

by: Mrs. Hector (Shirley) Parker

91.1.1

## PARKER ORIGINS

The name was derived from the Latin word "Parcarius"- park keeper or shepard. The occupational name for a gameskeeper in French is "arquier".

A Parker to even deserve a name in feudal society must have already become a man of some standing. He was the earliest Keeper of the King's hunting grounds and probably managed the livestock which the King possessed. He was also responsible for sport and provisions.

The first Parker in England was a Norman, JOHANNES LE PARKER. He followed William the Conqueror and was Keeper of the Royal Parks.

GEOFFREY PARKER lived in the reign of Edward I in the year 901-925.

ANSCHETIL PARCHER is listed in Domesday Book in 1086.

WILLIAM LE PARKER lived in 1271 AD. in the time of Henry III.

ANDAM LE PARKER of Norfolk and PETER LE PARKER of Yorkshire are listed in the Hundred Rolls of 1273.

THOMAS LE PARKER lived in the reign of Edward III 1327 AD.

A family called Parker has been established for centuries in Lancashire; Brownholme Hall near Clitheroe. It was first built by RICHARD LE PARKER in 1380 and is still the family seat. The name is extremely widespread: another well-known family is established in Cheshire.

SIR HENRY PARKER was the 8th Baron Morley from 1476-1556. He was an author and courier. father of Jane Parker, lady-in-waiting to Queen Anne Boleyn. He had two sons. John, the elder, became Baron at his death.

MATHEW PARKER 1504-1575 was born in Norwich, England. He was a leading reformer and outstanding speaker in the church. He supported Anne Boleyn favoring King Henry's divorce from Queen Katherine. He was Anne's Chaplain and was created Dean of Stoke in 1535. He was obliged to conceal himself during the reign of Queen Mary, who was a devout Catholic. When Elizabeth I ascended the throne in 1558 England was in a sad state. It was torn by religious differences and the Treasury was empty. It was Elizabeth's mandate to restore her father's religion to England. Mathew Parker was made Archbishop of Canterbury and requested to gather material for the "Bishop's Bible" and it was published at his expense in 1572. He was largely responsible for drawing up the "Book of Common Prayer".

-Webster's American Biographies  
-Kings and Queens of England  
by Eric R. Delderfield

Virginia seemed to be the only refuge in the new land for supporters of the monarchy. They were not welcome in Puritan New England.

WILLIAM PARKER was an early emigrant to Virginia in 1624.

SIR THOMAS PARKER came to America in 1647 and was granted land in the Isle of Wight County, Norfolk, Virginia. He named it Macclesfield during the American Revolution to honor his family in England. The estate was handed down to Nathaniel Parker and then to Nicholas Parker and his wife, Ann. It was in the Parker family for 240 years.

JAMES PARKER was a printer and journalist, born in Woodbridge, N.J. in 1714 the son of Samuel and Janet (Ford) Parker. He married Mary Ballareau and had 2 children, Samuel Franklin and Jane Parker.

He was a silent partner in the New York City printing business of Ben Franklin in 1742-48. He became Secretary General of Past Officers of British Colonies in 1756, Public Printer of New Jersey and New York in 1743-1760. He died July 2, 1770 in Burlington, N.J.

-Webster's American Biographies

JOSIAH PARKER was Representative from Virginia (May 11, 1751-Mar.18,1810). Born in "Macclesfield" he was elected to the first and five succeeding Congresses.

The American Genealogical Research Institute lists

John Parcar - County Dorsetshire in the 100 Rolls

Adam le Parker - County Norfolk - 1273

Peter le Parker - County Yorkshire

Martin le Parker - County Somersetshire  
- Kirby's Quest 1327-1377

April 8, 1958

## Stratford-upon-Avon lordship sold

LONDON (AP) - The lordship of Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare, fetched \$163,560 at an auction, the highest price ever paid for an ancient title.

The lordship entitles the new owner to describe himself as "Lord of the Manor of Stratford-upon-Avon" on his stationery and passport.

It carries no right to houses, lands or a seat in the House of Lords and won't give the owner a foothold in the British aristocracy.

Apart from the title, the prize is a collection of ancient manorial documents, some dating back more than 1,200 years.

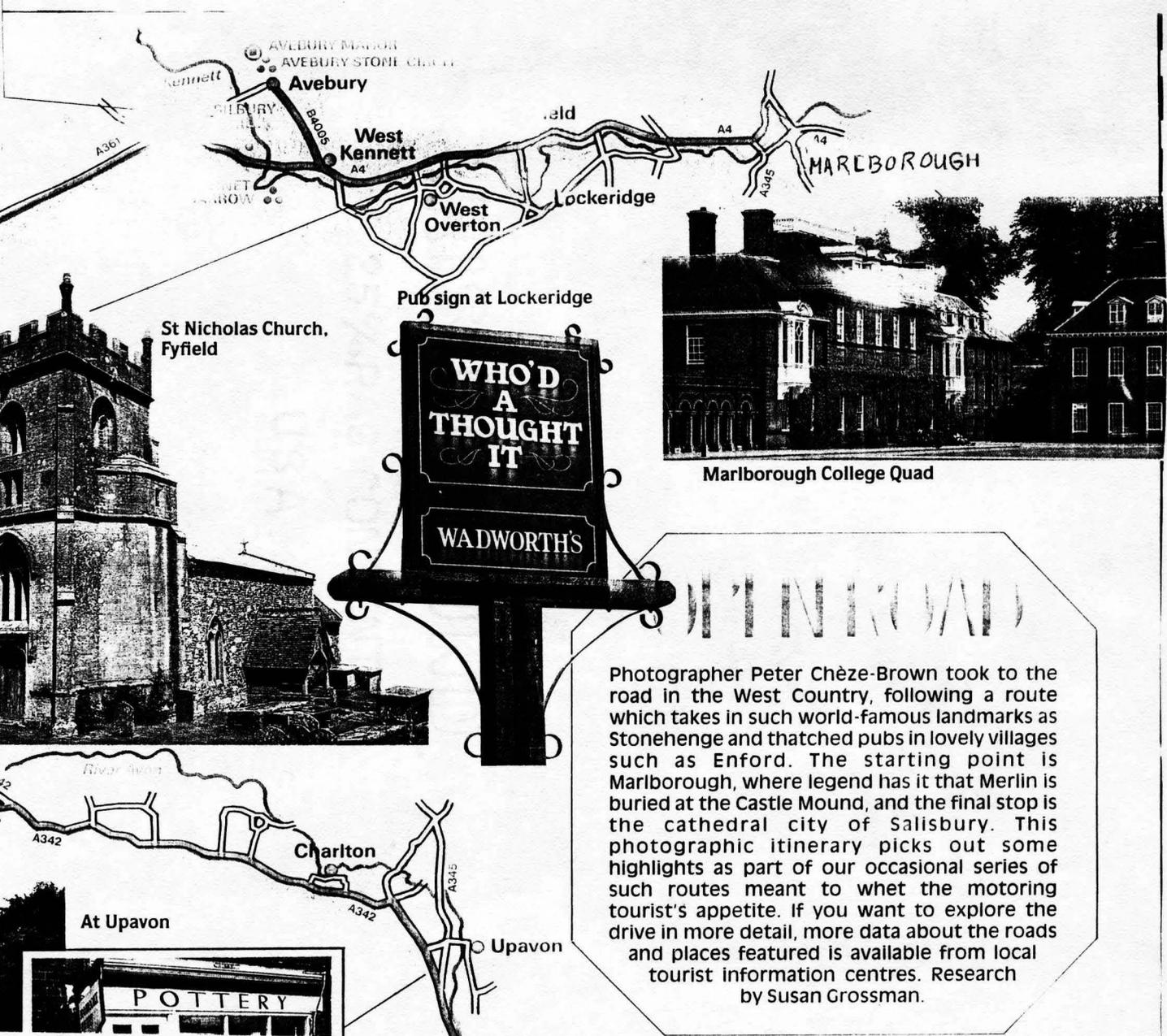
Don't knock it!

■ **Devizes Wiltshire. Page 22.**

London 92. From London: by rail from Paddington Station to Chippenham (10 miles), then bus from bus station (every 2 hours), journey 55 minutes; by 603 National Express Coach from London Victoria Coach Station to Devizes (Castle Hotel); by road on the M25 (exit 15), M4 (exit 14), A4 to Beckhampton then A631.



Silbury Hill



St Nicholas Church, Fyfield

Pub sign at Lockeridge

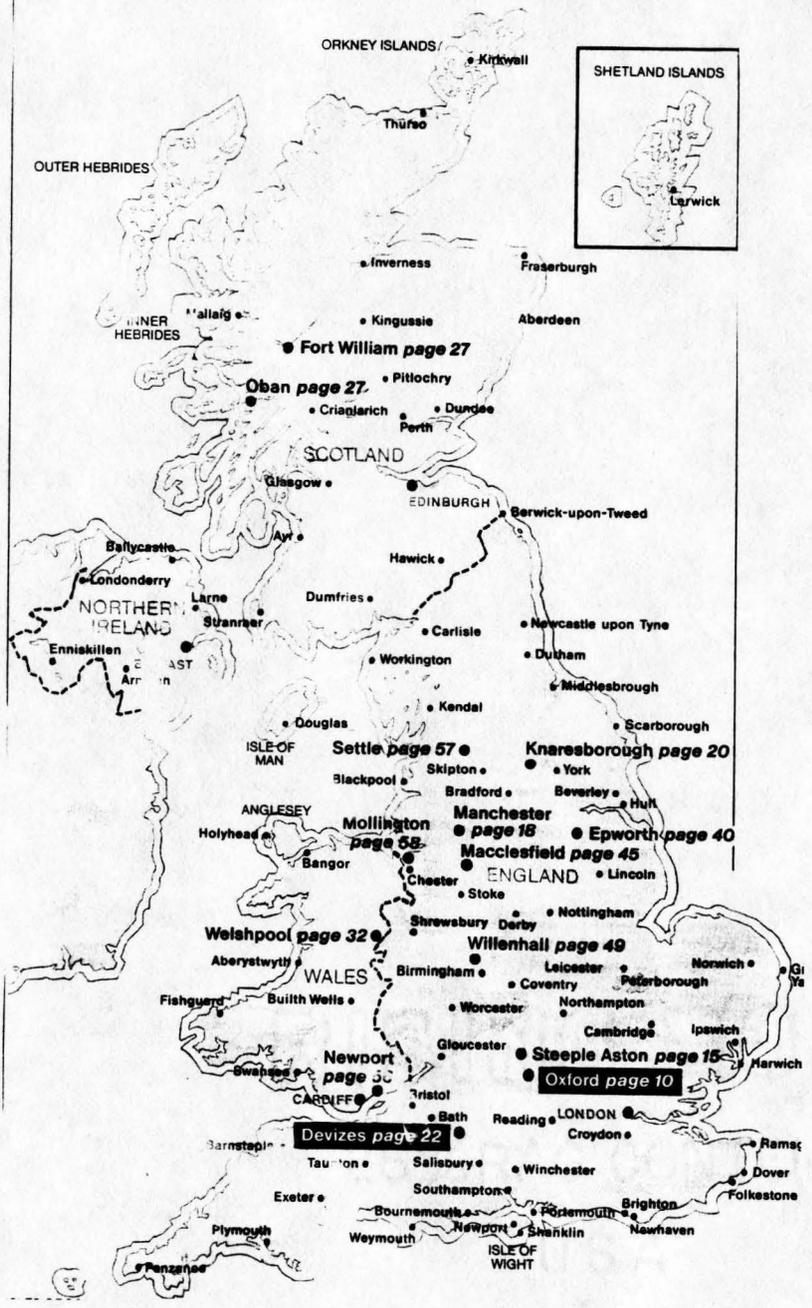
Marlborough College Quad

Milestone on the A361

At Upavon

Photographer Peter Chèze-Brown took to the road in the West Country, following a route which takes in such world-famous landmarks as Stonehenge and thatched pubs in lovely villages such as Enford. The starting point is Marlborough, where legend has it that Merlin is buried at the Castle Mound, and the final stop is the cathedral city of Salisbury. This photographic itinerary picks out some highlights as part of our occasional series of such routes meant to whet the motoring tourist's appetite. If you want to explore the drive in more detail, more data about the roads and places featured is available from local tourist information centres. Research by Susan Grossman.





SUPERINTENDENT REGISTRAR,  
 MARLBOROUGH,  
 1, THE GREEN, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE.  
 ENGLAND



The Parkers can trace their name farther back than English history, as the name had its origin during the Roman occupation of Britain. The name is of Latin derivation, coming from "parcarius," which means a keeper of the parks, or, sometimes, a shepherd.

The Domesday Book, of England, is generously spread with names of Parkers. One of the earliest mentioned is Geoffroy Parker, who was a high official during the reign of Edward I., in the 10th century. He lived in Bexley, on the east coast of England.

There was one Johannes le Parker, (or de Parkere), a knight, who followed William the Conqueror from Normandy. It is probable that he took his name from his occupation, for he was the keeper of the Royal Park.

The Earl of Morley and the Earl of Macclesfield were Parkers. The first Earl of Macclesfield was lord high chancellor of Great Britain. The English navy has had more admirals of this name than any other, and it is interesting to note that the name is rarely found in the English army. Evidently the Parkers cared more for the briny deep than for the terra firma.

Reginald le Parker accompanied Edward I. to the Holy Land, and for his valor was granted a large tract of land. It was this Parker who is accredited as the founder of the Norman Lees branch and of the Lancashire Parkers.

Wnithrop Parker, a councilor-at-law, of New York City, is a direct descendant of Philip Parker, of England, whose son, William (1660-1736) settled at Portsmouth, N. H. His son, William (1703-1781), was judge of the Superior Court of New Hampshire.

There are 38 names of Parker men who were among the pilgrims to come to America in the early part of the 17th century. Of this number 31 settled in Massachusetts.

There were a number of Cavalier families of the Parker name who came to America after the death of King Charles I. (1649), and settled on the eastern shore and northern neck of Virginia.

Parkers are today found in every state, town and village of this country and it is a name that is esteemed for the superior worth of its bearers, their usefulness and loyalty in their tasks and to their country.

The Parkers descending from the Earls of Morley and Monteagle bear arms dating back to 1560, or earlier, which differ in some respects from the arms here given and ascribed to William Parker





ARMS OF PARKER.

#### The PARKER COAT of ARMS

In a book published by Augustus Parker, "Parkers in America" it is stated that:

When Abraham settled in Chelmsford there descended an heirloom:

"A chevron between three leopard's faces. The Crest: A leopard's head affronte erased, or, ducally gorged, gu." Motto: Dare to be Just" (aude fieri Justam).

The author adds: This seems to be the Arms of Little Norton (Norton Lees).

Another researcher of the Parker Genealogy has used a drawing of the Coat of Arms of the Earl of Morley.

Every knight who fought or labored for a King of England was entitled to design his own Coat of Arms. There are 67 listed belonging to Parker. The Norton Lees Coat of Arms has descended the Park Hall and Staffordshire Lines and is now used by Sir Thomas Parker, Earl of Macclesfield, England according to Collin's Peerage.

I am including sketches of three lines that have been mentioned, up to and through the period of time that our branch of Parkers landed in America. So far, I haven't been able to make a connection. -S.P.



Thomas - the first Earl of  
Macclesfield  
Lawyer in the reign of Queen  
Anne. Granted Knighthood June  
8,1705. Granted Peerage by  
George I, March 10,1716

3. Robert- Cup Bearer to Queen Catherine, wife  
of Charles II. Judge of the King's  
Bench. Buried April,24, 1716.
4. Anne- m. Richard Leving of Parwick, Recorder  
of Chester.
5. Elizabeth- m. John Sleigh of Bigging Grange  
County, Derby

WILLIAM PARKER of Park Hall County, Stafford

Commanded a Co. of Foot in Service of Charles I  
and Charles II.

- m. 1- Bridget- second daughter of James Carrier of  
Helpstone County, Northampton and  
Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of  
Thomas Parker of Browsholme.
  - m. 2-Helen- widow of John Coyney of Weston Coyney  
and daughter and co-heir of John Dawes  
of Caughley, Shropshire.
- by Bridget he had:

GEORGE PARKER of Park Hall

- m. Margaret daughter of Sir John Turton of Orgreave  
County, Stafford, a Judge of the King's  
Bench.
- had son:

Rt. Hon. SIR THOMAS PARKER of Park Hall

born 1695

Barrister- at-law. King's Sergeant 1736. Baron  
of the Exchequer 1738 until his resignation  
Oct. 22, 1772.

- m. 1-Anne in 1731 - daughter and co-heir of James  
Whitehall of Pipe Ridwan County, Staff-  
ord with whom he acquired that estate.  
had son: Thomas of Park Hall -born Sept.28,1732  
High Sheriff in 1786
  - m. Mary - May 2, 1764- daughter and heir-  
ess of Thomas Hawe of Wallsall
- had: Mary Anne who married Second Vis-  
count St. Vincent.
- m. 2- Martha - March 1,1740 - widow of Henry Ca-  
rrier also daughter and co-heir of  
Edward Strong.

had son: George

GEORGE PARKER of Almington County, Stafford

born 1734

m. Feb. 4, 1760 Elizabeth- daughter of John Turton  
of Orgreave who died Jan. 9, 1819  
Elizabeth died June 3, 1808.

had son:

First Baron SIR WILLIAM PARKER

born 1781

Senior Admiral of the Fleet under Queen Victoria  
Granted a patent of Baronetcy Dec. 18, 1844.

m. June 9, 1810 - Frances Anne- youngest daughter  
of Sir Theophilus Biddulph,  
5th Baron of Westcombe, Kent.

Distinguished Naval Officer who served in East  
India and China where he was given the Grand  
Cross of the Bath in 1842

Americans invested with United Kingdom Decorations :

General Theodore William Parker (Army) born 1909 presented  
Order of British Empire, Distinguished Service Medal with  
gold star (Korea), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air  
Medal (U.S.).

Listed in Royalty, Peerage and Aristocracy of the World- London

PARKER OF WADDINGTON - Hubert Lister Parker P.C. Life Baron  
(U.K. 1958) born 1900 (The Vine House,  
Romney St. SW1)

EARL OF MACCLESFIELD - George Lovedon William Henry Parker,  
7th Earl born 1888 - Shirburn Castle,  
Watlington, Oxford.

- Royalty, Peerage and Aristocracy of the World  
90th Vol. - London

THE EARL of MORLEY  
Burke's Dormant and Extinct Peerages

FIRST BARON  
William de Morley

Served King Edward I

Summoned to Parliament  
as first Baron  
Dec. 29, 1299  
to Nov. 3, 1306

SECOND BARON  
Robert de Morley

Served King Edward III  
Distinguished self in Scottish Wars  
Admiral of whole fleet  
In Edward's 29th year was made Constable  
of the Tower of London.

married Hawyse - daughter and heir of Sir William  
Mareschall

died - 1360

Summoned to Parliament  
Nov. 20, 1317  
to Feb. 15, 1357

THIRD BARON  
Sir William Morley

married Cicily - daughter of Thomas, Lord Bardolph  
had only son, Thomas  
died - April 30, 1379 - buried at Norwich

Summoned to Parliament  
Dec. 4, 1364  
to Dec. 3, 1378

FOURTH BARON  
Sir Thomas Morley

Served Richard II and Henry V  
Appointed Lt. and Capt. Gen. of all  
forces assembled in London.

Summoned to Parliament  
July 16, 1381

married twice - no issue  
#2 - Anne - daughter of Edward  
Lord DeSpenser

died 1417

FIFTH BARON  
Sir Thomas Morley of No. Moulton, Devon  
grandson of fourth Baron

Summoned to Parliament  
July 15, 1427  
to July 5, 1435

born 1425 died 1464  
Served Henry V as Marshal of Ireland  
He bore one of the banners of Saints at  
the King's funeral when he died in France

in 1422.  
married Lady Isabel de la Pole - daughter of  
Michael, 2nd Earl of Suffolk  
had: Elizabeth - married Sir John Arundel  
Anne - married Sir John Hastings  
Robert

The Countess of Salisbury, mother of Cardinal Reginald Pole (last of the Plantagenets - pretenders to the throne) was beheaded in the Tower in 1541. Her three grandsons, Henry, Arthur, and Edmund Pole died in captivity in the Tower.  
The de la Poles were sons of Edward IV's sister Elizabeth, Duchess of Suffolk. Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk ended his life on Tower Hill, May 4, 1513 after 7 year's imprisonment. William, his brother, died in the Tower in 1539 after being imprisoned for 38 years.

SIXTH BARON  
Robert Morley

Summoned to Parliament  
Dec. 3, 1411

married Elizabeth, daughter of William Lord Roos  
Served Edward I.  
died 1442. Upon his death the male line expired. His only daughter and heir, Alianore Morley at 23 carried the Barony of Morley into the family of Lovel whence it passed to that of PARKER as follows;

Alinore Morley

Summoned to Parliament  
as Lord Morley

married William Lovel  
second son of William Baron Lovel of Tichmersh.  
died 1476  
had two children: Henry Lovel  
Alice Lovel married Knight Sir  
William Parker

William Lovel was summoned to Parliament 1469 to 1471 as Lord Morley. The summons was not issued to Alice Lovel's brother or either of her two husbands, but they were all occasionally known by the courtesy title of Lord Morley.

Henry Lovel

Never summoned to  
Parliament

born 1468 died 1489  
became Lord Morley  
Slain at Dixmude in 1489.  
Upon his death his sister, Alice, inherited the  
Barony.

Alice Lovel

sister of William and Henry Lovel and heiress  
of Lord Morley  
married Knight William Parker  
Standard Bearer to Richard III in 1483  
married Sir Edward Howard  
second son of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.

Henry Parker

Summoned to Parliament  
April 15, 1523  
to Oct. 28, 1555

This nobleman was one of the Peers who signed  
the letter from Henry VIII to the Pope regard-  
ing his divorce from Queen Katherine enabling  
the King to marry Anne Boleyn.  
married Alice  
had one son.

Henry Parker

son of Alice and Henry Parker  
Created Knight of Bath at the coronation of  
Queen Anne Boleyn.  
married Grace  
had Henry, his successor  
Jane, married George Boleyn  
(Lord Rochford)  
Margaret, married Sir John Shelton of  
Kent

second wife, Elizabeth  
daughter and heir of Sir Phillip Cal-  
thorp of Erwarnton County, Suffolk.  
had son Sir Phillip Parker, Knight of Erwarnton,  
ancestor of the Parkers of Erwarnton,  
extinct baronets, whose last male desc-  
endant was the last male heir of the  
Lords of Morley.

Lord Morley was a voluminous writer in the latter end  
of the reign of Henry VIII. He died in the time of  
William and Mary in 1555 and was succeeded by his grand-  
son.

Henry Parker

Summoned to Parliament  
Jan. 20, 1558  
to May 8, 1572

married Lady Elizabeth Stanley  
daughter of Edward, Earl of Derby  
had Edward (his successor)  
Alice and Mary

Edward Parker

Summoned to Parliament  
Jan. 26, 1581  
to April 5, 1614

One of Peers who sat in judgement upon Mary, Queen of Scots, Phillip of Arundel and Robert, Earl of Essex, all in the reign of Elizabeth I.

married Elizabeth, daughter of William Stanley,  
Baron Monteagle.

had William, his successor

Charles - Henry - Mary - Elizabeth and Frances  
died in 1618

William Parker

Summoned to Parliament  
as Lord Morley and Mont-  
eagle Jan. 30, 1621  
to Nov. 4. 1621

The anonymous letter was addressed to him by which the Gunpowder Plot\* was discovered. The letter, said to have been written by his sister, Mary, wife of Thomas Abington of Hinslip. Thomas was Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth. He was concerned in many plots to release Mary, Queen of Scots and contrived many places of concealment at Hinslip. Condemned to die for concealing Garnet and Alcorn, the Jesuits but was pardoned at the intercession of his wife and Lord Monteagle.

had Henry, his successor

William - Charles - Frances - Katherine - Elizabeth

\* The Gunpowder Plot was a conspiracy to blow up James I and Parliament on Nov. 5, 1605 and was organized in retaliation for the King's severity towards Roman Catholics. On Nov. 4 the cellar under the House of Lords was searched and the barrels of gunpowder were discovered. Guy Fawkes and his fellow conspirators were interrogated and Fawkes was racked and tortured, taken from the Tower to the Houses of Parliament and there hanged, beheaded and quartered.

Henry Parker

had only child - Thomas

Thomas Parker

Summoned to Parliament  
May 8, 1661  
to May 19, 1685

In 1686 both Baronies fell into abeyance between issue of two aunts, Katherine and Elizabeth. Katherine married John Savage (second Earl of Rivers)



Lineage of the Earl of Macclesfield

\* George Parker of Park Hall County, Staffordshire  
(Earl of Shenstone)

b. 1592

m. Grace - daughter of Hugh Bateman of Hartington County,  
Derby.

had second son:

Thomas of Leek, Stafford

m. Anne - daughter and co-heir of Robert Venables of Nun-  
eham County, Chester.

died June 27, 1699

had:

THOMAS PARKER (First Earl of Macclesfield)

born July 23, 1666 - Stanton, St. Bernard, Wiltshire

m. Janet - daughter of Charles Carrier of Wirksworth  
County, Derby, April 23, 1691.

