

EDWARD or (WILLIAM) PARKER (abt. 1598-1662)

ELIZABETH (POTTER) WOOD (1606-1677)

"Parker is a very ancient English surname and the family is numerous, both in Great Britain and the United States. No less than twenty-five pioneers named Parker came to New England before 1650; many of them were related. Abraham Parker lived at Woburn and Chelmsford; James Parker was of Woburn and Billerica, Chelmsford and Groton, John Parker, brother of Abraham, was of Woburn and Billerica. Deacon Thomas Parker...settled in Lynn Village, afterwards called Reading..."¹ (map #2)

William Parker was sometimes referred to as Edward Parker on records, and to distinguish him from his father for this writing, we will use the name Edward.

His father, William, was an early settler in Hartford and Saybrook. Saybrook's situation at the mouth of a navigable river gave it a position of a commercial center, furnishing supplies to a widely extended back country and to numerous mill seats and villages that were soon to occupy the tributary streams. (map #5) Francis M. Calkins states that:

"The name Saybrook perpetuates the name of two English noblemen who held the original patentees of Connecticut. Their right or privilege, technically called a patent, was purchased of Robert, Earl of Warwick, in 1632, and extended along the New England coast, westward of Narragansett river, 120 miles. The patent was given to Lord Say and Lord Brook..."

"The place of importance in this patent was the Point at the mouth of the Connecticut river, where a fort was built and a plantation commenced in 1635...The Pequot War followed close upon its establishment, and threatened the annihilation of the infant settlement. The fort was frequently surrounded by the savages. During the whole winter of 1636-7, it was kept in constant jeopardy. Several of the men were slain; others taken prisoners; and one by the name of Butterfield, tormented to death. The place was however, sustained by the prudence and bravery of Lieut. Lion Gardiner, the active and efficient agent of Winthrop in building the fort and beginning to cultivate the ground..."²

"Saybrook Point, the part of the plantation first settled, is a neck of land, elliptical in form, and about a mile in length from east to west, spreading out between two coves or inlets from the river, of which the one on the north side affords a good harbor for shipping, and is known as Saybrook harbor. The fort stood on the eastern bank, or upland bluff, overlooking and commanding the flats and shallows at the mouth of the river.

"The fort was built of logs. It caught fire in the winter of 1647, and was consumed, with the dwelling-house connected with it. Captain Mason, with his wife and child, narrowly escaped from the flames."³

We can be fairly sure that William Parker was here in Saybrook at this early time. There are no town records before 1660.

"Only a few items of earlier date may be found amid subsequent entries. One of these (perhaps the earliest remaining of a municipal character,) is a notice of a town

meeting, January 7, 1655/6, at which the following persons were present..." 4

Among the list is found the name of William Parker. This probably refers to Edward, the son of William, who later moved to New Haven.

The "History of Wallingford", by Davis, lists the children of Edward and Elizabeth Parker, as follows:

- "1. John Parker, b. Oct. 8, 1648; md. Nov. 8, 1670—Hannah Bassett, dau. of Wm. Bassett
2. Mary Parker, b. Apr. 27, 1649; md. 1666—John Hall
3. Hope Parker, b. May 26, 1650; md. Samuel Cook, May 2, 1667. (4-6)
4. Lydia Parker, b. May 26, 1652/3; md. John Thomas, Jan. 12, 1671
5. Joseph Parker, md. Hannah Gilbert, 1673" 5

