

**A Brief History
of
Thomas Parke**

Born in September 1660 in County Cavan, Ireland
Died on 31 March 1738 in Caln, Chester, Pennsylvania



Thomas Parke^{1,2,3}

Franklin P. Mason II, Spring 2022

Thomas Parke was born in Balleen Contra, Ballylean, County Cavan, Ireland in September 1660.

Thomas Parke married Rebecca Hooper (or Ward)⁴ on 21 October 1692 at New Garden Meeting, County Carlow, Ireland. Rebecca Hooper was born in about 1672 in Ballyredmond, County Carlow, Ireland.

Thomas and Rebecca Parke had the following children. All the children were born in Ballintrain, County Carlow:⁵

Mary Parke, b. Sept. 18, 1693, d. about 1752, New Providence, Montgomery, Pennsylvania, m. Thomas Valentine

Robert Parke, b. March 23, 1695, d. Feb. 9, 1737, Chester County Pennsylvania

Susanna Parke, b. Dec. 22, 1696, d. before 1749, Ireland

Rebecca Parke, b. Jan 22, 1699, d. after 1749, East Caln, Chester, m. Hugh Stalker

Rachel Parke, b. Dec. 26, 1700, d. after 1755, East Caln, m. William Robinson

Jean Parke, b. April 6, 1703, d. April 12, 1705, Ballykelly, County Londonderry

Thomas Parke, b. March 13, 1705, d. Oct. 17, 1758, East Caln, m. Jane Edge

Abel Parke, b. Feb 22, 1707, d. July 21, 1757, East Caln, m. Deborah

Jonathan Parke, b. April 18, 1709, d. April 5, 1767, Pennsylvania, m. Deborah Taylor⁶

Elizabeth Parke, b. Oct 5, 1711, d. April 16, 1746, East Caln, m. John Jackson

Thomas Parke was quite a well-known person in his day. And he has many descendants in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States. Thus, there are several accounts of him and his family by well-known authors. One account of Thomas Parke and the Parke family is in *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania, with genealogical and biographical sketches*, J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope, L. H. Everts, Philadelphia, 1881, p. 672.

Thomas Parke appears to have been a farmer in Ireland, and in the year 1720 owned some land in Ballileau, Ballaghmore, and Coolisnactah. On May 21, 1724, with all of his family except Mary and Susanna, he went on board, at Dublin, the ship "Sizarghs," of Whitehaven, Jeremiah Cowman commander, and on August 21st they arrived in Delaware Bay. Thomas

¹ Starting in 1609, Scots began arriving in state-sponsored settlements as part of the Plantation of Ulster. This scheme was intended to confiscate all the lands of the Gaelic Irish nobility in Ulster and to settle the province with Protestant Scottish and English colonists. The Parke family was part of this migration. The Parke family was originally from England probably from County Cumberland. The branch of the family that went to Ireland did so prior to 1618. Thomas Parke (1661-1738) is the earliest known Parke ancestor of the author.

² For a general reference to Thomas Parke and allied families, refer to: *Thomas Parke and Rebecca Hooper of Chester County Pennsylvania, with information on Abiah Taylor, Richard Woodward, Robert Pyle, Aaron Bullock, John Hannum, and John Chalfant*, Ernestine Parke Moss, April 1982, 658 Stonewall Street, Memphis, Tenn. 38107

³ For an extremely well documented summary of the Parke family and allied families, refer to: <https://www.acvancestors.com>, (Vaut, Gregory, "Ancestors of Alexandra Catlin Vaut"), Gregory Vaut, South Burlington, Vermont. From the Main Page, select Surname Index, and search from there.

⁴ In some accounts, the name of the wife of Thomas Parke is given as Rebecca Hooper, and in other accounts, her name is given as Rebecca Ward (or Warr).

⁵ For more detail, see below.