Eminent lawyer in the reign of Queen Anne. Granted  
Knighthood June 8, 1705. Elevated to Peerage by  
George I, Nov. 15, 1721. Chief Justice of the Court  
of the Queen's Bench in 1710. Made Lord High Chan-  
cellor of Great Britain May 12, 1718.

died April 28, 1732

Janet died August 23, 1733

had son:

GEORGE PARKER (Second Earl)

m. Mary - daughter and co-heir of Ralph Lane (a Turkish  
merchant) Sept. 18, 1722. Mary died June 4, 1753.

had: Thomas

George Lane - b. Sept. 4, 1724

THOMAS PARKER (Third Earl)

born Oct. 2, 1723

m. Mary, his cousin, eldest daughter of Sir William Heath-  
cote, Dec. 12, 1749.

had: George (4th Earl)

Thomas (5th Earl)

GEORGE PARKER (Fourth Earl)

born Feb. 24, 1755

m. Mary Frances - daughter and co-heir of Rev. Thomas  
Drake, May 25, 1780

had: only daughter, Maria

THOMAS PARKER (Fifth Earl)

born June 9, 1763 died March 31, 1850  
m. 1. Eldest daughter of Lewis Edwards of Talgarth,  
March 16, 1796.

had: Amelia - Matilda Anne - Ellen Katherine  
m. 2. Eliza - daughter of William Wolstenholme of Holly  
Hill, Sussex.

had: Thomas Augustus Wolstenholme - Laura Cecilia - Lav-  
inia Agnes

THOMAS AUGUSTUS PARKER (Sixth Earl)

GEORGE LOVEDON WILLIAM HENRY PARKER ( Seventh Earl)  
of Chester County

Viscount Parker of Ewelme County, Oxford  
Baron Parker of Macclesfield  
Lord Lt. of Oxfordshire 1954 - 1963

RE-CREATED EARL OF MACCLESFIELD - July 21, 1679

Lineage :

RATCLIFFE GERARD, Esq. of Halsall County, Lancaster was the  
second son of Sir Gilbert Gerard, Atty.  
General and Master of the Rolls in the  
reign of Elizabeth I who ascended the  
throne in 1558 and reigned 44 years.  
he had: Charles - Thomas - Ratcliffe and Gilbert (twins)

CHARLES GERARD  
had 3 sons and 1 daughter

CHARLES GERARD ( the oldest son)

was the First Earl of Macclesfield. He was a Lieut. Gener-  
al and elevated to Peerage as Baron Gerard created July 21,  
1679. Viscount Brandon and Earl of Macclesfield. In the  
time of James II, who ascended the throne in 1685, Baron  
Gerard was committed with the Earl of Stamford and the  
Lord Delamere to the Tower and condemned to death but they  
were pardoned.

CHARLES GERARD

his son was the second Earl of Macclesfield. He was a Col.  
in the Army and died in 1701.  
FITTON GERARD was the third Earl. He died, unmarried, in 1702  
at which time the Earldom became extinct.

Additional information on Macclesfield Lineage

1702 1705

★ GEORGE PARKER and wife, Grace of Park Hall, Stafford born 1592

had second son, Thomas of Leek, Stafford who married Anne of Nuneham, Chester

They had THOMAS who was an eminent lawyer in the reign of Queen Anne who ascended the throne in 1702, succeeding William and Mary.

Queen Anne reigned for 12 years and was closely bound to the Marlboroughs, Lady Marlborough being a life-long friend. She was the last Stuart sovereign and her success was attributed to the brilliant men who surrounded her.

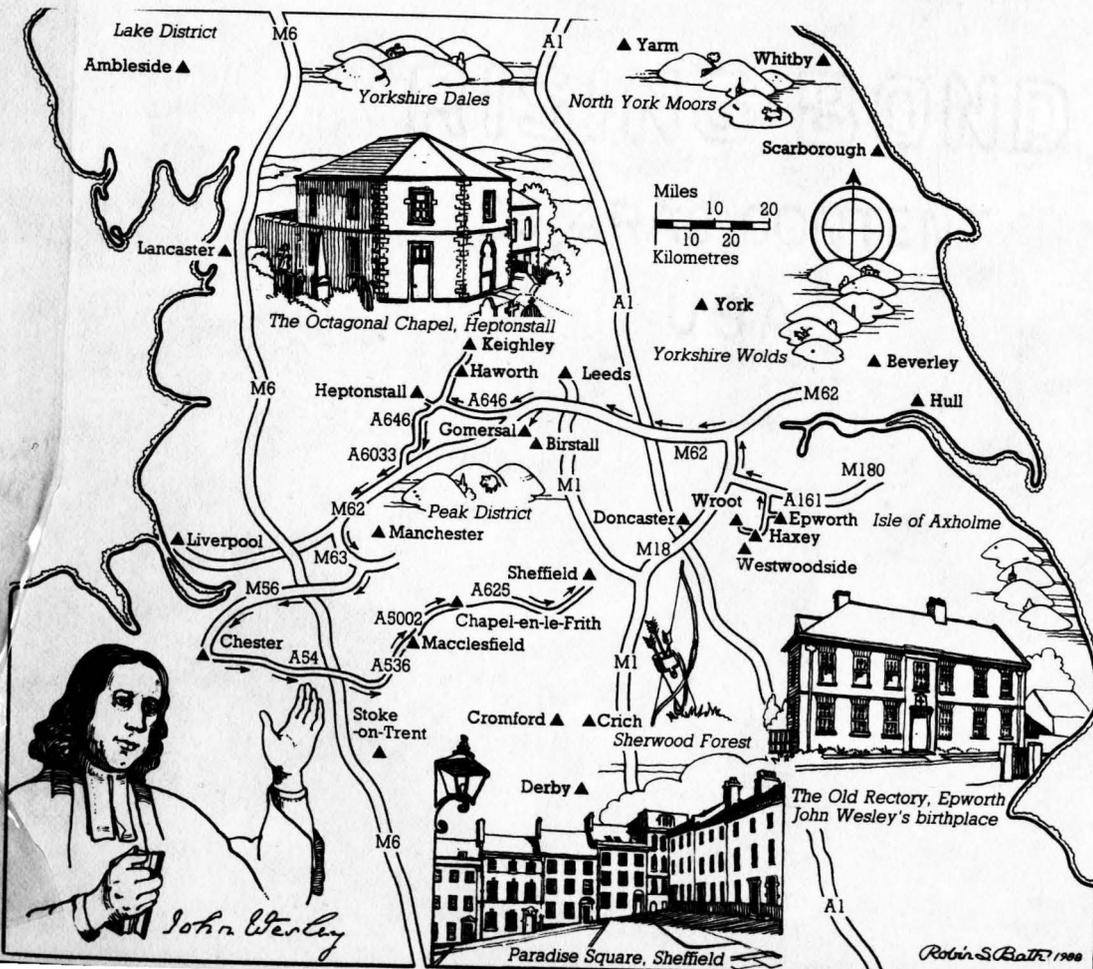
Thomas was nominated one of Her Majesty's Counsel, served as Sergeant-at-law and received Knighthood June 8, 1705. He was Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain and the first Earl of Macclesfield.

map marks locations which have strong links with Methodism or John Wesley himself, and which formed the major part of the route taken by the author. The information is based on a map folder, called John Wesley's Britain, which shows a 'trail' around the whole country and which is available free from the BTA overseas offices

Burke's Peerage Kings and Queens by Delderfield

So it was off to Macclesfield where we parked behind the silk museum. Across an empty space like a cleared bomb site we could see the crenellated clock tower of a church. This was Christ Church, where Wesley had often preached. The handsome brick building on open ground is locked and neglected, a notice proclaiming that it is maintained by the Redundant Churches Fund in London and 'though no longer needed for regular worship it remains consecrated.' It seemed very sad.

■ Macclesfield Cheshire. Page 45. London 184. From London: by rail from Euston or Kensington Olympia Stations; by 460 coach from Victoria Coach Station to Macclesfield Bus Station; by road on the M25 (exit 21), M1 (exit 19) M6 (exit 17), A54/A523.



Robin S. Bate 1998

Jane Parker - Lady Rochford (Viscountess)

daughter of Henry Parker, Lord Morley

Jane Parker became Lady Rochford when she married the brother of Queen Anne Boleyn and was a Lady-in-waiting for the Queen during her reign as wife of King Henry VIII.

When Jane Parker's father, Lord Morley had been unable to provide the full 300 pounds demanded by Thomas Boleyn for her marriage to his son, George, Henry VIII had generously made up the difference.

The Duke of Rochford was beheaded at the Tower with his sister, Queen Anne, on May 19, 1536 when they were accused of incest by the King.

Anne was a member of the Howard family as was Catherine Howard, Henry's fifth wife. So when the Howard influence was restored, Jane Parker Rochford became Lady-in-waiting to Queen Catherine. When Catherine was beheaded at the Tower, Feb.13,1542, Lady Rochford was beheaded with her, both charged as traitors. She is buried in the Chapel at the Tower of London.

Ref: Anne Boleyn  
by Marie Bruce

English History

An interesting story provided by the Beef-eater at the Tower

Early in her reign, Queen Victoria visited St. Peter's Chapel at the Tower and found it in shambles. She was appalled that the remains of members of English Royalty were scattered about without proper identification. She ordered that the remains be sorted out and the Chapel was restored in 1876 to contain them in dignity. Anne Boleyn's skeleton was easily identified by the fact that she had six fingers on one hand (two little fingers).

Among the members of British Royalty buried in St. Peter's Chapel at the Tower are:

Sir Thomas More (1535)

John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester (refused to take oath acknowledging Henry as Supreme Head of the English Church.) (1535)

Queen Anne Boleyn (1536)

Queen Catherine Howard (1542)

Viscountess Rochford (1542)

Lady Jane Grey (1554)

Earl of Essex, Robert Devereaux (1601)

James Scott, Duke of Monmouth(son of Charles II) (1685)

References:

Personal visit

Prisoners in the Tower  
by Olwen Hedley

Charles I was the son of James I of England and Scotland. He and his wife, Anne of Denmark ascended the throne in 1625 and reigned for 24 years.

Early in his reign he encountered difficulties with Parliament, for he stubbornly refused to accept dictation. Three times Parliament was summoned and three times dissolved until from 1629, for eleven years, the King governed by personal rule. England was in chaos. It was at this time that the Parker Brothers embarked for America.

In 1630 seventeen ships arrived in Massachusetts Bay and at Plymouth swelling the number of settlers to 21,000.

The Bay Colony was only 5 years old in 1635 when the Parker family came to America.

There were 25 Parkers in Massachusetts before 1650.

Five Parker brothers

ABRAHAM - JAMES - JACOB - JOSEPH  
and JOHN

sons of

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JOHN and MARGERY PARKER

who were born in the 1580-1590 period in England

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RISING BOND

25% RAS CONTENT

- from The Genes of Abraham Parker  
1612-1685

ABRAHAM

b. about 1612 at Marlborough, Wiltshire County, England

m. Rose Whitlock - Nov. 18, 1644 in Woburn  
d. Nov. 13, 1691

d. August 12, 1685

Arrived in Charlestown in 1635.

Settled as a free man in Woburn in 1645. Listed as one of the founders. He was granted 25 acres of land on Mar. 17 and on Sept. 8 of 1645 he paid a tax in Woburn - the first tax for the Country on record. His homestead was set off in the center of town. He lived in Woburn 12 yrs. on an estate adjoining that of Moses Cleveland, ancestor of President Cleveland.

He moved to Chelmsford in 1653. Although he was not a petitioner of the town he was perhaps the first settler. A surveyor, his homestead was established on 24 acres near the center of town on the south side of Billerica Road which at that time was the direct route to Boston.

In 1673 he was one of the 26 petitioners to incorporate Dunstable as a town. It was not necessary to be a resident of a town to be a petitioner for incorporation. In 1678 he and his sons erected a sawmill on Stoney Brook (Mill Pond) and later erected a grist mill. The sawmill was built on land belonging to Abraham but son John had paid one-third of the cost of the Mill so it was willed to John when Abraham died.

Rose was the first woman to brew and bake in Chelmsford. In the Narraganset Expedition of King Philip's War, Dec. 1, 1675, 48 men were furnished by Woburn. Cousins Abraham and Thomas Parker were among them. Neither of the men returned to Woburn after the war was over.

Note: In 1640 and for two years afterward, Woburn was called Charlestowne Village. It was the most ancient town in the Colony of Massachusetts - 1629.

On May 15, 1640 land two miles square was granted to Charlestowne. On Nov. 5 a town committee chose 7 men for the erection of a Church and the town was called the Towne of Woburn.

-Ref.- History of Woburn  
1640-1860  
by Samuel Sewall  
Burlington, Mass.

CHILDREN of ABRAHAM and ROSE PARKER

- Hannah - Anna in County records  
b. Oct. 29, 1645 in Woburn  
m. July 22, 1668 to Jacob Hamlet of Billerica  
d. June 26, 1669 in childbirth
- John - b. Oct. 30, 1647  
m. June 4, 1678 to Mary Danforth of Billerica  
daughter of Capt. Johnathan Danforth
- Abraham - b. March 8, 1650 died young
- Abraham - b. Aug. 1652 d. Oct. 13, 1732 @81  
m. May 15, 1682 to Martha Livermore, daughter of  
John of Watertown.  
d. Oct. 26, 1740 @84  
Moved to Chelmsford and later to Bradford where  
he purchased a large estate. Hervey Parker occu-  
pied it later.
- Abraham and Martha had:  
Abraham, Jr. who m. Elizabeth Bradstreet  
they had:  
Bradstreet - b. July 23, 1729  
d. Apr. 8, 1809  
m. Rebekah Balch  
b. Aug. 9 1729  
d. May 6, 1790  
they had Benjamin - Rebeckah  
Phineas - Moses - Hannah -  
Benjamin - Abigail - Nathan-  
Mary - Bradstreet - William  
and Betsy
- Mary - b. Nov. 20, 1655 in Chelmsford  
d. July 27, 1693-4  
m. Dec. 11, 1678 her cousin James, son of Capt. James  
Parker.
- Moses - b. about 1658 in Chelmsford d. in 1732  
m. June 19, 1684 to Abigail Hildreth, daughter of  
Richard of Chelmsford
- Isaac - b. Sept. 13, 1660 in Chelmsford  
d. Feb. 22, 1688  
m. April 11, 1681 to Esther Fletcher, daughter of  
William b. April 12, 1644 in Chel-  
msford.
- Elizabeth - b. Apr. 10, 1663 in Chelmsford  
m. James Pierce of Woburn
- Lydia - b. Feb. 17, 1665 in Chelmsford  
m. John Kidder Dec. 3, 1684 He d. Aug. 28, 1762
- Jacob - b. Mar. 24, 1669 in Chelmsford

## KING PHILIP'S WAR

King Philip (?-1676), a famous Indian chief and one of the outstanding Indian figures of early colonial days in America. He was the son of Massasoit, and was named Philip by the English, his Indian name being Metacomet. Philip was chief of Wampanoags, who settled in Rhode Island in 1662. He went to Plymouth, promising his friendship to the English, but in 1670 he fell under suspicion, due largely to the number of murders committed in his country. Philip met the English and again professed good will, but his braves were arming for war. Killing and retaliation followed, culminating in 1675 in open hostilities. The Indians killed and burned in parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and in turn were killed in large numbers by the English. Gradually the Indians succumbed to the superior numbers of their opponents. Philip was finally tracked to a swamp, and there killed. During the fighting the English lost about 600 men and a number of buildings, while the losses in killed were much greater on the Indian side. The Wampanoags were overthrown.

In the list of men wounded in  
the Indian Wars at Eastward on  
July 4, 1677 - sent from Salem:

Jacob Parker of Chelmsford  
    shot through shoulder  
John Parker of Andover  
James Parker "       "

Among the Shattuck Manuscripts  
is a letter from James Parker  
to the Governor and Council at  
Boston dated Mar. 23, 1676-7

The King Philip War ended with  
the Treaty of Casco, Apr. 12, 1678.

Excerpts from  
History of Chelmsford, Mass.  
by Rev. Wilson Waters, MA.B.D.

Printed for the Town by the Courier-Citizen Co.  
Lowell, Mass. 1917

The General Court was ready to grant lands to men of good character when their numbers were sufficient for mutual protection and the maintenance of religious worship. The first recorded movement looking to the settlement of Chelmsford was made in 1652 by some citizens of Woburn and Concord who petitioned the Court for the privilege of examining a tract of land on the "other side" of the Concord River. Woburn and Concord were the towns then nearest this tract. At this time there was no English settlement north of this tract and none as far north on the west.

Fifteen of the 29 petitioners for the grant of the town never took up residence here. Several of the others did not remain. James Parker went to Groton soon after 1661, Joseph Parker went to Groton about the same time, then to Dunstable. Jacob Parker was the first Town Clerk but went to Malden after 1667. Although Abraham Parker was not a petitioner he was perhaps the first settler. Bounds of land in early days led to endless controversies both between individuals and towns. When disagreements arose between Chelmsford, Billerica and Concord the Selectmen of Chelmsford and Concord joined in a petition to the General Court Feb, 7, 1693-4 asking that land claimed by Billerica be given to their two towns.

Chelmsford chose a committee of Capt. Bowers and Thomas Parker, Dec. 10, 1697 to act on the Town's behalf. A deposition was obtained from Capt. James Parker, one of the original committee members, concerning the layout of the plantation of Chelmsford.

The testimony of James Parker is the only description of the original bounds of the town from anyone who had any part in laying it out.

The grant for the town was made in 1653 but a few families settled in before that date. The first birth is recorded in 1653, Joseph Parker, son of Joseph and Marget, his wife, on March 30, 1653.

There was one birth apparently earlier- Sarah Parker, daughter of Jacob and Sarah on Jan. 14, 1653.

The reform in the calendar by Pope Gregory had not been adopted in N.E. By the old style then in vogue the year began March 25th. January 1653, old style, would be January 1654, new style. This change in the calendar explains the one year discrepancy in many of the old dates.

Two conditions had to be met for qualified settlers to be granted land in the "new world". The first stated that they had to be sufficient for mutual protection.

Among the settlers:

Abraham Parker had his homestead lot on the south side of Billerica Road near the old Town Farm\* (bound easterly by a river meadow and north by the highway to Boston). Later his house was at the village where he and his sons built a mill near the upper dam of Mill Pond.

Jacob Parker, town clerk in 1658, lived near the first location of Abraham.

Joseph Parker lived near John Nutting on the south side of Beaver Brook west of the village and east of the road to the mill.

In 1669 land was granted free to introduce men of useful trades. Thomas Parker, shoemaker, was one of these.

Edward and William Tyng came to America about 1639. In 1660 James Parker of Chelmsford sold Edward 3000 acres of land in Tyngsboro. At the opening of King Philip's War each county had its own regiment of trained soldiers. William represented the town of Chelmsford in the General Court. He was a Major and was severely wounded while commanding a battalion between Groton and Lancaster during the Indian Wars.

Abraham, John and Jacob were members of these "trained soldiers". In 1672 Abraham was paid to cut brush in the training place (on the west side of road between Chelmsford Center and Lowell).

In 1673 a house was built on Robin's Hill as a lookout. Several garrison houses were provided by the Town. Many early residences were built to serve as garrisons in case of Indian attack. In the present residence of J. Adams Bartlett, built in 1692 by Joseph Parker, some of the walls were filled with brick.

\*The Town Farm was situated on the corner of Golden Cove Rd. and Turnpike Rd. The barn was on Golden Cove Rd.

from Rev. Waters  
History

A Church for religious worship was their next consideration.

On July 4, 1654 Rev. John Fiske, the Pastor of the Church at Wenham, was invited to visit Chelmsford for the purpose of forming a congregation there. About Sept. 13, 1655 the Church of Wenham was transferred to Chelmsford since there were more members committed to membership there.

On Sept. 13, 1655 Abraham Parker signed up as #4 member and joined the Chelmsford branch of the First Congregational Society of Wenham. His wife, Rose, as well as Joseph Parker and his wife, Margaret and Jacob Parker (the eighth member) were admitted by vote,

In 1665 the families of James Parker and Joseph Parker were dismissed to the church at Groton. James became the leading man of that town and lived to a good old age. Joseph was a large landowner and the ancestor of the most numerous branches of the Parker families in Groton and vicinity.

The Church is now Unitarian and known as the First Congregational Society.

Distinguished Parkers:

SIR PETER PARKER - British Admiral born in 1723, died 1811, son of Adm. CHRISTOPHER PARKER.

SIR HYDE PARKER - British Admiral b. 1739, d. March 16, 1807.

GENERAL THOMAS PARKER - U.S. Army 1813-14.

BRIG. GENERAL DANIEL PARKER - U.S. Army b. 1782, d. 1846

A bit of land history will help one appreciate what was going on in this undeveloped area, far from the center of activity in Boston.

Billerica was incorporated in 1655 and included 25,000 acres and 25 families. At that time, Billerica included what we now call Tewksbury and the Belvidere section of Lowell.

In 1734, Tewksbury was founded by annexing 9,000 acres from Billerica, and had 50 families. Lowell was incorporated in 1826, with a population of 6,477.

In 1834, Lowell annexed a portion of Belvidere from Tewksbury, and in 1873 took 600 more acres. The outer portion of Andover Street became part of the city in 1906.

Reference: History of Chelmsford by Rev. Wilson Waters  
printed by Courier Citizen Co.  
1917

CHELMSFORD PETITION - 1653

A petition for a grant of 6 sq. miles.  
Petition to: Hon. John Endicot, Esq. Governor:

Petitioners:

Benjamin Butterfeilde	William Butricke	Edmonde Cham-
<u>John Parker</u>	Baptis Smedley	berlin
Isac Lerner	Richard Hildreth	John Baldinge
<u>James Parker</u>	Thomas Chamberlin	Thomas Adams
George ffarley	<u>Joseph Parker</u>	William Hartwell
Richard Griffin	John Sternes	Robert Proctor
James Blood	<u>Jacob Parker</u>	Thomas Briggam
John Smedley	Henry Foster	Daniel Blogett
Roger Draper	William Chamberlin	John Hall
William ffletcher	John Nuttinge	William Hall

The original request was divided into two petitions to protect the agreements made with the Indians.

- #1 The tract included the fishing grounds of the Pawtucket Indians where the City of Lowell now stands and where Rev. John Eliot of Roxbury, the Apostle to the Indians, was laboring to convert them to Christianity.
- #2 At the same time a petition for a grant of land for the Indians that they might not be disturbed in their ancient possessions.

The Court granted both petitions on May 18, 1653  
Records of Mass. Bay Colony Vol. IV, par. I, pg. 136

The description of the Chelmsford bounds has been lost. The General Court laid out an enlargement in 1656.

Bounded on the N by a straight line, beginning at the Glass Factory (Baldwin St. in Lowell) to the house of Benjamin Osgood, Esq. of Westford (near Chamberlin's Corner). On the SW by Tadmuck Swamp and on the SE by a straight line by the side of the Concord River at a point where Billerica, Chelmsford and Pawtucket (Wamesit) meet and running SW to the Tadmuck Swamp. On the NE by Pawtucket.

This description is evidently faulty on several points. It gives Tadmuck Swamp as the Western line but the town extended five miles further W to the Groton line. The town did

not extend to the Merrimack River at any point. The loose manner of laying out lines in early days led to endless controversies between Chelmsford, Billerica and Concord and in order to settle them the Selectmen of Chelmsford and Concord joined in a petition to the General Court Feb.7,1693-4. Chelmsford chose a Committee, Capt. Bowers and Thomas Parker, Dec.10.1697 to act on the town's behalf in securing the boundary.

In Groton, Nov.24,1698 Capt. James Parker testified to the only description which Mass. has of the original bounds of the Town from anyone who had any part in laying it out and even his description is not regarded as particularly lucid.

Report of the Committee at General Court, May 1701

The lines began at Wamesit stake at the Concord River, where Chelmsford, Billerica and Wamesit meet. From that point S about 4 miles on the Billerica line - continue W into Carlisle to the Blood Farm and W to Nashoba (grant to Nashoba Indians) and embraced nearly all of the Town of Littleton, running along Nashoba line to a pine tree, then in a straight line over Stoney Brook to a line marked Chelmsford and Groton, then to the Glass Works.

Stoney Brook Pond is now Forge Pond. The line would be something like the present line between Littleton and Westford to Groton.

A few families settled in before the grant was made in 1653. Of 29 petitioners , 15 never took up residence. There were many petitions for extensions of the original grant. James Parker was Chairman of some of these and in April of 1660 a parcel of land at the West end of the Indian's grant (not within the bounds of Chelmsford or the Indians) was given to James Parker for his work settling the Bounds.

RISEING BOND

REPRODUCED CONTENT

USA

On March 20, 1673 Will Underwood, Will Fletcher and Abraham Parker were appointed to lay out a highway to begin at the Country Way at Poor Man's Bridge over Black Brook continue on between the swamps and Will Underwood's meadow to the Indian line.

