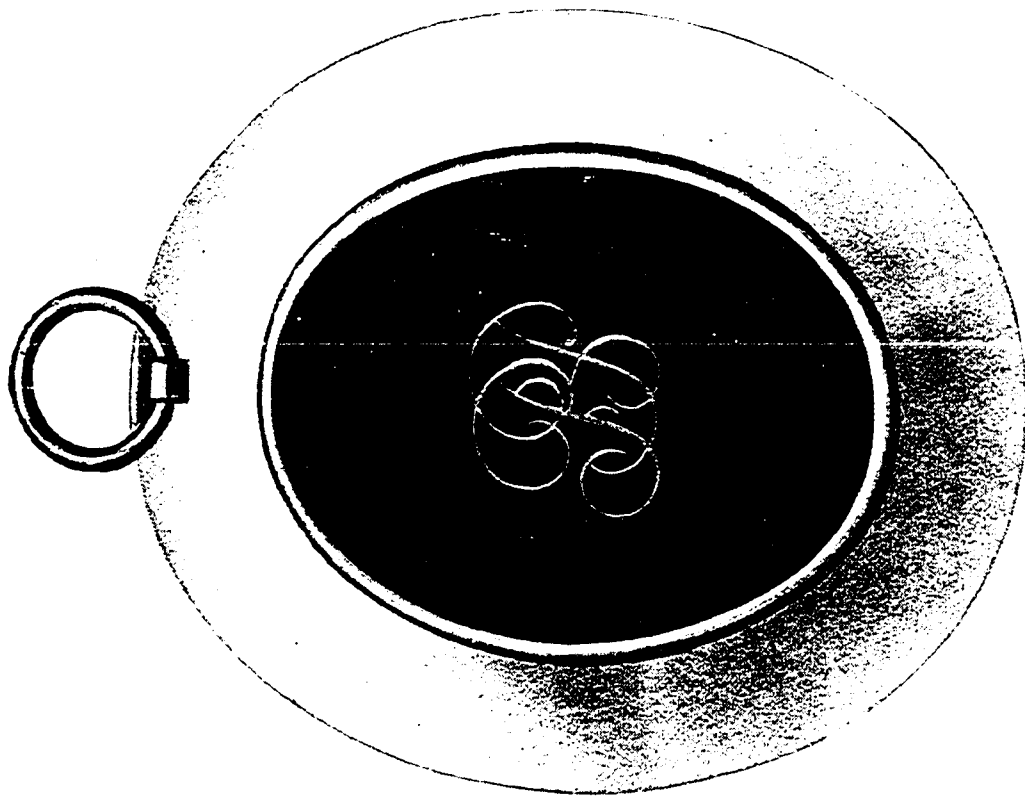


SOME ACCOUNT
OF
THE PARK FAMILY



BENJAMIN PARKE, BORN 1766, DIED 1807
FROM THE ORIGINAL MINIATURE IN POSSESSION OF SAMUEL P. AVERY, HARTFORD, CONN.

SOME ACCOUNT
OF
THE PARK FAMILY
AND ESPECIALLY OF THE
REV. JOSEPH PARK, M.A.
1705-1777
AND
BENJAMIN PARKE, LL.D.
1801-1882

WESTERLY, R. I.
THE WESTERLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MCMXVII

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SOME ACCOUNT
OF
THE PARK FAMILY

PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF PARK OF GRIMSBY

Thomas de Park or Parco, Lord
of Grimsby temp. King John

William de Park of Park, co. Glouc
& Grimsby

Beatrice eldest Alicia second Aleanora youngest
“ “ “
daur & coheir daur & coheir daur & coheir
From Baker's History of Northamptonshire.

Richard del Parke held the manor of Coldpike
Hill by the Knights service 14 Inquisition P. M.
1411.

Gerard Parke son & heir
aged 21 in 1811. ob. s. p.

Edward Parke held the
manor & tenements & 100
acres which his father
acquired of Ralph Neville,
Inq. P. M. 1468.

Isabella Parke married . . . Walher.

From Jurhis History of Durham.

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—Baltimore, Md., 1917.



MOTTO "VIRTUS"—COURAGE.

“Gules on a pale argent three buchs heards cabossed of the field, is borne by the name of Parke and was confirmed to Tho. Parke of Wisbeach in the Isle of Ely in Cambridgeshire by Sir Willm Segar, Garter King at Arms 1618.”

Gwillims Display of Heraldry.

THE PARK FAMILY IN AMERICA

I.

RICHARD PARK of London, England, (born 1602?) married in England, came over in the Ship "Defense" July 1635 and settled in Cambridge, Mass., where he purchased a large tract of land on the Charles River, a portion of which is now occupied by the Harvard College. Richard Park married, second, SARAH COLLIER, widow of Love Brewster of Duxbury. Richard died at Newton, Mass., in 1665, and his widow Sarah some years after at Duxbury, Mass. By his first wife he had the following children

THOMAS, born 1628 or 1629. See forward.

SARAH, died 1699.

ISABEL, supposed to be 7 years old in 1635
Married Francis Whittemore.

ELIZABETH, 4 years, in 1635.

Richard Park was a proprietor in Cambridge, Mass. in 1636, and of Cambridge Farms (Lexington) 1642.