⁶ Refer to "A Brief History of Abiah Taylor, Jr.," Franklin Pierce Mason, II, Spring 2022

Parke leased a property from Mary Head, near Chester, as a temporary home, but on December 2d purchased 500 acres from Thomas Lindley in the Great Valley, on the west side of what is now Downingtown. Of this land he gave to his son Abel 100 acres, to Robert 124, on which was a very large spring, and to Thomas, Jr., 276 acres, retaining a life-estate therein. He died 1, 31, 1738, and his widow 6, 21, 1749. He was an elder of Caln Meeting, and well esteemed by Friends.

Of his children, Robert followed conveyancing and clerking at Chester, and acted as recorder of deeds under Joseph Parker for some years. He died unmarried. Thomas, Jr., married Jane Edge, 2, 26, 1739, and became the owner of all the original tract, including the "Ship" tavern, which was first opened by his brother Abel. His children were Robert, m. to Ann Edge; Sarah, m. to Owen Biddle; Rebecca, m. to William Webb; Hannah, m. to Benjamin Poultney; Thomas, m. to Rachel Pemberton; Jane; and Jacob.

Jane Parke continued to keep the Ship tavern after her husband's death until her marriage, 8, 10, 1763, to James Webb, of Lancaster County.

Jonathan Parke married, 2, 29, 1731, Deborah, daughter of Abiah and Deborah Taylor, of East Bradford, and settled on 200 acres of land which her father conveyed to them. He also owned land in the southeast part of the borough of Downingtown and is said to have built a substantial stone house, now near the tollgate. His son Abiah lived on this last property and may have built the house. The children of Jonathan and Deborah were Joseph; Deborah, m. to Samuel Cope; Abiah, m. to Ruth Jones; Rebecca, m. to James Webb, Jr.; Alice, m. to Col. John Hannum; Jonathan, m. to Jane Buchanan; and Mary.

Joseph Parke remained at the homestead and lived almost a century. He was twice married, and by his first wife had one son, Abiah, who took sides with the British during the Revolutionary war, and for one of his exploits piloted a party of the enemy by night to capture his uncle, Col. Hannum, then keeping the "Centre House," in Marshallton. The final turn of events making it unsafe for him to remain in the neighborhood, he "left the parts" and went to Canada but was never heard of after alive. Several years ago, Edward Townsend, son of John Townsend, of West Chester, being in the West, fell in company with a half-breed Indian named Joseph Parke, as he was descending the Missouri in a steamboat. From their mutual inquiries, with subsequent developments, it appeared that Abiah Parke had married a woman of the Shawnee tribe of Indians, then near Maiden, in Canada, and had left two sons, Joseph and William. The tribe had removed to the waters of the Maumee, in Ohio, and from thence to Kansas. Joseph Parke, being a person of energy and ability, became the chief of the tribe, but lived in a style of civilization. In 1852 he visited Chester County and made some effort to obtain a share of his grandfather's estate but did not succeed. His death occurred about 1857, and that of his brother William three years previously.

A second account of Thomas Parke appears in *Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania, 1682-1750: with their early history in Ireland*, Albert Cook Myers, published by the author, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, 1902, pp. 69 and 305-306.

Thomas Parke, who "lived Since his Convincement which is Nigh 40 years amongst us" and family. Two sons, Thomas and Jonathan are unmarried. Received 1 1 Mo. 25, 1724-5, dated 2 Mo. 15, 1724, from Carlow Meeting, County Carlow, Ireland.

Thomas Parke, of Balleen contra Ballylean, County Cavan, born about 1660, was married. 10 Mo. 21, 1692, at New Garden Meeting, County Carlow, to Rebecca Warr or Ward, of

Ballyredmond. She was born about 1672. Thomas Parke was a farmer in Ireland, and in 1720 owned some land in Ballilean, Ballaghmore and Coolisnacktah. In May 1723, he sold his stock of cattle and prepared to leave Ireland. On May 21, 1724, with all his family except Mary and Susanna, he took passage at Dublin on the ship Sizargh, of Whitehaven, Jeremiah Cowman, master, and after a rough voyage, as his son Robert notes in his journal, they arrived within Delaware Bay on August 21st. Thomas leased from Mary Head (an Irish Friend) a property near Chester, as a temporary home, but on December 2d purchased from Thomas Lindley 500 acres of land in the Great Valley on the west side of what is now Downingtown, Chester County. He was an elder of Caln Meeting and well esteemed by Friends. He died 1 Mo. 31, 1738, and his widow, 6 Mo. 21, 1749.

