

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

*Parke
Family*

COLONEL THOMAS PARKE OF PARKE VALE

By Garford F. Williams

June, 1996 marks the two hundredth anniversary of the first settlement in Dimock Township, this county, at the spot which was known for many years as Parke Vale. Thomas Parke then had recently purchased ten thousand acres of land under the Connecticut claim which now comprises a large portion of Dimock and Springville Townships. He paid a dollar an acre in exchange for what he thought was a valid deed to this territory.

Thomas Parke walked from Charlestown, Rhode Island, in June, 1796, to his possession and first spent his time erecting a house of logs for his dwelling; then he commenced to survey and mark out his claim. This became his permanent home in 1802.

In June 1796, his brother, Henry Parke and a black boy, accompanied him and eventually were part of the household of Thomas Parke. They stayed here and worked for at least a year before they returned to Rhode Island for a brief visit. At the death of Thomas Parke, some forty years later, an obituary appeared in a Montrose newspaper. It was probably from the pen of his oldest son, Hon. Benjamin Parke LL.D., then of Harrisburg, Pa., an eminent attorney and elected official in the capitol of this Commonwealth. This obituary gives a detailed account of the life of Thomas Parke in this county. It expresses his unusual abilities and capabilities, his frustrations, disappointments in finding that his Connecticut deed was worthless and there was no way he could recover the purchase price from the Assembly in Connecticut. He allowed no bitterness to poison his attitude and struggled to secure a deed from the Pennsylvania owners. He endured his hardships as a great soldier which he was known to be.

Since this record of Thomas Parke has been out of print for well over one hundred fifty years, it is now deemed very important to reproduce it here at this important anniversary of his settlement in our county.

Obituary of Colonel Thomas Parke

From: *Susquehanna Register & Northern Farmer* under date 8 December 1842, published at Montrose, Pennsylvania

Communicated - DIED At his residence in the township of Dimock, in this county, on the 16th of November, Colonel THOMAS PARKE, in the 76th year of his age.

Colonel THOMAS PARKE was the son of Benjamin Parke of Charlestown, Rhode Island, who having as an officer in the war between France and England, in which the American Colonies took part, and especially at the siege and capture of Louisburg, in 1745, distinguished himself by many acts of bravery and skill, was one of the first to repel the aggressions of that mother country whose battles he had fought. He marched to Boston at the head of a company, and was slain at the memorable "Battle of Bunker's Hill," 17 June 1775, leaving a widow and several small children, of whom the deceased

was the last surviving one.

Colonel Parke was born on the 1st day of September 1767 and, of course, was not eight years old when his father was slain. He, however, distinctly recollected seeing him leave home and march away, with the prayers of his wife and friends for his success and safe return.

In June 1796, Colonel Parke, having become the owner of the Connecticut title to a considerable body of lands in this section of country, emigrated to what is now Susquehanna County, and in August of the same year commenced an improvement upon the farm where he died. --

Being a young man of good education and a practical surveyor he was employed as an agent by several persons who held bodies of land under the same title as his own, and spent much of the first years of his residence here in surveying--dividing the country into townships, and lots for selling to the settlers. Knowing that the territory was covered by the Connecticut charter, and had always been claimed by the Connecticut Company, Colonel Parke, in common with many of the soundest men in the Union, believed that the Connecticut claimants had the best title to the land; and so believing, he firmly adhered to his rights and defended the title both by argument and with his pen, until the legislative and judicial tribunals of last resort had settled the question otherwise. During the pendency of this controversy, he evinced that scrupulous honesty and unswerving integrity which throughout his life characterized all his acts; by refusing to give up the agency of the Connecticut claimants and to accept of the agency on the other side, together with a release for all the lands he claimed; thus making his title indisputable. He thought that in so doing he would show a distrust of the title under which he and others claimed their lands, give his advantage over the others for whom he acted, and thereby injure those who, relying in his integrity, had entrusted their interests to his care, and were not now present to accept a surrender of his agency and act for themselves. --By this decision he lost all the worldly estate he possessed, and was after-wards obliged to purchase upon credit, of his successful opponents, the farm upon which he resided and died.

In 1800, Colonel Parke returned to Rhode Island and married a Miss Champlin, of Newport, and in 1801, brought her to his "log cabin" home in the wilderness, where, instead of being lulled to rest by the murmuring of the waves of the Narragansett, her nightly serenade was the howling of the wolf or the screeching of the solemn owl. Possessing, however, that indomitable pioneer spirit which, from the shores of New England to the Rocky Mountains, has crowded away the wilderness to make room for Cities, Towns, and Villages, they toiled on--gradually the forest disappeared, a comfortable home, a numerous family, with the blessings which make home and family comfortable, smiled around them.

Colonel Parke has out-lived most of those who started the world with him, and has died in a good old age; yet he has left the loved

companion of his youth, his manhood and his old age, and the sharer of this sorrows, with six children behind--his only surviving son, an attorney at law, residing at the Capitol of our State.

Colonel Parke was possessed of far more than ordinary abilities, which, with the advantage of a good education, would in other situations and circumstances of life rendered him a very conspicuous man. His unwavering perseverance, clear discrimination, cool judgement, and above all his unsullied integrity and unbending firmness, would have qualified him for any station in life. He, however, chose the humble and unobtrusive occupation of a new country farmer, to which he devoted his whole time, seldom leaving home unless upon necessary business.

He was a member of the Episcopal Church and ardently attached to her conservative order and government, and the "form of sound words" in which her members worship. He had a clear and comprehensive view of the plan of salvation by faith in the merits of a Crucified Redeemer, and without hesitation or doubt embraced and rested his hopes of a glorious hereafter upon it, as the rock of his salvation. He trusted not to his own feelings or emotions, which may deceive, but relied upon sure promices of a covenant keeping God, which can never fail. He died at peace with his Maker, and leaves to his children the inheritance of a spotless character.

Miss Blackman, while preparing to write her history of our county, interviewed a number of persons who knew Thomas Parke very well, as well as some of the children of Thomas Parke and his wife, Eunice. She added some information (pages 222-229) to the facts given in the above obituary. We will include some of it at this point.

