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I am seeking all genealogical and biographical details for the family documented below including their ancestors, children, and grandchildren and the spouses thereof, including the full names of those spouses' parents. All additions and corrections within this scope, however speculative, will be greatly appreciated.

Robert Parke of Mystic, Connecticut

The Parke Scrapbooks were an invaluable source on the Parke family. The majority of the English records in *The Parke Scrapbooks* were secured by Elizabeth (Hunter) Ruppert of Washington, D.C., a life member of the Parke Society, from Chester Herald at the College of Arms in London England. Other sources utilized by the author include *The History of Stonington, Connecticut* and correspondence with Dorothy (Bennett) Inderkum and an article by Gary Boyd Roberts on the "Ancestry of The Princess of Wales" in *The New England Historic Genealogical Register* (October 1982). The name is spelled by some descendants without the "e". Famous descendants of Robert Parke include Diana, Princess of Wales, Wilbur and Orville Wright, Humphrey Bogart, and Roswell Park.

1. ROBERT^G PARKE died at Gestingthorpe, Essex, England in 1400; married MARGARET (___), who died 22 August 1408; parents of:
2. JOHN^F PARKE (*Robert^G*) of Gestingthorpe, eldest son and heir. He was listed in a 1433 list of Essex Gentry; father of:
3. JOHN^E PARKE (*John^F, Robert^G*) of Gestingthorpe, son and heir; father of:
4. WILLIAM^D PARKE (*John^{E-F}, Robert^G*) of Gestingthorpe, father of:
5. WILLIAM^C PARKE (*William^D, John^{E-F}, Robert^G*) of Gestingthorpe, died in 1531. He was assessed there in a Subsidy of 1523, father of:
6. WILLIAM^B PARKE (*William^{C-D}, John^{E-F}, Robert^G*) of Whight House, Gestingthorpe died in 1551. He paid a fine for 8 acres of land, late his father's in Gestingthorpe in 1531/2. He was the eldest son and heir of his father; his own will was dated 25 March 1551 and proved 13 May 1551 at the Commissary Court of London.

Children:

7.
 - i. WILLIAM^A, acquired Whight House from his brother John.
 - ii. ROBERT, married ALICE CHAPLIN.
 - iii. JOHN of Gestingthorpe died in 1574. He paid a fine for 8 acres of land in 1553/3. He held Whight House in 1553 and lands called Collins in Little Maplestead, Essex.
Children, surname *Parke*: 1. *John* of Gestingthorpe, b. after 1555; d. after 1634; m. MARGARET MARTIN, daughter of Nicholas Martin of Maplestead, Essex. 2. *Margaret*, b. after 1555.

7. ROBERT^A PARKE (*William*^{B-C-D}, *John*^{E-F}, *Robert*^G) of Acton, Suffolk and Gestingthorpe, Essex died in 1592/3 and married at All Saints, Sudbury, Suffolk in 1579 ALICE CHAPLIN (*William*^B). Alice was born after 1554, daughter of William^B Chaplin of Tarnes Farm in the parish of Long Melford, Suffolk.

Robert sold lands in Gestingthorpe in 1571/2 and served as a juror in 1573 and again in 1578/9. In 1575 Alice held two messuages in Acton, Suffolk by her father's will; she was not yet 21 years old.

Children (see *The Parke Scrapbooks* for a record of all the grandchildren):

8.
 - ii. ROBERT^I, bapt. at Poslingford, Suffolk 2 June 1580; m. (1) MARTHA CHAPLIN; m. (2) ALICE (FREEMAN) THOMPSON.
 - iii. EDMUND, b. after 1570; had tenement in Gestingthorpe by his father's will.
 - iv. WILLIAM, b. after 1570.

8. ROBERT^I PARKE (*Robert*^A, *William*^{B-C-D}, *John*^{E-F}, *Robert*^G) was baptized at Poslingford, Suffolk, England 3 June 1580 and died at Mystic, New London County, Connecticut 14 March 1664/5, son of Robert^A and Alice (Chaplin) Parke of Gestingthorpe, Essex, England. Robert married, first, at Semer, Suffolk, England 9 February 1601/2 his first cousin MARTHA CHAPLIN (*William*^{A-B}). Martha was baptized at Semer 4 February 1583 and died after 1621; she was the daughter of William^A and Agnes (___) Chaplin of Semer, Suffolk; she remained in England or returned there. Robert married, second, at Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut about 1644 ALICE (FREEMAN) THOMPSON, daughter of Henry and Margaret (Edwards) Freeman of Cranford, Northampton, England and widow of John Thompson of Preston Parva, Northampton, England.

In England, Robert was a resident of Acton and Hitcham in Suffolk and also of Gestingthorpe. In 1605, he sold 2 messuages in Acton, perhaps the ones inherited by Martha from her father. He sold land in Gestingthorpe in 1603/4 and again 1610/11.

Early in 1630, Robert Parke wrote to John Winthrop to inquire about joining his fleet to New England:

"To the Right Worshipfull Maigr. John Winthrop Esquier in Gratton (Groton), in Suffolke, give this with speede I pray you." "to the Right Worshfull, Sir- I vnderstand by some of my frendes that you are suddenly to goe into New England.