Children were:

I. Mary Parke, b. 7 Mo. 18, 1693, at Ballintrain.

II. Robert Parke, b. 1 Mo. 23, 1694, at Ballintrain, had been a storekeeper in Dublin, in 1720-1, but on his arrival in Pennsylvania he became a clerk and conveyancer in Chester. For some years he served as Recorder of Deeds in Chester County. In 1727, he made a voyage to Bristol, England, and to Dublin, a ship companion on the voyage being Elizabeth Whartenby, a minister of the Society. In 1728, he made the return voyage bringing over six indented servants. He died Feb. 9, 1736-7, unmarried.

III. Susanna Parke, b. 10 Mo. 22, 1696, at Ballintrain; remained in Ireland, unmarried.

IV. Rebecca Parke, b. 11 Mo. 27, 1698, at Ballintrain; m. Hugh Stalker. Came over on the Sizargh with Thomas Parke.

V. Rachel Parke, b. Dec. 26, 1700; m. Aug. 17, 1727, William Robinson, who came from County Wicklow to Chester Monthly Meeting about 1722.

VI. Jean Parke, b. April 6, 1703; died Apr. 12, 1705; buried at Ballikelly.

VII. Thomas Parke, b. March 13, 1704-5; d. Oct. 17, 1758; m. 2 Mo. 26, 1739, Jane, daughter of Jacob and Sarah Edge. He became the owner and landlord of the "Ship" tavern in East Caln. Children were Robert, m. Ann Edge; Sarah, m. Owen Biddle, of Philadelphia, and had a son Clement Biddle, who m. Mary Canby; Rebecca, m. William Webb; Hannah, m. Benjamin Poultney; Thomas, b. Aug. 6, 1749. m. in 1775, Rachel, daughter of James Pemberton, and became a distinguished physician of Philadelphia; Jane; Jacob.

VIII. Abel Parke, b. Feb. 22, 1706-7; d. July 21, 1757; m. Deborah. In 1735. he built the "Ship" tavern on the main road from Philadelphia to Lancaster.

IX. Jonathan Parke, b. April 18, 1709; d. April 5, 1767; m. 2 Mo. 29, 1731, Deborah, daughter of Abiah and Deborah Taylor, and settled on 200 acres of land in East Bradford, Chester County, conveyed to him by his father-in-law. Children: Joseph; Deborah, m. Samuel Cope; Abiah; Rebecca, m. James Webb; Alice, m. Col. John Hannum; Jonathan; Mary.

X. Elizabeth Parke, b. Oct. 5, 1711, d. April 16, 1746; m. John Jackson.

A third account of Thomas Parke appears in *History of Downingtown, Chester County, Pa*, Charles H Pennypacker, Downingtown Publishing Company, Downingtown, 1909, pp 3-6

Among the early families who settled in this neighborhood, or who settled in what is now Downingtown, was that of the Parke family, in May 1723 [*sic*]. After selling their stock of

