

GENEALOGY  
OF THE  
PARKE FAMILIES  
OF  
CONNECTICUT;

INCLUDING  
ROBERT PARKE, OF NEW LONDON,  
EDWARD PARKS, OF GUILFORD,  
AND OTHERS.

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ALSO A LIST OF PARKE, PARK, PARKS, ETC., WHO  
FOUGHT IN THE  
REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

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“HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.”

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WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
1906.

### Origin of the Name.

It is not a very difficult matter to trace the origin of our family name. Although we are not so plentiful as the Smiths, Browns, Jones, etc., there are enough of us to conclusively prove that we did not all come from the same ancestor, unless we go back to Adam. He, however, lived in a kind of park, and had he taken a surname in the same manner that our more recent ancestors did, would possibly have been called "Mr. Parke."

An ancient writer on the subject of surnames, Ralph Brooke, York, Herald, in 1594, wrote:

"If a man had three sons, the one dwelling at the Townsend, the other at ye Woods, and the thyrde at the Parke, they all took theyr surnames of theire dwellings and left their annciente surnames; which errorr hath overthrowen and brought into oblyvion manye annciente houses in this realme of England."

The book, "Patronymica Britannica," an authority on English surnames; published at London, 1860; has the following in regard to the sources from which the Park families derive their names:

PARK. From residence near a park. Aunciently, AT-PARK and A-PARK. See however, Peter.

PARKE. 1. May be a derivative of Peter, and intermediate between that and Perkins; or, 2, local; either from one of the places called Parc in Normandy, situated respectively near Dieppe and Bernay, or from residence near some English park, like the De la Parocke of the H. R.

PARKES. May belong to the series, Park, Parkins, Parkinson, &c., from Peter, the Christian name; or may be local, from Parcs, near Pont-l'Eveque, or Parcs, near Alencon, both in Normandy.

PETER. The Christian name, introduced here [England] at the Conquest. It has become the parent of many surnames, as Peter, Peterson, Piers, Pierce, Pearse, Pearce, Pears, Peers, Pierson, Pearson, Peterken, Perkin, Perkins, Purkess and Purkis, Perk, Pyrke, Perks, Perkes, PARK, PARKS, PARKES, Parkin, Parkyu, Parkins, Parkinson, and perhaps Porson and Parsons.

## Coat of Arms.

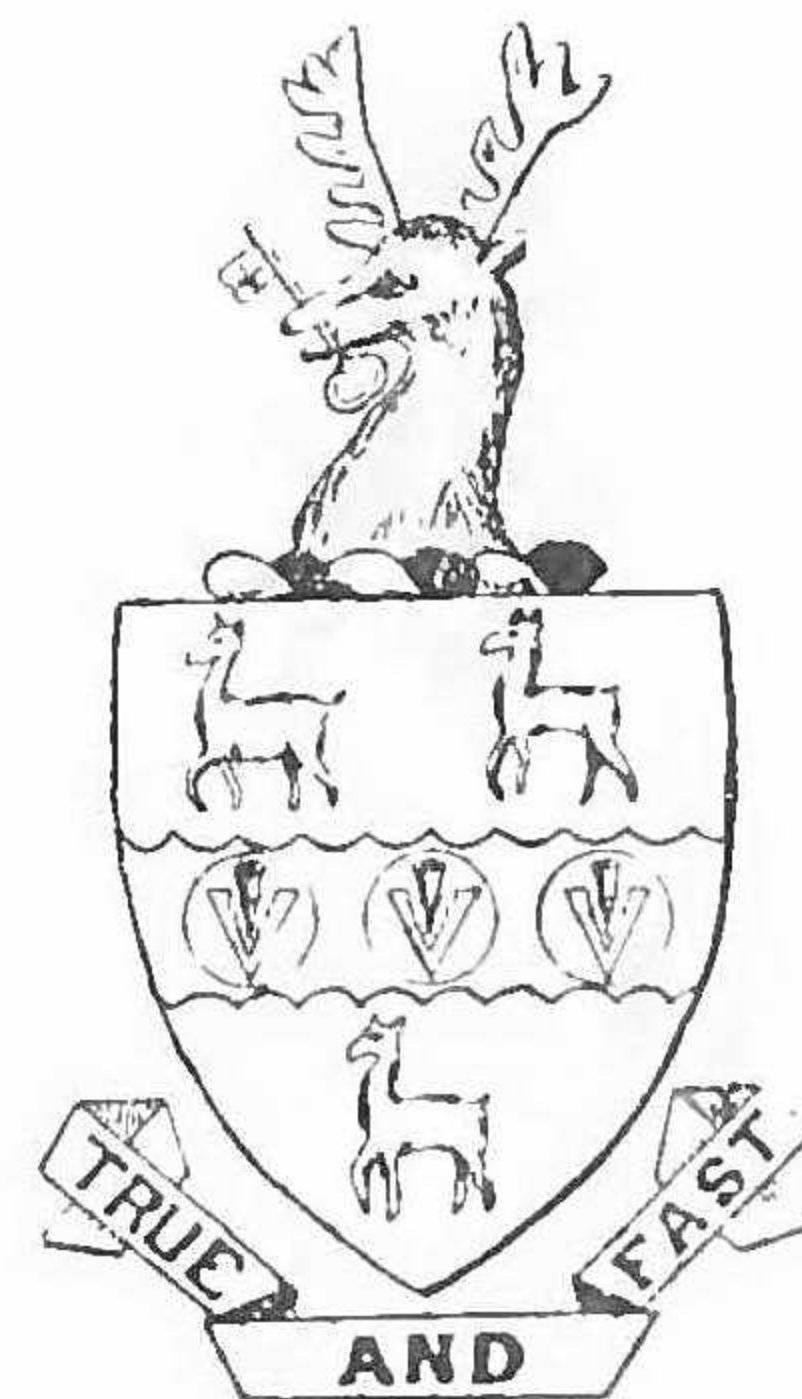
One of the first questions asked by the average seeker for genealogical information in regard to his family is: "Have we a Coat of Arms?" This subject properly comes under the head of Heraldry; but the two subjects, heraldry and genealogy, are so closely interwoven in the older countries, especially those of what were known as the better class, that it is almost impossible to trace the genealogy of a family without having something to say about its armorial bearings.

There have been a number of Parke coats-of-arms granted in England at various times; some of which have been claimed and used by families on this side of the water. All that have been discovered are described here in heraldic terms. The colors used in these descriptions are: Gules, red; Azure, blue; Argent, white or silver; Or, golden; and these are also abbreviated.