His house was near the commons in Cambridge. In a division of lands in 1647, he had eleven acres in Cambridge Village, bounded west on Mr. Edward Jackson's land, and the highway to Dedham was laid out through it in 1648. The very ancient dwelling house which was pulled down about 1800 was supposed to have been built by him. It stood within a few feet of the spot now occupied by the Eliot church. Previous to 1652, he owned a large tract of land in the N. W. part of the village bounded west by the Fuller Farm, North by Charles River, East by the Drummer Farm and South and East by the Mahew farm. It contained 600 acres which he probably bought of Pastor Shepard or his heirs. (By his will dated Dec. 5, 1665, witnessed by Elder Wiswall and Hugh Mason, he bequeathed to his only son Thomas all his houses and lands, after the death of his wife Sarah. By his inventory dated 19, 8, 1665, taken by John Sherman and John Spring, the dwelling house, barn, out houses and 600 acres of land adjoining, whereof 20 acres is broken up, is appraised at £660 and 29 acres elsewhere at £100. The whole amount of the inventory was £972.) In 1657 he was one of a committee, with Edward Jackson, John Jackson, and Samuel Hyde, to lay out and settle highways in the village. During the contest between the village and Cambridge, to be set off, he sent a petition to the Court in 1661 praying to retain his connection with the Cam-

bridge Church. He died 1665 leaving widow Sarah, son Thomas and two daughters. One of the daughters married Francis Whittemore of Cambridge.

All his property except 600 acres and buildings was equally divided between the two daughters.

Thomas Park (son of Richard) married Abigail Dix of Watertown, Mass., 1653. He settled upon the 600 acres. His home was near the Bemis Mills on the banks of the Charles River.

(From Jackson's History of Newton, Mass., pages 382-3.)

“Richard Park was a proprietor at Cambridge 1636, of Cambridge Farms (Lexington) in 1642, and he settled in Cambridge village—Newton—1647. He owned a large tract of land, 600 acres, bounded West by the Fuller Farm, North by the Charles River, East by the Drummer Farm and East and Southeast by Edward Jackson's farm. In 1657 Edward Jackson, Deacon John Jackson, Samuel Hyde and Richard Park were a committee to lay out and settle the highways in Cambridge village. His will dated July 12, 1665, witnessed by Elder Wiswall and Captain Hugh Mason, mentions wife, son Thomas and two daughters, one of whom married Francis Whittemore of Cambridge.

Francis Jackson says Richard Park's widow Sarah was living at Duxbury in 1678.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PARK FAMILY

Thomas Park, only son of Richard, was born 1629, died Aug. 11, 1690. His inventory dated Sept. 30, 1690 witnessed by Wm. Bond, Isaac Williams and Nathan Fiske. His estate divided Oct. 3, 1691, and finally settled 1693. He married Dec. 1, 1653 Abigail Dix. She died before April 29, 1691."

"Love Brewster of Duxbury married May 15, 1634 Sarah Collier, daughter of William and Jane Collier of Duxbury. He died 1650 (will dated Oct. 1, 1650) and his wife Sarah married Richard Park. After his decease she returned to Duxbury."

"The situation of the large Park Farm in Newton, in relation to Watertown, accounts for the numerous alliances between the descendants of Richard Park and Watertown families. The farm of Richard Park was contiguous to the small parcel of land belonging to Watertown, on the South side of the Charles River and it is probable that his residence was at an early date within the bounds of Watertown."

(From Bond's Genealogies and History of Watertown, Mass., pages 384-5, 865-8.)

"The early settlers of Newton, properly so called, numbered only twenty, or at most twenty-two. Among them were Jackson, Fuller, Hyde, PARK, Ward, Wiswall, Prentice and Trowbridge. The men bearing these names exercised a leading influence in all the

RICHARD PARK

affairs of the town. By their prudence, piety, enterprise and patriotism and virtue, they impressed upon the town a character which it is still proud to maintain. RICHARD PARK came to Newton from Cambridge in 1647. He died there in 1665. He owned a large tract of land in the village. By his will, he bequeathed to his only son Thomas this tract of land with the houses thereon, after the death of his wife Sarah. His son Thomas married Abigail Dix of Watertown 1653 and they had five sons and four daughters, among them this tract of land was divided in 1694,* (Thomas having deceased) and the contents were then about 800 acres, Thomas having added by purchase 200 acres and built a corn mill upon the Charles River, near where the dam now is in the North village.

Near the spot where the Meeting House of the First Church originally stood, a marble pillar was erected September 1, 1852, with appropriate inscriptions on the four faces, in commemoration of the first inhabitants of the town and recording their names. On the West side, the name of RICHARD PARK 1647-1665, appears."

(From Drake's History of Newtown, Middlesex county, Mass., pages 203-22.)

* Jackson in his History of Newton, Mass., page 385, says that Thomas Park's estate was divided among his heirs March 12th, 1693.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PARK FAMILY

2. Thomas Park, son of Richard, married Abigail Dix daughter of Edward and Jane Dix of Watertown, Mass., Dec. 1, 1653. Thomas died Aug. 11, 1689 or 1690 at Cambridge. Abigail his wife died Feb. 3, 1691. They had the following children:

THOMAS, born Nov. 2, 1654, died Aug. 28, 1681.

JOHN, born Sept. 6, 1656. See over.

ABIGAIL, born Mar. 3, 1658, married John Fiske Dec. 1, 1679.

EDWARD, born April 8, 1661, married Martha Fiske 1679, died Aug. 11, 1690.

RICHARD, born Dec. 21, 1663, married Sarah Cutter, died June 19, 1725.

SARAH, born January 1, 1666, married John Knapp Aug. 4, 1686.

REBECCA, born Feb. 13, 1668, married John Sanger of Watertown, Mass. 1685.

JONATHAN, born Aug. 27, 1670, married Anne Spring of Watertown, Mass., 1690. Died 1719.

ELIZABETH, born July 28, 1679, married John Holland.