personal property at their home in Ireland, on the 21st of that month, Thomas Parke, aged 64 years; Rebecca, his wife, aged 52; their second child, Robert Parke, aged 29 ; their fourth child, Rebecca Stalker, aged 26 ; Hugh Stalker, her husband ; their fifth child, Rachael Parke, aged 24 ; Thomas Parke, aged 19 ; Abel Parke, aged 17: Jonathan Parke, aged 15, and Elizabeth Parke, aged 13, embarked at Dublin on the vessel Sizarghs, bound from White Haven to Dublin, and then to Philadelphia. The passage from Ireland was a rough one. Robert Parke kept a journal of the voyage by daily notes, and on the 21st of August of that year, it appears that they arrived within the Bay of Delaware. They immediately commenced traveling in the adjacent country to view land. Part of the family remained in Chester about three months from the time of their landing, then they moved to a temporary residence two miles distant, and on December 2 Thomas Parke purchased a tract of land in the Great Valley of Chester County of five hundred acres at the price of three hundred and fifty pounds. Jonathan Parke, son of Thomas Parke, married Deborah Taylor, daughter of Abiah Taylor, who lived on the Brandywine, south of Downingtown, near where Cope's Bridge is located. It was Deborah Taylor who gave the name to the rock on the west side of the stream, near that point, and all the story about the Indian maiden and her suicide from the top of the rock by jumping into the stream below is a fanciful myth. Bradford Monthly Meeting commended Thomas Parke in these words: "Thomas Parke came from Ireland about the year 1724 well recommended by certificates from Friends there, and some years after was appointed an Elder for Caln Meeting, in which Station he remained until his death, and was well respected by friends in general." He departed this life on the 31st of First Month, 1738, and was buried at Caln. About a year after his (Thomas Parke's) death, his son, Thomas, Jr., at the age of 34 years, married Jane Edge, by whom he had seven children. He died October 17, 1758, aged 53 years. About five years after the death of Thomas Parke, Jr., his widow married James Webb, the father of James Webb, who married Rebecca Parke, daughter of Jonathan and Deborah Parke.

An extract of a letter from Robert Parke to his sister, Mary, gives an interesting picture of the difficulties and opinions of the early settlers of this province. It says, "The land taken up was beautifully situated, stretching from one hill to another, here on the Great Road leading from Philadelphia to the West." The first inn was erected by Abel Parke in August 1735. It was called "The Ship," and was for many years noted for the excellent character of its accommodations, and it was one of the most popular taverns along the great road leading to Lancaster. Of this 500 acres that Thomas Parke owned, he gave by will to his son, Abel, 100 acres; to his son, Robert, 124 acres, and to his son, Thomas, 276 acres, reserving thereout a maintenance for himself and his wife during life.

Robert continued single, and in 1727 went to Bristol, England, for traffic, and thence to Dublin. In the same vessel went Elizabeth Whartenby, a minister of the gospel of a society of Friends, on a religious visit. This trip was to obtain servants for the new settlers, for on his return, in 1728, there were 53 servants on board, six of whom belonged to Robert Parke. This return voyage was, however, disastrous from the prevalence of smallpox, causing many deaths. . .

He kept store after returning to the United States [sic] and became a conveyancer. He died February 1736 or '7, and Abel, being industrious and thriving, had bought the land from his brother for 200 pounds, thus having 224 acres, the southern section of the tract. This whole

tract, however, came into Thomas Parke, Jr.'s possession, who continued to keep the famous "Ship" tavern.⁷

A fourth account Thomas Parke and the Parke family is in *Irish Immigrants in the Land of Canaan: Letters and Memoirs from Colonial and Revolutionary America, 1675-1815*, written and edited by Kerby A. Miller, Arnold Schrier, Bruce D. Boling, and David N. Doyle, Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 72-81.

Despite promotions by shippers, agents, and colonial governments, transatlantic correspondence played the major role in encouraging and directing Irish emigration. This was perhaps especially true in the early eighteenth century, before the transatlantic servant trade between Ireland and America became fully commercialized, when alternative information sources were few and unreliable, and when the patterns of chain migration were first being established. For the same reasons, early emigrants' letters tended to be extremely detailed, and those of Irish Quakers particularly so by reason of their superior education and determination to reconstitute their exclusive familial and religious communities in North America. Hence this missive by Robert Parke (1695-1737), an Irish Quaker in Pennsylvania, serves as an excellent example of an eighteenth-century letter that encouraged emigration by kinsmen and coreligionists and that helped create the alluring image of an American "land of promise," a bountiful arcadia, that captured the imaginations of Irish Protestants—especially of Dissenters—and, much later, of Irish Catholics.

