

FULLERTON PARKER, whose name will long live in the recollections of the citizens of Parker City as a brave and kind-hearted man, was one of that class of strong, honest, active and courageous men, so essentially necessary to the growth and development of any town or city. He was a son of Judge John and Jane (Woods) Parker, and was born on the old Parker homestead, on the hill above Parker City, In Parks township, Butler county, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1806. in the days of pioneer danger, privation and adventure in western Pennsylvania, the Parker family settled in what is now Washington county. Col. William Parker, the grandfather of Fullerton Parker, and in all probability a son of the founder of the family in western Pennsylvania, came from Washington county, in 1798, and settled near the site of bear Creek furnace on Bear creek. He built the first gristmill of northern Armstrong county, and although it was a log structure, equipped with machinery of the most primitive description, yet it was the main dependence for grinding of settlers for many miles around. He was an influential man in his section, and prominent in military matters. One of his sons, George, was drowned at Pittsburgh, when Col. Parker was moving to Armstrong county. Another son was Hon. John Parker (father), who was one of the first associate judges of Butler county, and served as such for thirty-five years. He surveyed the northern part of the county, laid out Parker City as Lawrenceburg, in 1815, engaged largely in farming, and was one of the most prominent public men and highly respected citizens of his day. He was a Presbyterian, and died in 1842, aged seventy-six years. He married Ann Woods, by whom he had eight sons and one daughter: James, John, Julietta, who married John Gilchrist, William, Fullerton, George (see his sketch), Thomas and Wilson.

Fullerton Parker was reared on the home farm, and received his education in the schools of his neighborhood. In early life he operated a tannery, and afterwards was successively engaged in most of the leading business enterprises of Parker City until his death, in 1883. He owned the farm on which Parker City was principally built, and was a republican in politics. In the year 1832, he married Amelia Harris, daughter of Ephraim Harris, of Harrisville, Butler county. To them were born two sons and six daughters: Ephraim (deceased), William J., of Parker City; Jane M., wife of A. J. Haideman; Mary A., married to P. M. Hollister; Juliet, wife of J. M. Agnew; Ella P., intermarried with W. H. Spain; Lizzie, wife of W. C. Mobley; and Amelia, married to S. M. McGough. Mrs. Parker, who is very intelligent and affable woman still, resides in the home mansion, where she is surrounded with all the comforts and enjoyments which make life happy and pleasant.

We leave to the pen of one well conversant with the history of Parker City to tell the store of Fullerton Parker's life, which he has ably done in the following article:

"Fullerton Parker, after a long severe illness, died Wednesday, December 26, 1883. The name of Mr. Parker is well-known to many citizens of this city, and of the entire oil country, as he was identified with many of the important business interests and enterprises of the lower oil regions. Mr. Parker was one of the oldest residents of this section of the State. He was one of the projectors and principal stockholders of the Parker & Karns City and Karns City & Butler R.R., which, being built in 1873, were important factors in the development of the Butler oil field. He was also one of the projectors and leading stockholders in the Parker bridge, which was built in 1872. Through his enterprise the Exchange Bank of Parker City was founded in 1871, and he was, for years, its president. Indeed, there was not any important enterprise connected

with the growth of Parker City and the lower oil country in which he was not interested. Being a man of splendid physique and indomitable energy, his enterprises were pushed vigorously and successfully, and the name of 'Uncle Fullerton,' as he was commonly called by his friends, was the synonym of courage and energy. With all his physical energy and mental shrewdness, Mr. Parker was a man of undoubted moral character and courage. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and a man of decided convictions in regard to intemperance and Sabbath desecration. Many a time, in the palmy days of Parker, when the town was overrun by gamblers, Uncle Fullerton did the work of a half-dozen policemen, and he had the respect as well as the fear of the lower classes. With all his blunt and courageous manner, he was a true gentleman, and of a tender heart, and the children on the street all knew him, and welcomed the smile which he ever had for them. Having reached a good old age, having attained to the hoary head, which was to him 'a crown of glory,' he has passed away."