1958, their 4th child, Charles William (known as Chuckie) was born deaf and autistic, which, well before the public schools were required to serve all children with disabilities, determined much of Leona's life. Despite "experts" urging them to institutionalize Chuckie, Charles and Leona struggled to get diagnosis and education. Chuckie did not speak at all until he was 9. Leona wrote the book *Toward Wanting More* as a guide to other parents who found themselves in the same position.

Leona is survived by her remaining children Russell Dawson, Carrie Jane, Grace Margaret and Irene Angela, 7 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles, and son, Chuckie. Her interment in a Wisconsin family plot was followed by a family service.

Leona Carrie (Mason) Heitsch is a 10th generation descendant of Robert¹ Parke of the Winthrop Fleet who came to the colonies in 1630, through his son Samuel² Parke. Thence to Robert³, Benjamin⁴, Amariah⁵, Jemima⁶ (Park) Dolbeer, John⁷ Dolbeer, Jenny Alfretta⁸ (Dolbeer) Arnold, Margaret Matilda⁹ (Arnold) Mason, to herself¹⁰. LK=S, Chart 16.

Larry Clark Parks, MD, PS#243L, 87, passed away on October 29, 2020 at Thousand Oaks, California.

Born March 24 1933, in Fallbrook, California he was the first born of Clark Lemuel and Mabel Annie (Johnson) Parks. He graduated valedictorian at the local high school, was with the Marines during the Korean conflict, then proceeded to Palomar Community College and UCLA, graduating from the UCLA School of Medicine. His internship and residency were served at the USC-LA Co. General Hospital. In 1954 he was married to Sally Jane Love.

Larry was a co-founder of the Lombard Medical Group in Thousand Oakes, California, where he practiced Internal Medicine and Cardiology. He retired from the active practice of medicine in 1997 after 43 years. Besides being an active church member, Larry also served with the Gideons International. Dr. Parks was also a sometime Trustee of the Society.

Dr. Parks is survived by his wife, Sally, his son Keith Alan, and daughters Kathryn Jean, Laurie, and Vickie Ann.

Larry Clark Parks is an 11th generation descendant of the Robert¹ Parke who came to the New World aboard the Winthrop Fleet in 1630, through his son Thomas², Thomas³, Thomas⁴, Josiah⁵, Josiah⁶, Moses⁷, Silas Thomas⁸, David Warren⁹, Clark Lemuel¹⁰ (PS#247), to himself¹¹. LK=T, Chart 6.

Barbara Eleanor (Park) Kinnan, PS#410L, passed away on Monday, July 6th 2020 at her home. She was born May 7th 1930 in Scranton, PA the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Low) Park.

Following her graduation from Penn State in 1952 with a BS in Home Economics, she spent most of her career in the teaching field, both in high schools, and with the PA State University Cooperative Extension Service. She married Richard Warren Kinnan in 1951. Her interests, besides family history and genealogy included Civil Air Patrol, and as a ham radio operator, N3TKW.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 69 years, Richard, daughters, Mary Gay (Michael) Deats, PS#777; Susan Kay (Thomas) Reinsel, PS#1622; Sharon Rae (Irene Rathke), PS#1621; a son, Scott Richard (Wendy) Kinnan, PS#1623; a son-in-law John Fazzari; a sister, Catherine Low (William) Greenham, PS#409; and a niece Laura Jane Greenham, PS#778. A private memorial service will be held at the convenience of the family.

Barbara Eleanor (Park) Kinnan is an 11th generation descendant of the Robert¹ Parke who came to the New World aboard the Winthrop Fleet in 1630, through his son Thom-

as², to Thomas³, Thomas⁴, Josiah⁵, Thomas⁶, James Nesbit⁷, Orrin⁸, Arthur Clinton⁹, Joseph Byron¹⁰ (Spouse to Mary C (Low) Parks, PS#322), to herself¹¹. LK=T, Chart 6.

Lee Ellen (Kinnan) Fazzari, PS#1611L, Daughter of the above referenced Barbara Eleanor (Parks) Kinnan, passed away unexpectedly on May 9, 2018 at her home in Aurora, Illinois at the age of 65. She was born September 23, 1952 in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania. Following her graduation in 1973 from Pennsylvania State University she worked as a Home Economist for the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Cooperative. She married John Anthony Fazzari in 1984.