On 21 May 1724, Robert Parke, aged 31[*sic*], emigrated with his parents and siblings from Dublin to Delaware Bay, on a stormy voyage that lasted three months. His father, Thomas Parke (1660-1738), had rented several hundred acres in three separate farms,⁸ each in a different parish of County Carlow, but he and his wife Rebecca⁹ lived at Ballintrane in Fennagh (or Feenagh) parish, in the barony of Idrone East, where they raised 10 children, all but one of whom survived infancy.¹⁰ Unlike the rapidly dwindling Baptists, the Quakers of early eighteenth-century Ireland remained a significant community, as between the 1650s and 1700 migration from England and exceptionally high birth rates had increased their numbers to perhaps 6,500—over a third of them in Leinster, a tenth in Dublin city—with over one hundred weekly meetings. In Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and other cities, wealthy Quakers were prominent in trade and manufacturing, but most southern Friends were farmers like the Parkes or artisans and small tradesmen. Despite their general prosperity, however, in the early 1680s

⁷ For a fascinating history of the "Ship" Tavern, refer to <https://www.scribd.com/document/400818990/History-of-Glen-Ilse-Farm-Chester-County-PA-Part-1-By-Mary-Larkin-Dugan> "George Washington slept here" and other events.

⁸ Parke's farms were in the adjacent townlands of Coolasnaghta (Fennagh or Feenagh parish, Idrone East barony) and Ballaghmore (Myshall parish) and Ballyleen (Ballon parish), both in the barony of Forth. Together these townlands comprised nearly 2,200 statute acres, but it is very doubtful that Parke was their only lessee.

⁹ Née Ward or Ware, Warr (ca. 1672-1749), of Ballyredmond (Moyacomb parish, St. Mullins Upper barony), Co. Carlow; she and Thomas Parke married on 21 October 1692.

¹⁰ Thomas and Rebecca Parke's children were: (1) Mary (b. 1693), m. Thomas Valentine (d. 1747) of Ballybromhill (or Ballybrommell), Fennagh parish, in 1715; emigrated in 1728 with her husband and children and settled in New Providence township in Philadelphia (now Montgomery) Co. (2) Robert: see text. (3) Susanna (b. 1696) remained in Ireland and never married. (4) Rebecca (b. 1699), m. Hugh Stalker in Chester Co., Pa [*sic*]. (5) Rachel (b. 1700); m. William Robinson, from Co. Wicklow, in Chester Co. (6) Jean or Jane (1703-1705). (7) Thomas, Jr. (1705-1758), m. Jane Edge in 1759 in Chester Co.; farmed 276 acres in Caln township and owned the "Ship" tavern, on the main Philadelphia-Lancaster Road. (8) Abel (1707-1757); m. Deborah (?); farmed one hundred acres in Caln township and built and operated the "Ship" tavern, later owned by brother Thomas. (9) Jonathan (1709-1767); m. Deborah Taylor in 1771 and farmed two hundred acres, given by his father-in-law, in East Bradford township, Chester Co. (10) Elizabeth (1711-1746); m. John Jackson of Chester Co.

Irish Quakers began to emigrate to New Jersey and Pennsylvania, later to the Carolinas, and by 1750 between one thousand and two thousand had removed to North America.