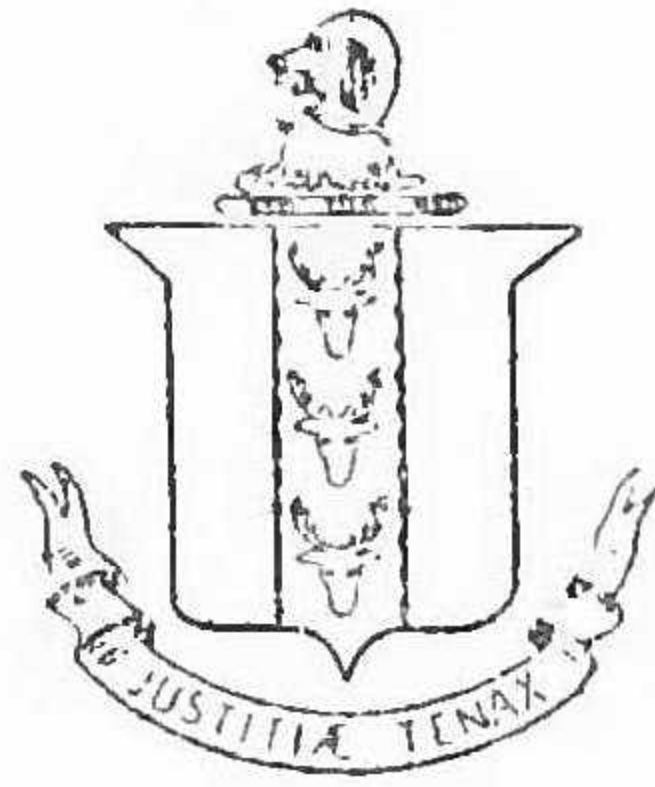
1. Parke of Lower Henbury, co. Dorset. Azure, on a fess engrailed argent, between three hinds trippant or, as many torteaux, each charged with a pheon of the third. Crest: A stag's head coupéd sable, holding in the mouth a key or. Motto: "True and fast."

2. Az. an eagle displayed ar, armed or.

3. Sa. an eagle displayed within a bordure ar.

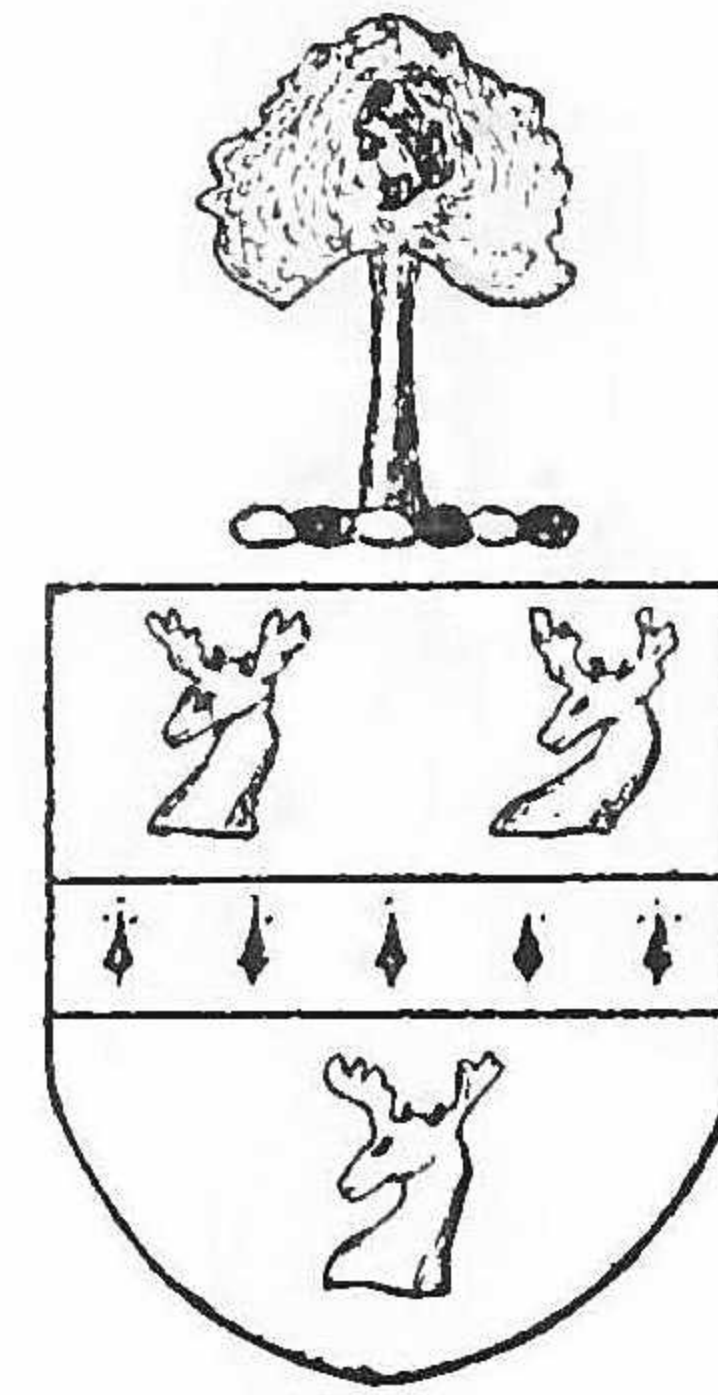


No. 1.



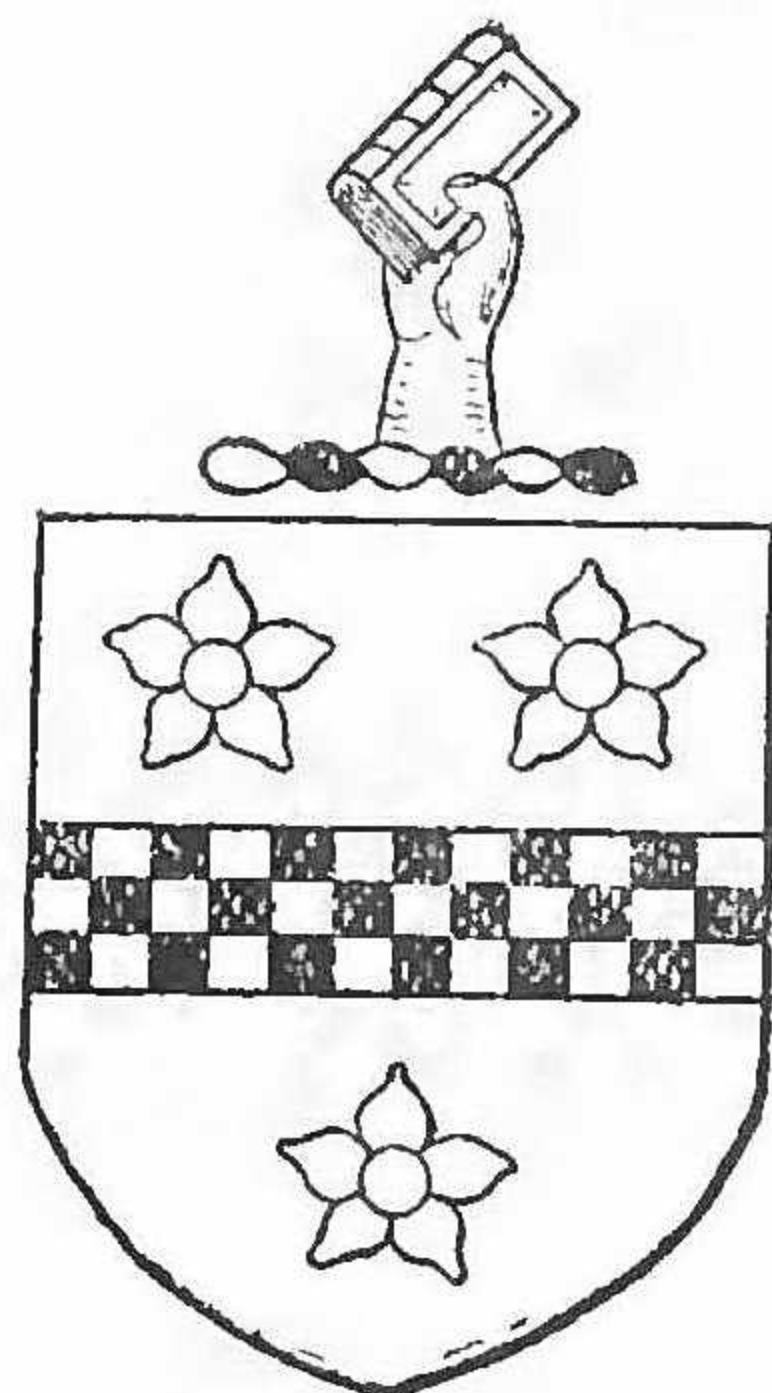
No. 4, 10 and 11. Cambridgeshire, by Sir Wm. Seger, Garter, 1618.