“Thomas Park’s estate was divided among the heirs March 12, 1693.”

(Jackson’s History of Newton, Mass., page 383.)

JOHN PARK

3. JOHN PARK, son of Thomas, married ELIZABETH MILLER of Watertown, Mass., April 5, 1694. John died March 21, 1718. Elizabeth died ———. They had the following children.

ELIZABETH, born February 24, 1695. Died young.

JOHN, born Dec. 20, 1696, married Abigail Laurence, died May 21, 1747.

SOLOMON, born Oct. 16, 1699, married Lydia Laurence, died January 3, 1754.

ELIZABETH, born Feb. 21, 1701, married John Morse, 1724.

ABIGAIL, born April 20, 1702, married Nathaniel Whittemore.

JOSEPH, born March 12, 1705. See over.

MARY, born March 17, 1708, married Isaac Sanger 1727.

DELIVERANCE.

“The inventory of John Park’s estate is dated April 9, 1718. The estate was divided May 18, 1720 between his wife and children. John Park was distinguished as a soldier, and was severely wounded at the battle of Northfield, September 1675.”

(Page’s History of Cambridge, page 625.)

“The Inventory of John’s estate dated April 9, 1718, by Jonathan Fuller, Jeremiah Fuller and John Green-

wood. In the distribution of his estate May 18, 1720, are mentioned wife Elizabeth and children, viz. son John, eldest son, Solomon, Elizabeth, Abigail, Joseph and Mary. A daughter, Deliverance, is not mentioned. The church records say Deliverance and Mary, daughters of John Park, were baptized September 14, 1718. Elizabeth, wife of John, administered the estate."

(Bond's Genealogical History of Watertown, Mass., page 384.)

4. REV. JOSEPH PARK, son of John Park, was born in Newton, Mass.; March 12, 1705, graduated from Harvard College 1720 with the degree of B.A., subsequently receiving the degree of M.A. in 1724. He studied for the Ministry and was ordained 1730. Married ABIGAIL GREENE 1732, moved to Westerly, R. I., 1733, where he distinguished himself as a minister of the Gospel. He was a self sacrificing, patriotic and public spirited man. He died at Westerly, R. I., March 1, 1777, in the 45th year of his ministry. Abigail his wife died Oct. 19, 1772, in her 69th year. Denison in his "Westerly and its Witnesses" says "this good, laborious, tried and faithful man, died at his home in Westerly in the seventy-second year of his age, and forty-fifth year of his ministry." He had nine children, three of whom distinguished themselves in the Colonial Wars, viz. Joseph, Jr., Benjamin, and



DWELLING HOUSE BUILT BY REV. JOSEPH PARK IN 1754
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN 1898

Thomas, notably at Crown Point on Lake Champlain and Fort William Henry on Lake George. Thomas was also at the siege of Louisburg. Benjamin was prominently identified with the struggle of the Colonies in the early days of the Revolution, marching to the relief of the troops on the Lexington Alarm. He participated in the severe engagement at Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, where he was killed.

Rev. Joseph Park and Abigail his wife had the following children:

JONATHAN GREENE, born Oct. 30, 1733, at Newton, Mass.

BENJAMIN, born in Westerly, R. I., Nov. 1, 1735 married Hannah Stanton York, daughter of James York of Westerly, Dec. 4, 1757. Was a Captain in the Revolution and was killed at Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775.

JOSEPH, JR., born in Westerly, R. I., Nov. 1, 1735, was at the reduction of Crown Point 1756, and at the defense of Fort William Henry 1758. (R. I. Colonial Records, vol. 6, page 119.)

THOMAS, born in Westerly, R. I., 1738; was at the reduction of Crown Point, the defense of Fort William Henry, and the siege of Louisburg. (Ibid.)

ANN, born 1739, married PELEG PENDLE-

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PARK FAMILY

TON of Stonington, Conn., Sept. 7, 1758,
died March 20, 1817.

JOHN, born at Westerly, R. I., 1742, married by
Rev. Joseph Park, Nov. 4, 1772, to Abigail
Chapman, daughter of William Chapman of
Westerly, R. I. She died March 4, 1790.
John married, second, Sarah Hiscox June 29,
1794. He died in Searsport, Me., in 1812.
He commanded a Company of Militia at
Charlestown, R. I., 1780.

HENRY, born in Westerly, R. I., 1744.

SAMUEL, born in Westerly, R. I., 1747, died in
Westerly, R. I., Sept. 29, 1747.

MARY?

“REV. JOSEPH PARK, was born at Newton, Mass.,
March 12, 1705—died at Westerly, R. I., March 1, 1777.
Great-grandson of Richard of Cambridge 1635. Or-
dained 1732. Went to Westerly, R. I., 1733. Rev.
Mr. Park organized a Sunday School in connection with
his church at Westerly 1752, nearly 30 years before the
experiment of Robert Reikes in England. Having care
for a sick woman of small pox who had been driven away
by the town authorities, he was tried for contempt,
whereupon he preached a sermon in vindication of his

course, which with a narrative of the transaction was published.”

(Drake’s Dictionary of American Biography, page 687.)

“April 11, 1756. Appointed Wednesday 14th as a day of fasting and prayer, to humble ourselves before God, to implore His gracious presence with, and blessings to our young brethern Joseph Park, Jr., Benjamin Park and Thomas Park and William Garrit, all who offered their desires in writing to this society, and we that God of His infinite mercy will hear and answer, and also that God would bless our Army in general, who are going forth against our enemies.

The young men here mentioned were in the expedition that went forth for the reduction of Crown Point. It will be noticed that three of them were sons of Rev. Joseph Park, who was always a man of public spirit.”