The Bridge crossed Black Brook south of Westford St. and the road crossed over land turning to the left into Pine St. The bridge foundations are still plainly seen. Poorman's Bridge was a recognized public way but the name and location have been completely lost.

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR was a struggle between English and French colonies. The Arcadians were expelled by the British from Arcadia in Nova Scotia. Most were brought to Massachusetts. The Colonists with England set out to accomplish the total reduction of Canada which had been ceded to England by the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

May 6, 1756

A petition of Rachel Parker of Chelmsford (widow of Jacob Parker who was killed in the engagement with the French and Indians at Lake George) requested recompenses for his gun, a blanket and all the clothing he had with him.

June 14, 1757 - nothing granted.

Lt. Moses Parker served at Crown Point from March 30, 1755 to Jan. 5, 1756.

On the Muster Roll for a Troop of Horse for the relief of Fort William Henry under Command of Daniel Stickney of Billerica Aug. 1757 was John Parker, Benjamin and Phillip Parker (marched to Marlboro, 56 miles).

### The Civil List from 1656-1740

- 1656 - Trustee to Order Affairs  
James Parker
- 1658 - Selectman - James Parker  
Clerk - Jacob Parker
- 1660 - Clerk - Jacob Parker
- 1662 - Selectman - Jacob Parker
- 1663 - Selectman and Clerk - Jacob  
Parker
- 1664 - Selectman - Jacob Parker
- 1665 - Selectman - Jacob Parker
- 1666 - Selectman and Clerk - Jacob  
Parker
- 1668 - Selectman - Jacob Parker
- 1691 - Selectman - Abraham Parker
- 1692 - " " "
- 1693 - Selectman - Thomas Parker
- 1695 - Instructor to Selectmen -  
Sgt. Thomas Parker
- 1696 - Selectman and Clerk - Sgt.  
Thomas Parker
- 1697 - Selectman - Thomas Parker
- 1733 - Treasurer - Ebenezer Parker
- 1734 - Selectmen - Ebenezer Parker  
Joseph Parker
- 1735 - Treasurer - Ebenezer Parker
- 1736 - Selectman - Left. Joseph  
Parker  
Treasurer - Ebenezer Parker
- 1737 - Selectman - Capt. Joseph  
Parker  
Treasurer - Left. Ebenezer  
Parker
- 1738 - Moderator - Capt. Joseph  
Parker  
Selectman - " "
- 1739 - Treasurer - Lieut. Ebenezer  
Parker
- 1740 - Selectman - Benjamin Parker,  
Jr.  
Treasurer - Lieut. Ebenezer  
Parker

### Taverns Listed -

- 1826 - William Parker
- 1833 - Thomas Parker

Reference: History of Westford by Rev. Edwin R. Hodgman

WESTFORD PETITION - 1653

The ancestor of the Westford Parkers was Abraham who first settled in Woburn.

There were 39 original petitioners for the incorporation of the Town of Westford, Massachusetts:

From Concord - Thomas Adams - Fletcher - Hartwell and Proctor  
Woburn - Butterfield - Thomas Chamberlin - Foster-Hildreth - Nutting - Parker and John Wright  
Braintree - Barrett - Spalding  
Hingham - John Bates  
Newbury - Solomon Keyes  
Ipswich - Cornelius Waldo  
Wenham - Thomas Hinchman

The plantation was granted on May 18, 1653 and incorporated May 29, 1653.

Parkers owned homesteads near what is now South Chelmsford. Aaron Parker was the first Parker in Westford. He was the son of Moses, born in 1689. He was the grandson of Abraham of Chelmsford.

In 1663 Chelmsford laid out a highway from Chelmsford to Groton beginning at Beaver Brook Bridge, running over the north side of Robin's Hill through Richard Hildreth's yard to the west end of Heart Pond, over the swamp to Chamberlin Meadow towards Groton. It passed by the Elias Sweetser Place (now occupied by B. M. Fletcher) and then turned through the meadow around the Gilbert Parker house and across Nonesuch Brook near the old Parkerville Schoolhouse, then to Forge Village.

The land north and west of the R.R. Station was covered with trees which were tapped for tar and turpentine which were carried to Salem. The town gave out licenses to use "so many" trees. Moses Parker was allotted 500.

The first Town Meeting was held March 2, 1729-30.

In Lovewell's second expedition against the Indians May 8, 1725 Col. Tyng wrote to Lt. Gov. Dummer on May 14; "I received your orders about 11 of the clock and forthwith sent to Capt. Willard for 12 of his best men and to Robert Richardson for 15 of his Snow Shoe men." These Snow Shoe men were from Chelmsford under the command of Lt. Joseph Parker and Capt. Robert Richardson.

Warning out strangers - Strangers had to be warned to leave town within 3 months otherwise they had to be considered inhabitants. In 1774 Sarah and Mary Parker from Littleton were given warnings.

Aaron Parker lived on the spot on which the house of George Hutchins stands. He was one of the original members of the first church in Westford. Nonesuch Hill was SW of the Gilbert Parker house. The area known as Nonesuch was later Parkerville.

Papers by Mr. H.S. Perham printed in the "Contributions of the Old Residents Historical Assn"

#### THE WAMESIT PURCHASE

Read before the above Assn, Feb. 16, 1897

The Wamesit Purchase was consummated by Johnathan Tyng, Esq. of Dunstable and Major Thomas Hinchman of Chelmsford in 1685 and conveyed by them the following year to 50 proprietors living in Chelmsford.

The Purchase price was one hundred and fifty pounds sterling.

The agreement relinquished Indian rights forever to their ancient possessions on the south side of the Merrimack and west of the Concord Rivers. It was executed on scrolls of buckskin. A hole in one of them is said to have been made by the bullet that brought down the buck.

Witnessing the deed was Josiah Parker with Samuel Manning, Sr. and Nathaneil Hill and signed by Jonathan Tyng.

Among the proprietors of the Wamesit Purchase of an estimated 2500 acres in East Chelmsford can be found the names of Abraham Parker, his three sons, John, Moses and Isaac and Jacob's two sons, Thomas and Benjamin. The territory was later incorporated as Lowell.

The record book covers a period of 100 years and the last clerk Benjamin Parker laid away the old book and deeds in the attic of his home on Pine Street where they remained until the house was dismantled in 1981.

The purchase from the Wamesit Indians was amicable but the white men were in constant danger from attacks by hostile Indians.

The NW boundary of the Purchase began near the head of the Middlesex Canal to the Glass Factory (Baldwin St.) and running near the houses of the late Philip Parker, Micah Spaulding and Capt. Benjamin Butterfield ending at Wamesit Falls in Concord River or at the mouth of River Meadow Brook. Philip Parker lived at what is now Pine Street, Spaulding at the corner of School and Liberty St. and Capt. Butterfield on Hale Street (a few rods from Lincoln Sq.).

The lots were drawn from a hat and were numbered from West to East extending, with a few exceptions, from the fence on the south back to the Merrimack River.

Thomas Parker's "long lot" was #50 in the general field- at the extreme east end. It is believed to have been at the corner of Central and Merrimack St. in Lowell.

As the Purchase was divided into farms there were fewer proprietors. In 1750 there were 16. Benjamin Parker had 5 rights, Benjamin, Jr. had 2 rights, Ebenezer Parker had 1 right. Each man paid 20 shillings in silver for an equal share. The acreage was not given but it was estimated that the grant consisted of about 2500 acres. It was believed that of this amount 1500 acres were west of the Concord River.

The Proprietors managed their lands as did the the proprietors of townships in the early days.

The last meeting of the Proprietors was held Jan. 13, 1785 at the house of Benjamin Parker who was chosen Clerk to keep the books. He was the son of one of the first Proprietors. Among the original proprietors of the Wamesit Purchase, Benjamin Parker was the only one whose possessions continued in the hands of his descendants.

In 1732 he and his wife, Sarah, deeded to sons, Benjamin and John, lands and buildings in the Wamesit Purchase and other property. This son, (Lieutenant) Benjamin extended the Wamesit property by purchasing several lots. His brother, Philip, lived on an adjoining farm. Perhaps they occupied a barn in common as Rev. Bridge mentions in his diary "was invited to a barn moving by Benjamin and Philip Parker".

Benjamin was commissioned by Gov. Shirley, July 29, 1754 a Second Lt. of the First Foot Company in Chelmsford under the command of Capt. Ebenezer Parker.

\* Major Hinchman (or Henchman as it is spelled in some sources) had a garrison house on the Chelmsford side of the Merrimack River and had charge of the defense of the vicinity.

Moses Parker, the son of Capt. Joseph Parker, became a Lieut. in 1758 and a Captain in 1759.

When Gov. Bernard in 1761 was selecting Captains for that year's service from a multitude of applicants Moses Parker was the most prominent military character on the list. Col. Thwing and Col. Arbuthnot declared that they would not go without him; that he was the only Captain they insisted upon. A month before the Battle of Bunker Hill he was made Lt. Col. of the 27th Regiment.

HISTORICAL DATA ABOUT LOWELL by Sara Swan Griffin

The Old Highway to the Merrimack River is now Stedman and Baldwin Sts. It was used as early as 1659 by stage coaches going from New Hampshire to Boston.

The Old Garrison House was at the foot of Wood Street on the banks of the Merrimack River. Built by Major Hinchman as a defense against the Indians.

The home of Rev. Thomas Parker was on Old Meadow Road in Dracut. Later it was the home of French nobleman, Col. Marie Louis Amand Ansart De Maresquelles. The Col. is buried in the Woodbine Cemetery off Varnum Avenue.

The site of the Old Garrison House of Dracut, built in 1669, was on Riverside Street.

The Middlesex Canal started on Middlesex Street near the foot of Baldwin Street. It was the first canal transporting passengers. It stretched between Lowell and Medford.

The Henry Parker House on Pine Street, now torn down, had been in the Parker Family since 1663.

The Spalding House on Pawtucket Street, now owned by the Molly Varnum Chapter, D.A.R. was built about 1760. It was known as Davis Tavern.

At the corner of School St. was the site of the wigwam of Wannalancit, Sachem of the Merrimack Valley Indians.

Bradley's Ferry crossed over the Merrimack River at the present site of the Central Bridge. It was in use as early as 1737.

Barrow's Hotel was on First Street. It was owned by Joseph Bradley who ran the Ferry.

The residence of Hon. F.T. Greenhalge, Gov. of Massachusetts was on Wyman St.

## Ancestry and History of Lt. Col. Moses Parker

Abraham Parker from Wiltshire England came to Woburn as a free man. To Chelmsford in 1653. m. Rose Whitlock 1644. Died in 1685.

his son Moses born about 1658. m. Abigail, daughter of Richard Hildreth 1684. Died 1732.

his son Joseph born Mar. 25, 1693-4. m. Rebeckah. Died April-29, 1738. Buried in Forefather's Cemetery Chelmsford

his son

Lt.Col.Moses born May 13,1731. m. Sarah. She died March 10, 1817 at 80. Their children with births recorded in Chelmsford:

Abel and Aaron- twins  
Joseph  
Nehemiah Abbott  
Moses  
Rebecca  
Sarah

Moses Parker was a veteran of the French Wars. At the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775 a ball fractured his thigh and he was left at the scene of battle. The British carried him a prisoner to Boston and lodged him in jail, where after the amputation of his leg, he died July 4, 1775 at age 43.

In Trumbull's famous painting of the Battle of Bunker Hill Lt. Col. Parker is depicted on the ground at the extreme left of the painting grasping his knee after being fatally wounded. He had been a hero at the siege of Fort Frontenac, a fervent patriot and had fought at Meriam's Corner at the Lexington-Concord alarm.

Col. Parker lived at what has been known as the Driscoll place on Middlesex Turnpike about 150 rods south of where it crosses River Meadow Brook.

When the Americans retreated from Bunker Hill Capt. Ford found Capt. Walker lying wounded on the field and carried him about 40 rods to save him from capture but Capt. Walker persuaded him to drop him and save himself. He was carried to Boston by the British and lodged in jail with Lt. Col. Parker. His leg was also amputated and he died Aug. 15.1775.

Following receipt of a letter from the two imprisoned men the faithful wives walked to Boston carrying what they could of food and other things for their comfort. The British authorities took their packages but denied them the privilege of seeing the prisoners so they were obliged to walk home again to Chelmsford.

Sarah Parker, widow of Col. Parker petitioned Sec. Knox for assistance in caring for her large family of young children. She had not received the relief provided by a resolution of Congress for the widows and children of officers who died in service since August 1775. She prayed that the benefit of the resolution may be extended to her and her children.

Sec. Knox ruled that it might be questionable that the regiments in action prior to May 15, 1778 could be considered "commissioned by Congress" but there was no doubt that Gen. Washington had arrived in Cambridge June 27th and assumed command of the Army issuing orders that made it a Continental Army it would seem incumbent on the character of the Nation to provide for widows and children of those gallant men who had sacrificed their lives.

It was noted that June 27, 1775 is given by Sec. Knox as the date Washington arrived in Cambridge. It was actually July 3 1775 when he took command of the Army.

The Petition was granted.

Aaron, another son of Moses, married Abigail Adams in 1712. He had 10 children. On Nov. 27, 1727 Thomas Parker gathered members for the Second Church of Christ. In 1745 several members were disciplined for "absenting themselves". Aaron, Jr. and his wife Dorothy were among them. He was the first Parker in Westford and the area in which he settled was called Parkerville. At the first Westford Town Meeting Aaron was Constable. When a new Meeting House was built in 1771, Aaron Parker, Jr. purchased the old building for 20 pounds. The old House was moved to South Chelmsford and was used by the Baptist Church as a house of worship for many years. The Parkers owned homesteads near what is now South Chelmsford.

Men from Woburn in the Revolutionary War:

Edmund Parker with Capt. Greer in Rhode Island - 3 months - 1780  
Josiah Parker with Capt. Wyman at Bunker Hill - 1778  
Josiah Parker with Lieut. Johnson at Cambridge - 1777



**CMFD-REVOLUTIONARY HEROES** Revolutionary Monument on the Common. For more on Chelmsford's participation in this battle, see Editorial.  
who were wounded at the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, are named on the east (right, in photo) side of the

# Editorial

## Bunker Hill And The Parker School

On Memorial Day, May 26, 1975, citizens and town officials gathered to dedicate one of the town's two junior high schools in honor of Lt. Colonel Moses Parker. The building on Graniteville Road has borne the name "Parker" for ten years now, but who can now remember why?

This week, although it has not yet attained the dignity of becoming part of a three-day weekend, Monday, June 17, was observed in Suffolk County as Bunker Hill Day—a patriotic holiday. It was two hundred and ten years ago that the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought, June 17, 1775. Many Chelmsford men were involved in that battle with the British: two of the three memorialized on one side of the Revolutionary Monument on the Common were Lt. Col. Moses Parker and Captain Benjamin Walker, both of whom died from wounds received in that battle.

One of the companies in which Chelmsford men served on this occasion was commanded by Captain John Ford and stationed in Cambridge under General Artemas Ward. (As a footnote, it is interesting to know that the Rev. Wilson Waters, rector of All Saints' for many years, referred proudly to the fact that he was descended from General Ward and he was a longtime member of the Sons of the American Revolution. It is possible to guess that because of the Ward connection, Mrs. Waters had more than a passing interest in the military history of the Revolution and filled many pages in his *History Of Chelmsford* with the records of and other material about the Chelmsford men who were in the military.) British warships at this time were anchored in the waters just off Charlestown Neck which was well within range of their guns. Nevertheless on June 16 Captain Ford carried a message from General Ward in Cambridge to the commander at Bunker Hill, not going over on foot for safety's sake but riding back and forth on horseback. While at Bunker Hill he warned that attack was imminent there and urged a strengthening of defenses. On his return he asked and received permission from General Ward to take his Chelmsford company back to Bunker Hill to reinforce the troops there and the men marched across despite cannon fire.

At the foot of the line four men ordered by General Israel Putnam to move cannon which had been left there into the line. Although most of the men had no knowledge of cannonry, they managed to do as ordered just before the battle began. Tradition has it that a Chelmsford man, Joseph Spaulding, "being unable to restrain his impetuosity" fired the first gun and was given a blow to the head by General Putnam for the waste of scarce ammunition that any premature firing caused. "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes" was the order of the day as the British advanced and the cannons roared.

More On Page 30

During the fight, Col. Parker and Captain Walker were wounded, taken prisoner and jailed by the British in Boston. Each had a leg amputated and as a result of imprisonment, primitive medical care and general lack of attention, Parker died on July 4 and Walker on August 15. While in jail, Captain Parker had assured his wife that he was getting good care, but that he would like to have her send clothing and money to him. According to history, "The faithful wives of these brave and suffering prisoners, in response to these requests, walked to Boston (from Chelmsford) carrying what they could of food and dainties and other things for their comfort, but were denied the privilege of seeing them, and so were obliged to retrace their weary steps with heavy hearts." (The packages, it is believed, were nevertheless given to the men.) As long as the walk to Boston was for these women, how much longer it must have seemed on the way back to Chelmsford! Furthermore, since Sarah Parker was left with a large family of young children when her husband died, (at age 43), she had to beg for help from the government in order to support them. It was eventually given but not very generously.

This is the story of Moses Parker, noted for his bravery, participant in the French and Indian Wars before the Revolution, a skillful officer who "possessed the esteem and respect of his soldiers and the applause of his countrymen." And it is also the story of those hardy women who made the journey to and from Boston on foot to give support to the men who needed their care but were denied it. It is a story of war and bloodshed and death as well as of bravery and determination, not unique because variations of it have been repeated many times throughout history, but it is a special story to this town because Chelmsford men and women played the major roles in it. So it is fitting to name a school after Moses Parker and, during the anniversary week of the Battle of Bunker Hill, to think back to the significance of the events in which he participated.

# Early days of Parker Village

By Mary G. Balch, (March, 1952)

Nonesuch, or Parkville, was the first section of the town of Westford to be settled. While the town was a part of Chelmsford, a winding road — Old Lowell Road — was built from South Chelmsford 1663.

Originally it came as far as the Hutchins (Vose) place, now owned by the Priests, then crossed the meadow (near Seifer's), and came out around the Gilbert Parker house (now a cellar hole at the foot of Bear Hill to Old Post Road, — Carlisle Road).

On early maps, the present Concord Road was called the Groton Road; the old Post Road, Concord to Groton. The section of Old Lowell Road dividing the Wilder land was built in 1726 (a triangle was made) to a main road being built to Minot's Corner and beyond (the Carlisle Road). It was at first just a bridle path.

The first Parker in Westford was Aron, born in 1689. There were several descendants of the same name. He lived on the Priest place and his descendants made bricks on the hill (since known as Brickyard Hill). With these bricks he built a home. This stood on or near where George Hutchins built the present Priest House, 1870, or near that time.

Samuel Chamberlin, (1685-1769), bought and sold land in different parts of the state and played an important part in the affairs of the town. He was an original member of the First Church and one of the first selectman. His home stood at the junction of the present Concord and Old Lowell Road (in the V). This is now Henry Wilder's land.

As that section of Old Lowell Road was not built until 1726, it evidently made some changes in his home place, which may account for the odd position of the two old wells by the roadside.

After his death his son, Samuel, lived in the homestead. Probably the Wilder and Berchold land belonged to him originally, for when the Concord Road was built it is recorded as crossing the Chamberlin Meadow.

A deed was given by Timothy Prescott to George Fletcher for the present Bertchold farm (72 Acres) in 1825. Soon afterwards, George Fletcher built the house with bricks made on the Hill. It is said that some of the wide floor boards were taken from the old house, which was the Chamberlin House or the one standing near the Bertchold house. The carpenter was A. Mable Drew's grandfather, who walked to work every day from Chelmsford.

This deed to the bounds was copied when Wayland Balch (my father) bought the place from George's son, Varnum Fletcher, in 1878. This is not J. Varnum Fletcher who gave the Library building in 1895.

Varnum Fletcher reserved several acres, now Mr. Leonard's, and one of the barns which was moved across the road. He built a

small house which has since been remodeled.

Addison Parker (1793-1836) married Martha Leighton in 1819 and probably built the Wilder (Robert. W. Johnson) house soon after. The old land deeds, 1825, states that he owned the Wilder lands and he worked the clay kilns on Brickyard Hill.

St. Moses Parker, son of Aron, married Bridget Cummings in 1744. He owned the Lester Carter farm (across from Wilder place), the home being where the old cellar recently was, near the little house that Lester Carter built at the junction of Concord and Carlisle Roads.

Moses Parkers daughter, Elizabeth, 1749-1829, was living in the home in 1825. After her death the present home was built by a Parker, James, I think. The land to the east across from Walter Chisholm's house, was owned by Aron Parker. The house opposite the brick schoolhouse, at the corner of Griffin Road, was built by Parker.

The big house and barn that stood at the foot of Bear Hill was the Gilbert Parker place. These buildings were burned some time between 1910-1920.

The first road from Chelmsford went around this house to the Concord Road which it crossed to make Texas Road. This house had a double-walled room for protection against Indian raids.

George Parker and his family lived here when I was a small child. His children went to the brick school at the corner of Griffin Road. This building has since been made into a home. George was the last Parker in the village. He died in 1901, at age 76.

The early Parkers were in the Revolution and all held important town offices. Some moved to other communities; the women often married Westford settlers.

The first Kidder in Westford was Thomas, born 1690, the son of John and Lydia Parker. He had a fine home for those days being considered quite wealthy. He lived on Texas Road. A cellar hole marks the spot a short distance beyond the Coyne Place. This road comes out to Acton Road near the diagonal railroad crossing. Although one of Westford's first roads, it became somewhat overgrown and abandoned as later roads were developed. Westford citizens have long referred to this section of town as "Texas".

Thomas Kidder's son, Thomas, was known as Cornet Kidder. He died in 1793. Cornet's son, James, owned the Clough farm at the time the 1825 deed was written, on Concord Road. The Kidders were enterprising people.

Matthew Griffin of Pepperell married Mary Adams in 1777 and built the first Griffin House on Griffin Road. A cellar hole shows where the last house stood. The first house was across the street, a little nearer the village.

Albert A. Hildreth's mother was a Griffin,

Thursday, July 25, 1985

an aunt of Fred Griffin's great grandmother, when a girl and lived in the first house in Texas Raod. While berrying on the "hill" she saw a huge bear behind a rock part way up the hill. She ran home and the men of the village all returned to hunt for the bear

They shot it and as far as is known this was the last bear seen in town, so the hill became known as "Bear Hill."

There were Proctors living in Parkerville in the early days and a Proctor probably built the Dick Emmett House (at 224 Concord Road). A Proctor once lived on the Water Chisholm farm.

In a walled-off section of this farm at the corner of Carlisle and Old Lowell Road, unlettered grave stones mark the graves of a man and his wife who lived in the Chisholm house. I have forgotten the names (it was not a Proctor). The date of burial is unknown, at least to me, but it was before the day of modern surgery apparently. The smaller stone beside the two is not for a child but a woman's arm. The arm was placed off on a table in the house where Cloughs now lived.

In 1757 there were four "squad rooms" and the children of Parkerville were taught by a travelling teacher at the home of Aron Parker, Jr.

In 1787, the town voted to build a schoolhouse in each squadron, so the brick school house was built at the corner of Griffin Road. Several people of whom I remember lived in this building without changing its appearance much, either inside or out.

For a year or two in the late '90's, it was used as a club house where gay times were had by all, including me. The present schoolhouse at the corner of Carlisle and Concord Roads was built in 1880 to replace one which was built on the spot a short time before and destroyed by fire. (Now known as the Nonset Club.)

While the new house was being built, schoolwork was carried on in a room of the Wilder house, then owned by George Elliot, retired Army officer from Fort Warren. The teacher at that time was Rebecca Sweetser, who lived at the side of the Johnston house.

A few facts and hearsay about Parkerville in the early days. Personal memories of a little later time are many and choice.

(Signed, Mary G. Balch  
March, 1952)

Miss Balch a very lovely person, very artistic too, took care of her Civil War father until his death. He was the last Civil War veteran to die in Westford. She died Oct. 1, 1961, on her 86th birthday.

The previous reminiscence was submitted by Gordon Seavey, free lance writer, and was from an article Miss Balch wrote in 1952 which is now owned by Bernard M. Wilder, 11 East Prescott St.

Short "takes"  
from History of Westford  
by Rev. Edwin R. Hodgman -1883

At Lovewell's Fight against the Indians - May 8, 1725, Lieut. Joseph Parker was in command with Lieut. Robert Richardson.

West Burying Ground - May 15, 1761  
Half an acre of land purchased by Nathan Proctor from Samuel Parker. The land was a gift from Proctor. It was part of the estate of Deacon Joshua Fletcher whose daughter Sarah married Samuel Parker.

Sgt. Joshua Parker was one of the earliest on the field of battle at the Concord fight under the command of Lt. Col. Robinson.

Isaac Parker was listed as Drummer.

Members of Capt. Underwood's Co. - John and Moses Parker were privates.

In Capt. Minot's Co. - Aaron Parker was a sergeant, David and Ebenezer Parker were privates.