"The first settlers in Dimock Township, Susquehanna County, were Thomas and Henry Parke, who came in 1796. Thomas Parke, usually styled as Colonel Parke, came with his younger brother, Henry, from Charlestown, Rhode Island, June 1796, and commenced a clearing on the Meshoppen Creek, near the southeast corner of what is now Dimock township. They were sons of Benjamin Parke, who was slain at the battle of Bunker Hill (being in command of a company) June 1775, leaving a widow, four sons and two daughters. Thomas and Henry were the younger sons, and under the care of their grandfather, a Puritan clergyman, received a good education. Thomas was a fine mathematician, a good practical surveyor, and an occasional contributor to the newspapers of that day published at Wilkes-Barre by Charles Miner and others.

Thomas Parke had filled several minor offices in his native State, invested his partimony and means in the purchase of the Connecticut title to lands in Pennsylvania, and came here the legal owner, as he supposed, of some 10,000 acres--nearly half of the township of Bidwell--lying on the waters of the Meshoppen, and covering part of what is now Dimock and Springville. He fixed his residence on the farm at Parke Vale where he lived till his death in 1842.

and Richard Parke married 2 January 1634, Sarah Collier, daughter to Isabel Martin and William Collier. Sarah had a daughter, Isabel, born 19 October 1634.

The new Brewster Genealogy states that the Richard Parke in New England married after 1 September 1656, Sarah (Collier) Brewster, widow of Love Brewster (son of Elder William Brewster of the Mayflower). This Sarah Collier was baptized in St. Olave, Southwark, Surrey, England, 30 April 1616 and died at Plymouth, 26 April 1691 in her 76th year. She received from Richard Parke life interest in his estate which was purchased from her, in 1678, by Richard's son, Thomas Parke, for £ 45-0-15. Her release is dated 26 September 1678 and she calls herself of Duxbury, Massachusetts, and relict of Richard Parke of Cambridge. This Sarah Collier was a daughter of William and Jane Collier. No explanation has been given about his marriage to two women of the same surname, or if he had four marriages.

Richard Parke settled at once in Cambridge, in 1635, and purchased a large tract of land near the Charles River, a portion of his holding is now the campus of Harvard University. A division of the town left Richard Parke in Newton, but he petitioned the town to let him remain a member of the church in Cambridge. He was also soon appointed a constable for the area.

Richard Parke was an owner of 722 acres in Cambridge. His large frame house stood until 1800 and it was designated then as being "very ancient" when it was demolished to make room for the new Eliot Church in Newton.

Richard Parke made his will 12 May 1665 and bequeathed to his son, Thomas, all of his houses and lands after the death of his wife, Sarah. Inventory of his estate on 19 August 1665, totaled £ 972. His will mentions two daughters who received a considerable portion of his estate.

11 THOMAS PARKE son of Richard Parke above, was born in England about 1620, and died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 11 August 1690. He was a farmer on land which fronted on the Charles River. This he inherited from his father. He was admitted a freeman in Cambridge, 31 May 1671. He also owned part of a grist mill. He was chosen constable for the town, 12 April 1665, and succeeding his father.

Thomas Parke was married 1 December 1653 to Abigail Dix, daughter of Jane Wilkinson and Edward Dix. She was born 21 May 1637 and lived in Watertown, Massachusetts, with her parents. She died 2 February 1691. Thomas and Abigail Parke had nine children and his estate was divided among them, 12 March 1693.

111 JOHN PARKE son to Abigail Dix and Thomas Parke, was born 6 September 1656 in Cambridge and died there 21 March 1718. He was a distinguished soldier in the Colonial Wars, and was severely wounded at the battle of Northfield, 4 September

1675. A bullet destroyed his elbow joint and the bones in his arm were shattered. His petition to the General Assembly for assistance stated that he was "injured in the fight in which Captain Beers was killed."

John Parke was married 5 April 1694 to Elizabeth Miller of Watertown, Massachusetts, who survived him with six of their nine children. His oldest son was appointed administrator of his estate 12 May 1719.

1V REV. JOSEPH PARKE, son to Elizabeth Miller and John Parke, was born at Newton, Massachusetts, 12 March 1705. He graduated from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1720; and a Master of Arts degree in 1724. He was ordained a Congregational Minister in 1730. He moved to Westerly, Rhode Island, where he was pastor of a newly organized church and a missionary to the Narragansett Indians.

"In 1733, five years before the division of the town of Westerly and a hundred years after the settlement of the Plymouth Colony, the Commissioners of the Government at Boston appointed certain missionaries to the Indians and sent out Rev. Mr. Joseph Parke, a Congregational minister to organize a church of that persuasion or to preach God's Word in its simplicity to the Narragansett tribe of Indians. After laboring nine years unsuccessfully with the Indians, who were forbidden by their chief to have dealings with or listen to preaching from the whites, Rev. Mr. Parke was not without encouragement in his work among the English and Natives. A great revival sprang up and many were added to the church. This caused an inquiry among the Indians and more than a hundred joined the congregation." From *Westerly Settlers*, number nine.

Joseph Parke married 15 June 1732, Abigail Greene, by whom he had nine children. His sons served in the Colonial Wars:

Joseph junior was at Crown Point in 1756 and at the defense of Fort William Henry in 1758.

Benjamin also served with his brothers and was at the Lexington Alarm and killed 17 June 1775 at Bunker Hill.

Thomas was a Crown Point on Lake Champlain in 1756; and at Fort William Henry on Lake George, 1758.

Joseph Parke served in Westerly from 1733 as pastor until his death 1 March 1777, aged 71 years. His widow, Abigail, died there 19 October 1772 in her 69th year. His obituary said of him: "This good, laborious, tried and faithful man died at his home in Westerly in the 72nd year of his age and the 45th year of his successful ministry."