(Denison’s Westerly, Page 72.)

Denison says on page 71, that the dwelling house built by Rev. Joseph Park in 1754 is now owned in part by Job Taylor, and last year (1866) was occupied by Julia A. Taylor.

Proceedings of the General Assembly held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at South Kingstown the 14th day of February, 1758.

“Whereas the REV. JOSEPH PARK of Charlestown in the County of Kings, presented this Assembly with a memorial setting forth that he hath ever been ready to contribute all the assistance in his power to stop his Majesty’s enemies from their injurious encroachments on his dominion and just rights in America and to defend the Country. That in the year of 1756 he consented to the voluntary service of three of his sons who served in the expedition formed for the reduction of Crown Point; that when they were discharged from the service upon their return homeward, they put their clothing and other furniture to the value of £100 currency, in their chest which was unfortunately lost in the sea. That this summer when the enemy attacked Fort William Henry, they volunteered in the stead of officers who declined, that they did this without any consideration purely to serve their country, that he the memorialist was thereby put to considerable charge, wherefore he prays for such allowance as should be thought proper.

On consideration whereof this Assembly do vote and resolve that the sum of £100 be paid said Joseph Park out of the general Treasury, for the use of his aforesaid sons, as an allowance for what they lost, as aforesaid, but that nothing be allowed them as officers.”

(Extract from Rhode Island Colonial Records, Vol. 6, page 119. 1758.)



In Memory of
the Rev.
JOSEPH PARK,
died March 11,
1772 in the 71st Year
of his Age and 12th Year
of his Ministry.

In Memory of
Abigail the Wife of the
Rev. Joseph Park who
died Oct. 19, 1772 in
the 68th Year of Age.

TOMBSTONES OF REV. JOSEPH PARK AND ABIGAIL, HIS WIFE

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN FEBRUARY, 1917

“Rev. Joseph Park was born March 12, 1705. After his graduation at Harvard College, Cambridge, he was appointed missionary to the Indians and such English as would attend, in Westerly, R. I. He entered his new field of labor in 1733, occupying a meeting-house on a lot of land given by George Ninegret, chief sachem of the Indians. The lot comprised twenty acres and was situated near the post-road in the eastern part of the present town. His congregation came from Westerly, Charlestown and Narragansett. His work was slow and difficult until 1740, when the great revival arose in New England. In 1751 Mr. Park removed and settled at Mattatuck, near Southfield, L. I., where he labored until 1756, when he returned to Westerly, and was formally settled again, May 23, 1759. This church established the first Sabbath-school and Mr. Park was its first and only pastor.”

(From the National Cyclopædia of American History, Vol. VIII, page 61.)

Inscriptions from old grave stones in the old graveyard on the North side of the post-road just out of Westerly going to Charlestown, a few rods East of the residence of Christopher Rathbun, near where the shore road enters the post-road. The Meeting-house or Church is now gone. These stones are in a good state of preservation, in 1917.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PARK FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF THE

REV. JOSEPH PARK, WHO DIED MARCH 1, 1777
IN THE 72D YEAR OF HIS AGE AND THE 45TH
YEAR OF HIS MINISTRY. HE WAS A FAITHFUL
MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL, A GREAT PATRIOT,
A KIND HUSBAND, A TENDER PARENT, A GREAT
FRIEND TO THE WIDOW AND ORPHAN AND
FATHERLESS, AND WAS AN EXCELLENT NEIGH-
BOR.

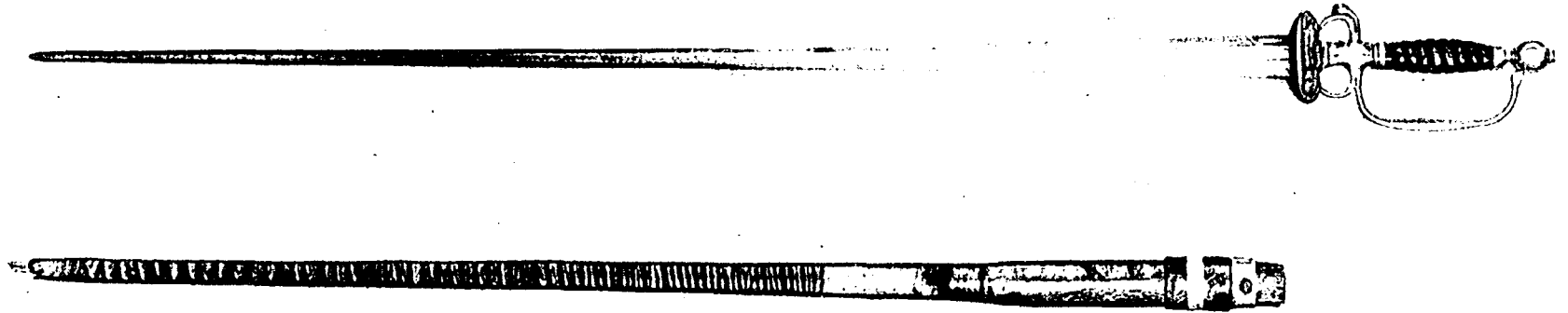
IN MEMORY OF

ABIGAIL THE WIFE OF THE REV. JOSEPH PARK
WHO DIED OCT. 19TH 1772 IN THE 68TH YEAR
OF AGE. A FAITHFUL WIFE, A TENDER MOTHER,
A KIND NEIGHBOR, A COMPASSIONATE AND
STEADFAST FRIEND, AND AN EXCELLENT
CHRISTIAN:

5. CAPTAIN BENJAMIN PARK, son of Rev. Joseph Park, was born in Westerly, R. I., Nov. 1, 1735, and was married in Westerly Dec. 4, 1757, by his father, to Hannah Stanton York, daughter of James York of that place. He was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill June 17, 1775. She died December 1800. They had the following children:

MARY, born Sept. 8, 1758, removed to New York City after her mother's death.