At the battle of Bunker Hill, Col. William Prescott's Regiment - Joshua Parker was a captain - Isaac a drummer and John was a private.

Removals from Town:

To New Ipswich: Capt. Joseph Parker born 1742. Moved about 1766. He was a daring, energetic man who commanded a Co. of Militia and was prompt to march wherever his services were needed. He served at Cambridge, Ticonderoga, Rhode Island and at the taking of Burgoyne. He died in 1807 at 66.

Johnathan Parker (Joseph's brother) was an early settler, a soldier and a pensioner. He lived a bachelor and died in 1820 aged 69.

To Ackworth:

Benjamin Parker, M.D. son of David

To Cavendish, Vt.:

Joshua Parker, father of Deacon Joshua who was born in Westford in 1764. Capt. Parker died in the State of New York.

Capt. Aaron Parker moved in 1788. He was a Selectman in Cavendish in 1790.

Isaac Parker moved in 1788. He was the son of Moses, born in 1760. He died in Byron N.Y.

Isaac Parker, M.D. son of Aaron Jr. and Dorothy, born in 1752.

To Mt. Desert, Maine:

• Silas Parker (the Holmes Purchase)

To Pepperell:

Abel Parker - later to Jaffery NH.

To Cambridge:

Levi Parker

To Gardner:

Horace Parker, M.D. Practiced for seven years. Died in 1829 at 34.

To Richmond, Va.:

Jabez Parker, M.D.

William Parker served in Lt. Col. Jonathan Page's Co. stationed at Ft. Warren in Boston during the War of 1812.

A brick-making business was carried on by Aaron Parker and Capt. Minot. Finally passed to Addison Parker.

Carpet Weaving was done at Westford Corner in house occupied by Frederic Parker.

Water power was used at Forge Village in 1680. Jonas Prescott built the mill at Stony Brook near Forge Pond. It was previously owned by an Indian named Andrew. It was sold for 20 shillings to Richard Blood who sold it to James Parker.

Elbridge G. Parker was one of the establishers of the Social Library.

In 1757 Westford Schools were in private houses. Serving in the SE part of town - at Aaron Parker, Jr.'s. The deed to land in 1793 for Westford Academy was conveyed to the proprietors by Levi Parker. It was not acknowledged until 1822.

Charlestown Vital Records:

John Barret and Margaret Parker of Chelmsford were married Nov. 29, 1705.

Chelmsford Records:

Andrew Fletcher married Elizabeth Parker, May 5, 1748.

From: The Descendants of Robert of Robert Fletcher:

Mary Fletcher married Thomas Parker, the son of Jacob.

Benjamin Fletcher married Hannah Parker of Chelmsford in 1766. Hannah and 3 of their children died of dysentery within the space of 10 days - leaving Benjamin widowed and only his daughter, Hannah remaining.

In Westford Fairview Cemetery:

Rebecca Parker - wife of Lt. Levi Parker - died 1784 @29  
Rebekah - daughter of Ebenezer and Experience Parker - died 1808 @24

A Willard Parker, Jr., son of Willard and Anna Parker was drowned in the Merrimack River, May 20, 1788 at 15 years old.

Susana (Kemp) Parker, wife of William died Oct. 19, 1753 @34.

JAMES

b. 1617 in Wiltshire County, England

d. 1701 at 84 in Groton, Mass.

m.#1- Elizabeth Longe - daughter of Robert Longe, Innkeeper  
of Charlestown, Mass.

May, 23, 1643

#2- Eunice (Brooks) Carter- widow of Samuel Carter  
son of Rev. Thomas Carter  
of Woburn

After the death of James, Eunice married #3 John Kendall

\*James became a freeman in 1644.

He paid taxes in Woburn in 1645 and 1646.

Moved to Billerica in 1654. He was a petitioner for the est-  
ablishment of the Town of Chelmsford in 1653 and Billerica  
in 1654.

In 1658 he was admitted as an inhabitant of Chelmsford and  
allowed 500 acres of meadow and 37 acres of upland. He built  
a saltbox home which is now known as the Barrett-Byam Home-  
stead and is used by the Chelmsford Historical Society as a  
museum.

In 1665 he moved to Groton with his brother, Joseph, where he  
served as Town Clerk for many years and became the important  
man of that town. In 1677 he was voted Selectman.

He and his son, James, Jr. were members of the original pet-  
itioners for the Town of Dunstable which was granted in 1673.  
He lived in Groton on a house lot which lay on both sides of  
Main Street, just south of a small stream called James' Brook.  
The house was one of the garrisons during King Philip's War,  
and it was with Capt. Parker that the Indian Chief talked on  
the night of March 13, 1676 as mentioned in Hubbard's Narra-  
tive. In the assault on the town July 27, 1694 Capt. Parker's  
son, James and his wife, Mary were killed by the Indians and  
several of their children were carried away as captives.

After the destruction of Groton by the Indians in 1694 the  
family was obliged to seek asylum with old neighbors and re-  
turned to Chelmsford.

CHILDREN of JAMES and ELIZABETH

Elizabeth - b. Mar. 12, 1645 in Woburn

Anne (Hannah) - b. Mar. 5, 1646  
m. Nathaniel Blood

John - b. Feb. 28, 1649

Sarah - b. Aug. 29, 1650                      d. Oct. 15, 1651

Joseph - b. 1651

m. Elizabeth

had: Sarah - b. 1666                      d. 1704

Elizabeth b. 1679

Simon - b. 1687

Joseph - b. 1689                      d. Nov. 26, 1753 @64

m. Abigail                      d. Feb. 19, 1787 @90

Benjamin - b. 1691                      d. 1769 @77

John - b. 1695

m. Mary Bradstreet Nov. 29, 1715

had:

Gideon - Mary - Abel - Sarah - John

James - b. April 15, 1652                      d. July 27, 1693-4

m. Mary Parker, his cousin, daughter of Abraham  
Dec. 11, 1678

James and Mary were killed by Indians and 3 of  
their children taken captive in the Indian Wars.

had: Mary - b. Sept. 20, 1680

Samuel - b. Sept. 22, 1682

m. Deborah, daughter of Capt. Jonas  
Prescott

b. Mar. 5, 1694 d. Sept. 27, 1724

Phinehas - d. Aug. 13, 1744 @63 -buried in Groton

m. Abigail - d. Feb. 4, 1723

Elizabeth

had: with Abigail

Phinehas -1709                      Abigail -1711

Mary -1713                      Elizabeth -1715

Leonard -1718 - m. Abigail-May  
20, 1741

Sarah -1719                      Esther -1721

had: with Elizabeth

Eunice -1725

James - b. Mar. 24, 1686                      d. Jan. 1, 1748 @62

son of Capt. James

m. Abigail Prescott b. May 8, 1688

d. Aug. 14, 1751 @63

had: Sybbel - b. June 18, 1712

Emma - b. Sept. 23, 1713

Submitt - b. Sept. 10, 1715

m. Timothy Whitney May 24, 1738

Abigail - b. Mar. 19, 1717  
m. John Blood - Dec. 8, 1740  
Petter - b. Aug. 6, 1719  
James, son of Petter and  
Prudence - d. Nov. 1753 @3  
Ann - b. Nov. 16, 1720  
m. Nathan Wood of Concord  
Nov. 27, 1754  
James - b. Feb. 20, 1722  
m. Rebecca Bulkley  
Dec. 22, 1748 at Pepperell  
Jonas - b. Mar. 25, 1727

Abraham - b. Jan. 4, 1690

CHILDREN of JAMES and EUNICE (BROOKS) CARTER

Josiah - b. 1655  
m. Elizabeth Saxon, daughter of Thomas of Boston  
May 8, 1678  
Josiah was a Captain and served in the War against  
the Indians.  
had: Elizabeth - b. Aug. 31, 1679  
Sarah - b. May 1, 1683  
Simon - b. Aug. 27, 1687

Samuel - b. 1656  
m. Abigail Lakin, daughter of Samuel and Abigail Lakin  
b. Mar. 11, 1705 d. Jan. 1, 1745  
had: James b. Apr. 28, 1686  
Eunice m. Josiah Boyden

Joshawaie (Joshua) b. March 23, 1658  
m. Abigail Shattuck at Chelmsford

Zechariah - b. Jan. 14, 1659  
m. Elizabeth  
had: Elizabeth b. Apr. 10, 1686  
Benjamin b. Aug. 19, 1690

Eleazer - b. Nov. 9, 1661 at Groton  
m. Mary  
had: Mary b. July 29, 1697

Sarah - b. Dec. 12, 1697 when father was 80 years old.  
m. Jerome Shattuck

- Groton Vital Records to 1850
- Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850
- New England Marriages Prior to 1706
- Caleb Butler's History of Groton
- History of Woburn by Samuel Sewall
- Torrey
- Dunstable Families - Stearns

Phinehas Parker, the son of James and Mary Parker was captured and held prisoner by the Indians for four years. He was released in the summer of 1698. He was lame in one leg from cruelty of the savages with nothing left of his father's estate for support.

A petition to the General Court dated May 31, 1699 and signed by Josiah Parker was sent to The Right Hon. Richard Earle of Bellomont, Gov. in Chief of His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England:

"In an Indian attack in the year 1693 in which James Parker, Jr. was killed with his wife, several children were carried away captive - one of which named Phinehas less than a year ago was redeemed from the Indians by a Master of a Vessel belonging to Ipswich; which said Master has been reimbursed by the petitioner to the value of about 6 pounds in money."

On June 6, 1699 it was Voted that the Petitioner be Allowed 6 pounds of money out of the Publick Treasury.

(Mass. Archives LXX 401)

#### HUBBARD'S NARRATIVE

In the year 1676, Rev. William Hubbard, a minister at Ipswich wrote a "Narrative of the Indian Wars" from the first settlement of the country to 1677.

The Governor and Council of Massachusetts were so impressed with the account that they voted to license the Narrative for public view and ordered it imprinted.

It informed the citizens that on March 2, 1676 Indians had assaulted Groton. Major Willard came to the aid of the citizens with a group of "70 horse" and "40 foot" came from Watertown but the Indians had fled after burning all the houses in town except four that were garrisoned. The day before the same party of Indians had burnt part of Chelmsford.

During the attack an Indian named Monoco but nicknamed "one-eyed John" called out to Captain Parker in his garrison and "entertained a great deal of discourse with him". He called Parker an old neighbor and boasted about burning their meeting house, the towns of Medfield and Lancaster and was about to burn the Town of Groton. Then he declared he would burn Chelmsford, Concord, Watertown, Cambridge, Charlestown, Roxbury and Boston - finally adding "what me will, me do".

On the second of March, the Indians rifled houses, carried away cattle and poultry and killed one man. After three attacks on the town, on the 13th of March one man was killed and three wounded. After this, the inhabitants moved to Concord.

-from Caleb Butler's "History of Groton"

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF DUNSTABLE, MASS.

by Elias Nason  
No. Billerica, Mass.  
April 21, 1877

Men from Boston, Salem, Woburn, and other towns as early as 1660 obtained grants of land three hundred acres and upwards lying along the Merrimack River to erect garrison houses.

A survey of the Merrimack River was made by Capt. Simon Willard of Concord, Mass. and Edward Johnson in 1652 and the Colony of Mass. Bay claimed all the land 3 miles north and east of the River to a large rock in the Winnepesaukee River and then west as far as New York. The County of Middlesex, organized May 10, 1643 held jurisdiction over the whole unsettled region.

Petition of the Proprietors of the lands along the Merrimack, Nashua and Souhegan Rivers to be incorporated as a town.

Thomas Brattle	Samuel Scarlet	Thomas Wheeler, Sr.
Jonathan Tyng	William Lakin	Peter Bulkley
Joseph Wheeler	<u>Abraham Parker</u>	<u>Joseph Parker</u>
<u>James Parker, Sr.</u>	James Knapp	John Morse, Sr.
Robert Gibbs	Robert Proctor	Samuel Combs
John Turner	Simon Willard, Jr.	<u>James Parker, Jr.</u>
Sampson Sheafe	Thomas Edwards	<u>John Parker</u>
John Joliffe	Nathaniel Blood	<u>Josiah Parker</u>
Zachariah Long	<u>Robert Parker</u>	

Granted by General Court Oct. 16, 1673 and the Town of Dunstable incorporated. (Records with Sec. of State of Massachusetts)

Dunstable consisted of 200 square miles (128,000 acres) of land and included the present towns of Dunstable, Tyngsboro and parts of Dracut, Groton, Pepperell, Townsend, Mass. with Nashua, Hollis, Hudson, N.H. and sections of Brookline, Milford, Amherst, Merrimack, Londonderry, Litchfield and Pelham, N.H. The Boundary Line between New Hampshire and Massachusetts was established in 1741 - splitting Dunstable in the middle.

Although the town was laid out in 80 thirty-acre house lots it had 30 resident families. The following land owners were the only residents of Dunstable:

John Acres   John Blanchard   John Cummings, Sr.   Thomas Cummings  
Joseph Hassell   Thomas Lund   Joseph Parker, Sr.  
Abraham Parker   John Sollendine   Jonathan Tyng   Widow Mary  
Tyng   Joseph Wright

Land in Tyngsboro was purchased in 1660 from James Parker of Chelmsford by Hon. Edward Tyng. In 1668 the land was purchased by Col. Jonathan Tyng from his father and he built The Mansion House for his mother on it in 1675.

On October 16, 1660 the Tyngs bought 250 acres at Winter Hill in Dracut. This piece was bounded and butted by a farm formerly laid out to a Mr. Russell on the southeast, the wilderness elsewhere surrounding, according to marked trees.

In 1720 the territory lying to the north of the Merrimack River was unbroken wilderness. Two trails existed through this section for natural reasons. Beaver Brook and its main tributary, Golden's Brook, traversed it from north to south. One trail developed on the west side of the brook and another was established on the east to avoid crossing and recrossing the waterways that flooded at times. Wilderness alone held no fears for early settlers but the fact that these trails were habitually transversed by Indians as they journeyed back and forth from their settlements in the vicinity of Draw Pond (Corbett's Pond) and their fishing grounds on the Merrimack River, the settlers avoided endangering themselves unnecessarily.

However in 1721 John Butler and Joseph Hamblet of Woburn chose to gamble with nature and the Indians. John Butler purchased from Jonathan Tyng two lots of land (600 acres) in the eastern part of Dunstable which adjoined the Dracut boundary.

On this land, in the vicinity of Gumpas Pond and near Mammoth Road, they erected the first house, a log cabin on the line dividing their property so that the cabin could be shared for convenience and mutual protection. This was the first house in Pelham. Dissatisfaction with the amount of work performed by each of the men especially as applied to "filling the woodbox" led to their building a stone wall directly through the center of the house from the entrance to the center of the stone chimney so that thereafter each was obliged to furnish his own wood for the fireplace.

-from Pelham 200th Anniversary  
Booklet

Printed in 1946 by The Panda Press  
Hector and Shirley Parker

Hon. Jonathan Tyng was Judge of the Court of Middlesex County from 1702 to 1719. He married three times and 5 children were born in Boston and 7 were born in Dunstable.

Tradition says that the Old Tyng House has had within its walls ghostly visitors from the Spirit Land; for a sad romance was once enacted there. It was the custom in the early times when extra servants were needed in a home, that the daughters of neighboring farmers would go to assist without losing any social equality: so once upon a time a very beautiful girl named Judith Thompson went into the family of Col. Tyng. She was called the handsomest girl in that part of the country. Naturally, John A. Tyng, the son of the house, fell passionately in love with her and his love was reciprocated. Matters ran smoothly for a while until a child was born and then John's love having cooled with his responsibilities he murdered Judith and her child by either strangling or smothering them while they were sleeping in the SW chamber of the Old Tyng House. Tradition says John secretly and alone buried his one-time love and child in the cellar. But from that moment the ghost of the murdered Judith never left him. She haunted John until he could live no longer in the Old Tyng House and he built himself a small house nearby to escape her. But Judith moved also and established herself as mistress of the new house. Again John moved and again Judith moved also; but through fear and remorse his days were shortened. It is said that during his last illness, when any of the neighbors went to render assistance, the ghost of Judith would meet them at the door, and tell them their services were not needed, and they would hasten away, their hair standing on end. But one brave man, Capt. Butterfield, stayed with the unhappy John the night he died, and he was reported as saying that Judith sat beside the bed and said, "The end of John Tyng is destruction and misery."

The old residents of Tyngsboro were fond of relating the adventures experienced in this house and several of the stories have been recorded by J.F. Bancroft, the former historian of Tyngsboro.

- from Little Stories About Lowell  
by Sara Swan Griffin

# Colonel Tyng simmers with rich history

By **NANCYE TUTTLE**

Sun. Staff July 1988

**TYNGSBORO** - When Hon. Edward Tyng arrived from Dunstable, England in 1635, he settled near Boston. But the urge to own land beckoned him west. First it was 250 acres of wilderness, now known as Winter Hill in Dra-cut.

By 1660, Tyng wanted even more property and bought a 3000-acre spread from Chelmsford's James Parker, land stretching along the Merrimack to the east, Chelmsford to the south, Groton to the west with woodland to the north.

Tyng's son Jonathan deeded some of Dad's Dunstable land and built the Mansion House, where his family lived continuously from 1675 for the next 125 years.

## Facts on Tyng

**TYNGSBORO** - If we are to believe Duncan Sorli (Lowell Sun, June 14) it would appear that Edward Tyng, "and because he was the first official settler, the place was named Tyngs Borough," ar-

rived in Tyngsborough "about 160 years ago." This would place the event 14 years after the town was incorporated and 140 years after his death, or 148 years after his son built a house here!

The official seal of the Town of Tyngsborough carries the inscription; A District 1789, Incorporated 1809.

According to Catherine Lambert, town historian, in "The Tyng Book" (published 1976) "Col. Jonathan Tyng, for whom our town was named . . ." purchased land from his father, Hon. Edward Tyng, in 1668 and built the 'Mansion House' in 1675. Edward Tyng, merchant of Boston, had purchased the land in 1660 from James Parker of Chelmsford.

On August 14, 1660, he bought from James Parker of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, a tract of land containing three thousand acres, bounded on the east by the Merrimack River, on the south by Chelmsford, and on the west by Groton, Massachusetts. The wilderness surrounded it elsewhere. This territory comprised parts of what are now Tyngsboro and Dunstable, in Massachusetts, and Brookline, Nashua, Hollis, and Merrimac, in New Hampshire. The deed for this sale was later the possession of Judge Richardson. Here is a copy of it, or part of it:—

August 14, 1660

"To all people to whom this present shall come to be seen or read, James Parker, of Chelmsford, in the County of Middlesex, in New England, yeoman, and Elizabeth, his wife, sends Greeting: Whereas, the Honnored Gennerall Court of the Massachusetts jurisdiction in New England, aforesayd, of their beneficent bounty did Give and Grant unto the Indians of Patucket a parcell of land adjoining to the bounds of Chelmsford Plantation, and Whereas, Puntahhun John Tohatowon Pamoboriquin Wonoit Nomphon Rulinansad Peter and, Wampameoun, cheif Indians of said Pauhtuket, at a lawful public meeting of theirs, the fourteenth of the third moneth, 1660, with the approbation of John Elliott, senr., teacher of the church of Christ in Roxbury, did Give and Grant unto the above Mentioned James Parker, a certain parcell of land part of the above mentioned Graunt, lying and being at the west end of their sd Graunt, out of the bounds of both of the sayd Pauatukit and Chelmsford, in relation of any exchainges by them made to each other, and that In Considerations of the great pains and costs, the sayd James Parker hath been at for the settling of the bounds according to Agreements with the Indians of sayd Pauatucket and Inhabitants of Chelmsford, as in a deed bearing the date of April, 1660, with the Records of the Generall Court concerning the same more amply appeareth. Now Know all men by the presents, that the sayd James Parker and Elizabeth, his wife, in consideration of sixty pounds to him payd in hand by Edward Tyng of Boston, &c., &c."

**Brother Anthony of Padua, F.M.S. (The Tyng Family in America, published 1956 by the Marist Press) notes: "In 1679 he (Edward Tyng) removed from Boston to Dunstable." This would be your years after Jonathan built a house in what is now Tyngsborough. Again quoting Brother Anthony: "He (Edward) died on December 27, 1681, in Dunstable, and was buried in the family tomb in the old burial place on the river road, about a mile and a quarter south of the center of Tyngsboro(ugh). A horizontal slab of granite supported by masonry work, marks his resting place. It bears the following inscription, written in capitals: - HERE LIETH THE BODY OF MR. EDWARD TYNG ESQR. AGED 71 YEARS DIED DECEMBER 27 DAY 1681".**

**While we would encourage Sorli in his historical writings, we would strongly urge correctness to the facts. Or, who knows, a hundred years from now someone may quote The Lowell Sun as fact (the way we have quoted sources) and really screw up the history of the Town of Tyngsborough.**

Incidentally, John Collier always credited the railroad with dropping the "ugh" from the town name. It was more economical to paint "Tyngsboro" on the station boards, and it was easier to read from a train passing through.

Rupert E. Stangroom  
Perham Rd.

The Barrett-Byam Homestead was built some time prior to 1663 by James Parker who was one of the original 29 signers of the petition for the land that was incorporated as Chelmsford. Details of the original construction are still visible in the attic, indicating that the house was built in saltbox design. The house was constructed around a central chimney opening into five fireplaces which provided heat for the rooms, and two Dutch ovens. Both the chimney base and the foundations are of native granite. To provide protection from Indian raids, the cellar was small and windowless, and there was access through the panelling below the front stairs to a hidden space behind the fireplaces. Inside shutters, often called Indian shutters, covered the small-paned windows. There would have been two bedrooms at the front of the house with a loft above, and a long room across the back divided into a kitchen or keeping room and a borning room.

When James Parker moved to Groton in 1663 because of religious differences, the house with its 52 acres of land was conveyed to Thomas Barrett and his son, and appears on a 1673 sketch of the Robin's Hill area. The property remained in the Barrett family until 1773 when it was conveyed to Dr. Jonas Marshall and then around 1800 to Henry and Relief Byam.

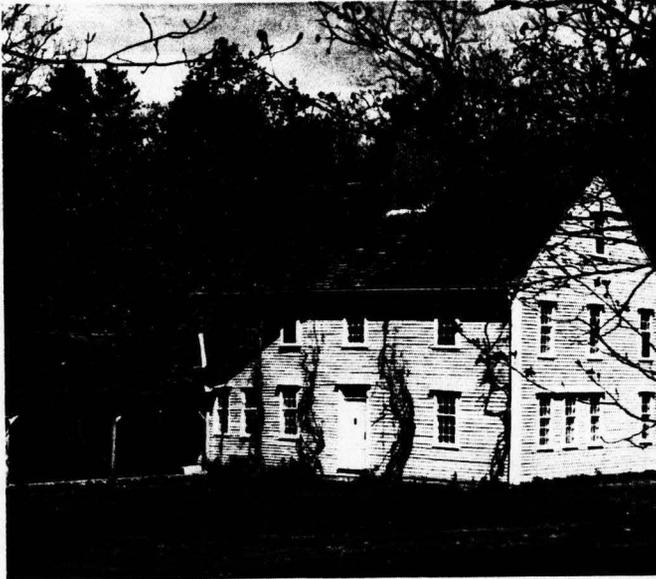
The house was enlarged, probably during the mid to late 1800's while owned by the Byams. The roof line was changed and rear rooms added on the second floor. There has since been extensive renovation, much of it done by the Murrays. The early framing has been cased, panelling refinished and extended, basement supports rebuilt, the back stairs reversed. The building is a good example of a farmhouse which expanded periodically to meet the growing needs of its occupants.

The Barrett-Byam Homestead now houses the museum of the Chelmsford Historical Society.



The Barrett-Byam Homestead  
Chelmsford Historical Society

From Commonwealth of Mass. paper for  
Historical Societies



James Parker House (Valley Farm), Shirley

Built in 1715, the *James Parker House, Shirley*, sits on a large wooded property along Spruce Swamp Brook, and this prosperous farming enterprise once included a cider press, hop house, and barn. The James Parker House is a well-preserved New England Colonial house and is a wonderful example of a small settlers house and its subsequent expansion to the familiar, large New England center-chimney house. Built in two phases early in the eighteenth century and greatly expanded in 1797, the architectural interest of the house is in its merging of house types. Three generations of Parkers continued to live in the house and work the farm until 1921. Joe, 4 # :-

Early Records of Groton - 1662-1707 by Samuel A. Greene, M.D.  
Dedicated to the memory of  
Richard Sawtell, James Fiske, William Longley, John Page, Richard Blood, John Morse, James Parker, Johnathan Morse and Josiah Parker

These records are the earliest records of the town in existence. They were for a while preserved rolled up and the wrapper contained the inscription "The Indian Roll". They were found at Deacon Lawrence's, Feb. 21, 1807.

James Parker was the seventh Town Clerk and one of the original proprietors of Groton. In advanced life he married for the second time and had a daughter born after he was 80 years old. He left a will dated May 25, 1700 providing for his children and grandchildren.