"Rev. Joseph Parke was a self-sacrificing, patriotic and public spirited man. Rev. Mr. Parke organized a Sunday School in connection with his church in Westerly, in 1752, nearly thirty years before the experiment of Robert Raikes in England in 1780. In Westerly, a woman was sick with small pox whom the town authorities had driven out of Westerly, and who was at the point of

starvation. Rev. Mr. Parke took her into his home and kept her there until she was restored to health. Mr. Parke was arrested by town authorities for contempt. He argued his case in court and won. He published his case and a sermon which he preached about it was widely read. He appointed days of fasting and prayer for protection and blessing on those in the Militia and the Colonial Army in general. Three of his sons served at Crown Point and Lake George purely to serve their country. On their return home they lost their chest at sea which contained their clothing and equipment valued at one hundred pounds. The Colony of Rhode Island paid Rev. Parke out of the general treasury that amount for the use of his sons." Excerpts from **Westerly Settlers**.

Rev. Joseph Parke and his wife are buried east of Westerly, in a small cemetery on the road to Charlestown. Their grave-stones have these inscriptions:

"In memory of the Rev. JOSEPH PARKE, who died March 1, 1777 in the 72nd year of his age and the 45th year of his ministry. He was a faithful minister of the Gospel, a great patriot, a kind husband, a tender parent, a great friend to the widow and orphan and fatherless and was an excellent neighbor."

"In memory of Abigail, the wife of the Rev. Joseph Parke, who died October 19th, 1772, in the 68th year of her age, a faithful wife, a tender mother, a kind neighbor, a compassionate and steadfast friend, and an excellent Christian."

Of the nine children of Abigail and Joseph Parke, three sons distinguished themselves in Colonial Wars; two sons, Benjamin and John, were captains in the Revolutionary War; and Anna Parke married Peleg Pendleton, a lieutenant in the Rhode Island Militia during the Revolution.

V CAPTAIN BENJAMIN PARKE, son of Abigail Greene and Rev. Joseph Parke, was born at Westerly, Rhode Island, 1 November 1735. He served in the Colonial Wars and was captain in the Rhode Island Militia during the American Revolution, and was killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill, 17 June 1775. He was visiting his sister, Mrs. Peleg Pendleton, in Stonington, when he heard about the Lexington Alarm and at once rallied his minute men and his neighbors and marched to Boston. He was mortally wounded on the field and died. His sword was carried home to his widow and kept in the family for many years.

Capt. Benjamin Parke was a prominent man during his lifetime, very active in town affairs and a zealous patriot. He was one of the committee who drafted the celebrated resolutions to the freemen of the town of Charlestown, before the Declaration of Independence was written.

Capt. Benjamin Parke was married at Westerly, his reverend father officiating, on 4 December 1757, to Hannah Stanton York. She was a daughter to Hannah Stanton and James York, and she was born in Westerly, 1 June 1739 and died at Charlestown, 2 December 1800.

They had nine children.

The following is from the Rhode Island Colonial Archives and is copied here in full:

Mrs. Hannah S. Parke's Petition for Relief

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation, to be holden at Newport, in said State, May 1782.

The Memorial of HANNAH STANTON PARKE of Charlestown, (widow) Humbly showeth that Captain BENJAMIN PARKE, your Memorialist's late husband, being highly impressed with the justness of the American War, and Zealous at the risk of his life, of rendering his country every service in his power, did, in the beginning of the month of June, 1775, at the expense of about forty pounds lawful money, arm, and otherwise equip himself; and set himself out to join his brethern in the American Army then lying against and blockading the British Army in Boston. That he arrived among our troops some few days before our troops took possession of, and broke ground on Bunker Hill. That in pursuit of his laudable intentions he joined himself with that brave handful of men under the command of the never to be forgotten General Warren, with full purpose, at the risk of his life, to contribute all in his power to defend that important hill. When your Memorialist's husband was in that dreadful action of the 17th of June, where he received two wounds from the enemy in the action of that day, and was, in the retreat of our Army, left to suffer the cruel rage of a merciless enemy. Since which time he has not been heard of, nor found among the living, and your Memorialist having thus suffered in the cause was left a widow with eight small, fatherless children to support, without any consolation but that of his having spilt his blood for his Country's cause. That your Memorialist hath ever since, even beyond her ability, exerted and contributed all in her power to pay taxes to carry on the war, and has of late been obliged to borrow money for that purpose, in so much that the debt she has contracted to discharge her taxes, and support her family, hath increased to a large debt upon her. Wherefore your Memorialist would pray the interposition of your Honors in her favor, and that she may have some just part of the public monies adequate to her late husband's losses in arms and necessaries in the public service: Or that your Honors would otherwise take into consideration her distressed circumstanes, and grant and enact that she may in the future be exempt from all public taxes during the war, or such time as your Honors, in your great wisdom shall think just and reasonable. And your Memorialist as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Dated at Charlestown
this 20th day of April
A.D. 1782

Your Honor's Humble Servant,
H.S. PARKE

A list of the children of Hannah S. York and Capt. Benjamin Parke is now given in some detail as most of them spent considerable time

during their lives in Dimock Township and contributed to its growth.

1. Mary Parke, the oldest child was born in Westerly, Rhode Island, 8 September 1758. She lived in Chalrestown with her mother and taught school there. After her mother's death in 1800, she came to Dimock and taught school until 30 December 1817, in Parke Vale, where she died. She was unmarried. She is buried in the family plot in St. Jude's Cemetery, Springville, Pa. Her ancient gravestone is inscribed: "Mary Parke, died in 1817, aged 60 years."

2. Jonathan Greene Parke born 5 March 1760 in Westerly, and died there 25 March 1761.

3. Joseph Parke was born 13 November 1763 at Charlestown, where he lived until his mother's death, then went to New York City, where he was engaged in business with his brother, Benjamin junior. Joseph adopted the latter's two small children and provided for them all of his life. Joseph died in Harrisburg, Pa., with his nephew and family, before 1840. He was unmarried.

4. Benjamin Parke junior was born 16 September 1765, in Charlestown, R.I. He and his brother, Joseph went to New York City, where Benjamin died 5 August 1807. He is buried in the Trinity Churchyard on Broadway, New York City, at the west end of Trinity Church. He was a vestryman of Trinity Church at his death. His gravestone has been viewed by us and is inscribed: "In memory of Capt. Benjamin Parke, who departed this life, August the 5th 1807, aged 41 years." A lovely enamel miniture portrait has been handed down in his family for generations and has been on exhibition on special occasions.