JONATHAN GREENE, born March 5, 1760, died March 25, 1761.



CAPTAIN BENJAMIN PARK'S SWORD

PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE ORIGINAL IN POSSESSION OF MRS. EUNICE PARKE DETWEILER
CAPTAIN PARK WAS KILLED AT THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL JUNE 17, 1775

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN PARK

JOSEPH, born Nov. 13, 1763, at Charlestown, R. I., went to New York City after his mother's death where he engaged in the shipping business with his brother Benjamin.

BENJAMIN, JR., born Sept. 16, 1766. See forward.

THOMAS, born Sept. 1, 1767 at Charlestown, R. I., married Eunice Champlin at Newport, R. I., Dec. 4, 1800. He settled in Pennsylvania in 1802 and died Nov. 16, 1842. Eunice was descended from Geoffrey Champlin. She was born in 1768 and died Nov. 10, 1858.

JOHN, born Aug. 29, 1769, lost at sea.

HENRY, born at Charlestown, R. I., settled in Pennsylvania, died in New York City in 1830, and was buried in Rutgers Burying ground.

HANNAH STANTON, born July 12, 1771, in Charlestown, R. I., after her mother's death, with whom she had lived, she went to New York City, where she kept a private school. Afterwards she went to live with her brother Thomas in Pennsylvania. She died in Harrisburg, Pa., 1831, unmarried.

SUSAN, born at Charlestown, R. I., went to New York with her sister Hannah. Afterwards went to Parke Vale and lived with her brother

Thomas. When she died she was buried in St. Jude's Churchyard at Springville, Pa.

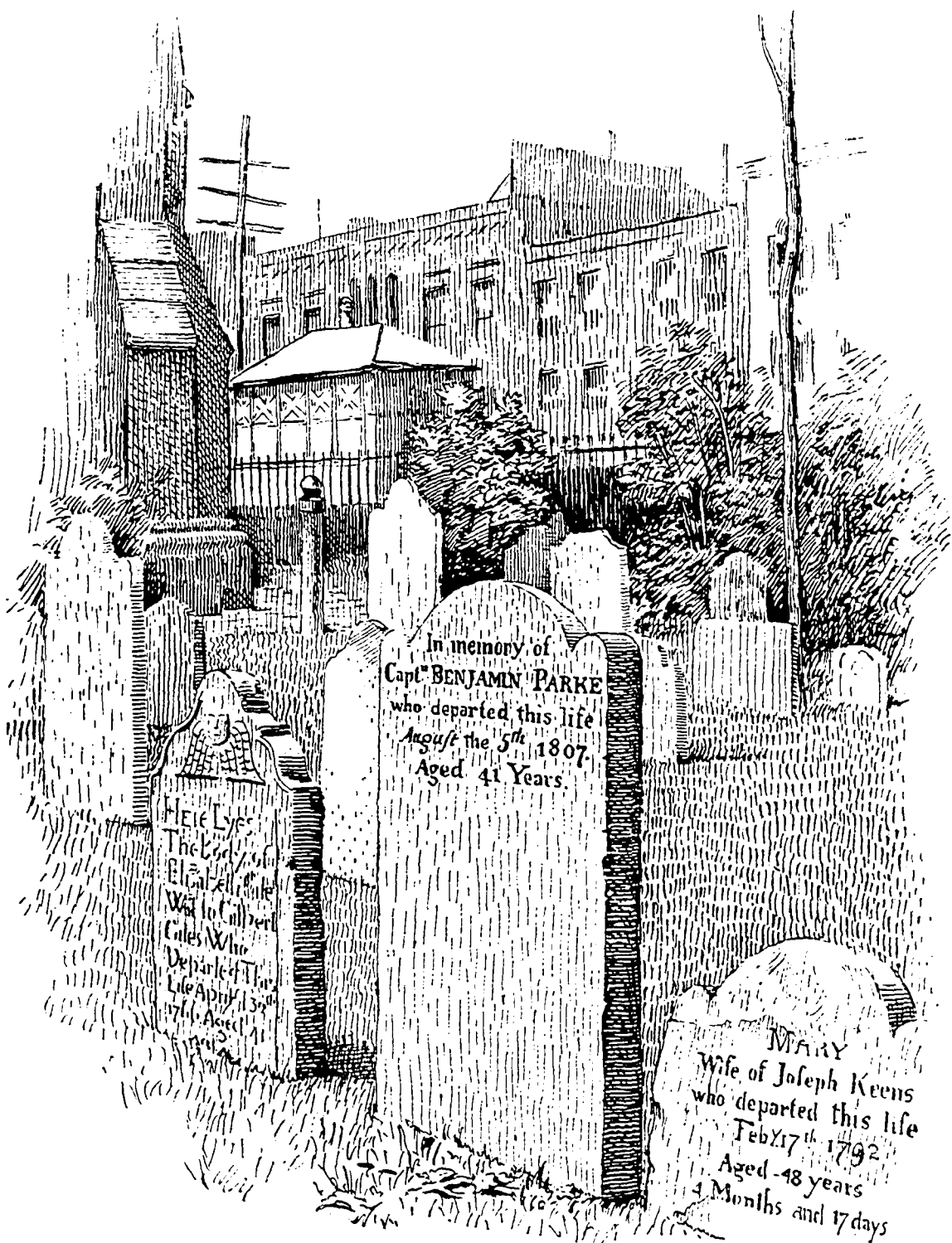
6. BENJAMIN PARKE, JR. (who added the final *e* to his name) was born Sept. 16, 1766, at Charlestown, R. I., and came to New York City where he engaged in business with his brother Joseph. He married Susanna Maria Keens, daughter of Joseph and Mary Keens of New York City. He survived her only six months, leaving two daughters, Susanna Maria and Hannah Anne. Their uncle Joseph took charge of them, and proved a faithful guardian. Benjamin Park died in New York City Aug. 5, 1807, and was buried in Trinity Churchyard on Broadway, New York City, about 18 paces North of nearly the West end of the Church of which he was vestryman. Susanna his wife was born December 2, 1776 and died Feb. 17, 1807. She is buried in Trinity Churchyard Broadway, in the same grave with her mother Mary Keens, and next to her husband, Captain Benjamin Park.