In the first grant of lands in Groton, Richard Blood was granted the largest tract, 60 acres, Capt. James Parker was granted 50 acres and Joseph Parker 20.

As a Selectman many of the records were handwritten by Capt. James Parker. Some were very "hard to read".

JACOB

b. 1625

d. Jan. 7, 1668-9

Arrived in Charlestown in 1635. Wife Sarah.

Moved to Woburn where he served as Town Clerk.

In 1652 Jacob and his four brothers were among 20 men from Woburn and Concord who petitioned the Court for the privilege to examine the land lying on the west side of the Concord River with the view of settling. In 1653 they were joined by 9 others and were granted a tract of land 6 miles square to establish the Town of Chelmsford. When it was granted he moved to Chelmsford near Abraham on Billerica Road and worked the land as a farmer. He held a rank of Sergeant in the military. Jacob was Town Clerk in Chelmsford in 1658.

Sarah, his wife bore him 8 children, among whom was Sarah, the first white girl born in Chelmsford in 1653.

Finally he moved to Malden in 1667 where he served as Town Clerk in that town. He died in 1669 where his inventory was rendered April 6, 1669. After his death, his wife married Capt. John Wayt of Malden and had 10 more children.

CHILDREN of JACOB and SARAH PARKER

Jacob - b. 1652 in Woburn

m. Joanna - widow of John Stearns of Malden

Sarah - b. Jan. 14, 1653

m. Nathaniel Howard

Thomas - b. Mar. 28, 1656

m. Mary Fletcher Oct. 1, 1678  
daughter of William Fletcher  
b. Oct. 4, 1658

Tabitha - b. Feb. 28, 1658

m. Stephen Pierce of Woburn Nov. 18, 1676  
son of Thomas Pierce

Rebecka - b. Mar, 29, 1661

m. Jonathan Danforth, Jr. at Billerica Apr, 27, 1682  
Joseph Foster after 1717

Benjamin - b. Aug. 8, 1663

d. June 8, 1741

m. Sarah Howard of Concord Jan. 14, 1690

Rachel - b. Mar. 9, 1664

m. John Flood (Floyd)

Mary - b. Sept. 8, 1667

m. Thomas Wayte (Wait) Dec. 18, 1707

JOSEPH

Arrived in Charlestown about 1635. Wife Margaret.

First settled in Woburn and then moved to Chelmsford in 1652. He was one of the petitioners for the land for the Town of Chelmsford which was granted in 1653. He lived on the south side of Beaver Brook (east of the road to the Parker sawmill). His son Joseph, Jr. was the first white child born in Chelmsford.

In 1665 he moved to Groton with his brother, James. He and his brother were the original proprietors of a 50 acre right of land and Joseph was also sole proprietor of a 20 acre right.

His next move was to Dunstable where he was one of the 26 petitioners to incorporate land along the Merrimack, Nashua and Souhegan Rivers as the Town of Dunstable. The petition was granted Oct. 16, 1673. The grant consisted of 200 sq. miles (128,000 acres) and included the present towns of Dunstable, Tyngsboro, parts of Dracut, Groton, Pepperell and Townsend, Mass. with Nashua, Hollis, Hudson N.H. and sections of Brookline, Milford, Amherst, Merrimack, Londonderry, Litchfield and Pelham, N.H.

He was Constable of Dunstable from 1675 to 1682.

Joseph was wounded in the Indian Assault on Chelmsford, March 20, 1676.

CHILDREN of JOSEPH and MARGARET

Joseph	b. Mar. 30, 1653 the first white child born in Chelmsford
Anna	b, Feb. 2, 1655 in Chelmsford
Mary	b. Oct. 28, 1657 in Chelmsford
John	b. Nov. 24, 1661 in Chelmsford
Anna	b. Nov. 16, 1663 in Chelmsford

JOHN

b. about 1600

m. widow of John Poulter (Hazen's History of Billerica)  
Raleigh, Essex, England

d. 6/14/1667 (a John Parker of Billerica died 9/1668)

Arrived in Charlestown in 1635 on the "James" of London  
from Southampton, England.

Moved to Woburn in 1649.

To Chelmsford in 1652

He moved to Billerica in 1654 and became their first Town  
Clerk and Tax Collector. He helped build the first Church  
and acted as Agent for the Town in disposing of two large  
grants, one of 8000 acres and one of 4000 acres.

He had no children.

Finally settled in Shawsheen (now Andover).

Five John Parkers came from England between 1635 and early  
1640's. It is difficult to sort out the one who belongs  
to the other brothers

A carpenter from Marlborough left on the "James" April 5,  
1635 with wife, Jane . Arrived June 3. He had his children  
Thomas, Noah, John and Margaret. The fact that he had ch-  
ildren does not tie in with other information.

A John Parker traveled to New England on the "Arabella"  
on May 27, 1671.

Excerpts from History of Billerica - Hazen

In 1651 a grant of a farm of 1500 acres in "Shawshin" owned by Gov. Dudley was sold Feb. 24, 1651-2 to three citizens of Woburn - Thomas Chamberline, James Parker and Isaac Learned. This was the earliest sale and one of the largest ever made of land in Billerica. All three men were citizens of Chelmsford but James Parker had resided in Billerica 3 or 4 years.

John Parker, one of the five brothers, had a grant of 10 acres and Robert Parker owned a grant of 60 acres in the town. The petition to Hon. Mr. Bellingham, Governor, contained the names of:

Daniel Gookin of Cambridge	George Farley
Richard Champney - Cambridge	<u>John Parker</u>
William French	<u>James Parker</u>
<u>Robert Parker</u>	Henry Jeftes
<u>John French</u>	Jonathan Danforth
Ralph Hill	John Sterne
Ralph Hill, Jr.	William Chamberline

The original petition had no date but it was approved Nov. 2, 1654.

The grant spelled the name of the town "Billirikeyea" but because of frequent misspellings it was eventually changed to Billerica.

Shawshin was an Indian name and when the town had secured a company of English residents they adopted an English name they could bear. Since a couple of them came from Billericay in England, the name was changed.

John Parker settled on the farm reserved for the Church in Cambridge located on both sides of the Shawshin River, a mile wide, from Woburn Road down the River.

James Parker, one of the three purchasers of the Dudley Farm, had a house lot on Long Street which was crossed by Andover Road.

Robert Parker's lot was on the east side of the farm. There were 40 families in Billerica in 1660. A large number of inhabitants came from Cambridge.

The largest owner was Jonathan Tyng. Dunstable was named to compliment Mary Tyng, wife of Hon. Edward Tyng who came to America from Dunstable, England about 1630. It was an old English town situated in Bedfordshire.

At the conclusion of the war with the Indians, Selectmen were elected at the earliest Town Meeting on record - held in Woburn, Nov. 28, 1677. Capt. Thomas Brattle of Boston, Capt. Elisha Hutchinson of Woburn, Capt. James Parker of Groton, Abraham Parker of Groton and Jonathan Tyng were chosen Selectmen.

An Isaac Parker was one of the early settlers of Charlestown, N.H. about 1740. He was taken prisoner by Indians on April 19, 1746 and held until the following winter and released.

From the Diary of Rev. Ebenezer Bridge

Feb. 1, 1754

Smoked a pipe with ye Selectmen at (Jno) John Parker's Tavern.

Aug. 15, 1755

General muster of Companies to raise men to reenforce Army at Crown Point. Spent evening at Parker's with officers.

Sept. 26

Prayed at Parker's with a Company going off to Crown Point.

Sept. 27

Visited widow Parker upon report of her son being killed in fight under Gen. Johnson.

Oct. 6

Visited widow Parker who has heard from her son, Moses, concerning the death of Jacob Parker of this town.

May 2, 1758

Capt. Parker pressing men for Canada Expedition.

April 16, 1759

Dined with Capt. Moses Parker at Parker's tavern and prayed with his company.

Jan. 18, 1762

Capt. Moses Parker arrived yesterday from Halifax.

Soldiers of the Revolution buried in Chelmsford Cemeteries

Forefathers

Lieut. Benjamin Parker

Jonathan Parker

Sgt. Willard Parker

School St.- Lowell

Simon Parker

In accordance with ancient custom, the bodies in the older part of Forefather's Burying Ground are buried with their faces toward the East as looking for the promised coming of Christ and the resurrection of the dead.

**American clocks from the same era tend to be more expensive, especially if signed by a famous maker. It would not be uncommon to find prices of \$40,000 to \$100,000 for a signed Willard family clock, he says. American country clocks might range from \$4,000 to \$10,000.**

SECOND GENERATION IN AMERICA

BENJAMIN son of Jacob

b. August 8, 1663

d. June 8, 1741

m. Sarah Howard (Hayward in Court Record)

Jan. 14, 1690 in Chelmsford

Granddaughter of Simon Willard of Concord and wife Mary Sharpe.

Sarah was born May 20, 1651      d. June 18, 1741

They are both buried in Chelmsford at Forefather's Cemetery.

The family resided in a section of Chelmsford at 137 Pine Street which is now Lowell. Benjamin worked as a farmer and was the first Clerk of the Wamesit Purchase. He was one of the purchasers when the Wamesit lands were sold by Hinchman and Tyng to 45 settlers. He was the first one known to have been living on neck land and bought enough from others to make an estate of 600 acres stretching back from the Merrimack River.

Sarah Howard was the granddaughter of Major Simon Willard and Mary (Sharpe) of Concord. Simon Willard 1753-1848 was a famous clockmaker who patented the "banjo clock" in 1802. Ephriam, Aaron and Benjamin Willard were also involved in clock-making and a collection of their grand-father clocks are on display at Sturbridge Village.

CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN and SARAH HOWARD PARKER

Mary	b. May, 3, 1694	m. - Eaton
Rebeckar	b. Feb. 28, 1697 d. Dec. 10, 1721	m. Gersham Proctor
Sarah		
<u>Benjamin</u>	b. Sept. 12, 1699 d. Feb. 18, 1721	m. Elizabeth Warren
Tabitha	b. Feb. 1701 d. Feb. 18, 1721	m. Joseph Warrin (Warren)
Henry	b. May 21, 1705	m. Sarah Farwell of Dunstable
Johnathan	Moved to Wilton, N.H. b. Aug. 1, 1709 d. Dec. 10, 1734	m. Rachel Butterfield d. Jan. 1, 1791 @88

THIRD GENERATION in AMERICA

LT. BENJAMIN

son of Benjamin and Sarah (Howard)

b. Sept. 12, 1699 at Chelmsford

d. May 23, 1771 Buried in Chelmsford Forefather's Cemetery

m. Feb. 18, 1721 to Elizabeth Warrin (Warren)

Lt. Benjamin was a farmer and a Second Lt. in the 4th Foot Company of Chelmsford. He marched to Arcadia and helped to destroy it under the direction of Capt. Ebenezar Parker in 1754. In 1724 he had served in a Snowshoe Company during the 4th Indian War under Capt. Robert Richardson and Lt. Joseph Parker.

When he died his body was carried to the Cemetery by a relay of six men from the family home (now 137 Pine Street, Lowell).

Elizabeth Warren was the daughter of Joseph and Ruth (Wheeler) Warren. She was born Dec. 9, 1696 in Chelmsford and died Dec. 30, 1765. She is also buried in Forefathers, Chelmsford.

Their son, David, was Town Treasurer in Chelmsford in 1772.

CHILDREN of LT. BENJAMIN and ELIZABETH PARKER

Benjamin, Jr. b. Mar. 26, 1723  
d. Feb. 17, 1801

m. Elizabeth Blodgett  
Jan. 3, 1750  
b. 1723 d. Apr. 17, 1787  
m. widow Sarah Lane-Bedford  
July 14, 1791

Elizabeth- b. Aug. 18, 1728

m. Andrew Fletcher-Chelm.  
May 5, 1748

Ruth - b. Oct. 2, 1729

m. Timothy Rogers of Tewk.  
June 2, 1757

David - b. Mar. 19, 1731  
d. June 11, 1811 @80

m. Lucy Barrett in 1758  
d. Dec. 28, 1828 @91

Philip - b. July 19, 1734

m. Anna Osgood of Tewks.  
d. Oct. 22, 1768

Sarah- b. Sept. 21, 1736  
d. April 29, 1771

never married  
buried in Forefathers

Mary- b. Sept. 17, 1739

m. Jonathan Spaulding -Chelm.  
Dec. 17, 1761

25% RAG CONTENT

USA

FOURTH GENERATION IN AMERICA

BENJAMIN PARKER, JR.

son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Warren

b. March 26, 1723 at Chelmsford

d. Feb. 17, 1801

m. Jan. 3, 1750

Elizabeth Blodgett, daughter of  
Lt. William and Elizabeth (Wright)  
Blodgett

b. Oct. 4, 1722 in Chelmsford

d. April 17, 1787

m. Widow Sarah Lane of Bedford  
July 14, 1791

Benjamin, Jr. was a farmer and served as Constable. He was a Private in Capt. Oliver Barron's Co. and marched to Lexington, April 19, 1775. He fought at Merriam's Corner and Hardy's Hill. He was actively engaged in buying and selling real estate.

A year earlier Benjamin was made one of a party of fifteen to keep order in Chelmsford, where many of the citizens had become lawless. This time he was appointed by the Chelmsford authorities, not by the King's officers.

When the alarm guns sounded on April 19, 1775 Benjamin repaired to Chelmsford Center, which was the meeting place for the militia and marched to Lexington serving 3 days. About a week later, a new company was organized under Capt. Ford of Chelmsford and many of the men from Barron's Company enlisted again and went to Cambridge. There is no record of Benjamin, Jr. enlisting in this company, although one of his sons did.

CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN, JR. and ELIZABETH PARKER

Reuben	b. Nov. 26, 1751	m. Molly Harwood Jan. 27, 1801 Elmira Hastings of Woburn Dec. 12, 1815
Benjamin	b. Oct. 26, 1754 moved to Keane, N.H.	m. Betsey Read of Carlisle Oct. 28, 1784
Joseph	b. Aug. 21, 1757	m. Elizabeth Blanchard Jan. 7, 1802
Simeon	b. Oct. 25, 1759	m. Susanna Fletcher of Chelms. July 5, 1791
Jeduthan	b. Nov. 18, 1763	m. Phebe Corey - Jan. 1, 1793
<u>Zebulon</u>	b. July 24, 1764	m. Rachel Richardson - Dracut May 31, 1792
Sarah		Molly Johnson - Mar. 1, 1812

Son Benjamin went with his father and brother to Lexington, He served 8 days. April, 27, 1775 he enlisted in Capt. John Ford's Company, Col. Ebenezer Bridge's Regiment as a private serving 3 months and 12 days. His Company returned to Chelmsford Sept. 25, 1775. His age was listed as 22 years, 6 feet tall, dark complexion, occupation farmer. Capt. Ford's Company was with Gen. Ward at Cambridge but Ford received permission to march in relief of his countrymen at Charlestown. Upon arriving at the foot of the hill, the Company was met by Gen. Putnam, who ordered them to man the cannon entrenched at the foot of the hill. Although they knew nothing about artillery, they had to obey.

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At Concord and Lexington, 29 men related to each other volunteered, 26 bore the name of Parker. There were eight father-son relations on Lexington Common prepared to fight the British Regulars. An aging cousin of Capt. John Parker was Jonas Parker whose son, Jonas, Jr. stood at his side. Jonas, Sr. had declared that he would never run from the British. When ordered to disperse by Capt. Parker, he decided to do as he pleased so he filled his hat full of flints and musket balls, set it on the ground between his feet and prepared to spend the rest of the morning there if necessary. He was hit before he fired but he took aim and shot from the ground. He then reached for another ball and flint from his hat when he was run through with a British bayonet.

Reuben was a private in Capt. Oliver Barrow's Co. of Militia, Col. David Green's Regiment. He answered the alarm of April, 19, 1775 and took part in the fight at Merriam's Corner and Hardy's Hill. In all he served 30 days.

Joseph was a private in Capt. Wright's Co., Col. Brook's Regiment. He served at White Plains - reported as among those in camp fit for duty, Oct. 31, 1776.

Simeon was a private in Capt. Simon Hunt's Co., Col. Jacob Gerrish's Regiment of Guards in 1778. Also in Capt. Fisher's Co. for three months in 1780. He owned a family tomb in the School Street Cemetery with Micah Spaulding. He had three children, Simon, who never married, Betsey who was born Oct. 4, 1793 and married Simeon Mooers and Hannah who married Noah Spaulding. They lived on Parker Street in Lowell. By this time part of Chelmsford had become Lowell.

Jeduthan was a farmer and lived at 137 Pine Street.

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FIFTH GENERATION IN AMERICA

ZEBULON son of Benjamin, Jr. and Elizabeth Blodgett

b. July 24, 1764 at Chelmsford (137 Pine Street, now Lowell)	m. Rachel Richardson - Dracut May, 31, 1791 d. Feb. 16, 1811 School St.
d. buried in School St. Cemetery	m. Molly Johnson Mar. 1, 1812

CHILDREN of ZEBULON and RACHEL RICHARDSON

Bradley	b. Dec. 22, 1799	moved to Bow, N.H.
Obediah	b. Nov. 25, 1802	
Philip	b. Jan. 10, 1795	moved to Bow, N.H.
<u>Gilbert</u>	b. Mar. 27, 1797	moved to Westford m. Sally White of Acton
Zebulon	b. Dec. 22, 1799	moved to Bow, N.H.

CHILDREN of ZEBULON and MOLLY JOHNSON

Nancy Ann	m. Archibald Varnum - Dracut
Alpheus	m. William Whittemore of Greenfield, N.H.
Hannah	m. John Loker of Cochituate, Mass.

Old Houses in Chelmsford  
with Parker connections

- #2 Dupee House  
246 Acton Road - 1850  
Built by Eli Parker
- 
- #15 Holt House  
32 Billerica Road  
Once a Tavern operated  
by a man named Parker
- 
- #29 Osburn/Parker House  
134 Boston Road - 1760  
Probably built by Jonathan  
Parker ("Trooper Jock")
- 
- #30 "Hill Jock" Parker House  
155 Boston Road - 1760  
  
Later owned by Willard  
Parker a prominent physi-  
cian in N.Y. Academy of  
Medicine. One of the found-  
ers and President of that  
Association.
- 
- #31 Sweetser House  
189 Boston Road - before  
1831  
Called Parker Manor at one  
time. Used as Tourist stop  
for many years.
- 
- #34 Barrett-Byam Homestead  
40 Byam Road - 1663  
  
James Parker - Builder  
Apr. 10, 1663 - conveyed title  
of a house and 52 acres of  
land on the south side of  
Robin's Hill to Thomas  
Barrett and his son, Thomas  
of Braintree.
- 
- #93 Eli Parker House  
150 Hunt Road - 1774  
  
Eli Parker and Mary Hunt  
bought this house under a  
marriage contract.
- 
- #159 Thomas Proctor House  
43 Proctor Road - 1780  
  
Robert Proctor had seven  
sons and owned practically  
all of the south side of  
Robin Hill (the original

Parker grant of land.) The  
house was built by one of  
his sons about 1780.  
Birthplace of Thomas Parker  
Proctor, who became a law-  
yer in Boston.

- 
- #160 Proctor/Artemas Parker  
House  
47 Proctor Road - 1770  
  
Artemas Parker was an ex-  
pert in the lime industry  
He provided the lime for  
the inner walls of the houses  
in the area. The last kiln  
of lime was burned about  
1830.
- 
- #170 Eli Packard Parker House  
195 Robin Hill Road -  
1833-1836  
  
Son of Packard Parker who  
lived on Hunt Road. Eli was  
born in 1812 and died in  
1898 at 86. He was a carp-  
enter and builder. The mid-  
dle part was built in 1833,  
the addition on the left  
with cellar in 1840 and the  
right hand side added later  
with no cellar.
- 

In the 1800's Artemas Parker was  
an expert in the lime industry.  
He burned the last kiln of lime  
about 1830 when the wood used to  
burn in the kilns became too ex-  
pensive and the lime works at Th-  
omaston, Maine came into compet-  
ition. The kilns in Chelmsford  
were operated by the Fletchers and  
Perhams. In some old Chelmsford  
houses the plaster made of this  
lime is today almost as hard as  
tile. There were 5 lime kilns in  
Chelmsford. The tile was used in  
East Chelmsford in the construc-  
tion of mills and corporation  
buildings.



SIXTH GENERATION IN AMERICA

GILBERT son of Zebulon and Rachel Richardson

b. March 27, 1797 at Chelmsford, Mass.

d. June 13, 1874 at Westford, Mass.

buried in Fairview Cemetery, Westford, Mass.

m. Sally White of Acton (Sarah) May 31, 1820

b. 1802

d. Feb. 6, 1878

CHILDREN OF GILBERT AND SALLY PARKER

Elbridge G.

b. Nov. 12, 1821  
in Westford

m. Nancy Tuttle

Sarah

b. Sept. 28, 1823

m. Alpheus Reed

Obediah

George Alpheus

b. May 21, 1826  
d. Apr. 6, 1901

m. Sarah Winchester  
b. Dec. 28, 1828  
d. Apr. 10, 1903

James M.

b. Sept. 5, 1828  
d. 1870

m. Martha A.  
Dudley

Otis

b. 1831  
d. 1866

m. Sarah E. Coolidge  
1834-1914

This is the last of three letters that I kept  
Dated Feb 23, 1946.

My dear Cousin:

Have been very busy lately and just got to copying the will to-day. Have done it hurriedly but believe it to be accurate excepting punctuation.

Am having all the work I am able to turn out but get very tired and have to rest frequently. My health is very good but have to poke along at a very slow pace. Hector was discharged this week and is home with his family.

Guess I am about run out of gab for this time but will write more when I get a chance.

Love and kisses

Cousin Bill.

Last Will of Gilbert Parker

Know all men by these presents, that I, Gilbert Parker, in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being in sound health and of good disposing mind and memory to hereby make and publish this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me at any time heretofore made.

Item 1st- I hereby appoint William H. Anderson of Lowell, Mass. Attorney-at-law, the sole executor of this will, directing him to pay all my just debts and funeral expenses out of my estate.

Item 2nd-I give and bequeath to my wife, Sarah W. Parker, the sum of three thousands dollars and all the furniture in my mansion house in Westford to have and to hold the same to her heirs and legal representatives forever I also give, devise and bequeath to said Sarah W. Parker, the use and occupation of such one half of said mansion house as she may elect and of such provisions and products as are raised on and come from the farm connected with said house. I give enough for her support and that of her servant if she has one, the said provisions and products to be prepared and harvested for her and made ready to her use. I also direct that she shall have the use of a horse to be kept on said farm and be harnessed and unharnessed for her when she desires and generally I direct that she shall have a home on said farm and direct that the said farm shall not be sold without the consent of said Sarah W. in writing expressed to have and to hold the said use and income unto said Sarah W. during her natural life.

Item 3rd-All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, of which I shall die seized and possessed or to which I shall be entitled at the time of my decease, I direct shall be divided by my executor in five equal parts and said part I give to my son Elbridge G. Parker; a second I give, devise and bequeath to my daughter, Sarah S. Reed of Westford, a third I give, devise and bequeath to my son, George A. Parker of Westford, the foregoing shall be paid to them respectively within one year after my decease and shall be held by them, their heirs and legal representatives forever. A fourth part I give, devise and bequeath to my grandchildren, the children of my son, James M. Parker, deceased, and a fifth part I give, devise and bequeath to my granddaughter, the child of Otis W. Parker, deceased. These two parts shall not be paid to said grandchildren until they respectively arrive at the age of twenty-five and my executor shall keep said shares invested till they respectively arrive at that age provided that he may pay from the income of said shares a sufficient amount for the support if they need it and also provided that the share of the child of my son Otis W. Parker in case she dies before arriving at age of twenty-one years shall be paid to my four children or their representatives. The executor herein named shall in case my home farm is sold hold the proceeds accruing to my grandchildren above named until they arrive at the age of twenty-five years in case any of my children now living should decease before the payment to them by my executor

of their share above named, I direct my said executor to retain such shares until the children of such deceased child shall respectively arrive at the age of twenty-five years subject to the same provisions as before named in regard to the incomes of the shares of the other grandchildren I do not intend to give my said executor any authority to divide my home farm or to sell but in case it is sold to hold the proceeds thereof belonging to my heirs of legatees then under twenty-five years of age in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal and publish and declare this to be my last will and testament in the presence of the witnesses named below this nineteenth day of August A.D. 1871

Gilbert (seal)

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Gilbert Parker as and for his last will and testament in presence of us and in his presence and in the presence of each other and at his request have subscribed our names as witnesses hereto

Sydney David  
Martin L. Hamlet.  
Frank O. Butterfield.

Edna; I have done this hurriedly and there may be some mistakes in typing, but I am sure that it is copied correctly from your father's letters.

You will notice that he mentioned not being able to locate the Parker Genealogy that he had worked on, so perhaps it had been destroyed before he went away. I seem to recollect that he mentioned at one time that he felt sure "someone" (let's not mention any names, but perhaps you can guess) had been tampering with his papers.(???)

M/



EIGHTH GENERATION IN AMERICA

CHARLES HENRY son of James Parker and Martha

1850-1922

d. 1922

Westford, Mass.