Benjamin Parke was married, in New York City, about 1800, to Susannah Maria Keens, daughter to Mary and Joseph Keens. Susannah was born 2 December 1776 in New York City, and died there, 17 February 1807, just a little over five months before her husband. She is also buried in Trinity Churchyard beside Benjamin but in the grave of her mother and has no marking. Her mother's stone is marked: "Mary, wife of Joseph Keens, who departed this life, February 17th 1792, aged 48 years, 4 months, and 17 days." Benjamin and Susannah left two very small children: Susannah Maria Parke born in 1802; and Hannah Anne Park born 24 April 1804, both in New York City. The record states "their uncle, Joseph, took charge of them and proved a faithful guardian." Hannah married Samuel Putnam Avery who died 24 July 1832, in Brooklyn, New York, leaving seven children. One daughter was Mary Rebecca Halsey Avery born 10 August 1830 in Brooklyn, where she was married 7 June 1856 to Rev. Dr. Thomas DeWitt Talmadge, who at his death was called "The World's Greatest Preacher." T. DeWitt Talmadge was born in Bound Brook, New Jersey, 7 January 1832 and died in Washington, D.C. 12 April 1902. He was the son of Catharine VanNess and David Talmadge, who had several other sons who distinguished themselves in the Christian Ministry. From his ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Syracuse, New York, his fame as a preacher spread rapidly. soon he was in Philadelphia for a great ministry; then was called to Brooklyn, New York, where a large Tabernacle was built for him. His fame there rivaled that of Henry Ward Beecher who preached in Plymouth Church in Brooklyn.

It was said of Dr. Talmadge that thousands were in attendance at every service he conducted. The first and second tabernacles where he preached were destroyed by fire, and a third was filled to capacity on the 25th anniversary of his call to that church. He travelled all over the world, preached to royalty and in every country. In 1890, he became editor of the magazine **Christian Herald**, and in it each week a sermon of his was printed. He had an Edison dictograph and his voice was on cylinder records. It was estimated at the time that more than twenty-five million people had read his sermons. At that time, the **Herald** had the largest subscription list of any religious publication in circulation. In Washington, he was pastor of the Presbyterian Church called "the church of the presidents." He spoke at President McKinley's funeral, then was carried from the house where he died to his church for the funeral, in the same hearse that carried McKinley. A train on the Pennsylvania Railroad transported him to Brooklyn to his Tabernacle for a second funeral. He is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, beside Mary, his first wife. They had two children: Thomas, who died at 19 years, and Jessie L., who survived her father.

Mary Avery Talmadge was drowned in the Schuylkill River near Philadelphia. They hired a row boat and five family members, totally unacquainted with the river currents and a dam unseen, capsized and Mary disappeared; none of them could swim but clung to the boat until rescued. Jessie was finally grabbed by her straw hat and rescued when very near death. This happened on 7 June 1861. Mary's body was found some days later and buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Hannah Avery, daughter of Benjamin junior, married second, 26 September 1835, John Nicholas Coyne, by whom she had five children. Her son John N. junior was born in New York City, 14 November 1839. He had the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Civil War.

5. Thomas Parke born 1 September 1767 in Charlestown, Rhode Island, married Eunice Champlin, and came to Dimock in 1796.

6. John Parke born 29 August 1769 and was lost at sea. No details available at this time.

7. Hannah Parke born 12 July 1771 in Charlestown. She came to Dimock with her brothers in 1802 and opened a school for children, the first in Dimock Township. Later she went to New York City and opened a "select school" which she taught for a number of years with her sister, Susan. Later they went to Harrisburg and taught. She was unmarried and died in 1830.

8. Henry Parke was born 12 September 1774 in Charlestown and died in New York City, 16 March 1831, aged 56 years. He was unmarried, came to Dimock with his brother. Miss Blackman gives us some information on him. He is buried in the Rutger's Burying Ground.

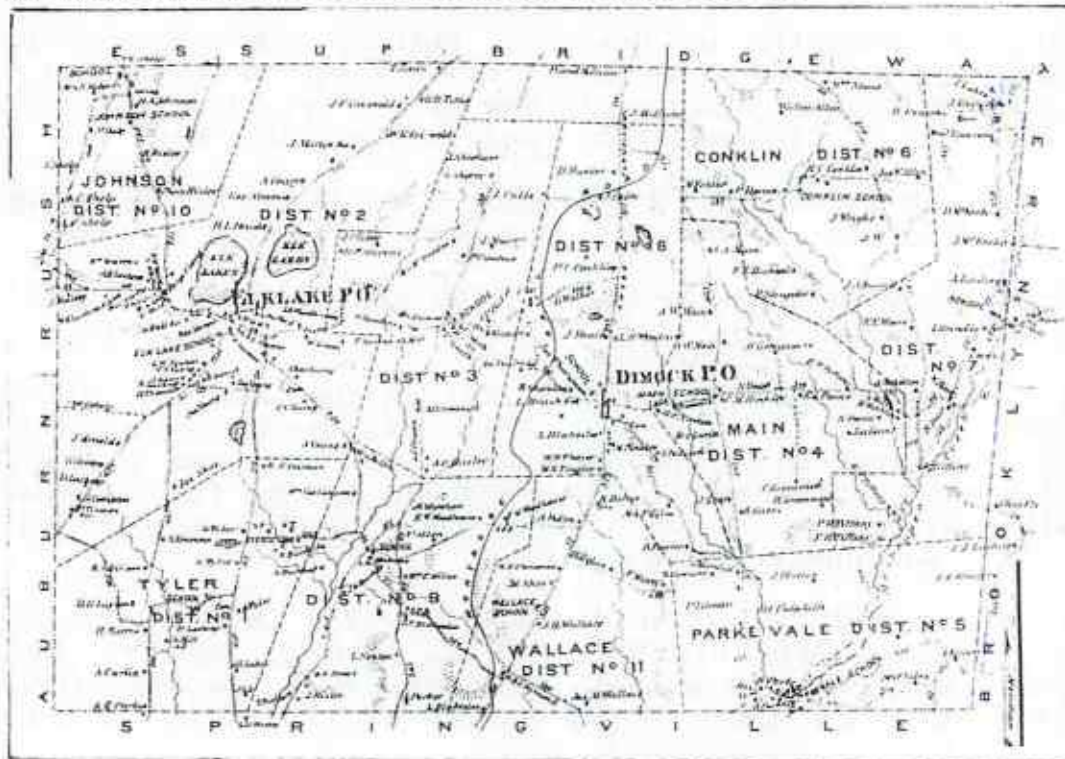
9. Susan Parke born 17 January 1776 in Charlestown, Rhode Island (after her father's death). After her mother's death in 1800, she came to Parke Vale, lived with her brothers and sisters here, taught school, and later went with her sister, Hannah, to New York City, where they taught a select school for several decades. She was unmarried.