5. Arms of Richard Parkes, of Willingworth, county Stafford, Feb. 4, 1615. "Sable a fess Ermine between three buck's heads, coupéd or. And for his crest on a wreath on his coulors—or and sable, an oak tree flourishing with leaves and acorns thereon, a squirrell all proper." From Hist. of Wednesbury, County Stafford, Eng., 1854; and British Museum Harl. MS. 7025, f 201.



No. 5.

6. "An English crown with two buck deer standing like the lion and the unicorn, with one buck head and neck looking over from the backside."—From a descendant of Robert Parke, residing in Leonardsville, N. Y.



No. 8.

7. Parke, of Gestingthorpe, Eng. Azure, an eagle displayed argent, gutte gules, legged and beaked, or. Crest, an Eagle's head coupee, erminois, about its neck a mural crown, sable, and beaked sable.

8. Scotland, 1672. Az. a fesse, chequy gu. and ar. between 3 frases

of the second. Crest: A dexter hand holding up a shut book ppr. Motto: "Graviter et pie."

9. Mr. Edwin H. Park, of Denver, Colo., in his *Park Genealogy*, published 1902, gave the following as the coat of arms of Robert Parke: "Argent on a pale azure 3 stag's heads caboched of the field. Crest: A talbot's head coupé gu. eared and gorged with a collar gemmel or, and pierced in the breast with a pheon of the last. Motto: "Justitiæ tenax."

10. A descendant of Richard<sup>1</sup> Parke, (Cambridge, Mass., 1636), who resides in Concord, Mass., has a copy of the Parke arms as described by Edwin Park, with the motto: "Providentiæ me committo," which has been in the possession of her family for over a hundred years.

11. The most reliable authority for the use of arms by the descendants of Robert Parke, is contained in a letter written by Mr. Hudson Hovey Parke, of Buffalo, N. Y., in 1887. Following are some extracts from the letter:

BUFFALO, Feby. 20, 1887.

Mr. Charles S. Parke,

Dear Sir,

Your letter of Feb. 17, recd. I am glad to get your line of descent, and I shall be very much pleased to receive the balance of your memorandum.

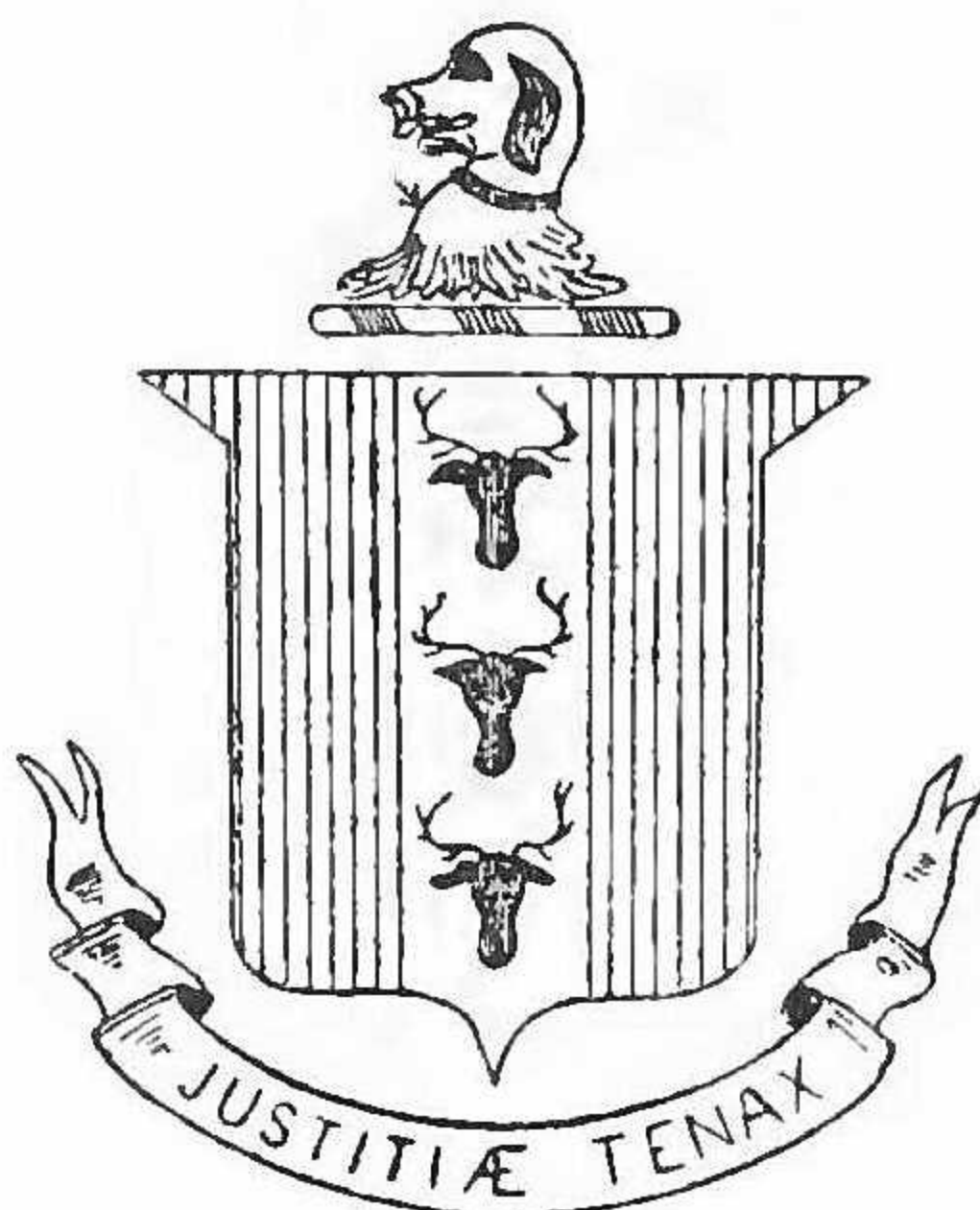
I will give you copies of the entries made by Paul Parke, of Preston, showing when and how the name was first abbreviated by him in his record. The entries are in Revd. Paul's own hand as follows: "(January ye 16th AD 1757) (Benajah Parke a Bro. of this Church) (Gave up to God his Child which he) (desired baptized namely) (Jonah Parke.)" Succeeding this entry comes the following: "(October ye 9th AD 1757) (This Ch. being together: Paul Park) (with his wife Gave up to God there) (young Child which was baptized) (namely: Mollie Brewer.)"