Buried in Fairview Cemetery  
Westford, Mass.

m. Harriet Sabra Gates of Westford

1848-1922

-daughter of Artemas and Sabra

b. March 17, 1848

Gates - farmer

CHILDREN OF CHARLES and HARRIET PARKER

Willard Gilbert

b. Oct. 2, 1877

d. Jan. 3, 1948

Buried in Fairview Cemetery  
Westford, Mass.

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In the year 1974 Parker was the 49th most frequently occurring surname in the nation. There are approximately 322,500 adult Americans named Parker. -American Genealogical Research Institute

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# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town of Westford, June 27<sup>th</sup> 1910

## RECORD OF BIRTH

I, Edward Fisher, Town Clerk of the Town of Westford in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereby certify that in the Records of Births in said Town there is recorded the birth of

Willard Gilbert Parker

and that the following facts appear in the record of such birth, to wit:

Date of Birth October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1877  
Name of Child Willard Gilbert Parker  
Sex m Color w Birthplace Westford Mass.  
Occupation of Father farmer Residence of Father Westford  
Names of Parents Charles H. Parker Harrist S. Gates  
Father Mother (Maiden Name)  
Birthplace of Parents Westford Westford  
Father Mother

I further declare that the records of Births, Marriages and Deaths in said Town are in my custody, and that the foregoing is a true extract of the Records of Births in said Town as certified by me.

Witness my hand and the seal of the said Town of Westford,  
on the day and year first above written.

Edward Fisher

Town Clerk

Dated Jan. 26, 1946.

My dear Cousin:

(First part of letter is quite personal) Then he wrote:

Since writing my last letter to you, I have unearthed a copy of Gt Grandfather, Gilbert Parker's last will and testament. I have in mind to send you a copy of it as soon as I am able to do so. It may be several days before I can attempt it, but you will get it eventually. By the way, it is dated August 1870. I have not located my dates and must write from memory, which, while not perfect, is still very good, especially on such things long ago. Did you ever hear that our common ancestor was Jacob Parker in 1653 and he resided in Chelmsford which then comprised all land bounded on the north by the Merrimack River and on the east by the Concord. His home was almost opposite where the Morey school now stands and where Harry & Arthur Parker reside. I do not know where they join into our line of ancestors but they are descended from Jacob also and lived in the ancestral home. Somewhere I have the direct line from Jacob down and may locate it some day. There were 3 Benjamins, one of whom grabbed his musket and ammunition and went over the road from Chelmsford to Concord in 1775. I think he was the third Ben. and when he arrived after the battle and reported, he was excused and sent home as it was April and he was needed to plough and plant at home and help furnish supplies for the small army of the Colonists. I never learned why our Grandfather or any of his brothers were not in the Civil War. My own father was only 15 when the war ended. Between the 3 Bens and Gt.Gr. Parker I believe there was his father. His name may have been Obadiah, or perhaps the latter was his brother I cannot remember. To the best of my knowledge everything I have told you is true and is the best I was able to find for myself in the past. I must try to locate my genealogy and refresh my memory on dates and other details. I believe there was one at least between Jacob and the 3 Bens and one or more between them and Gilbert, our Gt. Gr. From there on down I have more information although there are some stories that do not ring true in spots. No sum was mentioned in the will but all the children received James' share when they became 25 yrs. I believe I told you 21. Wm. H. Anderson was the Executor as I have said. I think Gilbert died about 1878 or 1879 as I have been told when I was born he presented me with a \$5.00 gold piece which was stolen from me later and probably went for liquor. I have been most fortunate in having a wonderful mother, whose struggle for existence is appreciated far more now than at any time. Through the years her words continually echo in my ears "It may not be your way, it may not be my way, but surely in some way the Lord will provide" and He always has. My old age pension is not adequate for my needs but He sends me odd jobs and also strength to do them so I get along and pay my way and I glory in the fact that I owe no man and can face anyone. (Here he quoted from "Romans 10\_12 or as he said, perhaps 12-10)

Love and kisses

Bill

Correspondence between Willard (Bill) Parker and his  
Cousin Mabel Sidebotham - relayed to his daughter Edna.

Dear Edna: I am copying the three letters that I received from your father  
and this is all that I seem to have kept.

Dated Jan. 24, 1946.

My dear Cousin:

Your story about Grandfather Parker strikes me as being very true as I recall talk about the Coram affair and as I remember it, it was a copper mine. Coram lived in a mansion at the corner of Marlborough & Pine and it is still being used as the Marlborough Hotel. I never knew it was connected in any way with my ancestor. This also connects with the story of Uncle Elbridge, his brother, who built the house and barn on Agawam St. in which you resided as an infant. Before I can remember the barn was converted into 4 small tenements and was like that as far back as I can remember. Gt. Grandfather Parker was fairly well-to-do and left a will in which all of James' children, I think were remembered with \$100 or more. In your mother's case she was to get \$100. when 21 and Lawyer Wm. H. Anderson held it in trust for her till that time. He had an office in old Barrister's Hall where the present Chalifoux Bldg. is now, cor Central & Merrk. I remember hearing talk about it at the time but I was not large enough to remember then. No doubt when James passed away, Elbridge made arrangements with his widow, our Grandmother, to move her brood to Lowell and established her on Agawam St. Later Elbridge sold the property to Wm. Manning of E. Chelmsford and that may be the time when it was changed to 2 tenements in front and 4 in the former barn in the rear. Grandma continued to reside there, upstairs, but Uncle Elbridge bought or built a home on Parker St, named after him, between Chelmsford & Stevens. We moved in downstairs when I was very small, probably 6 or 7 yrs. old. Originally Gt. Grandpa was a blacksmith and was located near Lake Nagog in No. Acton. At that time the stage between Nashua and Boston passed and he made money shoeing horses etc. Came the time when the route was changed from Nashua through Westford, Parker Village to Concord & Boston. Maybe the coming of the old Middlesex Canal may have caused the management to change the old route nearer the new canal to get more business. However, Gt. gr. P sold out his shop and moved to the Isaac Minot place in what is now Parker Village, named after him because his four boys, Otis, George, Elbridge, James and Sarah, his daughter were spread out in houses in that vicinity. Otis has always been a closed book with me and likewise James, till you set me thinking. Less than 25 years ago the old house was destroyed by fire. I have slept in the house which was used as a garrison during the Revo. War. In under the kitchen was a well covered by a trap door; in the kitchen was a wooden sink and a half coconut shell used as a cup. There was a chain to let down a chain and the water was always like ice. This well was dug to furnish the Colonists with water if they were besieged by the British. My father, in one of his various tantrums, lived there one year and took me when very small to stay over night. More of this later. Perhaps you may recall my attempt years ago to dig up a genealogy of the Parkers. What became of it I cannot say ~~at~~ the moment but I think it is here somewhere. As far as both your mother and Dad were concerned they were always ~~XX~~ right with me so far as I know. At one time I was approached by a man to tell him if I knew anything about your father, but I was unable to tell him anything. I never knew any of the Dudleys save Aunt Emmeline and Frank Tuttle, her son, the latter because of his infatuation and silliness with M

(The next few lines are quite personal and not pertaining to Parkers  
so I am omitting them, but will continue on)-----

Perhaps this letter is more or less jumbled but it is the best I am able to do at this time. I think there are many things I can tell you and which you have a right to know. Perhaps we have been too far apart, but I am glad to tell you anything I have learned. You must make allowances for hearsay evidence, but I have tried to get as near the truth as possible. This is all I feel able to write for now. Lots of love

Bill.

- done  
showed me 1946  
to me M.E.S

Scout St.

John Heald house

NY - NN + N. R 12

W. S. formerly  
Butterworths

Carroll Dept

This may not be  
accurate but as near  
as I can remember.  
(M.E.S)

Judson  
Sweetser's  
house

E  
&  
S  
1

Bear Hill

Second house  
where my mother  
was born and  
lived

(Gates)

old Harrison House

where my father was born  
and lived as well as your mother.

Gilbert Parker  
house now  
burned

(that could be Charles Parker &  
Hattie  
M.E.S)

Griffin Road

little red school  
now very much  
enlarged

The other Parkers lived  
up this road but I do  
not know the order

NINTH GENERATION IN AMERICA

WILLARD GILBERT

son of Charles and Harriet Parker

b. Oct. 2, 1877 in Westford, Mass.

d. Jan. 3, 1948 Buried in Fairview Cemetery, Westford, Mass.

m. Helen Oswald Dickson Oct. 3, 1900

b. Feb. 13, 1877 in Sterling, Scotland

d. Aug. 13, 1969 Buried in Fairview Cemetery, Westford

Helen Oswald Parker was born at 4 Banks Street in Stirling, Scotland (off Spittal St. on the hill to the castle). Her father, William Dickson is listed as a wool sorter in a tweed factory. He was married October 1871 to Mary Oswald.

CHILDREN of WILLARD and HELEN O. PARKER

Edna	b. Dec. 24, 1901	m. Chester Lewis divorced m. Alfred Timmins d. Feb. 9, 1989
Donald Edwin	b. Oct. 14, 1903 d. 1963	m. Pamela Yorke divorced m. Mildred m. Pansy Richardson
Marion	b. Mar. 28, 1905 d. 1976	m. Lloyd Wyse of Ohio
Willard Gates	b. Oct. 4, 1907	m. MayBelle Lapoint of Lowell
Stuart Dickson	b. Nov. 25, 1914 d. Mar. 17, in Devon, Conn.	m. Aida Matta
<u>Hector MacDonald</u>	b. Mar. 5, 1916 d. Aug. 7, 1987	m. Shirley Davies of Pelham, N.H. July 15, 1939

HECTOR DONALD EDNA MARION WILLARD STUART

July 15, 1939





# AN NEWS

The Suburban News

AY, JANUARY 9, 1948

FIVE CENTS

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.  
POSTAGE PAID  
LOWELL, MASS.  
Permit No. 343

## Willard G. Parker, Father of Publisher Passes Away Suddenly

Willard G. Parker, a resident of Lowell practically all his life, died suddenly Saturday morning at his home, 34 Roper St., aged 70 years, 3 months and 1 day.

He was born in Westford, the son of the late Charles and Harriet (Gates) Parker. Mr. Parker had been associated with the Courier-Citizen newspaper for a 35-year period, and in 1923, at which time an injury forced his retirement, he was serving in the capacity of superintendent of the mailing room.

Mr. Parker had, in former years, been a member of the Old Worthen Street Baptist Church. He was very active in Masonic circles, having been a member of William North Lodge, A.F. & A.M. He was also affiliated with all the York Rite Masonic bodies comprising Mt. Horeb, Royal Arch chapter, Ahasuerus Council, R. and S.M. and Pilgrim Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar, and the following Scottish Rite Bodies: Lowell Lodge of Perfection; Lowell Council, Princes of Jerusalem, and Mount Calvary Chapter of Rose Croix.

He is survived by his wife, the former Helen O. Dickson; four sons, Donald E. Parker of Waltham, Willard G. Parker, Jr., of Lowell, Stuart D. Parker of Devon, Conn., and Hector M. Parker of Chelmsford; two daughters, Mrs. Alfred W. Timmins of Lowell, and Mrs. Lloyd E. Wyse of Managua, Nicaragua, Central America; 19 grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

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## Donald Parker

Donald Edwin Parker, 60, of 10 Haven Lane, Cochrasset, formerly of Waltham, died Monday morning at Peter Bent Brigham hospital, Boston.

Funeral services were held yesterday at the Loker Chapel, Natick, with Rev. Ray M. Marshall of the First Baptist church, Natick, officiating.

A linotype operator, Mr. Parker learned his trade at the former Lowell Courier-Citizen, worked at the Waltham News Tribune but for the past 12 years had been with the Christian Science Monitor in Boston.

Surviving are his wife, P. Juliett (Richardson) Parker; his mother, Mrs. Helen Parker of Lowell; a daughter, Mrs. Pamela Mitrano of Natick; four sons, Donald E. Jr. of Canton, Douglas of South Acton, Robert of Hingham and Richard of Franklin; two sisters, Mrs. Alfred W. Timmins, Lowell; Mrs. Lloyd E. Wyse, Granitville, Ohio; three brothers, Willard G. of Nutley, N. J.; Stuart D. of Devon, Conn.; Hector M. of Chelmsford, and 20 grandchildren.

Born in Tewksbury, he was a Cochrasset resident for 12 years.

## Stuart D. Parker

MILFORD — Stuart D. Parker, 67, of 74 Camden Street, Devon, a self-employed truck driver, died Wednesday in Milford Hospital.

Services will take place Saturday at 11 a.m. in the George J. Smith and Son Funeral Home, 135 Broad Street, with Gerry Vadas, officiating. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Parker was born in Lowell, Mass., and had been a Milford resident since 1947. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Devon VFW.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Aida Matta Parker of Devon; two sons, Stuart G. Parker of Stratford and William J. Parker of Milford; a daughter, Mrs. Vivian May Lesh of West Willington; two brothers, Willard G. Parker of Nutley, N.J. and Hector M. Parker of Chelmsford, Mass.; and a sister, Mrs. Alfred Timmons of Lowell, Mass.

## Marion Wyse

... born in Tewksbury,  
dies in Ohio

DAYTON, Ohio — Mrs. Marion (Parker) Wyse, 71, of Dayton, Ohio died Sunday at the Trinity Home in Dayton. She was born March 28, 1905 in Tewksbury, Mass., attended Boston University and was graduated from the Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago, Ill. She was a missionary in Managua, Nicaragua, from 1926 until her retirement in 1958. She was the widow of Lloyd E. Wyse and is survived by five children, Colonel David L. Wyse with the U.S. Air Force in Guam; Philip E. Wyse of Huron, South Dakota; Rev. Arthur B. Wyse of Cali, Colombia; Mrs. Marion W. Metz of Dayton, Paul J. Wyse of St. Paul Minn; three brothers, Willard G. Parker of Nutley, N.J.; Stuart Parker of Camden, Conn., and Hector Parker of Concord, Mass; a sister, Mrs. Edna P. Timmins of Lowell, Mass.; and six grandchildren.



Donald Parker Family

Douglas     Robert     Richard  
First wife: Pamela     Pamela     Donald, Jr.



## Alfred W. Timmins

### ...retired from railroad

Alfred W. Timmins, 84, of Fernald Street, Lowell, died Thursday evening at Lowell General Hospital after a brief illness. He was the husband of Edna (Parker) Timmins.

Born in Jamaica Plain, Oct. 1, 1904, son of the late Fred and Blanche (Prescott) Timmins, he had lived in Lowell for the greater part of his life.

For more than 30 years, Mr. Timmins had been employed with the Boston and Maine Railroad and at the time of his retirement in 1969 was Yard Foreman in the Billerica Yards.

A very active and longtime member of the St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Lowell he had been a former member of the former Highland Methodist Church.

Mr. Timmins was a member of the church choir, men's fellowship club, a member of the board of trustees and many other committees for the church over the years.

A mason, he held membership in the Ancient York Lodge, the Scottish Rite Bodies and the Aleppo Temple Shrine. Mr. Timmins had been the secretary and treasurer for the Brotherhood of Railroad Train Men and was the treasurer of the A.A.R.P. in Lowell.

Mr. Timmins is survived by his wife, Edna (Parker) Timmins with whom he had celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last April; three daughters, Mrs. Tage (Dorothy) Christensen of Puerto Rico, Mrs. Norman (Virginia) Douglas of St. Louis, Mo., and Mrs. Paul (Helen) Laforge of Tyngsboro; a son, Robert A. Timmins of Pittsfield.

He also leaves two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Chester (Mildred) Timmins of Lowell and Mrs. Vernon (Elizabeth) Timmins of Rochester, N.H.; four sisters, Mrs. Grace Mclean of Lowell, Mrs. Ethel Wilder of Chelmsford, Mrs. Helen Reilly of Lowell and Mrs. Gordon (Ruth) Marshall of Florida; a brother, George Timmins; also 31 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.



## Hector M. Parker

... *retired printer*

CHELMSFORD - Hector M. Parker, 71, a resident of the Westland section of Chelmsford for over 15 years, residing at 3 Cortez St., died Friday at the Lowell General Hospital.

He was born in Lowell March 5, 1916, a son of the late Willard G. and Helen ( ) Parker.

He was a member of Kilwinning Lodge AF & AM, Vesper Country Club and the Crafters of Chelmsford. He was also a member of Central Congregational Church United Church of Christ of Chelmsford where he served as a deacon and Sunday school superintendent.

He attended Lowell public schools, graduating from Lowell High School in 1934. He served his printer's apprenticeship at the former Lowell Evening Leader Newspaper and was president and treasurer of the Concord Press in West Concord until his retirement in 1977. He was a World War II veteran, serving with the U.S. Army Air Force.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley E. (Davies) Parker; two daughters, Ms. Ann S. Perry of Westford and Mrs. Russell L. (Heather L.) Johnson of Pelham, N.H.; a son, James S. Parker of Westfield; a sister, Mrs. Alfred (Edna) Timmins of Lowell; a brother, Willard G. Parker of Nutley, N.J.; five granddaughters, Miss Elizabeth A. Perry, Miss Kristin L. Perry, Miss Lesley L. Perry, all of Westford; Miss Kelly A. Parker and Miss Jennifer A. Parker, both of Westfield and several nieces and nephews.

PARKER - Died in Lowell, Aug. 7, (suddenly), Hector M. Parker, 71, of 3 Cortez St., Chelmsford, a W.W. II Army Vet. Services at the SAUNDERS FUNERAL HOME, 90 Westford St., Lowell, Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock. Relatives and friends respectfully invited. Burial in Gibson Cemetery, Pelham, N.H. Friends may call from 2 until 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday. Funeral Director Walter R. Hedlund.

# Story of family love, admiration lives in gravestone epitaphs

By GORDON B. SEAVEY WESTFORD — Not all history is to be found in books, and not all early Westford memories are contained in Hodgman's excellent history of the town, published in 1883.

A story of family love and admiration may be noted, of all places, engraved on colorless slate for passersby to read and ponder for generations, past and present.

It concerns one of the town's earliest and, we see, most prolific families, the Parkers of Parkersville. Few, if any, descendants live here today.

Hodgman reports that the ancestor of this family, Abraham, is supposed to have come from Wiltshire, England, and settled in Woburn. He moved to a homestead of some 24 acres near the center of Chelmsford, about the time the town was incorporated in 1653.

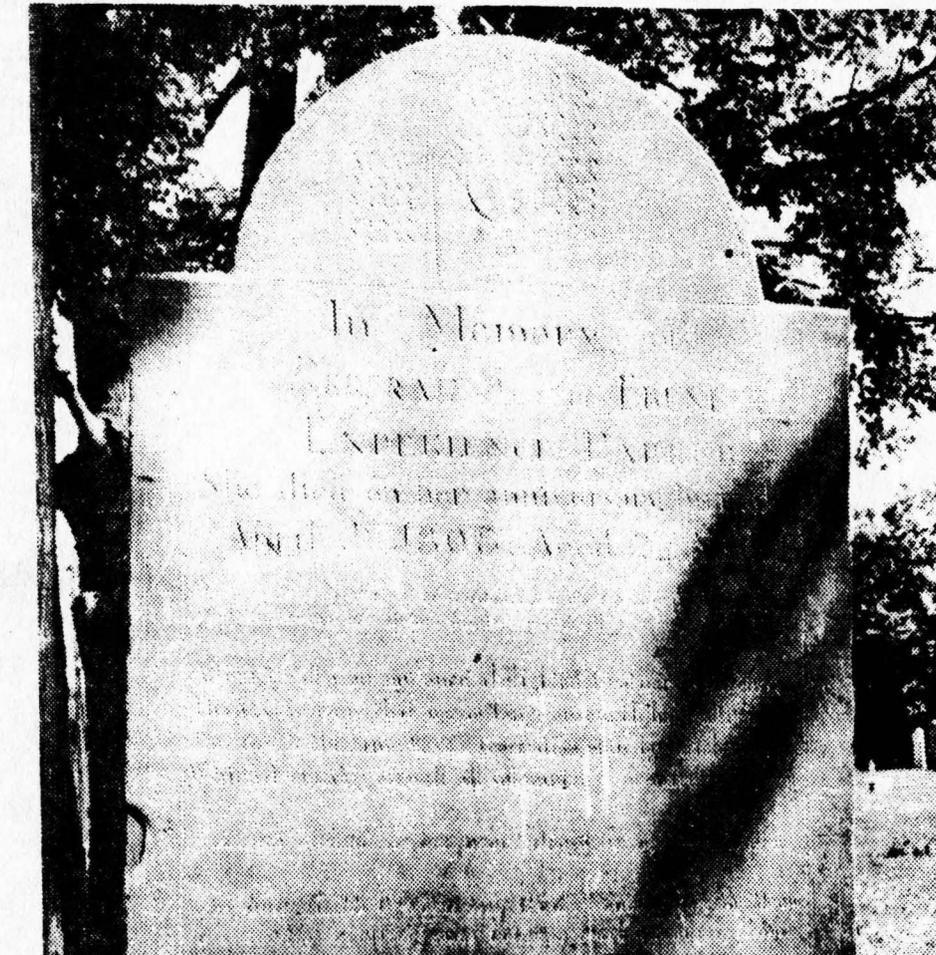
A grandson, Aaron, was the first Parker in Westford and his name appears among the original members of the first church, established in 1724. He settled in the southern part of Westford, known as the Parkerville section today.

**THE FAMILY** prospered, had many offspring and expanded. They intermarried with other early families, such as the Hildreths, Carvers, Proctors and the Cummings. Their many descendants spread to neighboring towns as well as distant communities.

In a few well-chosen words, delicately carved in timeless slate, two grave markers in Fairview Cemetery epitomize deep kindness and affection between generations of Parkers.

As detailed as was Hodgman in writing a history of his beloved town, he overlooked the tenderness and close family ties demonstrated by this old and remarkably large Westford clan.

The inscriptions on these gravestones tell a simple



**GRAVESTONE OF REBEKAH PARKER**

story that history books missed:

**In Memory of  
MRS. EXPERIENCE  
PARKER**

**Wife of Ebenezer Parker  
who died May 27, 1717  
Aged 65 Years**

"She was a kind & affectionate Mother of Sixteen Children, a wise counsellor & a friend of humanity.

"Reader remember thou must die; And be food for worms as well as I; Friends & Physicians could not save, My mortal body from the grave, Nor can the grave confine me here, When Christ doth call I must appear."

Whereas Experience's (aptly named) gravestone is somewhat isolated, lined up in a nearby section of brothers and sisters is this slate, with its touching words:

**In Memory of  
Miss Rebekah, daughter of  
Ebenezer & Experience  
Parker**

**She died on her anniversary  
birthday April 1, 1808  
Aged 24 Years**

"She is the first taken out of a family of 16 children, by death...the youngest of them being taken in the 11th year of his age.

"Adieu, to all you, my once delightful brothers and sisters, of 15. Thanks to God that we so long on earth have all remained. But now is the time that a separation of us by death, you see...Which I trust you will all solemnize & prepare to follow me.

(Lines suited to her proceedings in her last hours)  
"In holy faith, O Lord, my God, I bow before Thy throne.

O quickly blessed Jesus come & waft me safely home.

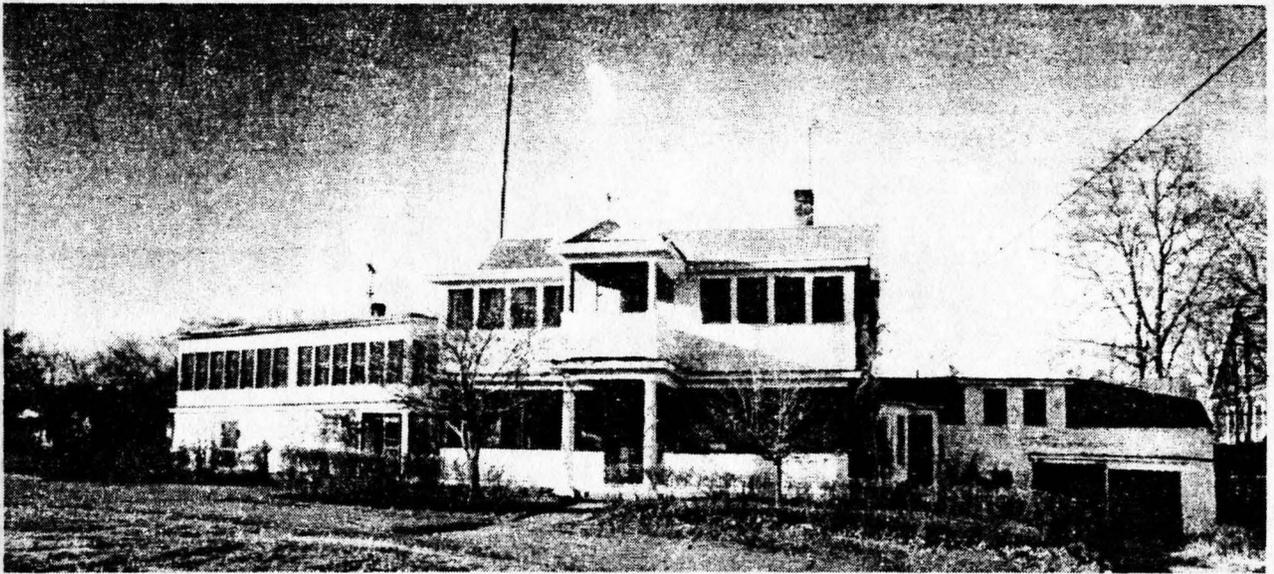
"Erected by John, Ebenezer & Jabez Parker Brothers to the Deceased."