Lee Ellen is survived by her husband of 34 years; sons Andrew John (Jenna Leigh) and Mark Alexander Fazzari; one grandson; her siblings, Mary Gay (Michael) Deats, PS#777; Susan Kay (Thomas) Reinsel, PS#1622; Sharon Rae (Irene Rathke), PS#1621; and Scott Richard (Wendy) Kinnan, PS#1623; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Lee Ellen (Kinnan) Fazzari is a 12th generation descendant of the Robert¹ Parke who came to the New World aboard the Winthrop Fleet in 1630, through his son Thomas², to Thomas³, Thomas⁴, Josiah⁵, Thomas⁶, James Nesbit⁷, Orrin⁸, Arthur Clinton⁹, Joseph Byron¹⁰ (Spouse to Mary C. (Low) Parks, PS#322), Barbara Eleanor¹¹ (Park) Kinnan to herself¹². LK=T, Chart 6.

James Pierce Shibley, PS#917L, apparently died on March 21, 2020, and apparently in Phoenix, Arizona area. No obituaries have been found for him.

James Pierce Shibley was an 12th generation descendant of the Robert¹ Parke who came to the New World aboard the Winthrop Fleet in 1630, through his son Thomas², to Nathaniel³, Joseph⁴, Smith⁵, David⁶, Elizabeth⁷ (Parks) Shibley, John W⁸ Shibley, John William⁹ Shibley, Arleigh Pierce¹⁰ Shibley, John Enyeart¹¹. Shibley, to himself¹². LK=T, Chart 13.

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In memoriam
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Jeanne Wainwright Park, PS#1344, 86, of Farnham, Virginia, passed away August 24, 2017.

She was born September 16, 1930 in Jacksonville, Florida to Omar Caswell "Pete" and Mabel (Doyle) Wainwright. She was a retired school on the Henrico County School System. In retirement she had taken a great interest in family history and genealogy both for her own line and her husband's Park line.

She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, George Mack Park, two daughters, Meredith (David) Viet and Karen (Billy) Rutledge, four grandchildren, in addition to many nieces, nephews, cousins and numerous friends.

Her husband's Park line starts with a Hugh Alexander¹ Park who married Margaret McDaniel, to his son, Mack Alexander², Marvin Ross³, to himself⁴. This is a fragment line, LK=WP, which by yDNA appears to be related to the Alexander Park line, LK=KY.☞

The next editorial due date is
June 1, 2021

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

1698 Andrew John Park

Fairport, NY

Lineage is LK=T, Chart #7, commencing with Robert¹ Parke of Massachusetts, (1580, England – 1665, CT) married Martha Chaplin (1583, England – 1644, England (?)) thence to Thomas², Thomas³, Eleazer⁴, Simeon⁵, Elijah⁶, Loren⁷, Loren Heath⁸, John Ezra⁹, Morris Lee¹⁰ (PS#171). Park, to John William¹¹, to member¹².

1699 Richard George Wood

Milwaukee, WI

Lineage is LK=T, Chart #6, commencing with Robert¹ Parke of Massachusetts, (1580, England – 1665, CT) married Martha Chaplin (1583, England – 1644, England?) thence to Thomas², Thomas³, Thomas⁴, Josiah⁵, Thomas⁶, James Nesbitt⁷, Ira Ransom⁸, [who married Martha⁹ Park: see below], Edgar Ransom⁹, to Mildred Augusta¹⁰ (Park) Gooch, to Sarah Jean¹¹ (Gooch) Wood, to member¹².

A second line exists, in which second cousins once removed married: from Thomas⁶, to Capt. Daniel⁷, to Reuben⁸, to Martha⁹ Park who then married Ira Ransom⁸ Parke.

1700 Bette Marie Bruce Hillsboro, WI

Lineage is LK=Q, commencing with Lt. Richard³ Parke of Massachusetts, (1667, MA – 1725, MA) who married Elizabeth Billings, thence to his son Joseph⁴, David⁵, Joseph⁶, Floyd⁷, Joshua B.⁸, John Floyd⁹, Margie Wilson¹⁰ (Parks) Boehnlein, to Bette Charlotte¹¹ (Boehnlein) Vittetoe, to member¹².

1701 Catherine J. Clifford

Sandford, FL

Her Lineage is the fragment line LK=DU, commencing with Charles¹ Parks who married Permelia Hull, to his son David Hull², Abraham Johnson³, Cora Elizabeth⁴ (Parks) Enstice, Russell Stevely⁵ Enstice, Gail Patricia⁶ (Enstice) Clifford, to member⁷.☞

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