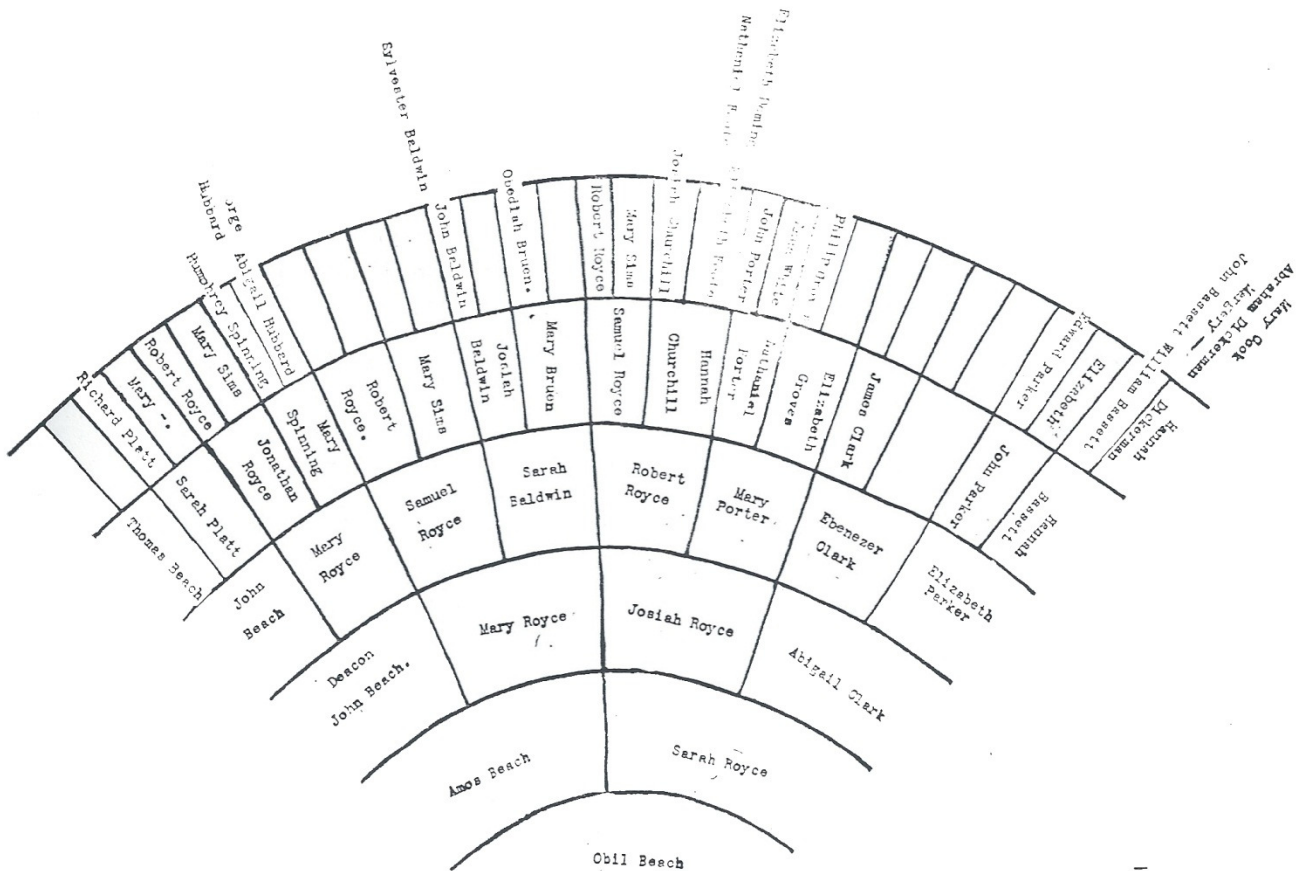
The oldest son, John, who married Hannah Bassett, was among the early planters of Wallingford as also was his sister, Hope, who married Samuel Cook. (4-6) John and Hannah settled in what came to be called "The Parker Farms" about two miles west of the village of Wallingford. "John was an active business man, and did much in advancing the interests of the settlement. He died in 1711 and Hannah, his wife, died June 7, 1726." 6 Hope and her husband, Samuel Cook, were also settled near her brother John. (map #10) The "Parker Farms" has, since John's time, been a part of the township of Cheshire, as also was a portion of the Cook property.

The record of Edward and his father were not always defined in such a way that their identities could be separated since both were often referred to as William, and the extent of research that went into the compiling of these lines did not allow sufficient time for several of the individual progenitors, as in the case of this Parker lineage. Davis is not clear in the matter of the Parker generations and even suggests that John may have been the father of the children named herein who was one of William's three sons that removed to New Haven. We are left confused as from which son we are descended, most likely either Edward or John. Whichever the case may be, the line of Parker ends with the marriage of Hope Parker, child #3, to Samuel Cook (4-6).

In one record by Alma Lewis, the Parker who was born in 1598 was referred to as Edward and states that he "came from England in 1639, living at New Haven, Connecticut. He served in the Dutch and Indian Wars, being with Captain John Underhill (1652-1654). He died in 1662." 7 If this has reference to Hope's father, then he died at the age of 64.

It is thought that when Edward left England with his father, he remained with him through the experiences had in both Hartford and Saybrook, and that he probably did not leave Saybrook for New Haven until after his father's death. No mention of William, the elder, is noted in New Haven records with any certainty, but we have to allow for the confusion mentioned, that references to William did not always identify the two Williams separately.

A chart, on page 57 of Alma Lewis' writing (above) gives the information that the parents of John Parker, Hope's brother, who married Hannah Bassett, are Edward and Elizabeth Parker. This chart is shown on the following page.



In a more recent research done by Dora (Longhurst) Perry of Provo, Utah, an ancestral chart was submitted by her (1968) to the Connecticut Society of Genealogists #2 Vol. 6, p.(94-42), which also specified Edward Parker as the father of Hope Parker, and gave the following information:

EDWARD PARKER md. ELIZABETH (POTTER) WOOD

b. abt. 1598
 w. England
 res. at New Haven. Conn.
 md. abt. 1646
 d. 1662, ae. abt. 64

b. chr. 26 Oct., 1606
 w. Chesham Buckinghamshire, Eng.
 d. 28 July, 1677. ae. 71
 w. New Haven, Conn.

HOPE PARKER md. SAMUEL COOK

b. 23 April, 1650
 w. New Haven, Conn.
 d. 14 July, 1690, ae. 40
 w. Wallingford, Conn.
 (4-6)

b. 30 Sept., 1641
 w. Salem, Mass.
 md. 2 May, 1667
 w. New Haven, Conn.
 d. 3 Mar., 1703, ae. 61
 w. Wallingford, Conn. 8

Edward (William) probably died in New Haven as did his wife, Elizabeth. He died in 1662 at the age of about 64, which was prior to the time that any of his children were married. Elizabeth lived fifteen years longer and remained in New Haven until her death in 1677. She saw her son, John, and daughter, Hope, leave for the new settlement of Wallingford in 1667, but the distance between New Haven and Wallingford was only a day's ride on horseback, so we can be sure that they kept in contact frequently as a family.

Elizabeth died at the age of 71, July 28, 1677, at New Haven.

1. #21, Vol. IV, p.2016
2. #108, p.51
3. *ibid*, p.53
4. *ibid*
5. #7, p.872
6. *ibid*
7. #15 p. 68
8. #2, Vol. 6, p.(94-42)