They had the following children:

SUSANNA MARIA, born in New York City.

HANNAH ANNE, born in New York City April 24, 1804, died June 26, 1888. See forward.

7. HANNAH ANNE PARKE was born in New York City April 24, 1804. Her womanhood was passed in kindly deeds, patriotic efforts and charity which was



TOMBSTONE OF CAPTAIN BENJAMIN PARKE
 AS IT NOW STANDS (1917) IN GOOD CONDITION, IN TRINITY CHURCH-
 YARD, NEW YORK, ABOUT EIGHTEEN PACES NORTH OF AND NEAR
 THE WEST END OF THE CHURCH. THE TOMBSTONE ON
 THE RIGHT IS THAT OF HIS WIFE'S MOTHER

as broad as it was bountiful, knowing no creed or color. In the War of the Rebellion of the slave-holding states she was active in sending delicacies to our sick and wounded soldiers, in caring for their widows and orphans, and was the chief instrument in founding a home for the children of the dead soldiers. She subsequently became identified with Mrs. Gen. U. S. Grant in extending this work, and was at one time vice president when Mrs. Grant was president of the National Organization. She married Jan. 1, 1821, at an early age, Samuel P. Avery, of New York City, born January, 1797, died July 24, 1832, by whom she had seven children, viz.*

SAMUEL PUTNAM AVERY, U. S. Commissioner from New York to the Paris Exposition, 1867; born March 17, 1822, died Aug. 11, 1904. Married Nov. 24, 1844, Mary Ann Ogden, born Dec. 1, 1825, died April 29, 1911.

HANNAH STANTON AVERY, born Oct. 12, 1824, died June 25, 1885. Married Charles R. Cornell May 2, 1854, born June 20, 1806, died Sept. 12, 1866.

SUSAN JANE AVERY, born Dec. 11, 1826, died Mch 18, 1912. Married Stephen Avery Dec. 5, 1850, born , died Jan. 1, 1853.

* Avery Family Record, W. W. Avery, Plymouth, Mass., 1893.

MacKenzie Colonial Families, U. S. A., Vol. VI, Baltimore, Md., 1917.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PARK FAMILY

BENJAMIN PARKE AVERY, U. S. Minister to China 1874, born Nov. 11, 1828, died Nov. 8, 1875. Married Nov. 27, 1861, Mary Ann Fuller, born July 13, 1827, died June 9, 1913.

MARY REBECCA HALSEY AVERY, born Aug. 10, 1830, died June 7, 1861. Married Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, June 7, 1856, born Jan. 7, 1832, died Apl 12, 1902.

CHARLES RUSSELL AVERY, born Oct. 1832, died Aug. 5, 1833.

Married second JOHN NICHOLAS COYNE, Sept. 26, 1835, born Dec. 22, 1815, died May 31, 1854, by whom she had five children as follows:

A child, born in New York City in 1837, died in infancy.

JOHN NICHOLAS, Jr., born in New York City Nov. 14, 1839, died March 4, 1907. See forward.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, born in New York City Jan. 20, 1841, married Jane Goodale, died Jan. 2, 1901, and was buried in Danbury, Conn.

JANE AUGUSTA, born April 6, 1843, died Nov. 14, 1851, and was buried in the Coyne family plot, Greenwood.

CHARLES RUSSELL, born Sept. 11, 1845, married Fanny C. Waters of Jersey City, N. J. died



BENJAMIN PARKE AVERY
(UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER TO CHINA)
BORN 1828, DIED 1875
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN 1866

JOHN NICHOLAS COYNE

Oct. 4, 1899, and was buried in Jersey City Cemetery.

Married third John Owen Rouse of Jersey City in 1858. Born Aug. 14, 1818, died Nov. 14, 1896. There was no issue. She died June 26, 1888 and is buried in Greenwood in the Avery plot under the name of Hannah Avery Rouse.

8. JOHN NICHOLAS COYNE, son of Hannah Anne Parke and John Nicholas Coyne, was born in New York City Nov. 14, 1839. He married in Philadelphia, Pa., March 19, 1863, SALLIE JOHNSON MATTHEWS, youngest daughter of Dr. Caleb B. and Mary Ann (Myers) Matthews. She was born in Philadelphia May 17, 1844 and died November 8, 1883. They had the following children:

SAIDEE MATTHEWS, born Dec. 22, 1863, at Philadelphia, married in Jersey City, N. J. Dec. 16, 1885, Dr. Samuel Wellman Clark, who died in Jersey City Dec. 5, 1899.

BERTHA PARKE born Sept. 27, 1865, in Jersey City, died Dec. 5, 1866.