Quite a few descendants of Captain Benjamin Parke have joined the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution on this ancestor's service. Applications with the national numbers: 214-453; 251-388; 558-772; and 664-227, confirm the lineage and give ample proof of the same. All of which has been examined by us for this account.

Peleg Pendleton, brother-in-law of Captain Benjamin Parke, served in the Revolution as a private from 6 November to 6 December 1777 in Captain Edward Bliven's detachment from Colonel Joseph Noyes' Regiment of the Rhode Island Militia. On 3 June 1777, he was commissioned Lieutenant of Captain James Babcock's Westerly, Rhode Island, Train of Artillery. He died at Searsport, Maine, 10 July 1810, where he lived after the Revolutionary War.

Our deceased ancestors, now silent and forgotten, admonish us and exert a powerful influence upon us to emulate their virtues, recall their achievements, respect their good name, and preserve the good repute and integrity of our family name.

TO BE CONTINUED.....



Dimock Township map from the Atlas of Susquehanna County, 1872

O.E. Williams, the Forgotten Scranton Aviator

By Nancy Lynn Mess

P.O. Box 202, E.S.S., Binghamton, NY 13904-0202

While researching family history, a picture of "O.E. Williams in his aeroplane" captivated me from the moment my eyes focused upon it. The photo was neatly tucked inside an aviation poem written by Mrs. O.E. Williams along with a Western Union Telegram from a Miss Ruth Law conveying heartfelt sympathies. It could be sensed that something very great had happened as well as a major tragedy.

From my father I learned that O.E. Williams was "Uncle Bert," who had been killed by his own air-plane in Mobile, AL. Very little was known about him. Mrs. O.E. Williams was Inez Blessing of Montrose, class of 1893. Her father, James Blessing, had a windmill business in Montrose during the late 1880s.

Being so intrigued by this find, I began my quest to learn just what had happened. The end result is most astounding, and I would like to share that story today. O.E. was Scranton's first successful aviator and builder who brought a great deal of notoriety to the city with his aircrafts. In 1902, Osbert Edwin Williams moved to Scranton, PA, to accept employment as Chief Engineer of the Laurel Line. O.E. was twenty-six years old and had established himself as an exceptional engineer with a brilliant mind. A young lady by the name of Inez Blessing caught his eye. Inez, degreed in teaching and mathematics, was an electrical instructor at ICS. Soon after, they wed.

O.E. was a member of the Peter Williamson Lodge of Masons as well as the Engineers Society of N.E. PA. He also had two patents to his credit for a "Feed Water Regulator" and a "Regulator for Dampers and the Like."

In 1911 O.E. met Lincoln Beachey and J.A.D. McCurdy in Wilkes-Barre. By the time he met Cal Rodgers during the unexpected landing of the Vin Fiz, he was hopelessly in love with aviation. With financial backing, he purchased a biplane from a local builder. Because the biplane's airworthiness was poor, O.E., with Inez, redesigned and rebuilt until it was a successful aircraft. This became the Williams Model 1. It had a curved rudder design, was single planed, and had a 40 hp Curtiss engine. As with all of O.E.'s airplanes, Inez designed the propeller.

There was a local enterprising real estate agent who had sponsored the erection of a hanger for O.E.'s aircraft with hopes to attract buyers by the unusual interest. The hangar was at Rendel's field in Lincoln Heights section of West Scranton.

While in Scranton, O.E. and Inez developed four biplanes from 1911 through 1914. Equipped with a Curtiss 60 hp V8 engine, the Model 2 was born at their new flying field in Forty Fort, PA. Inez worked on the aircraft during the day until O.E. arrived by train after his work day. They both worked together on the aircraft until day's end. I can only wonder if that field is the airstrip today of the Wyoming Valley Aviation in Forty Fort.

With the Model 2, a great deal of publicity came to Scranton for the various feats accomplished. The earlier flights were conducted by a contract pilot, Elling O. Weeks of Illinois. One of those "firsts" was of how the *Scranton Times* was dropped one by one over the city, and later of how the daily shipment for the *Scranton Truth* was delivered intact to Carbondale. By then, guards were needed to protect them from souvenir hunters.

The Model 3 has unconfirmed, but credible report that it was a two seater tractor biplane, with tandem seating, enclosed fuselage, Farman-type landing gear and a geared down, chain driven propeller using a Curtiss V8 cylinder engine. The Model 4 was a hydro-aeroplane; nothing else is known about this model.

O.E.'s unbridled passion for aviation would not fade. He voluntarily resigned at the Superintendent of the Hampton Power Plant for the D.L. & W. Railroad to devote his efforts toward aviation. He ended his associations as President of the Universal Engineering Co. Inc.; as Secretary of the Alhambra Silk Co. (alias Lackawanna Throwing Co.); and the D.C. Capwell Engineering Co. His business associates in these ventures were Charles A. Conant, Christian C. Schillinger, Otto E. and Edwin H. Heinen, and Attorney Hugh B. Andrews.