If it be not to laite for me, to provide my selfe with cattell and shiping, I doe purpose to goe with you, and all my company, if please God to permit vs life and health. I have sente to my sonne and to Mathewe Harrison, to by for me six coues, and three mayers, and a horse, soe, I beseech you, giue them directions, to take the beste you shall thinke fit, for to be done, hoping you will do the beste you shall thinke fit, for to be done, hoping you will do the beste you can to furdere my jurney. Furder, I woulde desire you to giue me directions what houseould I shall take with me, and for how long we shall vittle vs, and what day we shall set forwardes from London, but as for our selves, we wilbe at Stratford the last weke in February; and thus with all my loue and surius remembered; in haiste, I reeste, com'iting you vnto the Almightye." "Your assured frend to commande"
 "Ro:Parke." "From Easterkeale (East Keal) in Lincolnshire, this xxvijth day of February 1629/30."

Robert Parke sailed from Cowes on the Isle of Wight on 29 March 1630, in the ship *Arbella*, largest of the 11 vessels, and landed first at Salem 12 June and then at Boston on 17 June. During the voyage, he served as Secretary to Governor Winthrop. He settled at Roxbury, Massachusetts and when he left, he gave this home to his son William. In 1639 he moved on to Wethersfield, Connecticut with his son Thomas, where he served as Deputy to the General Court in 1641-2. He moved on to (then Pequot, now) New London in 1649. There, his new barn on the corner of Hempstead and Granite Streets was used at the first house of worship in the new town and the call to service was by the beat of a drum.

He finally settled at Mystic, in Stonington in 1656. His last home was located on a 2,000-acre site purchased from Governor Winthrop in what is now Old Mystic. He is said to have named his home after the ancestral manor in England, Whight Hall, which became White Hall over the years. At White Hall, there is a family cemetery which includes a bronze plaque on a boulder dedicated to his memory. He was one of the men appointed by the General Court of Massachusetts to an official position, in the organization of the town of Southertown in 1658. He died and his will was probated in March 1665. Robert Parke served in the early Colonial Wars.

Children, all born in England by Martha Chaplin:

- i. MARTHA², bapt. at Semer, Suffolk, England 13 Oct 1603; came with her parents in 1630.
- ii. ROBERT, bapt. at Semer 4 June 1605.
- iii. WILLIAM, bapt. at Semer 21 April 1607; d. at Roxbury, MA 11 May 1685; m. in 1636 MARTHA HOLGRAVE, d. at Roxbury, MA 25 Aug 1708, daughter of John and Elizabeth (___) Holgrave of Salem, MA.
- iv. RICHARD, bapt. at Whatfield, Suffolk, England 8 Aug 1609.
- v. JOHN, bapt. at Ringshall, Suffolk, England 3 March 1611.
- vi. JANE, bapt. at Ringshall 10 Aug 1613.
- vii. THOMAS, bapt. at Hitcham, Suffolk, England in 1616; m. his step-sister DOROTHY THOMPSON, daughter of John and Alice (Freeman) Thompson; ancestors of Diana, Princess of Wales and Humphrey Bogart.

- viii. ANNE, bapt. at Hitcham 3 Dec 1618; d. at Roxbury, MA 10 Sep 1641; m. in Roxbury 20 Aug 1640 EDWARD PAYSON.
- 9. ix. SAMUEL, bapt. at Bildestone, England 20 June 1621; m. HANNAH (___).

9. SAMUEL² PARKE (*Robert*¹) was baptized at Bildestone, England 20 June 1621; d. probably at Stonington, CT between 22 March 1708/09 and 20 August 1711. He probably married first ___ (___); she was probably buried 25 February 1697/8 "Samvel parks his wife was beryed" (*Diary of Manassah Miner*, 27). Samuel probably married second HANNAH (___) PEDY, 5 February 1698/9 "Samuell parks pvblisht to widow pedy" (*Diary of Manassah Miner*, 33); she was probably the widow of William Pedy who had just died on 15 December 1698 (*Diary of Manassah Miner*, 32).

Samuel may have remained at Whight Hall in England with his oldest brother, Robert, when his parents came to New England in 1630 since he was only nine at the time. However, he arrived sometime before 1646. He and his brother Thomas both courted Dorothy Thompson and Thomas' and Dorothy's first child was born that year. Samuel may have returned to England since his father willed him £50 if he came to Roxbury to accept it. Before Robert¹ died, he gave Samuel one thousand acres of the land he had purchased from Winthrop, the section in Mystic and along the waterfront and the section in Voluntown, Connecticut.

Children:

- * ii. ELIZABETH³, b. at Stonington, CT in 1670; d. in 1751; m. probably at Stonington, on 8 March 1687 JOHN³ BENNETT (*John*¹, *Edward*¹) born Stonington, CT 10 or 19 February 1666, d. Preston, New London Co., CT 20 Dec 1745, son of John² and Ursula (White) Bennett. There is no proof of Elizabeth as Samuel's daughter but this placement seems to be generally accepted by all of the published research, perhaps only by process of elimination. Direct ancestors of the compiler; see *Edward Bennett of Rehoboth, Massachusetts* for more information.
- iii. SAMUEL, b. ca. 1672; m. ELIZABETH EDDY.
- iv. MARTHA, b. 5 June 1674.
- v. ROBERT PARKE, b. 8 May 1676; m. TAMZON (PACKER) BROMLEY, widow of Luke² Bromley Jr. (*Luke*¹). See *Luke Bromley of Stonington, Connecticut* for more information.
- vi. WILLIAM, b. 11 July 1678; d. at Plainfield, CT 18 Feb 1750; m. 9 May 1699 JANE BORDEN.
- vii. THOMAS, b. at Stonington, CT 11 April 1680.
- viii. JOSEPH, b. at Stonington 7 Jan 1682; d. after 23 May 1706.

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