ANNE AUGUSTA, born Jan. 23, 1868 in Jersey City, died July 3, 1868.

MAIE PARKE, born May 18, 1870, in Jersey City, married there Feb. 12, 1896, John Murray Lindsay.

REV. JOSEPH PARK "M.A."

REV. JOSEPH PARK, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Westerly, R. I., 1750-1759 was the Great Grand-son of *Richard* Park, one of the founders of New England. He came over on Ship *Defence* July 1635 from London, England, with his wife and two children. He afterwards married *Sarah Callier*, widow of Love Brewster. Had son *Thomas*—father of *John* who was the father of Rev. Joseph, who was born on *March* 12th, 1704. Graduated from Harvard College, 1720 A.M. in 1724—Married Abigail Greene of Westerly 1732. Had nine children, Three sons distinguished themselves in the Colonial Wars (Bond's Genealogy), *Lieut. Joseph Jr.*, *Thomas* Battle of Louisburg, *Benjamin*, *Captain* Fell at Bunker Hill—Sword in possession of his descendant, Mrs. Eunice Parke, Detweiler. Three sons also, were lost at Sea—The notes of the sermon preached by Rev. Mr. Park were found after his decease. Rev. Mr. Park was sent by the commissioners at Boston, who were appointed by the Government to send out and support

Missionaries among the Indians (they were the heathen then) Sent *Rev. Jos. Park* a *Congregational Minister* to *Westerly, R. I.* for the purpose of organizing a church of that persuasion—or if that was *not advisable*, to preach the word of God in its *simplicity* to the *Narragansett Indians*. This occurred in 1733 before the division of the town of Westerly. Rev. Mr. Park took up his residence near the centre of the town, (now in Charlestown near the boundary line), as being the best location near the tribe for whose benefit he was sent. His *house* was on an elevation near the road, north side, and the Meeting House in which he officiated was not far distant.

At the time of Rev. Mr. Park's arrival the white inhabitants attended the Sabbatarian Church but probably that house of worship was not large enough to accommodate but a part of the population—for he said I found a comfortable appearance of humanity and courtesy among the people—but as I learned, only one House of Prayer in two large towns, that held hundreds of families. Few possessed the faith of God's operations on the heart, or the true doctrine of grace.

But the Indians were not so easily influenced for good as the Plymouth settlers imagined. Their ancient chieftain *Ninigret* had forbidden christians dealing with or preaching to his people, *until the effect of their doctrine was visible on the white people*. His will was

so strictly followed that after a residence of nine years not a solitary Narragansett was a member of Rev. Mr. Park's church—yet at that time he had a respectable congregation of English and natives.

But having labored nine years, in 1742 a great revival sprung up among the English; and fourteen members were added to his church. This was succeeded by a great inquiry among the Indians; many of whom joined the Church. In those days the magistracy was considered to be an awful power—to be expected that all men should bow to its behests without complaint. But Rev. Mr. Park in his stern integrity, supposed *the law of God to be superior to that of man*, and in one instance in particular, *cast himself upon that higher law*, when the *laws of man* were administered in opposition to it, *in his opinion*.

A sermon is before me written by him and published in 1761, preceeded by a narration of the causes which led to the publications. He says:

Sometime in the winter of 1759 it pleased God to visit the town of Westerly with his sore judgment the small pox, brought from New York by some boat men. The authority pressed the widow Lambert, one to nurse the sick; she was by birth an English woman, had lived several years in the town, employed by some of the principal inhabitants of the town to *school-mistress* for their children to *good acceptance*, and by her

industry had something considerable. The persons whom she assisted to nurse *died* and *she was ordered to be cleansed*, and *sent home, which was done!* A maid where she was boarding caught the disease, and a woman pressed to take care of her, Ann Chroucher by name, carried it to another family. Being complained of, she had nearly perished for want of a place to live not belonging to the town—but was finally received at *Deacon Gavitts*. A terrible clamour was raised against her and when she appeared in court no one undertook her defence until Rev. Mr. Park kindly attempted to assist her. For this he was *sharply rebuked* by the *justice for his interference*. He took the woman to his house until he could succeed in mitigating the sentence passed up on her by the justice.

His efforts were of no avail—and he then refused compliance with their judgment as *contrary to law*. In his narration he says:

As I privately did testify against such things—that they would bring down the heavy judgment of God, I thought it my duty also to give *public warning*; and accordingly on next Lords day, I preached a sermon, Jeremiah 5th Chapter: 9th verse—Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord, and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

In the sermon he says: I have told you, and it is the *truth* of *God*, that nothing short of sincere repentance,

faith unfeigned and new obedience will help to prevent our ruin. I am sure if we go on in the course we generally do, distinction and misery are in our way—I know not a law of God or a word of his grace, but is trampled under foot, broken, and despised by one or another. Will God bear long with these things? Surely not, or if he does, has he done it already? and will he always bear with it?

This sermon was preached in the Presbyterian Meeting House in Westerly, R. I. upon the 24th day of February 1760 by Rev. Joseph Park, M.A., Minister of the Word of God.

(Extracts from Westerly Ch. Records, Jan. 2nd, 1751.)

Denison calls the Pastor of Westerly Church “a tried, laboring christian man, faithful to his trust.”

He was in deed “a brave christian man” a brave faithful minister of the Gospel, “great patriot,” a friend to the widow, and the fatherless “and an excellent neighbor” as an old tombstone near where the church stood has as its inscription.