After this entry the name is used by him generally without the final E. The Revd. ancestor did not make very good use of his capital letters, or spell very well, and I first thought, as I sat in his chair, which is in the old house on the home farm, and read his dingy manuscripts, that the dropping of the "e" was an

accident, but when I found he had left it off all sorts of other names, I concluded that the action was prompted by the same spirit that dumped the tea into Boston Harbor.

Now as to the coat of arms; I get that from Lord Wensleydale, the last of the Baronets of the Parke family. Wensleydale was the son of Thomas Parke, of Highfield, near Liverpool, by Ann Preston his wife. He was born March 22, 1782, married April 8, 1817, died Feb. 25, 1868. He left no sons living. This Bart was of our family. His original letter from which I take the arms was written by him to Mr. Hezekiah R. Parke, and is now in the possession of his son, William A. Parke. This letter, of which I have a copy, concludes: "My arms above aluded to are 3 stag's heads caboched gules, or, a field argent, with a stag hound's head for a crest. I mention that supposing you may take an interest in that subject."

I also have a cut of his full arms with the supporters, which are only used by the Peerage; so I do not use them.



The perpendicular shade lines indicate red. The motto in English means: "Maintaining justice." I also have a photograph of a very ancient painting of these arms from Mr. Benj. Parke, of Parkvale.

Yours truly,

HUDSON H. PARKE.

16 West Swan St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Nothing more than is given here has been learned as to the right of the American families to bear and use arms. However, there is no law in the United States upon the subject; anyone can use any coat of arms that he may desire. That illustrated in colors is the one to which the greatest number here is apparently entitled to.

### Some English Parke Families.

A genealogy of the descendants of Robert Parke would be incomplete without some attempt to trace his ancestry in England. Considerable has been written upon the subject and many conjectures have been made as to what part of England he came from, but no authentic information has been discovered. The consensus of opinion seems to have been that he came from "Preston," and probably he did, but as there are several places and parishes called Preston, in England, the question is: From which Preston did he come?

The Rev. Paul Park, of Preston, Conn., who, it has been stated compiled a Parke Genealogy about 1763, said that Robert came from Preston, Lancashire. As the Rev. Paul was one hundred and forty years nearer to the time of which he wrote than we are, and as he probably had some of the original papers that were brought over by Robert, (since destroyed by fire), his statement is entitled to serious consideration. He wrote that: "Robert Parke, Gentleman, was born about 1580, at Preston, Lancashire, England. He married Martha Chaplin, of Edmundsbury, England. They came to Roxbury, June 17, 1630, to Weathersfield in 1640, and to Mystic, Conn., in 1649. He died Feb. 11, (?) 1664, aged eighty-four. His grave is in Whitehall Cemetery, Mystic, Conn. Sir Robert and family sailed from Cowes, Isle of Wight, March 29, 1630. Landed at Boston, Mass., June 17, 1630. Came in a fleet with 1500 or 1900. His son William remained at the homestead

in Roxbury. Thomas came to Preston, Conn., after 1649. Robert Parke, Gentleman, was secretary to Gov. Winthrop during the passage on board the 'Arabella.' Other passengers were Sir Robert Saltonstall, and Lady Arabella Johnson, daughter of the Earl of Lincoln. Thomas Park's children were Thomas, Nathaniel, Robert, William, Martha, Dorothy and Alice, all born in Preston (?), also John. Thomas Parke, born in England about 1620; married his cousin, Dorothy Thompson, who came with her aunt Parke from England in 1630, and came with Sir Robert's family to Roxbury, thence to Weathersfield and to Preston, and later to Mystic."

It is claimed that the above was written by the Rev. Paul Park, under date of Jan. 5, 1763.

All that can be learned from the published records of Lancashire is from "The Register of the Parish Church, of Preston, England," which begins 1602, any previous volume or volumes having disappeared. This book was published in London, 1892:

Page 40. "Roger Chorley was instituted to the Vicarage of Preston, 17 Oct. 1563, on the presentation of Thomas Parkes." (Piccope MSS, XVIII, 173).

Page 94. June 1613, burial. "Relicta Parke vid sepult. decimo tertio Junii."

Page 118. August 1616, burial. "Anna Parke, spinster sep. 10 die Augusti."

Page 154. December 1621. "Robtus Parke et Anna Riley de Preston mariti (b) 3."

Page 166. December 1623, christening. "Bap. Jane daughter of Robert Parke 27 die."

Page 173. August 1625, christening. "Johes filius Robti Parke de Preston bapt. eod. die."

Page 178. July 1625, christening. "Josia [filius Robti Parke bapt. 24 Julii."

Page 189. July 1628, burial. "Robert Parke vintner sept. 21 die."

Page 221. August 1631, burial. "A sonne of Robt. Parke sept. 30 die."

If our Robert came from Lancashire, the above records possibly refer to some of his relatives.

One writer gave the birthplace of Robert Parke as Gestingthorpe, Essex; and the late Stephen Cleveland, of Preston, Conn., left among his papers a statement to that effect, but did not give his authority. This statement probably originated from the fact that there was a Parke family in Gestingthorpe. The following is found in the "History of the County of Essex; compiled by Philip Morant; London, MDCCLXVIII," Vol. II; p. 309. In the parish of Gestingthorpe:

"PARKS is another estate in this parish which derived its name from a family existing here from the time of K. Edward III, to that of King Charles I.

"In 1381, Julian att Parke, and Walter deGeldford, held here, of William de Ufford Earl of Suffolk, the fourth part of a knight's fee called Morhall which is supposed to be this estate.—Robert Parke dyed in 1400. Margaret his wife having outlived him 57 years, dyed 21 August 1457 and both lye buried in this Church with an epitaph.—John his son was returned for a Gentleman of Essex in 1433.—William seems to have been his son, whose son,—John dyed in 1574, leaving by Alice his wife daughter of Richard Strutt of Maplestead,—John, living in 1634. He was so considerable a person, that he was summoned according to ancient custom, to receive the honor of Knighthood, and on his refusal paid a composition fine, for which he had a tally from the exchequer. (On which was the following receipt: 'DeJohne

Parke de Gestingthorpe Aro de Composic' quia non suscepit ordin' militar' Secdm proclamacon' Dni R.... Essex.....' On the other side: 'Pasche x Junii ano RRs Caroli Sexto.') By Margaret, daughter of Nicholas Morton, he had William; and two daughters, Anne married to William Edwards of Toppefield, and Elizabeth, to Henry Meriton of Stanleyhall in Pebmarsh. He died 10 March 1636; possessed of a considerable estate.—William, his son, married Hester daughter of William Strutt of Wickham, St. Pauls, and had by her: William, John, Robert, Hester, Elizabeth and Sarah.—John, second son, an attorney-at-law, sunk the estate in debt; etc. Arms of Parke: Azure, a spread eagle argent, gutte gules, legged and beaked, or. Crest, an Eagle's head coupee, erminois, about its neck a mural crown, sable, and beaked sable." From same history, page 412: "Roger att Parke son to William deParco of St. Osith, resided in Stebbing, Essex Co., in 1293, from whom the name 'Parks' was given to a capital messuage in the parish of Stebbing."