It is difficult to separate religious, political, and economic reasons for Quaker emigration. Like other Irish Dissenters, the Quakers conflated spiritual and material concerns, and in southern Ireland, where they were surrounded by Catholics, the Friends' self-image as a "peculiar" and a persecuted people was naturally heightened. To be sure, the Parkes and other mid-Leinster Quakers did not suffer the extreme isolation that threatened the Baptist James Wansbrough in contemporary Westmeath. County Carlow had the maximum Protestant settlement outside Ulster (nearly 15 percent in 1732), and despite emigration as late as 1766 Protestants still comprised at least a sixth of Fennagh's inhabitants. However, the Parkes and other Friends stood aloof from the Anglicans, who comprised the overwhelming majority of southern Ireland's Protestants, and in the 1720s they were still barred by law from holding office and were harassed, and occasionally even imprisoned, for refusing to pay tithes to Church of Ireland clergy. Hence the allure of William Penn's colony, which Quakers and their political allies would govern down to 1776. Pennsylvania's flourishing and self-confident Quaker communities contrasted sharply with their decline in Ireland. In the early 1700s heavy Quaker emigration constricted marriage opportunities and so encouraged young Friends to "marry out" of the Society. By so doing, they incurred disownment and expulsion, which in turn further reduced Quaker numbers and generated a spiritual and psychological "inward retreat" that made Friends even more isolated and vulnerable to emigration.

Yet in the commercially depressed and famine-ridden 1720s and 1730s, when Quaker emigration first peaked, economic causes were probably paramount for families such as Thomas Parke's. Although the soil in central Carlow was well-drained lowland, rising rents and his large number of surviving children made it unlikely Parke could guarantee them good livelihoods and suitable marriages in Ireland; his son Robert's failure at shopkeeping in Dublin may have represented the family's last attempt to diversify its economic base and so avoid emigration. During the first half of the eighteenth century, emigration rapidly depleted south Leinster's rural Quaker communities. More Friends left Carlow than any other county except Dublin and Armagh and Antrim in Ulster. Thus, by 1724, when the Parkes arrived in Pennsylvania, Carlow Quakers were already well settled in Chester County, where their New Garden monthly meeting, established in 1712 and named after one at home, was the largest in the colonies.

After a brief stay in the town of Chester, the Parkes first leased two hundred acres nearby from another Irish Quaker. However, in late 1724 Thomas Parke paid £350 to purchase five hundred acres further inland at the new settlement of Caln, in the Great Valley of Chester just west of Downingtown, although the family continued to live on their rented farm until mid-1726. Chester County then had about ten thousand inhabitants, mostly crowded along the Delaware, but in the western districts where the Parkes settled the population density was less than 10 persons per square mile. Nevertheless, their purchase of so much rich, if almost entirely uncleared land only two dozen miles from Philadelphia, in what became the most densely settled and prosperous part of Penn's colony, suggests the Parkes's considerable means as well as their affinity with the county's English Quaker majority." From the first the Parkes enjoyed an organized Friends' meeting in Caln township, established in 1715, and Robert's brother Thomas served as trustee when two new meetinghouses were built nearby in the 1740s and 1750s, the second on land owned by a Cork Quaker. Thus, Irish Quakers

achieved prominence in the Great Valley just as they had earlier in their New Garden settlement near the Delaware.

When Thomas Parke emigrated, he left two daughters in Carlow, one of them Mary who in 1715 had married Thomas Valentine of Ballybromhill. In the autumn of 1725, after little more than a year in Chester County, Robert Parke wrote the following letter to his sister and brother-in-law. Obviously, the Valentines were hesitant to emigrate (they had failed to come out earlier, as expected), and Parke wrote to re-persuade them, conscious that returning ne'er-do-wells had carried back false reports that the Parkes were discontented—and even that Pennsylvania's governor intercepted overseas letters to prevent negative accounts of the colony from reaching the British Isles! Thus, Parke was aware that much future Quaker emigration depended on his letter's credibility, as he recalled that when in Ireland he had hungered for specific, reliable information from the New World. Consequently, he strove to reassure putative emigrants on every aspect of emigration, providing a virtual and personalized guidebook that named a trustworthy Quaker captain for the voyage, advised which goods to bring for use and for sale, and provided reassurance as to the country's healthiness and information as to the affordability of land, cleared and uncleared, as well as particulars as to farming methods, crop yields and prices. In only one respect, perhaps, was Parke's portrait too rosy, for his experience of American farming was still confined to a rented and already developed farm, complete with brick house, and he and his father had not yet tackled the arduous task of clearing the forest from their newly purchased land.