Some of the Parkers moved into New Hampshire as time went on. In reading old gravestones in the ancient cemetery behind the beautiful old meetinghouse in Jaffrey Center, one could note an equally touching monument to a deceased loved one. This one is in modern granite, placed flat with the ground. It memorializes a 31-year old woman who died in the prime of her life. The words say:

**EDITH E. FROST**  
(Placed by Harland S. Robbins)

"The first girl I ever loved, my school teacher in Rindge, N.H."

Born 1813 - Died 1844.



**THIS OLD HOUSE**  
...could fall to the wrecker's ball

Sun Staff photo by Dick Hunt

RISING BOND  
ASSOCIATION  
USA

# Historic 17th Century home earmarked for demolition

Dec. 5, 1980

By MICHAEL LASALANDRA  
Sun Staff

LOWELL — The Parker house on Pine Street — the second oldest house in the city — is reportedly going to be demolished in favor of a new condominium development.

Built in the late 1600s, the home at 137 Pine St. across from the Morey School is not located in any historic district nor is it on any historic register, so there is no way the owners can legally be prevented from tearing it down.

Although the exact date when the house was built is unknown, a stone placed on the grounds by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1935 reads: "Birthplace of Sarah Parker, the first 'white' girl born in Chelmsford, now Lowell. Born Jan. 14, 1653, daughter of Jacob Parker, first town clerk of Chelmsford."

In addition, another Parker daughter, Tabatha, born in 1676, was the grandmother of Benjamin Pierce, governor of New Hampshire and father of President Franklin Pierce.

Lowell Historical Society records show that the house was that of Benjamin Parker, one of the first proprietors of the so-called Wamesit Purchase — land purchased from the Indians which became known as Chelmsford Neck and, later, Lowell.

Among the original proprietors of the Wamesit Purchase, Benjamin Parker was the only one whose possessions there have continued in the hands of his descendants to the present time, according to the records.

In order to save the structure from the wrecker's ball, it would probably require a move by the city or a preservationist group to acquire the property from the current owners, Arthur B. Parker Jr. and Helen Q. Page, or for the city to attempt to work with the future owners in an effort to get them to incorporate the structure into their development plans.

So far, there is no such organized effort being planned, although there

are individuals who would like to see something done.

James Skrekas, a local real estate salesman and teacher, is trying to drum up some interest in saving the building and the city planner, Robert Malavich, says he would like to talk with the prospective new owners about the possibility of working with them.

Malavich believes the house can be saved and still not prevent a condominium project from going up around it. At the very least, Malavich, who has been inside the house, wants to see the historic artifacts inside saved and donated perhaps to the Lowell Museum.

But so far, little has been done and time appears to be running out.

Some historic preservationists question the historical significance of the building, since it has been significantly altered over the years, but Martha Mayo, chairman of the city's Historical Commission, notes: "Anything built in that era is significant."

And there are those who believe it would not be all that difficult to restore the house to its original condition.

All properties in the city are in the process of being surveyed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the city's Division of Planning and Development, but work on the Parker house has not yet been completed.

Although anyone can nominate a home for the National Historic Register, the Parker house has not been nominated. Once on the register, the owner may still tear a house down, but he cannot write off the costs of demolition. The owner is also eligible for tax incentives if he intends to preserve a house which is on the register.

Joseph Orfant of the Massachusetts Historical Society said the house could be put on the National Historic Register, but said the most effective thing would be if the city or the community could try to save it.

"The city could acquire it," he said, "or, through incentives, it could help the owners save it. The city has the tools."

Parker won't say to whom the property is being sold nor will he say what the new owners intend to do with it, but others, including real estate people, city officials and present tenants, say they have heard it will be demolished in favor of construction of a 20-unit condominium project.

The present tenants have been ordered to vacate the property by Dec. 31 or face eviction, so whatever is happening, it apparently is happening soon.

Parker said he and Page are selling because none of the Parker family is still living on the premises and because it is costly to maintain as an apartment house.

"We've been paying out more to maintain it than we've been taking in in rents," he said. There are six apartment units in the house.

Parker, who was born in the house, says he is "very sad" to have to sell it, but he questions its historical value.

"There is so little left of the original configuration," he said. "There have been so many add-ons."

But David Page, son of Helen Page, believes the house could be restored to its original look. He is quite upset over what is happening and is hopeful that something can be done to spare the home from the wrecker's ball.

"I hate to see this happening," said Page, who confirmed reports that the house will go down in favor of a condominium development. "But they (the current owners) can't afford the heat and the taxes."

Page would like to see the city get involved in an effort to save the house. "It's sad, with the rejuvenation that the city is going through, that they can't save one of the most historic houses," he said.

"And that is a historic structure," he added.

# Old Parker house may be saved

Dec. 24, 1980  
Lowell Sun

By MICHAEL LASALANDRA  
Sun Staff

LOWELL - There's a chance the Parker house on Pine Street - the second oldest house in the city - may be saved from the wrecker's ball.

The home, located across from the Morey School, reportedly was slated for demolition to make way for a condominium development.

But city officials have contacted the developers and have convinced them to at least agree to investigate the possibility of retaining the original portion of the house and integrating it into the condominium development.

Attorney Chuck McCannon of Chelmsford, counsel for developers Charles McLaughlin and John Adamczyk, both of Chelmsford, said they will be looking into hiring a consultant to determine whether or not the home can be placed on the National Historic Register, which would qualify them for tax incentives.

"We do hope to work with the city and federal authorities towards preserving the portion that is historically significant," said McCannon.

Although he would not reveal the developers' specific plans for the property, McCannon said the plans could be modified. While the developers have an option on the property, the purchase has not gone through, he said.

Current owners are Arthur B. Parker Jr. and Helen Q. Page. The property has been owned by the Parker family for more than 300 years.

Although the exact date when the house was built is unknown, a stone placed on the grounds by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1935 reads: "Birthplace of Sarah Parker, the first 'white' girl born in Chelmsford, now Lowell. Born Jan. 14, 1653, daughter of Jacob Parker, first town clerk of Chelmsford."

Arthur Parker has said the house is being sold because none of the Parker family is currently living there and because it is costly to maintain as an apartment house.

Parker also questions the historical value of the house because it has

been drastically altered over the years. Others, however, say the home can be restored to its original condition.

The home at 137 Pine St. is not located in any historic district, nor is it on any historic register, so there is no way the owners can legally be prevented from tearing it down.

City planner Robert Malavich has taken an interest in seeing the house saved and met last week with McCannon. He reported that the developers have an "open mind" and are not necessarily committed to following through on their plans for demolition.

Malavich and William Barlow, historical architect for the National Park Service, also toured the building last week. According to Malavich, it appears that a portion of the structure was built between 1680 and 1725 and is intact, in good condition and eligible for the National Historic Register.

The owner would be eligible for tax incentives if he intends to preserve a house which is on the register.

Malavich said that Barlow identified four different architectural periods in the house - late 1600s or early 1700s; late 1700s; Victorian; and 1940s or early 1950s.

It will require the work of an expert to place an exact date on original portion of the house, said Malavich, who added that if it turns out to be from around 1700, "it would be a real find."

"I was encouraged by our meeting," said Malavich. "Everybody understands what they have there."

"They are talking about a condo development on the site, but it is possible a few of the units could fit into that oldest portion of the house," he added.

Malavich also said that since an article appeared in the Dec. 4. edition of The Sun, he has received numerous calls from teachers who have gotten their students interested in participating in fundraising efforts to help save the home.

"We have also heard from other developers who are interested in working with the site," he said.

# Parker House falls to wrecker's ball

By MICHAEL LASALANDRA  
Sun Staff

LOWELL — The Parker House at 137 Pine St. has fallen to the wrecker's ball.

A two-month effort to save the historic structure ended when developers began demolition work over the weekend to make room for a new condominium development.

According to the city planner, Robert Malavich, who had taken an interest in seeing the building saved, the developers "tried every which way" to save it. He said they could find no banks willing to finance the rehabilitation of the structure.

Malavich said the house was in poor structural condition and added the cost of rehabilitation would have been prohibitive.

of Sarah Parker, the first 'white' girl born in Chelmsford, now Lowell. Born Jan. 14, 1653, daughter of Jacob Parker, the first town clerk of Chelmsford."

The house had been owned by the Parker family for 300 years. The last owners were Arthur B. Parker Jr. and Helen Q. Page.

The property has been sold to developers Charles McLaughlin and John Adamczk, both of Chelmsford, who plan to erect a one-building condominium project on the site.

Although Malavich wanted to see the building remain, he said he could not blame the developers for taking it down.

"They had delayed their plans for a couple of months," he said, while ways of saving the structure were investigated.

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**"The banks had no interest in it, and I can't blame them," said Malavich. "That was a tough space to work with. The basement would have frightened anyone. There were big holes in the timber."**

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The key reason behind the failure to save the building was the fact that it was not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, according to Liz Durfee-Hengen, a consultant who is doing an architectural and historical survey of all properties outside the city's preservation district.

Owners of properties on the register are eligible for tax incentives for preservation work.

She said that the building as it stood dated back only to 1830, although there were some isolated parts which dated back to previous structures on the site.

There have been buildings on the site since the 17th Century, she noted.

A stone placed on the grounds by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1935 reads: "Birthplace

"The banks had no interest in it, and I can't blame them," said Malavich. "That was a tough space to work with. The basement would have frightened anyone. There were big holes in the timber."

According to Durfee-Hengen, the structure was not architecturally significant, although it was historically significant, since the property had been in the Parker family for 300 years.

"There is a certain historical interest, but you would have a hard time justifying that this house symbolized that interest," she said.

Several artifacts such as mantles, doors and hinges have been removed by the National Park Service, she said. But most of the historical artifacts had been removed by the Parker family.

*March 3, 1981 - Lowell Sun*

# Parker House saved; will move to Westport

By MICHAEL LASALANDRA  
Sun Staff

LOWELL — The Parker House at 137 Pine St. will be saved after all, but it will be moved out of the area.

Although several additions to the historic structure were demolished over the weekend, the main portion of the house has been spared and will be dismantled and moved piece by piece to Westport, where it will be restored. The frame of the house is held together by pegs.

William Barlow, historical architect for the Lowell National Historical Park, found a buyer on Sunday, after demolition work had already begun.

"The bulldozer was literally waiting to pounce," said Barlow, who praised the new owners of the Pine Street property for delaying demolition until a buyer was found.

The house is being purchased for \$2,000 by Ann Baker of Westport, a broker of old houses. It will be restored and purchased by Katy and Roger Szal of Westport, who plan to use it as a pottery studio.

Barlow was not charitable in his assessment of officials from the city's Division of Planning and Development. He blames them for the city losing the structure.

He noted that Liz Durfee-Hengen, a DPD consultant who is doing an architectural and historical survey of all properties outside the preservation district, said the building, as it stood, dated back only to 1830, although she had said there were some isolated parts which dated back to previous structures on the site.

However, Barlow, who went through the building last week, dated it as being from the first quarter of the 18th century, or about 100 years older than the Durfee-Hengen estimate. He said the date was pegged by the framing, moldings, room arrangement and nails, among other things, including chalk

markings on beams which indicated workmen were paid in pounds, shillings and pence.

He said the new owners of the property, who intend to build a condominium on the site, were "mised" by Durfee-Hengen and other DPD officials as to the significance of the structure.

"That's why the banks wouldn't touch it," he said. "If they had known the real facts, the house might have had a different fate."

He said that Durfee-Hengen had made a "quick, snap judgement" about the house. "Things just weren't put together properly," he added.

Durfee-Hengen, however, defended their assessment of the date, noting that much of what led Barlow to his assessment was covered up until the demolition work began.

Barlow said when he heard last week the house was being demolished, he went to measure it and when he looked inside discovered the original structure of the house was there in its entirety.

He said he thought he was going to be able to sell it to some people in Connecticut, but that the deal fell through at the last minute. Baker was located over the weekend, after Barlow convinced developers, Charles McLaughlin and John Adamczk of Chelmsford, to hold off on demolition.

"They are the real heroes of this story," said Barlow. "I can't begin to stress how cooperative they were."

He also cited the cooperativeness of Joseph Rosetti, the demolition contractor.

Barlow said he regrets the house will be moved from the area, but added, "no local group came forward."

The house had been owned by the Parker family for 300 years. A stone placed on the grounds by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1935 reads: "Birthplace of Sarah Parker, the first 'white' girl born in Chelmsford, new Lowell.



Sun staff photo by David Brow

## Owner meets her new home

Amid the historical timbers of the Parker House Bill Barlow, historical architect for the Lowell National Historical Park chats with Katy Szal of Westport, who with her husband Roger

purchased the house. The house will be moved to Westport and the couple plan to restore it and use it as a pottery studio.

The Lowell Sun - Friday, March 6, 1981

Compiled Parker Genealogy from records kept at 137 Pine Street. Her original copy can be found at the Barrett-Byam Homestead on Robin Hill in Chelmsford, Home of the Chelmsford Historical Society

## Ruth Parker, of Westford, active in clubs, organizations

WESTFORD — Ruth D. (Mooers) Parker, 88, widow of Arthur B. Parker, died Wednesday.

For the past four years she had lived with her son in Westford. She had formerly lived at 137 Pine St., in Lowell, for 56 years where she and her late husband owned and operated Parker's Dairy.

Born Oct. 1, 1896 in Boston, she was the daughter of the late William F. and Hattie (Devens) Mooers.

A Graduate of Simmons College in 1920, she taught home economics. She moved from Milton to Lowell in 1924.

She is survived by a son, Arthur B. Parker Jr., of Westford; a daughter, Mrs. Donald Gray (Dorothy) of Chelmsford; eight grandchildren, Mrs. Donna Gray Proudfoot of Rindge, N.H.; Mrs. Diane Gray Murphy of Chelmsford; Mrs. Patrick Roach (Joan) of California; Mrs. Peter MacDougall (Christina) of Alaska; Thomas D. Watson, Peter M. Watson, Susan J. Watson and Jason B. Parker, all of Westford and two great-grandchildren, Pamela Murphy and Frederick Murphy and a niece, Mrs. C. Richmond Page of Chelmsford.

Mrs. Parker was a charter member and served in various offices of the Merrimack Valley

Simmons Club and was past president of the Lowell College Club, Lowell Educational Club, Charles W. Morey School PTA, Lowell Troop 1 Auxiliary of Boy Scouts of America.

She had been the first president of the Lowell League of Women Voters, director of the Women's Republican Club, chairman of Middlesex Women's Club Community Service, charter member and life-member of the Chelmsford Garden Club, chairman of the Lowell Children's Theatre Guild and Past Regent of the Lydia Darrah Chapter of the D.A.R.'s, also trustee and clerk of the Faith Home Corporation, Charter Member of Old Chelmsford Garrison House Association, Geneological Chairman of Chelmsford Historical Society, Volunteer driver and Motor Service Chairman of the Lowell Chapter Red Cross, Member of Middlesex Canal Association, member of Nantucket Historical Society, past Treasurer of Rodgers Rangers Rifle Club and received their Highest Marksmanship award, member of the Dennis Family Association and Folger Family Society,

Mrs. Parker enjoyed geneology research and traced both her Mooers and Parker family lines back to Elder Brewster of the Mayflower.

# How Lowell and Suburban Towns Received Their Names

By BOB ALDRICH

**LOWELL**—It was at the Lowell city library that we sat down recently to smoke a pipe of peace with Passaconway and a fat English cigar with Kirk Booth. During this smoke we were furnished with a little information about our city and some of the surrounding towns.

When the Indians had their wigwams stretched along the banks of the Merrimack river and "housing shortage" were four syllables that had never entered into their conversation, Lowell, or what is now Lowell, was in the same location, but the traffic cop in the square was no more necessary than snow in February.

The traffic, then, was on foot, canoe and on horseback, and there was an absence of whistles in Sun square from the traffic officer, the bellowing beau and the now nearby mills. The whistle was known in those days only when the Indian was smoking his pipe.

Turning the pages back in the direction of Passaconway and Mr. Booth, we discovered how a few of the towns around these parts happened to get their names.

Lowell in those days was just a lot of land, spotted with trees, underbrush, stone and rock, Indian paths and wigwams. Lowell did not get its name until Francis Cabot Lowell ventured along through this wilderness from Harvard college where he was graduated at 18. He died in 1817, nine years before Lowell was incorporated as a city in 1826.

## Town of Billerica

A fact that perhaps the resi-

dents of Billerica are not aware of may be interesting to them. There is but one Billericay in England and but one Billerica in the United States. This all came about when a company of English families living in Shawshin (former name of Billerica) gathered together and chose the name of the present town, unique and peculiar.

Some of the early settlers in Shawshin were from Billericay, England. Robert Hill and Paul Blood among them. The name was first spelled Billirikeyca. A person certainly could run out of ink writing Billirikeyca.

So the townfolk of Billerica, then, have some sort of a distinction in that name, since while other names of towns have been repeated in the United States, Billerica stands alone and individual.

Stepping over the town marker we find ourselves in Bedford. Why Bedford was so named is chiefly a conjecture, but popular belief is that an act of reverence for the memory of the first minister of Concord prompted the name.

This minister, who was from Bedfordshire, England, played an important part in the moulding of the character of the early settlers. To show their appreciation for his deeds of kindness and understanding the settlers named this land that had been a part of Concord and Billerica, Bedford. It was incorporated as a town by the General court, September 23, 1729. Governor John Winthrop and Lieut. Gov. Thomas Dudley lived in Bedford in 1638.

Samuel Varnum was perhaps the first man who pronounced the two syllables and formed the word "Drawcutt." This was back around 1698 after the Varnum lads, Thomas, John and Joseph, gathered 15 pounds together and purchased from Daniel Rosse of Concord several lots of land, including a tract "lying on ye north side of the Merrimac river."

## Dracut Township

Sam Varnum called this piece of land Dracut after his native town in England. He married Sarah Langton and built his house on a spot one mile from the Pawtucket falls on what is now Varnum avenue. This all happened in 1698 and preceding years.

Two-hundred-and-three years before The Sun was published, Colonel Jonathan Tyng, son of Edward Tyng, landowner, settled on the banks of the Merrimack river on lands in the Dunstable plantation, and was the first permanent settler on this plantation. Thus, came the name of Tyngsborough.

Colonel Tyng was a member of the council of Sir Edmund Andros, the royal governor. The colonel represented Dunstable in the General court.

Groton is indebted for its name to Deane Winthrop, a son of Governor Winthrop, and one of the petitioners for the grant. Deane was born at Groton in the county of Suffolk, England, March 16, 1622. The love for his native place prompted him to perpetuate its name in New England.

A prominent and esteemed citizen of Lowell was given a compliment in 1871 by the settlers of Groton Junction when they honored him by naming their town Ayer. Doctor James Cook Ayer thanked the folks of Ayer through a letter in 1871 sent to Abel Prescott, -esquire for the committee of petitioners at Groton Junction.

Graniteville took its name from the quantities of granite quarried there. Some of the first settlers included Charles G. Sargent, the first to settle in this district, followed by John Reed, Jacob Abbot and Robert Wilkinson.

Forge Village was so named because of its early forges and blacksmith shops.

Westford came into being when a bill was passed before the General court "for erecting the West precinct of the town of Chelmsford into a township by the name of Westford."

With a wave to Passaconway and Kirk Booth we stepped back into Merrimack street and the Twentieth century. We had covered a lot of ground in the library.

In "Planters of the Commonwealth" by Charles Edward Banks

A Robert Parker arrived in Boston in 1630 on one of the eleven vessels of the "Winthrop Fleet".

Thomas Parker sailed to America on the "Neptune" in January 1634.

A Walter Parker, 18 years old , was aboard the "Love" in July or August.

George Parker, a 23 year old carpenter, came to York, Maine in 1635. He left England in May and arrived in Boston in midsummer, on the "Elizabeth and Anne".

Thomas Parker sailed on the "Globe" to Virginia, Aug. 7, 1635.

Nathaniel Parker, a 20 year old baker and servant, set sail in May of 1638 on the "Bevis" out of Southampton, England.

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The three Parkers who arrived in America at the same time as the five brothers who landed in Charlestown could easily have been cousins. Newbury, County Berks, England is situated about 20 miles from Marlborough where the five brothers were born.

The town of Newbury, Massachusetts was established by people from the Wiltshire-Hampshire region in western England, where they all lived thirty or forty miles apart. In 1622 the cloth trade in Wiltshire County floundered and there were 8000 people out of work. Richard Dummer of Bishopstoke, Hampshire County came to New England in 1632 and hired a group of men, many from Marlborough to tend the livestock when he went back to England. He returned to Newbury in 1638. Others arrived from the Wiltshire region on the "Mary and John". Among them was Rev. Thomas Parker and his group from Southampton, March 24, 1634. They consisted of a large number of "river men" and open-field settlers from eastern Wiltshire.

Mr. John L. Parker of Lynn wrote: The Parker brothers were probably young fellows who saw a chance in the New World to better themselves and settled at the mouth of the Charles River, finding employment in building.

The mother of Rev. Thomas Parker of Mildenhall, Wilts in a will dated Oct. 10, 1649 left 200 pounds to her son in America. She also mentions her daughters Sara, wife of Thomas Bayley and their four children also Elizabeth, the wife of Timothy Avery

Dorothy Parker, the mother, was born in 1595-6 in Wilts, England and died April 24, 1677.

Bequests were also made to her nephews, John and Benjamin Woodbridge and Nicholas and Sarah (widow of James) Noyes, relatives who helped her son establish the Newbury Church.

"In English Ways" - David  
Grayson Allen  
Newbury Vital Records to 1850

REV. THOMAS PARKER

b. June 8, 1595                      d. April 24, 1677  
in Cholderton, Wiltshire

another account has his birthplace as  
Stanton, St. Bernard, Wiltshire

Moved to Newbury, Berkshire County and Mildenhall, Wiltshire.

Only son of Rev. Robert Parker and Dorothy (Stevens) Parker. Thomas was the conservative town minister of the urban center of Marlborough situated in the "chalk country" where society was highly stratified.

He sailed on the "Mary and John" of London registry March 24, 1634 with destination listed as Newbury.

He settled in Ipswich in 1634 and moved to Newbury in 1635.

He had studied at Oxford and Universities in Ireland and Holland. Spent his life preaching and teaching school. He never married.

Among the 91 original Newbury proprietors on Dec. 7, 1642 was Rev. Thomas Parker and his cousins James and Nicholas Noyes.

Rev. William Noyes was Rector of the Church in Cholderton in 1601. Father of James and Nicholas, he married Anne, the sister of Rev. Robert Parker.

The family of Rev. Thomas enjoyed great favor in the days of Queen Elizabeth I. In 1591 the bishop of Winchester presented him to the Church of Putney in Wiltshire. Previously he had been given the position of Head of the Hospital of St. Nicholas at Salisbury. Later, in 1593 he headed the Church of St. Mary of Wiltshire. Seven years later he was dismissed for "thinking more of King Jesus than King James".

He served a short time at altar in Newbury, Eng. before leaving for America.

Newbury's opportunities for wealth and status were limited because the economy was stratified. Continued religious controversy between conservatives and evangelicals also took its toll.

Rev. Parker played a major roll in both religious and civil matters. He and his cousin James Noyes, a teacher in the Newbury Church left it open to all but the most scandalous sinners. Uneasiness continued in the Newbury Church for several decades. Eventually many established their own congregation. A sizeable number left to settle in Woodbridge, New Jersey.

COUSINS OF THE FIVE PARKER BROTHERS

JOSEPH PARKER

of Newbury, County Berks, England

Came to Newbury, Mass. as a passenger on the ship "Susan and Ellin" about 1635

He was one of the founders of the Church in 1645.

He had five children:            Joseph  
   Stephen  
   Thomas  
   Samuel  
   John

NATHAN PARKER

His brother soon followed

They remained in Newbury a few years and then moved to Andover and became among the first settlers about 1640.

He had four children :            John  
   James  
   Robert  
   Peter

An interesting item in Newbury Vital Records marriage announcement:

A Joseph Parker and Elizabeth Lowell were married Aug. 9, 1762. He "takes the said Elizabeth, naked, without any of her former husband's estate".



DEACON THOMAS PARKER

b. 1609 d. in Wakefield Aug.12, 1683

Sailed from London, March 11,1635 on the "Susan and Ellin" Edward Payne, Mgr. He was 30 years of age, not married at the time.

Richard Saltonstall and his wife and children were fellow passengers.