The late Stephen Cleveland, of Norwich, Conn., left among his prpers, the statement that: "Robert, (the third son of William,) came to America. He married Martha, daughter of Capt. Robert Chaplyn, whose wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Anstey, of Bury. Sir Francis Chaplyn, Knight and Mayor of London, in the time of Charles I, was her brother."

"Robert, (the third son of William,)" may have come to America, as Mr. Cleveland wrote, but he could not have been our Robert, as he was only about ten years old in 1630. However, he seems to have had him confused with our Robert when he said that he married Martha Chaplyn. There appears to be but little doubt that it was our Robert who married Martha Chaplyn.

The "History of New London County." published at Philadelphia, 1882, has the following:

"Robert Parke, with his wife and three sons came from England in 1630 and settled at Boston, Mass. He was the first of the name that emigrated to this Country. The genealogy of the Park family has been traced many generations in England to the Earf of Wensleydale, etc."

Robert Parke may have been descended from the same Parke family as was the Earl of Wensleydale, but he could not have been descended from an Earl of that name, for the reason that the title "Earl of Wensleydale," was created many years after he came.

One correspondent in England could not connect Robert Parke in any way with Lancashire, but said: "Parke was a Lincolnshire name. There is a parish of Preston in Suffolk county, not far from St. Edmundsbury, where Robert Parke is supposed to have married his wife Martha Chaplin. Chaplin was a well known family name in Suffolk county in those days."

The following was copied from the "New York Mail and Express," of Jan. 30, 1904, and is given for the benefit of the reader:

"Further light on this question, as well as on the maiden name and family of Robert Parke's first wife Martha, the mother of all his children, is given in Waters' 'Gleanings,' pp. 32, 1010-11. Mr. Waters says that Clement Chaplin's sister Martha is said to have been married to Robert Parker, of Wollpitt, who went into New England," and that Thomas Chaplin and Capt. Robert Chaplin, both of Bury St. Edmunds, Richard Chaplin and Edmund Chaplin, both of Semer, and William Chaplin, of Bloxenhall, were brothers of said Clement and Martha, and that their father was William Chaplin, of Semer.

Wollpitt, Semer, Preston, and Groton are all within a few miles of Bury St. Edmunds, all in the county of Suffolk, England, in the same general region as Lincolnshire, whereas Lancashire is in quite a different part of England. The Preston in Lancashire is a large and prominent town, while the Preston in Suffolk county is small and obscure, which circumstances may account for the mistake, if it was a mistake, of Rev. Paul Parke in saying that Robert Parke came from Preston, Lancashire, England. There was, however, a Parke family in Preston, Lancashire, in the sixteenth

and seventeenth centuries. A careful investigation of the parish registers and similar records in Preston and neighboring localities in Suffolk county, England, would probably settle the question of Robert Parke's birthplace and residence in England, and throw light on his relationship to the pioneers, Richard Parke of Cambridge, Mass.; Joseph Parke, of Salisbury, Mass., and the Park pioneers of Virginia.

It seems practically certain that the Robert Parker mentioned by Mr. Waters was intended to refer to our pioneer Robert Parke, and that Clement Chaplin and Robert Parke were brothers-in-law. Mr. Waters ("Gleanings," p. 32) gives an abstract of the will of Clement Chaplin, of Thetford, Eng., a few miles north of Bury St. Edmunds, dated August 16, 1656, and proved September 23, 1656, by which he devises to his wife Sarah, "all my houses and lands in Hartford and Weathersfield, in New England." Clement Chaplin is mentioned in an order of "A Corte held att Newe Towne (Hartford, Ct.), 10 November, 1636;" he was one of the "Comittees" of the General Court at Hartford; was appointed Treasurer in 1637, and was one of the "Deputyes" of the General Court at Hartford in 1643. (Col. Rec., Conn., pp. 6, 9, 12, 39, 82, 90).

If this Clement Chaplin was a brother-in-law of our Robert Parke, it is natural to suppose that he was influential in inducing Robert Parke to remove from Roxbury, Mass., to Weathersfield, Conn. Robert Parke's name appears on the Conn. Col. Records as follows: Among the persons "made free" at the "Court of Election," at Hartford, April 9, 1640, is "Mr. Parke at Weathersfield;" on a jury at Hartford, July 2, 1640, is "Robert Parke," on a jury Sept. 2, 1641, is "Robert Parks," one of the "Deputyes" at each of the General Courts at Hartford, August 26, and September 8, 1642, is "Mr. Parke;" on a jury June 1, 1643, and on a grand jury September 15, 1643, (at a court where "Mr. Chaplin" was a Deputy), was "Mr. Parke." (Col. Rec. Conn., pp. 46, 55, 66, 75, 84, 87, 93.)

The common neighborhood of Clement Chaplin and Robert Parke during these four years 1640-3, both inclusive, corroborates the more direct evidence that they were brothers-in-law, and confirms the statement in the Parke Genealogy, compiled by Rev. Paul Parke, that Martha, the wife of Robert Parke, was the daughter of William Chaplin, of Edmundsbury, England. Later genealogists, who state that she was the daughter of Capt. Robert Chapin, of St. Edmundsbury, England, have probably been misled into supposing her brother, Capt. Robert Chaplin, of Bury St. Edmunds, to have been her father.

C. A. C.

It has been claimed that the first ancestor of Robert Parke came over to England with William the Conqueror, and after the Conquest was rewarded by the King with grants of land in the north of England.

He was made Master of the Hunt and placed in charge of the Royal Parks, and granted the title of "Baronet," (?) and was known as Thomas de Parke. "Among his other descendants were Major William Parke and Col. Richard Parke, both Companions of the Order of the Bath. Daniel Parke, from whom is descended the Parke-Custis family of Virginia, was a near relative of Robert Parke."

The "History of Lincolnshire," published at London, 1828, has the following to say about Easterkeale or East Keal, the place in Lincolnshire from where Robert Parke indited his letter to John Winthrop, just before coming to this Country:

"East Keal, (Soke of Bolingbroke, Lincolnshire co., Eng.) is situate on the turnpike road between Spelsby and Boston, at the distance of about a mile and a half south-westward from the former place. The church, which is a tolerable structure, contains in the north wall a bust, without any inscription; and in the south wall, a whole length female figure, holding an inverted torch, with an inscription wherein the name of Susanna Kirkman is to be decyphered. The parish is parcel of the duchy of Lancaster, and in 1821, contained 58 houses, and 313 inhabitants."

It is to be regretted that the means at the disposal of the Compiler would not permit of a systematic search being made among the old records in England to definitely settle the vexed question of the place of Robert Parke's birth.