O.E. moved his family from Scranton when he accepted a contact offer in Fenton, MI. Al Boshek of Scranton

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For those who recognize the Mess name, my father is William Mess of the Bill Mess Service Garage, and my nephew is Gerry Mess, both of whom have their businesses in Great Bend, PA.

joined O.E. soon after his move to Fenton. O.E.'s popularity grew quickly and within a few months he established a flying school. He incorporated a manufacturing facility, contracted himself and his pilots with the Patterson Aviators, developed the Model 5 equipped with the Williams 125 hp V8 water cooled engine with a VMAX of approximately 90 mph. (More can be learned about this time frame in *The Pioneer Airplane Mails of the United States*, by Thomas J. O'Sullivan, published by the American Air Mail Society, pp. 297-300, 302-308, 310-314, 318-320.)

Late in 1916 he chose to relocate in Mobile, AL, where he again engaged in manufacturing, flight instructions, and exhibition work. O.E. was finishing his last exhibition contract for the season when on October 25, 1917, he knocked at death's door. Inez returned to the area and taught at the Laurel Street School in Susquehanna until her death in February of 1920 at the Scranton Hahnemann Hospital (today's Community Medical Center). She is buried in the McKune Cemetery in Oakland. Perhaps there are others who might have knowledge about Inez (Blessing) Williams, formerly of Montrose. She maintained strong ties with the area throughout her life.

O.E. and Inez had a full life of adventure, mishaps and significant accomplishments. One of O.E.'s most admirable feats regards his experiments with the Model 2 for more accurate airspeed measurement. It is worth noting a November 1912 Aeronautics article, p. 151, describing O.E.'s invention regarding a pilot tube airspeed indicator.

The Williams "U" tube speedometer was attached to the strut on the pilot's left. It consisted of a U-shaped glass tube having a forward extension, partly filled with water colored slightly with red ink. The wind blowing into the extension raised the water level in the opposite side of the tube with travel speed read via a scale placed beside it. Although this concept has changed, a derivative of it can be found in most all aircraft airspeed instruments. When considering any current aircraft flown possesses a mark left by O.E. with its every move, it is indeed a unique aviation accomplishment, a most deserving credit to O.E.

In conducting this research, I found that the September 22, 1912, chance meeting O.E. had with Cal Rodgers in Scranton and again in Great Bend happened because Cal went off course at the Starucca Viaduct in Lanesboro. His ground crew, puzzled as to where he had gone, received permission from the railroad to wait on the viaduct for Cal's return. They placed white fabric painted with a huge red arrow on top of their train hoping to redirect Cal. The downfall to this research was due to a fire that destroyed newspaper records in Susquehanna. Perhaps there is a reader today who has a copy of the Vin Fiz newspaper coverage for Susquehanna, Thompson, or Great Bend areas.

O.E. Williams flying the Williams Model 2 aircraft to deliver the Scranton Truth from Scranton to Carbondale on November 23, 1912. From Nancy Lynn Mess collection.



OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Parke Family

MATERNAL LINES OF CAPTAIN BENJAMIN PARKE
WHO WAS KILLED AT BUNKER HILL, AND WAS FATHER
OF COLONEL THOMAS PARKE OF DIMOCK TOWNSHIP
by Garford F. Williams

(Continued from Vol. 7, No. 1 issue)

DIX Family:

EDWARD DIX of Watertown, Massachusetts, came to New England in the fleet of sailing vessels with Governor Winthrop. He was in Boston where he was the forty-ninth person to join the church there. He was made a freeman on 4 March 1635, and was a selectman.

Edward Dix by his wife, Jane Wilkinson, had the following children:

1. Abigail Dix born 2 May 1637, married 1 December 1653, Thomas Parke of Cambridge.
2. Mary Dix born 2 May 1639, married 5 February 1663, Abraham Brown Jr.
3. John Dix born 4 September 1640, married 7 January 1671, Elizabeth Barnard.
4. Rebecca Dix born 18 February 1642, married 18 February 1668 to Thomas Flagg Jr.
5. Deborah Dix married Richard Barnes.

Edward Dix had a second wife, Susannah, who survived him. He died 9 July 1660. His will was dated 25 June 1660 and his son, John, was executor. Inventory was accepted in December 1660 by Sergeant John Wincoll. Edward Dix embraced the Boston church, 16 January 1635, at the age of 19 years. Jane Willkinson, his wife, embraced the church at the same time and was aged 20 years.

ABIGAIL DIX, daughter of Jane Wilkinson and Edward dix was born in Boston, 2 May 1637 (the Parke Genealogy gives her birth as 21 May 1637). She died in Watertown, 3 February 1691. She was married to Thomas Parke, who was born in England and died in Cambridge, 11 August 1690. They had nine children. Estate settled 12 March 1693, after the death of Abigail. Their son, John Parke, born 6 September 1656 in Cambridge, married Elizabeth Miller.

MILLER Family:

JOSEPH MILLER of Charlestown, Massachusetts, was born in Bishop's Stortford, County of Herts, England, where he was baptized 30 December 1616, son to Agnes and Thomas Miller, and grandson of John Miller junior. Joseph Miller came to New England on the Hopewell, in 1635 and went to Roxbury, and eventually to Cambridge.

Joseph Miller married Mary Pope, only surviving child of Eleanor and Walter Pope of Charlestown. They moved to West Newton, Massachusetts, in 1674, where he died 28 November 1697, and his wife, Mary, died 14 March 1710.

Joseph and Mary Miller had at least six children, their names and dates of birth are recorded in Vol. 3, p. 346 of the Savage



at his home here.

September 30--Ernest Plew confessed to poisoning George Hinkley at Gibson.

October

October 5--Kingsley and Hop Bottom badly damaged in a cloudburst.

October 8--Marion Karell, of Franklin, injured in a fall at barn of her father.

October 8--James Barry, native of Susquehanna, died on his locomotive at Carbondale.

October 8--Will A. Cooley died of heart trouble.

October 22--"Jack" Spence has been retired as a Lackawanna engineer.

Oct. 22--Mrs. Lawrence McCabe died.

October 25--Warren Sterling, of Fairdale, died.

October 27--Mrs. Marie Bensel McKeage died.

November

November 10--Edward Yanchitis, former chief of police in Forest City, is awarded \$500 reward in the Burns Lyon murder case.

November 11--Gardner-Warner Post American Legion, observed Armistice Day with a reception and dance in Community Building.