Parke's letter also illumines the early eighteenth-century Irish trade in indentured servants. Although slaves had largely displaced temporary bondsmen and -women as fieldhands in the southern plantation colonies, in eastern Pennsylvania a labor shortage in agriculture, as well as in urban crafts, meant that indentured servants remained both necessary and profitable. Transatlantic fares were then £5 to £7 (£9 in Pennsylvania currency), but indentured servants sold for £12 to £35, depending on their age, sex, skills, and length of service, and so males with five years to serve would repay their passage costs several times over. Thus, Parke advised that Samuel Thornton, a Carlow Friend of limited means, could emigrate as a redemptioner and, if unable to redeem his family's passage after arrival, might indent several children to defray the costs. In addition, Parke urged Thornton to bring four servants, as he could recover the fares of the two, he kept for himself by selling the services of the others—also a practice common among early Irish Protestant emigrants.¹¹

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Much is known about the Parkes in Pennsylvania, a clear indication of their moderate success, although as a rural family in both Ireland and Chester County they had little or no connection with Philadelphia's wealthy Irish Quaker merchant families whose trade linked Pennsylvania's capital and the Irish ports. In 1727 Robert Parke revisited Ireland, returning the following year accompanied by six servants and by Mary and Thomas Valentine, who settled near the Parkes in the Great Valley, where their son Robert (1717-1786) would long serve as minister to Chester County's Quakers. As for Robert Parke, he farmed the 124 well-watered acres that his father had portioned to him from the 1725 purchase and also worked as a clerk and conveyancer, serving as county recorder of deeds and as county coroner before 1737, when he

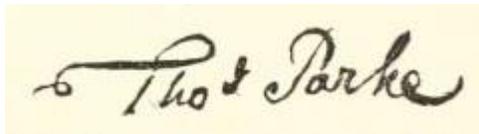
¹¹ Such clever use of the system by emigrants is not noted in the historical literature, which usually distinguishes only redemptioners (who sold their own or their family members' time on arrival to cover passage) and indentured servants proper (whose contracts were at the disposal of the ships' captains or owners' agents).

died unmarried, aged 43, a year before his father. Two of Robert Parke's brothers became tavernkeepers, thus perhaps displaying habits more stereotypically Irish than Quaker. The paths taken by members of the later generations diverged dramatically. One of Thomas Parke's grandsons, Thomas III (1749-1835), was educated in London and Edinburgh, became a physician to the Philadelphia Hospital, a member of the American Philosophical Society, and president of the College of Physicians. By contrast, Thomas Parke's great-grandson Abiah joined the British in the Revolution, fled to Canada, married a Shawnee, and fathered a tribal chieftain (Joseph Parke, d.1857) who led his defeated people from Ohio to Kansas.¹²

As is summarized in the previous essays, the Parke family arrived in Delaware Bay on 21 May 1724. Just after their arrival, they lived in the town of Chester for a short time. Then they leased 250 acres a few miles further inland. Finally, on 02 December 1724, Thomas Parke purchased a tract of land in the Great Valley of Chester County of 500 acres at the price of £350. This land was not yet cleared. Thus, while the newly purchased land was being prepared for farming, the Parke family remained on the rented land until mid-1726.

[The Great Valley (or Chester Valley) is a west-to-east valley through the center of Chester County. The valley stretches from Lancaster County in the west through Chester County to the Schuylkill River in Montgomery County in the east. In Chester County, (among other creeks) Valley Creek (or Valley Run) is at the southern side of the valley and Beaver Creek is at its northern side.]

The Great Valley forms a natural route to the west from the Philadelphia area. The Philadelphia-Lancaster Turnpike (also called the Great Road) is in the Great Valley. The Great Road ran through Thomas Parke's land in East Caln Township.