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From "History of Wednesbury in the county of Stafford," England. London, 1854:

"Thomas Parkes, Gentleman, gave by will, dated Jan. 11, 1602, to the poor people of Wednesbury ten

pounds, to be paid yearly by twenty shillings a year to the Vicar of Wednesbury and the church-wardens to the use of the poor, to be given every Good Friday, for ten years." Also the said Thomas Parkes gave a school house, a certain tenement in Wednesbury, and a close called "Clay Pit Leasowe," to maintain a schoolmaster to teach ten poor children of the parish, for the term of four score years after his decease. He also gave a cottage, situate in Wendnesbury, to be set apart as an almshouse for two persons, for ever.

"Richard Parkes, Esquire, son of the above Thomas, did by will confirm the above and gave forty shillings more to the school, A. D. 1617."

Richard and wife Dorothy had son Thomas, whose daughter Anne married William Ward, who was the progenitor of the present Lord Dudley; the Parkes name apparently becoming extinct. Sedgley Manor, which the first Thomas Parkes had purchased from the impecunious Lord Dudley of 1600, was thus carried back to a later bearer of that title.

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From the "History of Northampton," England; Vol. I, p. 747:

"Thomas dePark or Parco, was lord of Grimsbury, temp. Joh. His son was,

William dePark of Park, co. Gloc. and Grimsbury.

Children:

Beatrice, m John le Botiller, living 1315.

Alicia,

Alianora,

Joan, m John de Dode-Solers, living 1332.

## First Generation.

1. ROBERT<sup>1</sup> PARKE, (or Sir Robert Parke, as he has been sometimes called), was born in Preston, England, in 1680. He was a personal friend of John Winthrop, to whom he addressed a letter relative to his proposed journey to New England, in February, 1629-30. Following is a copy, preserving all the quaint old orthography:

ROBERT PARKE TO JOHN WINTHROP, 1629-30.

"To the Right Worshipfull Maigr. John Winthrop Esquier in Gratton in Suffolke give this with speede I pray you.

"To the Right Worshfull, Sir:—I vnderstand by some of my frendes that you are suddenly to goe into New England. If it be not to laite for me, to provide my selfe with cattell and shiping, I doe porpose to goe with you, and all my company, if please God to permit vs life and health. I have sente to my sonne and to Mathewe Harrison, to by for me six coues, and three mayers, and a horse; soe, I beseech you, giue them directions to take the beste coures for me that you shall thinke fit for to be done, hoping you will do the beste that you can to fordere my jurny. Furder, I woulde desire you to giue me directiones what househould I shall take with me, and for howe longe we shalbe vittle vs, and what day we shall set forwardes from London; but as for our selves, we wilbe at Stratford the laste weke in February: and thus with my loue and serius remembred, in haiste, I reste, com'iting you vnto the Almightye,

"Your assured freud to commande.

RO: PARKE.

"From Easterkeale in Lincolnshire, this xxvijth day of February, 1629." (1629-30.)

From the above, it will be seen that he was a man of some means. He did not come to the new world through dire necessity or to better his condition, but rather through a desire to have more religious liberty. Ho was of that large number of emigrants mentioned in Green's "History of the English People:"

"They were in great part of the professional and middle classes; some of them men of large landed estates; some zealous clergymen

like Cotton, Hooker and Roger Williams; some shrewd London lawyers or young scholars from Oxford. The bulk were God-fearing farmers from Lincolnshire and the eastern counties. They desired in fact 'only the best' as sharers in their enterprise, men driven forth from their fatherland not by earthly want or by the greed for gold, or by the lust of adventure, but by the fear of God and the zeal for a Godly worship."

He and his family sailed from Cowes, Isle of Wight, for America, on board the "Arabella," with seventy-six passengers, March 29, 1630, and landed in Boston, Mass., June 17, 1630; making the voyage in seventy-eight days. He lived for a time at Roxbury, Mass.

"Robert Parke, of Wethersfield, came in 1630; went back same year carrying an order by our Governour to his son John, in England to pay money, probably the first bill of exchange drawn in America."—Savage's Genealogical Dictionary.

In 1639 he went, with his son Thomas, through the wilderness to Wethersfield, Conn., with the first settlers there.

He resided at Wethersfield about ten years, and in 1649 removed to Pequot, (now New London,) Conn. He was a resident of the town plot of New London for about six years, and then removed to lands which he owned on the Mystic river.

In the first book of the town records of New London, the two Winthrops, John and Deane, are uniformly entitled "Mr." as are also Jonathan Brewster and Robert Parke, when they appear in the records of the plantation; but all others are styled "Goodman," or mentioned by Christian and surname, without any prefix.

When Mr. Blinman, (the first minister of the Gospel who preached regularly in New London), came in 1650, there was no meeting house. During the first years of his ministry he preached in the barn meeting house which stood on the corner of Hempstead and Granite streets. It belonged to Mr. Robert Parke.

August 29, 1651, the following vote of the town is recorded: "For Mr. Parke's barne the Towne doe agree for the use of it until midsummer next to give him a day's work a peace for a meeting house, to be by the Saboth come amoneth." In 1652 Mr. Parke sold his house lot to Mr. William Rogers, of Boston.

He was elected a Freeman of the colony in April, 1640, a Representative or Deputy to the General Court, September, 1641, and again in August, 1642. He was a Selectman in 1651, and again a Representative in 1652. In 1658 he was a Selectman of Souther-town, (afterwards named Mystic and now known as Stonington,) Conn.

Robert Pa.ke married 1st, Martha, a daughter of Capt. Robert and Elizabeth (Ansty) Chaplin, of Bury, England. Her father gave her portion of £300. It is probable that she died in England before the family came to this Country, as no mention has been found of her here. He married 2nd, at Wethersfield, about 1644, Mrs. Alice Thompson. She was the widow of John Thompson, of Preston, England, and the mother of Dorothy Thompson, who became the wife of Thomas<sup>2</sup> Parke. There is upon record a curious order of the General Court of Marrachusetts, dated May 30, 1644, in favor of Robert Parke, to the effect: "That he may proceed in marriage with Alice Thompson without further publishment."

He died at Mystic, February 4, 1664-5, aged 84 years. The diary of Thomas Minor, under date of Feb 1664, has the following: "The 4th of ffebruarie mr perke departed this life and was buried the 7th day being Tuseday in the yeare 1664." His grave is in the White Hall graveyard, at White Hall, Mystic, Conn. His house was east of the present road and southeast

of the burial ground, and stood just south of a small knoll, somewhat rocky.

His will is dated May 14, 1660, and was admitted to probate March 14, 1664-5. This will mentions only three children, William, the oldest; Samuel and Thomas. One authority has stated that his oldest son, named Robert, stayed in England and had the homestead; others have said that he may have had other children, possibly Joseph, Richard, Edward and Ann.

Children of Robert<sup>1</sup> and Martha Parke:

- 2 William<sup>2</sup>, b in England.
- 3 Thomas<sup>2</sup>, b       “
- 4 Samuel<sup>2</sup>, b       “
- Anne<sup>2</sup>, b       “       lived at Roxbury, Mass., where she  
           married Edward Payson, August 20, 1640, and died Sept.  
           10, 1641. She had one child who died young.