November 11--John McDonald, formerly of Bridgewater, died in Binghamton.

November 12--John Paletunas, of Scranton, a former state trooper, and his brother, Paul, sentenced to Penitentiary for Hallstead holdup.

November 17--Arthur Titus, of Harford, was hooked in cheek by a cow, and badly injured.

November 18--Fred Tyler's garage and store at Kingsley destroyed by fire.

November 21--Dr. Ralph Niles, of Nicholson, killed in an auto

accident.

November 31--Burt Potter died.

December

December 7--Mrs. George Simpson died.

December 7--Mrs. Alice E. Lewis died at Dimock.

December 10--Ross Carter named president of Agricultural Extension Bureau.

December 11--River bridge at Hallstead opened to traffic.

December 21--Harry M. Gardner, editor Wyoming (Tunkhannock) Democrat, died in Sayre Hospital.

December 29--Mrs. William Kane died.

WANTED,

AT Wilson & Post's store, for which the following prices will be paid,
Saddles of Venison with the skin on, 4 cts.
without skin, 2 cts.

Wild Turkeys, from 62½ cts. to \$1 00

Partridges, 12½ cts.

Quails, 6 do.

Rabbits, 12½.

Dec. 1831.

Cabinet Ware.

Those who are wishing to purchase cabinet ware, can be accommodated on the most reasonable terms and on short notice, by leaving their orders at our store, with the following:

SIDE BOARDS,

SOFAS,

LOCKERS,

SECRETARIES,

BUREAUS,

DRESSING TABLES

WASH-STANDS.

LIGHT, Do.

WASH, Do.

TABLES.

BED-STEADS.

J. and B. R. LYON.

Mantrose, Nov. 1, 1831.

Dictionary. Children included Elizabeth Miller who married John Parke on 5 April 1694. He was son of Abigail Dix and Thomas Parke.

ELIZABETH MILLER, daughter, was born about 1670 in Charlestown and was the 2nd wife of John Parke, whose previous wife and child-were deceased. Elizabeth was the mother of at least 7 children, including Rev. Joseph Parke, born 12 March 1705 at Newton, who married Abigail Greene. Elizabeth (Miller) Parke died after 1719.

WALTER POPE and his wife, Eleanor, came to Charlestown, Massachusetts, from England, about 1630, and bought a house there that same year. they had only one child who lived, Mary, who married Joseph Miller, about 1652. She was born about 1631. It has been suggested that the other children of Eleanor and Walter Pope may have died with small pox in the epidemic which ravished Charlestown in 1632. Walter Pope died before 1639, and in that year Eleanor married Richard Miller, by whom she had two children.

Eleanor (Pope) Miller joined the church in Charlestown, 4 November 1643. Richard Miller died about 1648, as Eleanor married the next year, Henry Harbard of Charlestown. Eleanor deposed, 17 December 1662, that she was about sixty years of age, therefore was born about 1602. She died in Charlestown, 17 November 1667.

Henry Harbard's will was proven 18 December 1677, and an item in it is pertinent: "I give unto all the children of Joseph Miller all the land and ground that I had and did enjoy by my former wife, their grandmother to them and to every one of them to be equally divided, the land which belonged to their grandmother, and not only that land which was sometime their grandmother's but also I give unto Joseph Miller's children the land I purchased of Goodman Killcupp. Henry died in Charlestown, 22 October 1677, and signs his will as Henry Herbert.

GREENE Family:

PERCIVAL GREENE was born in England but his birth date and place of birth have not been located. He was a brother of Bartholomew Greene who preceeded him to New England. Both of them were very young when they died.

Percival Greene is first seen when he embarked from London on the Susan and Ellen in April 1635 for Boston. With him was his wife, Ellen, both aged thirty-two years, and two servants.

Bartholomew Greene was in Cambridge, in 1634, with his wife, Elizabeth, and four children born in England. He died about 1638 and his widow, Elizabeth, died 28 October 1677, aged eighty-eight, after a widowhood of about forty years.

Nothing is known of Ellen, wife of Percival, except that she was born of goodly parents and that her father was imprisoned and taken by force from his home and his family when Ellen was very young. This she declared when she joined the church and is on record in Cambridge.

Percival and Ellen were church members at Cambridge, in 1636. He took the freeman's oath there, 3 March 1635/6 and his name on the record is "Pass Evil" Greene. He built his house on the north side of the common in Cambridge.

Percival Greene died 25 December 1639, aged thirty-six years, which gives him a birth year of 1603. Ellen married second, Thomas Fox, marriage contract dated 24 May 1650. On her tombstone it is stated that she died 27 May 1682, aged eighty-two years; her death was attributed to a fall and a broken hip. In 1691, there was a lawsuit when the children and grandchildren of Percival and Ellen Greene sued Thomas Fox to recover the homestead which Fox promised in the marriage contract should pass to Ellen's children. Thomas Fox died in 1693.

Percival and Ellen had only two children: John Greene born in June 1636 and married Ruth Michelson (also given as Mitchelson); and Elizabeth Greene born in April 1639 and married 4 April 1656 John Hall.

No information exists at present to show us the ancestry of Percival or Ellen Greene in England.

JOHN GREENE only son of Ellen and Percival Greene, was born in June 1636 in Cambridge, and died there 3 March 1690/1. He succeeded his father-in-law as marshall general of the Colony of Massachusetts. He was married 20 October 1656 to Rugh Michelson, daughter to Ruth Bushell and Edward Michelson. She married second Samuel Champney. John Greene and Ruth had fourteen children:

1. John junior born 24 July 1657.
2. Nathaniel born 25 September 1658.
3. Percival born 29 March 1660, baptized 1 April 1660.
4. Ruth born 24 November 1661, married Zechariah Hicks.
5. Samuel born 4 May 1663, baptized 10 May 1663.
6. Elizabeth born 22 April 1665, married Thomas Johnson.
7. Edward born 15 April 1667, died unmarried.
8. Thomas born 7 March 1669, died a youth.
9. Jonathan married Mary Estabrook.
10. Bethia born 20 January 1673, married Joseph Hicks.
11. Joseph born 24 October 1675.
12. Benjamin born 13 August 1677.
13. Mary married Nathaniel Hunting.
14. Michelson born 14 March 1681, died 21 October 1681.