Settled in Lynn in 1638 and then moved to Reading.

m. Amy in 1635 and had eleven children:

- \* Hannaniah (son) - b. 1638 d. Mar. 10, 1723-4 @86
- John - b. 1640 d. Feb. 21, 1698
- m. Hannah Kendall
- Joseph - b. 1642 d. young
- Joseph - Dec. 24, 1645 d. at 4 months
- Mary - Dec. 12, 1647
- Martha - b. Mar. 24, 1649
- Nathaniel - b. May, 16, 1651
- Sarah - b. Sept. 30, 1653 d. Oct. 26, 1656
- Johnathan - b. May 18, 1656 d. June 10, 1680
- son - Capt. Johnathan d. April ,1746 @65
- Sarah - b. May 23, 1658
- Thomas - b. Aug. 9, 1668

Deacon Thomas became a freeman in 1637. He helped establish the First Church and served as Deacon. His tombstone is in First Parish Congregational Churchyard, Wakefield, Mass.

The Lexington Parkers were descendants of Deacon Thomas.

\* denotes lineage from Deacon Thomas to Capt. John Parker and Rev. Theodore Parker of Lexington.

- Pioneers of Massachusetts - Pope
- Family Data - Gamble
- Parker in America - Augustus Parker
- Vital Records of Lynn and Reading
- Genealogical Dictionary of New England

## William G. Saltonstall

12/21/84

William Gurdon Saltonstall, a former principal of Phillips Exeter Academy in Andover, and a retired director of the Peace Corps in Nigeria, died Monday at a nursing home in Lakeville, Mass.

The cause of death was not made known. He was 84 and lived in Marion, Mass.

Saltonstall spent most of his career at Exeter, where he taught history before becoming the school's principal from 1932 to 1963. He left in 1963 to take the Peace Corps post. He left the Peace Corps in 1965.

Born in Milton, Mass., Saltonstall was himself educated at Exeter, one of the nation's oldest and best-known private preparatory schools.

The Saltonstall family has been connected with the school since Leverett Saltonstall, class of 1796, attended as a classmate of Daniel Webster.

Saltonstall graduated from Harvard College, where he was president of the student body and first marshal of the graduating class, the highest elected undergraduate office. He earned master's and law degrees from Harvard University.

An avid sailor, he was the author of "Ports of Piscataqua," a maritime history of Portsmouth, N.H., that was published in 1941 by Harvard University Press.

His yawl, which he raced on Cape Cod, is named Arbella, after the ship that brought Sir Richard Saltonstall, a Lord Mayor of London, to America in 1630. Phillips Exeter announced before his death that a boathouse now under construction would be named in his honor.

Saltonstall was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He had honorary doctorates from many colleges, including Williams, Tufts, Bowdoin, Dartmouth, Colby, Princeton and the University of New Hampshire.

He was a former trustee of Colby College and Southeastern Massachusetts University, and a former member of the board of overseers of Harvard.

Deacon Parker's descendants were well represented in this country's conflicts.

In the Colonial Wars he had 5 sons, 3 grandsons, 8 great-grandsons and 12 great-great-grandsons.

In the Battle of Lexington he had 6 great-grandsons and 23 great-great-grandsons.

In the Revolutionary War he had 6 great-grandsons and 32 great-great-grandsons.

\* HANNANIAH PARKER  
son of Deacon Thomas Parker

b. 1638 Lived in Lynn Village and then moved to Reading.

d. March 10, 1723-4 at 86

Was Deputy to the General Court, Lt. of Reading Military Co. and was grandfather of Capt. John Parker, Commander of the Lexington Battle.

m. Elizebeth Browne Sept. 30, 1663  
b. Nov. 10, 1647 d. Feb. 27, 1697

had seven children:

\* John - b. Aug. 3, 1664 d. Jan. 22, 1740  
m. Elizabeth July 15, 1691

Samuel - b. Oct. 24, 1666

Elizebeth - b. June 5, 1668  
m. Nathaniell Codry Nov. 17, 1685

Sarah - b. Feb. 20, 1672 d. Oct. 2, 1673

Hananiah - b. Nov. 2, 1674 d. Jan. 31, 1674

Ebenezer - b. Feb. 13, 1675  
m. Rebecka Newhall May 27, 1697

Hananiah - b. April 30, 1681 d. Aug. 7, 1681



\* JOHN PARKER  
son of Hannaniah

b. in Reading Aug. 1664

d. Jan. 22, 1740-1

Moved to Lexington about 1712 and settled in the south part of town. A deed dated June 25, 1712 states that John Cutler sold to John Parker of Reading, land at Cambridge Farms - about 60 acres. A man of dignity of character he had an important seat in the meeting house in 1731 with other highly respectable citizens.

He was married twice.

m. Oct. 2, 1689 - Deliverance Dodge in Reading

b. Mar. 16, 1660 d. Mar. 10, 1717-8

Daughter of John and Sarah Dodge of Beverly.

Born in Reading ;

Sarah - b. July 5, 1690

d. July 9, 1690

Hanniah (daughter) b. Oct. 10, 1691

d. at Port Royal 1711

Andrew - b. Feb. 14, 1692-3

d. Apr. 8, 1776

m. Sarah Whitney, daughter of Isaiah and Sara  
Whitney

\* Josiah - b. Apr. 11, 1694

Mary - b. Nov. 19, 1695

d. 1709

John - b. and d. 1696

Edee - b. Aug. 19, 1697

d. 1709

John - b. Nov. 1703

m. Experience Claves of Framingham

m. Sarah

Son Andrew m. Sarah Whitney  
had eight children

Sarah - b. Feb. 9 , 1720-1

Jonas - b. Feb. 6, 1721-2

Amos - b. July 27, 1723

Elisabeth - b. June 22, 1735

Andrew - b. April 16, 1738

m. Rhoda, daughter of Andrew

and Abigail b. June 19, 1760

Kezia - baptized June 1, 1740

Ebenezer - " Feb. 28, 1742

Mary - baptized Oct. 21, 1744

\* JOSIAH PARKER (Lieut.)  
son of John Parker

b. April 11, 1725

m. Anna Stone - Dec. 8, 1718

Selectman in Lexington for 12 years.

Had 14 children - all in Lexington.

Anna - b. Sept. 9, 1719 m. Benjamin Smith, Jr. Nov. 17, 1737

Deliverance - b. May, 28, 1721 m. Marrett Munroe, Apr. 7, 1737

Mary - b. July 3, 1723

Josiah - b. April 11, 1725 m. Mary Munroe in Weston  
Oct. 27, 1748

Elizabeth - baptized Aug. 22, 1725

Lois - Aug. 20, 1727

Thomas - baptized Dec. 24, 1727 m. Jane Parrot in Chelms.  
Mar. 8, 1750

had daughter, Mary b. Dec. 25, 1756

Samuel - baptized Dec. 24, 1728

Sarah - " " " " m. Jabez Kendall, June 21, 1739

\* John - b. July 13, 1729 m. Lydia Moore  
May, 22, 1755

Abigail - baptized July 27, 1729

Lucy - baptized April 4, 1731 m. Joshua Mead  
May, 24, 1750

Thaddeus - b. Sept. 2, 1731 m. Mary Reed  
Mar. 27, 1759

Andrew - baptized Sept. 16, 1733  
m. Abigail Jennison of Weston  
Nov. 29, 1759

Joseph - b. Nov. 28, 1733  
m. Eunice Hobbs of Weston  
July 5, 1759

\* JOHN PARKER (Capt. John)  
son of Josiah Parker

b. July 13, 1729                      d. Sept. 17, 1775  
m. Lydia Moore May, 25, 1755  
    b. Jan. 18, 1731                  d. Dec. 15, 1822

Lydia Moore was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Moore of Lexington. The wedding was held in Lexington with Rev. Jonas Clarke officiating.

They had seven children born in Lexington.

Lydia - b. Nov. 8, 1756              d. unmarried about 1810

Anna - b. Jan. 11, 1759  
      m. Ephriam Pierce, Jr. of Waltham

\* John - b. Feb. 7, 1761  
      m. Hannah Stearns, daughter of Benjamin  
      Feb. 17, 1785

Isaac - b. May 12, 1763

Ruth - b. Dec. 1, 1765              d. Mar. 12, 1838  
      m. David Bent, Nov. 1787      in Belle Isle, Nova Scotia

Rebekah - b. June 28, 1768              d. Jan. 10, 1851  
      m. Peter Clark of Watertown  
      had 5 children

Robert - b. April 15, 1771

- History of the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts - 1868 - revised and printed in 2 volumes - Charles Hudson - Book II contains Genealogical Register
- William Diamond's Drum - Tourtellot
- Webster's American Biographies

CAPTAIN JOHN PARKER (1729-1775)

Arriving in 1635, the Parkers in 1775 had been in Lexington for three generations. John Parker was a farmer and mechanic. He was Town Assessor in 1764-65-66 and 74 in peacetime. He had attained the rank of Captain in the Minutemen by 1775 with a force of 130 men. Four Parkers, including John, joined William Roger's Rangers at Louisburg, Champlain and Quebec during the French and Indian Wars.

On April 18, 1775 he placed a guard around the house in Lexington where John Hancock and Samuel Adams were hiding from the approaching British contingent under Major John Pitcairn who were under orders to arrest them. Lead for bullets was readily accessible to the colonists but gunpowder was a different story. The only supply available was in the British stores in Boston and the Redcoats were well aware that it was gradually disappearing. They decided to charge Hancock and Adams with the theft. When reports indicated that the British were not coming after all, Captain Parker dismissed his men. Early the next morning it was evident that the "Redcoats" were on their way and Capt. Parker tried to reassemble his men but found only 40 or 50 of them. When the British appeared Parker is supposed to have declared; "Stand your ground Don't fire unless you are fired upon. But if they mean to have a war, let it begin here." Eight Americans were killed. Capt. Parker assembled the remainder and marched towards Concord harassing the British along the way. Although his health was feeble, and the disease which proved fatal in September of that year was making a steady inroad upon his constitution, he obeyed the calls and marched with his Company to Cambridge on the sixth of May and with a larger detachment on the seventeenth of June. He died the following Autumn, September, 17, 1775 of tuberculosis at 46 years of age.

\* JOHN PARKER  
son of Capt. John Parker

b. Feb. 7, 1761                      d. Nov. 3, 1836

m. Hannah Stearns Feb. 17, 1785 in Waltham  
b. May 21, 1764              d. May 14, 1823  
daughter of Benjamin Stearns and Hannah (Seeger)

had eleven children :

Mary - b. April 11, 1785              d. Jan. 1833  
m. June 25, 1816

John - b. Oct. 12, 1786  
m. Harriet Green  
May 6, 1813

Lydia - b. April 2, 1789              d. April 25, 1791

Hannah - b. Mar. 15, 1791              d. Oct. 1, 1815  
m. Samuel Green              in Burlington, Vt.  
Mar. 15, 1811

Lydia - b. July 1, 1793  
m. Isaac Herrick of Brighton  
July 20, 1815

Rebecca - b. Dec. 10, 1795              d. Feb. 18, 1812

Isaac - b. Nov. 5, 1798

Ruth - b. Nov. 12, 1800              d. Oct. 27, 1812

Hiram Stearns - b. July 16, 1803  
m. Nancy Leavitt  
Jan. 1, 1828

Emily Ann - b. May 11, 1806  
m. Charles Miller of Somerville

\* Theodore - b. Aug. 24, 1810              d. Florence, Italy  
m. Lydia D. Cabot              May, 10, 1860  
of Boston  
April 20, 1837

\* Rev. THEODORE PARKER 1810-1860

b. August 24, 1810 in Lexington, Mass.

He was a religious leader and social reformer.

Receiving little schooling, he was admitted to Harvard University in 1830 but was prevented from attending by lack of funds. In 1834 he entered Harvard Divinity School and graduated two years later.

He could converse in twenty languages. In 1837 he began his ministry at the Unitarian Church in West Roxbury. After a year in Europe in 1844 he resigned from West Roxbury and took charge of the 28th Congregational Society of Boston. He drew huge congregations necessitating a move to the Music Hall in 1852.

He lectured widely and carried on voluminous correspondence with public leaders. Thought to be the source of the phrase "government of the people, by the people, for the people" later used by Abraham Lincoln.

His health began to fail in 1857 and two years later he withdrew from public affairs. He sought restoration of his health in European travel but died in Florence, Italy, May, 10, 1860.

A son of Sergeant John Parker

JOHNATHAN

m. Anna Flint in 1706

They had 5 children. Kendall, the youngest, was born April 23, 1723.

Johnathan died in Reading in 1746.

A descendant of Deacon Thomas Parker of Reading CORPORAL KENDALL PARKER ( the third generation) moved into Dracut in 1745.

He married Mary Harris of Methuen and with his brother TIMOTHY, settled on land on both sides of the line between Methuen and Dracut. They had 4 children. He later married Priscilla Austin and had 7 more children.

In 1789 Kendall sold land to his son, Peter, and another tract to son Johnathan. The deed said 40 acres. His youngest son, Theodore, in 1826 purchased land on the same road. Part of the land was still owned by Dr. Moses Greeley Parker at the time of his death.

It is from four of these brothers - Kendall, Jr., Peter, Johnathan and Nathan that the Parkers of Dracut were descended.

Until Dracut became a town the people who lived on the north side of the Merrimack River were considered as belonging to Chelmsford. There were no Parkers in the petitioners for the incorporation of the town. There are different versions of origination of the name. In England, dor meant "town" and cord meant "words". There was a Draycote-le-Moors in Staffordshire, England. Drawcutt was a common spelling in early days. Chelmsford records say Draw Cut.

REV. THOMAS PARKER

A letter from Chelmsford to Reading, dated Jan.30,1720 invited Rev. Thomas Parker to inhabit the Town of Dracut and serve as minister of the Church there. He accepted the position and held it for 44 years until his death in 1765 at 65. He was Dracut's first permanent minister. He and his wife, Lydia had 6 children:

Thomas - b. Oct. 21, 1721  
Lydia - b. Feb. 2, 1723  
Lydia - June 10, 1725

Elizabeth - b. Jan. 5, 1729  
Lucy - b. Jan. 5, 1732

In 1880 the remains of Rev. Parker were moved to Woodbine Cemetery - near Varnum Avenue on West Meadow Road.

DR. MOSES GREELEY PARKER

b. in Dracut , Oct. 12, 1842

Great grandfather Corporal Kendall Parker settled in Dracut in 1745.

His father was Theodore Parker who married Hannah Greeley a relative of Horace Greeley from Amherst, N.H.

The Parker homestead was north of Varnum Cemetery in Kenwood. Early in life a powder horn explosion robbed him of eye sight which only time and treatment restored. He taught for 3 years in a Pelham school while pursuing medical studies. He earned his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1864. One week after graduation he enlisted for the Civil War. Gen. Benjamin Butler of Lowell asked him to transfer to the 2nd U.S. Cavalry Regiment and he was commissioned Asst. Surgeon. He planned and oversaw the construction of the largest hospital in the world near Petersburg, Va. After the war he opened an office for his medical practice at 11 First Street, Lowell. He served on the staff of St. John's Hospital and was a Trustee of Lowell General Hosp. He was a researcher, inventor, soldier, surgeon, ophthalmologist and philanthropist who donated his fortune to Dracut and Lowell.

He was fascinated with Alexander Bell's experiments with the telephone. After a Bell lecture in Lowell he built a telephone line from his home to his office half a mile away. He bought into the company and became one of the largest stockholders. He invented the directory system of numbers. He was the first man to photograph the tubercular bacillus and first to photograph electric currents; the invention of rotating neon signs which led to use of the transcontinental cable.

He supported civic causes with abandon. He provided for the Parker Lectures in Lowell which are absolutely free to the Public. He made plans with his sister, Mrs. Mary Morrison, to build a Public Library in Dracut and gave her the money to see it built in 1922.

A BACKWARD GLANCE

# Your number, please, doctor

By ERNIE BERRY

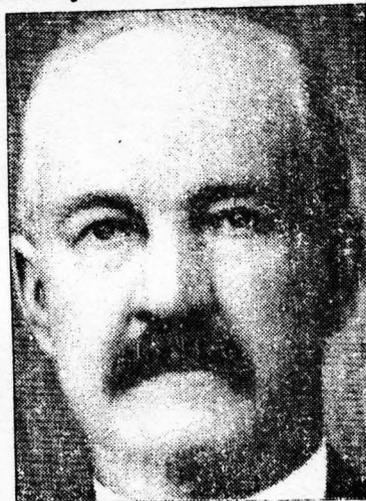
LOWELL — The name Moses Greeley Parker has a familiar ring to Greater Lowell devotees of the fine arts, literature and world exploration enrichment, who over the years have enjoyed lectures and kindred programs offered without charge through sponsorship of the Dr. Moses Greeley Parker Fund.

Dracut-born Parker, descendent from old and renowned New England families, had eyes set on becoming a country doctor. Were it not for the invention of a newfangled device known as the telephone, Dr. Parker likely would have rounded out his life as a physician ministering to the needs of the sick, lame and distressed.

The coming of the telephone drastically altered his work and station in society, however, also opening the door to a newly found fortune.

Following preparation for college at Phillips Academy, youthful Parker entered into the study of medicine at Long Island Medical School in Brooklyn, then at the University of Vienna, a year of study in Paris, and in 1864 receiving a medical degree from Harvard.

Awarded his M.D. degree at a critical period in the Civil War, Parker answered President Lincoln's urgent call for doctors to care for sick and horribly wounded Union soldiers in the battle zones. In accepting Army service,



Dr. Moses Greeley Parker

he followed his family's tradition of wartime duty to country. A great-grandfather and both grandfathers served with valor in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Upon the close of the war, Dr. Parker established his professional practice in Lowell, having developed a remarkable skill in understanding advances in medical and surgical science. During this postwar period, he opened a free dispensary, giving generously of his expert services to the poor of the city. His many philanthropic deeds were notable. The U.S. government sent him as a delegate to London as an influential member seated at the International Medical Congress.

As a friend of telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell, Dr. Parker took an extraordinary interest in this new communication medium when introduced in 1878. Greatly impressed by prospects of tremendous service the "phone" could supply to the expanding world, enthusiastically Dr. Parker invited Professor Bell to Lowell where he explained his crude telephonic apparatus to a handful of spectators in old Huntington Hall. Though the telephone was greeted with skepticism, Parker was not among the doubters. He was quick to see the extraordinary utility of the device, even to stringing a phone line from his home to office, the latter a half a mile away. The advantage it gave him in conducting daily medical rounds was an impressive lesson.

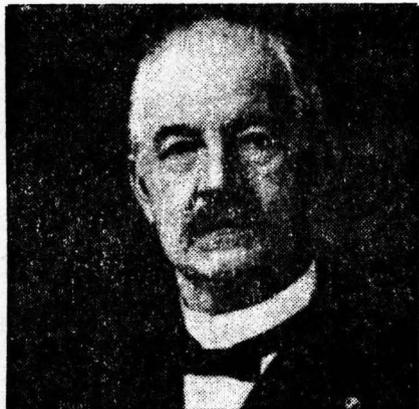
As soon as the Lowell Telephone Exchange opened its doors, Dr. Parker walked in as the first investor asking to purchase a substantial block of stock at 25-cents a share, thereafter adding regularly to his holdings.

Time devoted to the growing telephone industry demanded his retirement from the practice of medicine, in which, however, he retained a vivid scientific interest.

Financial involvement in this fabulous new communication feature propelled him into orbit as the largest individual and one of the wealthiest shareholders in both the American Telephone and New England Telephone companies. As a farseeing executive, he sat on the governing boards of several companies.

In the early days, phone subscribers were "rung up" by name. Dr. Parker in his wisdom saw a possible complete breakdown of the system.

Parker ruled that calls be put through by easily recognized numbers. The system is still in use, and proved its worth during the scarlet fever scourge of the late 1800s, and again when a ravaging influenza epidemic struck during World War I.



Moses Greeley Parker

## Lowell had numbers first

**W**hat was the first city in the world to use telephone numbers? Here's a hint: It's the same city that sports the country's first urban national park and college basketball's Division II national champion.

The birthplace of phone numbers is Lowell — and for that honor the city can thank a serious measles epidemic and the efforts of an enterprising physician.

By 1879, four American cities — Lowell, New Haven, San Francisco and Albany — used telephone exchanges. The 200 subscribers in Lowell depended on four highly-trained operators who worked at 36 Central Street connecting customers by memory, line by line.

Then the measles epidemic hit. Dr. Moses Greeley Parker, a noted local physician, feared that the outbreak could paralyze the city's phone system if it managed to afflict each of the four operators at once.

Parker recommended that numbers be assigned to each line. That way substitute operators could be more easily trained in the event of such an emergency.

For his feat, Parker has had a library in Dra-cut and a lecture series in Lowell named after him.

So next time you dial 454-5474, remember this: You're not just calling the Moses Greeley Parker Library. You're recalling a bit of history.

— O'CONNELL

### Whistler House to get grant

**LOWELL** — The Whistler House Museum of Art will receive a three-year grant of \$50,000 from the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation to assist in long-range organizational planning and to support staff positions at the rapidly growing regional art center.

The Whistler House Museum consists of the original birthplace home of James Abbott McNeill Whistler, one of America's most renowned artists; and the Parker Gallery, a showcase of contemporary art. The museum's permanent collection focuses on late 19th and early 20th century American painters.

# Dr. Willard Parker - Pioneer in surgery

By GEORGE ADAMS PARKHURST

Chelmsford has the distinction of being the home town of a world renowned surgeon who was the first in America to operate successfully upon an abscessed appendix and in whose honor a New York Hospital was named.

Willard Parker, M.D., although born in Lyndeborough, N.H. (September 2, 1800), was a descendant of Joseph Parker, one of the five Parker brothers who settled here in 1653 or 1654 and can truly be considered a native son of Chelmsford. His father was Jonathan Parker who had moved to New Hampshire when he was a young man but he returned to Chelmsford when Willard was five years old, taking up his residence on the knoll at 155 Boston Road. This was across the street from another Jonathan Parker who lived in the stately brick end house at 134 Boston Road.

Having two men, both with the same name, living so close together could have been confusing but their friends solved the problem with nicknames. Jonathan was frequently shortened to "Jock" in those days so Willard's father, who lived on the high ground was called "Hill Jock" Parker. His neighbor had been a trooper in the Revolutionary War so he was called "Trooper Jock."

Willard "received his primary education in a rural school" according to one reference, an honest appraisal of Chelmsford's elementary schools in the early 19th century, "and obtained an A.B. degree from Harvard in 1826, having supported himself during his years at college." Part of his income was derived from teaching in the "old brick schoolhouse" (probably the 1802 schoolhouse located in Forefathers' Burying Ground but it might have been the original South Row School which was brick and was located across Mill Road from the present Senior Citizen's Center) during the winters of 1821, '22, and '23.

For a while he gave serious consideration to entering the Ministry but was influenced to switch to medicine by the noted Dr. John Collins Warren, professor of surgery at Harvard University. Studying under Dr. Warren, he was awarded an M.D. degree by Harvard in 1830.

Dr. Parker held a succession of titles in various schools during the next eight years: professor of surgery and anatomy, Clinical School of Medicine, Woodstock, Vt. (1830-33); professor of surgery, Berkshire Medical Institution (1833-36); professor of anatomy, Geneva, N.Y. (1834-36); professor of surgery, Cincinnati (1836-37). He received a second doctorate

of medicine from Berkshire Medical Institution. He then spent a year in Paris visiting the wards of the great hospitals and observing the work of the famous French clinicians of that period.

Upon returning to this country in 1839 he was appointed professor of principles and practice of surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, a post he held until 1870, the year that a degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him. In New York he developed a large practice in the field of general surgery and became influential in public affairs. In surgery he was courageous and successful. He is credited with having performed cystotomy for irritable bladder (1850), with having tied the subclavian artery for aneurysm on five occasions (1864), and with having been the first in America to operate on an abscessed appendix, unaware that a similar operation had been performed in London. Dr. Parker was also an inspiring teacher, lecturing many years before crowded classrooms on the principles of surgery. He was president of the New York Academy of Medicine (1856) and was affiliated with some of the largest New York hospitals.

Some of his notable non-surgical accomplishments included obtaining the necessary legislation to reorganize the City almshouse into what is now Bellevue Hospital, and his efforts in procuring legislation to create the New York City Board of Health of which he became a member. The Willard Parker Hospital for Infectious Diseases in New York was built and named in his honor.

In 1859 a group of local citizens organized the Chelmsford Monument Association for the purpose of erecting the granite monument that stands on the Center Common in tribute to the Chelmsford men who fought in the Revolutionary War. Dr. Willard Parker was chosen president of the Association. He also gave the principal address at the dedication of the monument on September 22 of that same year.

Although his professional career prevented his making his permanent residence here, Dr. Parker always retained his interest in Chelmsford. He kept the old homestead until near the close of his life when the care of it became burdensome. He expressed his feelings for the town in a letter written in 1879, in which he said, "I love it as my old home, and where my parents lived, worked hard, and died."

Dr. Parker married twice. There were two children by his first wife, Caroline Sarah Allen, and three by his second marriage to Mary Ann (Bissell) Coit. He died on April 25, 1884.