John<sup>3</sup>, bapt. 1645; d. y.  
 Deborah<sup>3</sup>, bapt. 1647; d. y.  
 John<sup>3</sup>, bapt. 1649; d. y.  
 Deborah<sup>3</sup>, bapt. 1651; d. y.  
 Williem<sup>3</sup>, bapt. Oct. 8, 1654; d. y.  
 Two unbaptized children, who were buried June 1, 1658.  
 7 Hannah<sup>3</sup>, bapt. Sept. 28, 1658.

3. THOMAS<sup>2</sup> PARKE, (Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born in Preston, England; came to America with his father in 1630, and removed with him to Wethersfield in 1639. There he married Dorothy Thompson, and there at least two of his children were born. About 1650 he removed to the Pequot Plantation, (New London,) Conn., where he became a Deacon in the Church of which the Rev. Richard Blinman, (his brother-in-law, they having married sisters,) was pastor. He resided in Pequot for about six years and then moved to Southertown, (now Stonington,) where he became a Selectman. While residing in Southertown he sent the following letter to his brother William, in Roxbury, Mass. What is now Stonington, was at that time a part of Massachueetts.

“ To my louing and myche Respectad brother mr williame Parke at his hovs in Roxberey this presant I Pray.

“ Louing Brother

after due respects presented vnto youre selfe and yours, this are to intreat you to doe me the faviour as to procure for me as spiedlye as you can a letter of administratian from the Courte according vnto law, wherby I may be Impoured to dispose of the estate of Thomas Griffin (who is deseased) for the sattisfying of his Creaditors so Farr as the Estate will goe, thar being severall that Challang debts, and none that will administer, nether can his creditors com at the Estate for thar owne satisfacktion, whearfor I am willing for his sake who is deud, who was sumtime a retainer vnto my house, I say I am willing to take the Paines as to im proue the Estate (which is but small) so farr as it will goe for the satisfacktion of his creaditors provided care may be taken, that I may not suffer tharby in my owne estate and the truth is such was the Clamers of one of his creditors that to prevent further truble, I haue payd vpon that acoumbt betwene eleuen and twellue pounds, Con- fideing in your loue and Care, and the Courts readines to answer my

request in a Case so Honest: I haue sent in Closed an inventory of all the Estate that we can finde, and the state of it, as for his Clothes, he dyeing in another Jurisdicktion we cannot reach them, supposing also that the Charge of his sicknes may amount neare vnto a ballance, thus haue I aquainted you with my desires intreating you to ackt for me with the Courte who by reason of my remoatnes cannot ackt for my self, and tharby you shall further ingadge him who allreadye owues himselfe

your oblidge brother

THOMAS PARKE

southertowne

July the 6th 1661 "

(The above was copied from the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register," Vol. XXXI, p 176-7: 1877.)

After residing in Mystic, within the bounds of Stonington for a number of years, he removed with his son Thomas<sup>3</sup> Jr., to lands belonging to them in the northern part of New London, where in 1680 they were reckoned as inhabitants. In 1681 he was Collector of Taxes for New London. In October, 1686, he was one of the petitioners to the Legislature for the incorporation of the town of Preston. The petition was also signed by three of his sons, Thomas Jr., Nathaniel and John. In 1698, he, together with his sons Robert and John and nine others, organized the First Church of Christ, of Preston, and he became its first Deacon.

He died July 30, 1709, after a long and well spent life. He must have been about ninety years of age, although the exact date of his birth has not been discovered. His will, dated Sept. 5, 1707, and recorded in New London, provided for his wife, Dorothy; for children John, Nathaniel, William, Martha, Dorothy and Alice; for grandson Samuel, son of Thomas; and grandson James, son of Robert.

He married Dorothy Thompson, daughter of John and Alice Thompson, of Preston, England.

In New London about 1680. "One hundred acres

of land in one entire piece," were voted to "Mr. Thomas Parkes, Senior," to remunerate him for furnishing cedar clapboards, nails and work for the parsonage house.

The second entry in the Town Meeting Book of Preston, is as follows: "1689, Mar. 30. At a town meeting granted to Thomas Parke Senr. one hundred acres of land which was formerly granted by New London lying on ye east side of gt. to sd. Parke his land," etc.

Children:

- 8 Martha<sup>3</sup>, b Oct. 27, 1646.
- 9 Thomas<sup>3</sup>, b April 18, 1648.
- 10 Robert<sup>3</sup>
- 11 Nathaniel<sup>3</sup>
- 12 Dorothy<sup>3</sup>, b March 6, 1652.
- 13 William<sup>3</sup>, bapt. 1654.
- 14 John<sup>3</sup>
- 15 Alice<sup>3</sup>

4. SAMUEL<sup>2</sup> PARKE, (Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born in England, and did not come with his father and brothers, but came later, probably about the time of his father's death in 1665; as it was one of the conditions of Robert<sup>1</sup> Parke's will that his son Samuel should settle upon some land that he willed to him, within a certain time. He was a farmer in Stonington between the years 1672 and 1685. He is mentioned as living in Stonington in 1684, by his brother William, of Roxbury, in his will made that year. Samuel married Martha . . . . .

The Diary of Thomas Minor, of New London, has two entries relating to Samuel Parke. July 29, 1673, "Deacon Parke and his two brothers were here."

## PARKE FAMILIES

## Children:

Isaac	Williams, d. y.
Isaac	" b Dec. 11, 1661.
Martha	" Dec. 27, 1663.
William	" Feb. 2, 1665.
John	" Oct. 31, 1667.
Eleazer	" Oct. 22, 1669.
Hannah	" Oct. 8, 1671.
Elizabeth	"
Thomas	" Dec. 23, 1673.

8. MARTHA<sup>3</sup> PARKE, (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born in Wethersfield, Conn., October 27, 1646. She married Isaac Wheeler, of Stonington, Jan. 10, 1668, who was a son of Thomas Wheeler.

## Children:

Mary	Wheeler, b Nov. 22, 1668.
Martha	" Feb. 6, 1670.
Thomas	" Dec. 1, 1671.
Isaac	" Aug. 6, 1673.
Ann	" Aug. 20, 1675.
Richard	" March 19, 1677.
Dorothy	" Dec. 6, 1679.
William	" Sept. 9, 1681.
Elizabeth	" May 22, 1683.
Experience	" May 21, 1685.

9. THOMAS<sup>3</sup> PARKE, (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born at Wethersfield, Conn., April 18, 1648. In 1667 he lived in Stonington, where the town record dated Jan. 31, 1667, has the following: "One hundred acres of land laid out to Thomas Park Jr." Again on June 18, 1667: "It was voted that young Thomas Parks shall have his hundred acres where it may be found after all the other grants are perfected that were before him." He married Mary Allyn, of Norwich, Jan. 4, 1671-2. She was a dr. of Robert Allyn. She was

born at Salem, Mass., Nov. 19, 1648. In 1681 he was a Constable of the town of New London, and in 1686, without any change of residence, he became a Constable of Norwich. When Preston was laid out his farm was included in that town. He probably died before 1699, as "Mary Park, widow," joined the 1st Church, of Preston, in that year.