Two of the sons graduated from Harvard College, and were clergymen: Percival graduated in 1680; Joseph in 1695. Both had very distinguished careers.

EDWARD MICHELSON was in Cambridge in 1636, and joined the Artillery Company in 1639. He became marshall-general of the Colony in 1654 at a salary of fifty pounds per year. For a number of years it was his duty to execute Quakers by order of the Colony, though at all times he was in full communion with the church in Cambridge. His name does not appear on any list of freemen of the Colony. He died 7 March 1682, aged seventy-seven years.

Edward Michelson married Ruth Bushell who came to Cambridge in 1635, aged 23 years. She came alone in the ship Abigail. They had five children:

1. Thomas born in September 1637, died soon.
2. Ruth born 9 November 1638, married 20 October 1656, John Greene, son of Ellen and Percival.
3. Bethia born 6 December 1642, married Daniel Weld.
4. Edward born 11 November 1644, graduated from Harvard College in 1665; died on a passenger ship going to England.
5. Elizabeth born 29 August 1646, married first Theodore Atkinson jr. and married second, 15 Nov 1676, Henry Deering.

JONATHAN GREENE, son to Ruth Michelson and John Greene, was born about 1671 at Cambridge, Massachusetts, and died 1 November 1736 at Newton, Massachusetts, aged about 65 years. He was married 30 April 1700 in Concord, Massachusetts, to Mary ESTABROOK, daughter to Mary Mason and Joseph Estabrook. She was born 28 February 1673 in Concord, and died 11 November 1732, in Newton, aged about 59-8-13. They had at least four children:

1. Rebecca Greene born 16 February 1701 in Concord.
2. Mary Greene born 9 February 1703 at Newton.
3. Abilgail Geene born about 1705, married Rev. Joseph Parke.
4. Jonathan Greene junior born 31 May 1707 at Newton; died 29 April 1731 in Newton.

There is an ancient deed for land sale on record in Middlesex County where JONATHAN GREENE gives land to his daughter, ABIGAIL GREENE, which proves her parentage:

"To all people to whom these presents shall come: Greeting! Know ye that I, JONATHAN GREENE of Newton, in the county of Middlesex, within the province of Massachusetts Bay, New England, Gentleman, for diverse good cause and considerations to me thereunto moving but more especially for and in consideration of the sum of thirty-four pounds in bills of credit to me, in hand before the ensealing thereof, well and truly paid by MY DAUGHTER, ABIGAIL GREENE, of said Newton, spinster, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and myself therewith fully satisfied and contented and thereof and of every part and parcel thereof do exonerate, acquit and discharge her, the said ABIGAIL GREENE, her heirs.....and confirm unto her, the said ABIGAIL GREENE..... forever, a certain parcel of land, situate in Lexington in said county, containing by estimation three acres be the same more or less at a place called Hunting Swamps and is bounded northeasterly with Dun Back Meadows; westerly with the seven mile line; northerly...Nathaniel Hancock; and southerly...Joseph Winthrop...To have and to hold the said... premises...to ABIGAIL GREENE. And I, the said JONATHAN GREENE for myself...grant to ABIGAIL GREENE...the said bargained premises.....In witness whereof the said JONATHAN GREENE and also, MARY, MY WIFE (in token of her free and relinquishment of all her rights of dower and power of thirds...) in the premises have hereunto set our hands and seals this second day of August in the fifth year of the reign of his majesty King George

the second, anno DOMINI one thousand and seven hundred and thirty-one.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in presence of John Bennett
and Mary Greene. Middlesex
Ss January 20, 1731

JONATHAN GREENE & seal

MARY GREENE & seal

JONATHAN GREENE the within named, personally appearing, acknowledging the within instrument to be his act and deed before me. Samuel Danforth & Jere Paris, Middlesex, Cambridge, January 20, 1731. Entered and recorded by Frar Foxcroft, Recorder."

The ESTABROOK Family:

Rev. JOSEPH ESTABROOK was born about 1640 at Enfield, Middlesex, England, came to this country in 1660, after he had received a preparatory education for college. Upon arriving in New England, he entered Harvard College from which he graduated in 1664. Three years later, he was ordained as colleague of the Rev. Edward Bulkeley, minister of the church in Concord, Massachusetts. At Bulkeley's death in 1696, he became full pastor and served until his death, 16 September 1711, aged 71 years.

He was married 20 May 1668 at Watertown to MARY MASON, daughter to Esther & Capt. HUGH MASON. She was born 18 December 1640. They had six children: (names and dates of birth given here are from Savage which differ with those in the genealogy).

1. Joseph Estabrook born 6 May 1669, married Millicent Woodhouse.
2. Benjamin Estabrook born 24 September 1671, married Abigail Willard. He graduated from Harvard, 1690, ordained 21 October 1696 as pastor at Lexington.
3. Mary Estabrook born 28 February 1673, married Jonathan Greene, parents of Abigail who married Rev. Joseph Parke.
4. Samuel Estabrook born 7 January 1675, graduated Harvard 1696, ordained 13 January 1712 as first pastor of the church in Canterbury, Connecticut. He married Rebecca Hobart.
5. Daniel Estabrook born 14 February 1677, married Abigail Flint.
6. Ann Estabrook born 30 January 1678, married Joshua Haynes.

Capt. HUGH MASON was born in Maldon, England, about 1605, and died in Watertown, Massachusetts, 10 October 1678. He married Hester Wells in Maldon, 13 January 1632. She was born in Maldon, 21 July 1611 and died in Watertown, 21 May 1692. He was a tanner and they came in the ship Francis from Ipswich, Suffolk County, in 1664, at which time he gave his age as 28 and she gave her age as 22. He was made a freeman, 4 March 1635. They had eight children.

1. Hannah Mason born 23 September 1636, married Joshua Brooks.
2. Elizabeth Mason born 3 September 1638.
3. Ruth Mason died 17 December 1640.
4. Mary Mason born 18 December 1640, married 20 May 1668,
Rev. JOSEPH ESTABROOK.