

GEORGE PARKER. Descended from an old and honorable Pennsylvania family, George Parker lived a life of activity and usefulness, and died enjoying the respect, goodwill and confidence of his fellow-men. George Parker was the son of Judge John and Jane (Woods) Parker, and was the seventh of nine children, and was the last of the family to pass away. He was born on the home farm adjoining Parker and in Butler county, Pennsylvania, September 8, 1812. His paternal grandfather, Col. William Parker, moved from Washington county in 1798 to Bear creek, where he erected a mill. (See sketch of Fullerton Parker.) One of his sons, George Parker, was drowned, and another was Judge John Parker, a nephew of Hon. John Moore, the first president-judge of Westmoreland county. Judge Parker learned surveying with Judge Moore. In 1794, as a deputy for a surveyor by the name of Moore, Judge Parker surveyed most of the northern part of Butler county. In 1797 he settled on six hundred acres of land in Butler county, adjoining the site of Parker City, which he afterwards purchased, and on which, in 1815, he laid out the village of Lawrenceburg (now the second ward of Parker City). He was an active and energetic business man, and one of the most prominent and respected citizens of his day. He was one of the first associate judges of Butler county, and filled that office for thirty-five years. He was principally engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was very influential and useful, and did much to promote and secure the settlement of his section of the county. He died in 1842, aged seventy-six years, and sleeps in Parker City cemetery. Judge John Parker was a strong Presbyterian, and married Jane Woods, by whom he had nine children: James, John, Juliette (wife of John Gilchrist), William, Fullerton (see his sketch), Washington, George, Thomas and Wilson.

George Parker was reared on the homestead which he inherited and obtained a good education in the schools of his boyhood days. He was chiefly engaged in farming and stock-raising, and was very successful in business. He also dealt in oil with good success. He was republican politically and a member of the Presbyterian church.

On June 20, 1843, he united in marriage with Jane D. Pollock, a woman of intelligence, refinement and distinguished ancestry. She is a daughter of Robert Pollock, and a granddaughter of Margaret (Jackson) McGaughey, who was an aunt to Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States. Robert Pollock, son of Col. John Pollock, a large landowner of Jefferson county, Ohio, was born in 1776, near Baltimore, Md., and died at Mt. Pleasant, Jefferson county, Ohio, in the year 1823. Mrs. Parker's grandmother, Margaret McGaughey, was, previous to marriage, Margaret Jackson, daughter of Dr. Joseph Jackson, of Ireland, who married Lady Mary Carr, sister to Lord James Carr, and was the grandfather of President Andrew Jackson.

On December 10, 1887 (when in the seventy-sixth year of his age), life's labors closed with George Parker, and his spirit winged its flight from earth. His remains were interred in Parker City cemetery, and the following faithful and accurate delineation of his character was a Christian appeared in the public press:

"George Parker was born September 8, 1812, on the farm where he spent his life, close to the place where he fell asleep, and within sight of the spot where his body now rests awaiting the voice of the Archangel and the trump of God. In 1848 he united with the Presbyterian church, and soon afterwards was elected a member of the board of trustees, and held that office up to his death. Frequently the congregation desired him to hold the office of elder; but, unassuming diffident, he did not think himself qualified, and therefore always declined. He was a man faithful in all his relations of life, -- a loving

husband, a kind, generous and sympathetic friend, and a consistent member of the church. His deep interest for his church and his desire for her prosperity he manifested in many ways. He always kept himself informed in regard to her condition and needs, and out of his abundance he contributed cheerfully and literally to the support of the Gospel. He loved the house of God, delighted in the worship of the sanctuary, especially in the songs of Zion, and Sabbath morning always found him in the congregation of God's people. Some two weeks before his death, failing health compelled his retirement from active life. From the beginning of this sickness he seemed to feel that the end was near; yet the thought of death did not alarm him. He set his house in order, arranged his temporal affairs, and then dismissed those matters from his mind, though he had a beautiful home here, and was surrounded by many dear to him who honored and loved him; yet he was not reluctant to depart. When the summons came, he was ready. All is well, he said, and fell asleep. When, on the following morning, we assembled in the sanctuary at the usual hour for worship, his familiar form was not to be seen in its accustomed place. His seat was vacant; his voice we could not hear; but we knew, in the sanctuary above, he, too, was engaged in praise and worship. He is missed at his home and in his church.

Mrs. Parker resides in the Old Parker homestead mansion, from which is obtained a commanding view of many miles in the counties of Armstrong, Butler, Clarion and Venango.