As a patriot he stands almost supreme. He preached with his musket by his side and when the British occupied his church using the English service, he refused to enter it, until it was thoroughly cleansed from the *popish defilement of surplice and gown*. Blessed old patriot! Your fourth great grand-daughter gives

tribute of praise to you! and Woe! to the race of descendants who have for four generations held to the "surplice and gown!" But, lovingly honor the memory of "ye brave Pastor of ye Church in Westerly, R. I." (1751-1769.)

Notes From Church Records

Westerly, March ye 16th.

1752.

Rev. Mr. Park married in 1739, *Abigail Greene* who was a faithful wife, and devoted Mother, having been a helpmeet indeed to this faithful man, and Christian father. They had nine children—all giving honor to their parents. As a Pastor's wife, she leaves a good Record, to be read by those who followed her. The Clerk of the Church writes of her as follows:

Dear Madam: I can truly say you have been the truest and best friend to me, and I believe to all the church you have discharged ye covenant vows and obligations. You have been a great means of strengthening my hope, and conveying light to me. It has been an admiration to be able to see you sell all that was near and dear to you for Christ's sake, and ye unfeigned love that truly and plainly appears in you toward the brethren (since our dismissal from the church of Christ. Dismissing their Pastor" in striving and

laboring hard against flesh, and keeping the gospel in ye faith and order of it, in this place or rather to have settled here. Dear Madam, Time would fail me to recount all the good deeds ye have done but now blessed be God who hath given me light—for now I can feel imperfectly that passage of Scripture where the woman poured rich ointment upon our Lord Jesus Christ and the Lord said “trouble not ye woman, for wherever the Gospel is preached throughout ye whole world, this that she hath done shall be spoken for a memorial of her. So it shall be of you.

Dear Madam—gratitude demands more than this from me. It being greatly to ye glory of God for ye work is the Lords and where God is not acknowledged in His work he is robbed of His glory. Begging an interest in your prayers with unfeigned love to you and yours, I remain your humble and affectionate brother and servant.

Christopher Sugar, Clerk.

March ye 16th 1752.

BENJAMIN PARKE, LL.D.

BENJAMIN PARKE, eldest son of Col. Thomas Parke and Eunice Champlin, was born at Charleston, Rhode Island, in 1801. His paternal ancestor, Richard Park, settled at Cambridge, Mass., as early as 1647; and his grandfather, Benjamin Park, who was in command of a company of Continentals, was among the slain at Bunker Hill. The younger sons of the latter, Thomas and Henry, under the care of their grandfather, a Puritan clergyman, received a good education. In 1796 they both settled in Dimock township, Susquehanna county, Penn'a. In 1800 Thomas Parke returned to Rhode Island where he married Eunice Champlin, a descendant of Geoffry Champlin, who settled at Newport, that State, in 1638. In 1802 Thomas Parke returned with his wife and young Benjamin to their wilderness home on the Susquehanna. He died in 1842; his wife November 10, 1858, in the ninetieth year of her age.

The early years of Benjamin Parke were spent on

his father's farm in Susquehanna county. He subsequently taught school in the neighborhood, and at the age of twenty-three left home to study the profession of law. November 25, 1828, he was admitted to the Dauphin County bar, and settled at Harrisburg. With William F. Packer, afterwards Governor of the State, he edited and published *The Keystone*, then the central and leading organ of the Democratic party. This paper subsequently passed into the hands of Messrs. McKinley and Peacock, who continued it under the name of the *Argus*, with which Mr. Parke remained as editor two years, in the meantime commencing the publication of *The Pennsylvania Farmer and Common School Intelligencer*. The latter was however but short-lived.

In 1834 he was appointed by Governor Wolf prothonotary of the Middle district of the Supreme Court, then consisting of sixteen counties, which position he held until the advent of the administration of Gov. Ritner. He also held the office of Commissioner of Bankruptcy, and in 1838 was the principal compiler of Parke and Johnson's "Digest of the Laws of Pennsylvania." From 1851 to 1853 he was associated with Prof. Charles E. Blumenthal, of Dickinson College, in the editorship of the *Temple*, a monthly magazine devoted chiefly to Masonry. Prior to 1860 Mr. Parke contributed largely to magazines, reviews, etc., and

published in pamphlet form upwards of twenty addresses, political and Masonic. Dickinson College, in 1852, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

In 1853 President Pierce appointed him postmaster at Harrisburg and he received his commission, but such was the dissatisfaction among the members of his own party that to harmonize its interests he patriotically gave up the office. With all due deference, there are few individuals who would have surrendered as unconditionally as Mr. Parke. In 1860 he retired to the paternal farm, Parkvale, in Susquehanna county, but several enterprises in which he engaged proving unsuccessful, he removed to Halifax, this county, in 1879.

Mr. Parke was widely distinguished as a Mason, and in 1826, at the beginning of the anti-Masonic crusade, he had the temerity to petition for the three symbolic degrees, which he received at Wilkes-Barre that year; and during the persecution of the members of the craft he was one of their boldest advocates. Upon the revival of Masonry Mr. Parke was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the subordinate lodges for nine counties, a position he held for six years. In 1858 he was Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, and at the time of his death the oldest Past Grand Commander. In 1859 and 1860 he held the office of Most Excellent

Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Pennsylvania, having previously served in the different subordinate positions. Among the fraternity he was well known, highly honored and respected.

Mr. Parke died after a severe and lingering illness of several months at Halifax, on Monday, the 29th day of May, 1882, aged over four score years. He married December 30, 1830, Elizabeth, daughter of George Leebrick and Mary Mohr, of Halifax, born February 10, 1806. They had children: Emma, married S. S. Carrier; Eunice, married Major John S. Detweiler; Georgianna, married Col. John E. Parsons; William and Charles, of whom Mrs. Detweiler and Mrs. Parsons survive.