Children:

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- 22 Samuel<sup>4</sup>, b Nov. 26, 1673.
- 23 Thomas<sup>4</sup>, b Jan. 20, 1675-6.
- 24 Mary<sup>4</sup>, b Jan. 28, 1677-8.
- Jonathan<sup>4</sup>. b April 6, 1679; d unmarried.
- 25 Deborah<sup>4</sup>, b Dec. 1680; m John Clark. Children: Deborah, Dorothy, John, Joseph and Jerusha Clark.
- 26 Eleazer<sup>4</sup>, b about 1682.
- 27 Hannah<sup>4</sup>, b in Preston; m Amos Woodward. He b June 5, 1693, at Woburn, Mass; son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Dana) Woodward. Children: Dorothy, Jacob, Hannah, and Ebenezer Woodward.

10. ROBERT<sup>3</sup> PARK, (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>). was born in New London, Conn., about 1651. The record giving the exact date of his birth was probably destroyed when the British burnt New London. He resided in the northern part of Groton, where he owned large tracts of land. He also owned a farm at Pachaug. For a number of years he attended the Road Church at Stonington, where two of his children were baptized. In 1698 he was one of the organizers of the First Church of Preston, and afterwards attended that church.

He married 1st, in Norwich, Nov. 24, 1681, Rachel Leffingwell, oldest daughter of Lt. Thomas and Mary Leffingwell. She was born in Saybrook, Conn., Mar.

### Fourth Generation.

22. SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> PARKE, (Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born in what is now Preston, Conn., Nov. 26, 1673. He married Abigail Ayers, May 8, 1709, at Preston, where he lived. At a town meeting, May 24, 1706, it was voted that "Samuel Parke shall take his two lots together at ye south side of dry cedar swamp." He was a farmer by occupation. In 1722 he was Lister of Preston. Inventory of his estate was filed July 30, 1750, in Norwich, Conn. It amounted to £1135: s 1: d 6. His will mentioned wife, not named, son Nehemiah, son Richard, son Adam and daughter Abigail. He left land in Groton and Preston.

#### Children:

74 Richard<sup>5</sup>, b June 3, 1710; m Sarah Kimball, Nov. 3, 1736; d about 1747. No children mentioned in his will, proved May 27, 1747.

75 Abigail<sup>5</sup>, b July 6, 1712.

76 Adam<sup>5</sup>, b July 31, 1714.

77 Mary<sup>5</sup>, b Feb. 20, 1716-17.

78 Nehemiah<sup>5</sup>, b May 23, 1719.

79 John<sup>5</sup>, b Oct. 31, 1725; not mentioned in his father's will.

23 THOMAS<sup>4</sup> PARKE, (Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born in what is now Preston, Conn., Jan. 20, 1676, and lived in Preston all his life, where he was a farmer. He married Hannah Witter, Nov. 15, 1703, at Preston. She was a daughter of Josiah and Sarah (Crandall) Witter, and was born March 17, 1681. In 1715 he was one of those who voted in town meeting that the Meeting House should "remain where it is forever." In 1726 he deeded land in Grot-

on to his brother Eleazer. He died about 1732, as his will was proven Dec. 14, 1732. This will mentioned wife, Hannah; sons Josiah, Thomas and Benajah; daughters Prudence, Mary, Dorothy Hannah, and Abigail Brown.

## Children:

80 Abigail<sup>5</sup>, b August 25, 1704; d Oct. 20, 1754, at Amenia, N. Y.; m Tristram Brown, Aug. 22, 1722, in Norwich, Conn. He b 1703; d Feb. 16, 1763. Children: Daniel, Josiah, Abigail and Tristram Brown.

81 Prudence<sup>5</sup>, b Oct. 14, 1706.

82 Josiah<sup>5</sup>, b May 18, 1709,

83 Mary<sup>5</sup>, b June 24, 1711.

84 Thomas<sup>5</sup>, b June 26, 1714.

85 Dorothy<sup>5</sup>, b July 22, 1715.

86 Benajah<sup>5</sup>, b July 8, 1718.

87 Hannah<sup>5</sup>, b June 22, 1721.

26. ELEAZER<sup>4</sup> PARK, (Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born about 1682. He was a farmer, and lived in Preston all his life, becoming a large landowner in Preston, Groton and Canterbury. "Mary widow of Thomas Parke," deeded land to her youngest son Eliezer, signed by herself and children. March 13, 1710—Preston Land Records, book 2, page 386. He married Eliphel Button, of Preston, Feb. 4, 1716-17. She was a daughter of Peter<sup>2</sup> and Mary (Lampere) Button. She b Dec. 16, 1694; d Nov. 3, 1781. In 1720 he was Sergeant, in 1733 Tythingman, and in 1736 Surveyor, of Preston. He died Nov. 14, 1769, in Preston. His will, made Feb. 5, 1757, and filed in the Probate Office, in Norwich, Dec. 5, 1769, mentioned his wife, Eliphel; gave to son Ruben, "land in Canterbury where he now dwells; to son Simeon land in Canterbury where he lives; to sons Asa and Abijah,

81. PRUDENCE<sup>5</sup> PARK, (Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born at Preston, Conn., Oct. 14, 1706. She married Isaac Kimball, May 13, 1729. He was born April 19, 1705; son of John and Sarah (Goodhue) Kimball.

Children:

John Kimball,	bapt.	Dec. 17,	1731.
Abel	"	"	Sept. 16, 1733.
Isaac	"	"	July 13, 1735.
Jesse	"	"	April 24, 1737.
Dorothy	"	"	Feb. 25, 1739.
Anna	"	"	April 8, 1744.

82. JOSIAH<sup>5</sup> PARK, (Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born at Preston, Conn., May 18, 1709. He married Sarah Benjamin, Nov. 5, 1731. She was born Jan. 17, 1707, and was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Coke) Benjamin. Josiah Park was Surveyor of Preston 1739-49-54, and '55. He was Collector 1744-5.

Children:

204 Benjamin<sup>6</sup>, b Sept. 3, 1732.  
 205 Joseph<sup>6</sup>, b Jan. 17, 1734; d 1763; m Sarah Killam, Nov. 29, 1761. Probably no children.  
 206 Sybil<sup>6</sup>, b Feb. 26, 1736.  
 207 Dorothy<sup>6</sup>, bapt. May 21, 1738.  
 208 Amos<sup>6</sup>, b Jan. 10, 1739.  
 209 Susanna<sup>6</sup>, b April 11, 1742; m Christopher Reynolds, April 5, 1770.  
 210 Josiah<sup>6</sup>, b Aug. 15, 1744.  
 211 Thomas<sup>6</sup>, b Dec. 8, 1745; m Elizabeth Back, July 10, 1770.  
 212 Sarah<sup>6</sup>, bapt. Nov. 30, 1748.

83. MARY<sup>5</sup> PARK, (Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Robert<sup>1</sup>), was born at Preston, Conn., June 24, 1711, and died Dec. 5, 1758. She married Jacob Kimball,