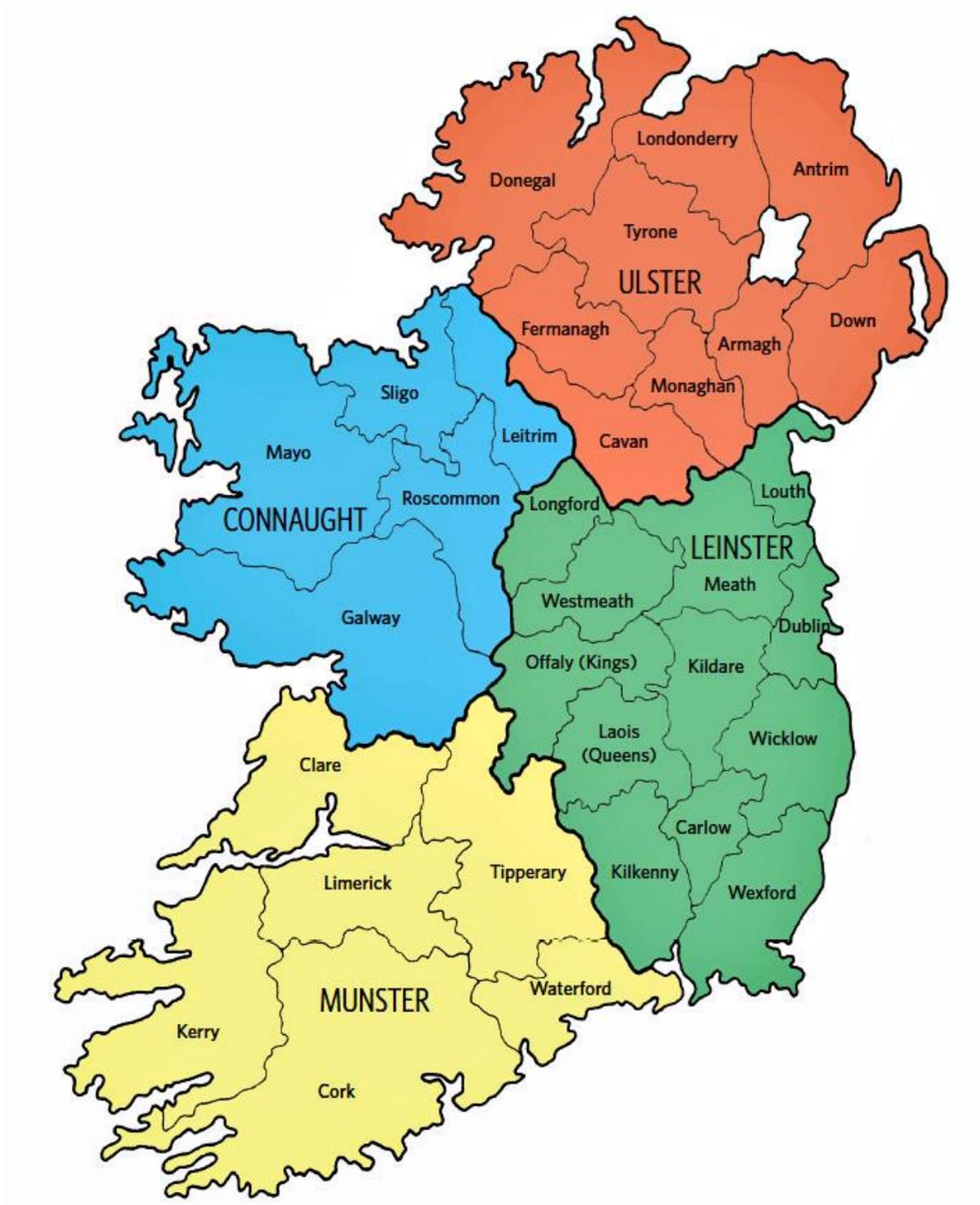
Thomas Parke signature

Thomas Parke died on 31 Mar 1738 in Caln, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He is buried in the Old Caln Friends Meeting Burial Ground, Coatesville, Chester County

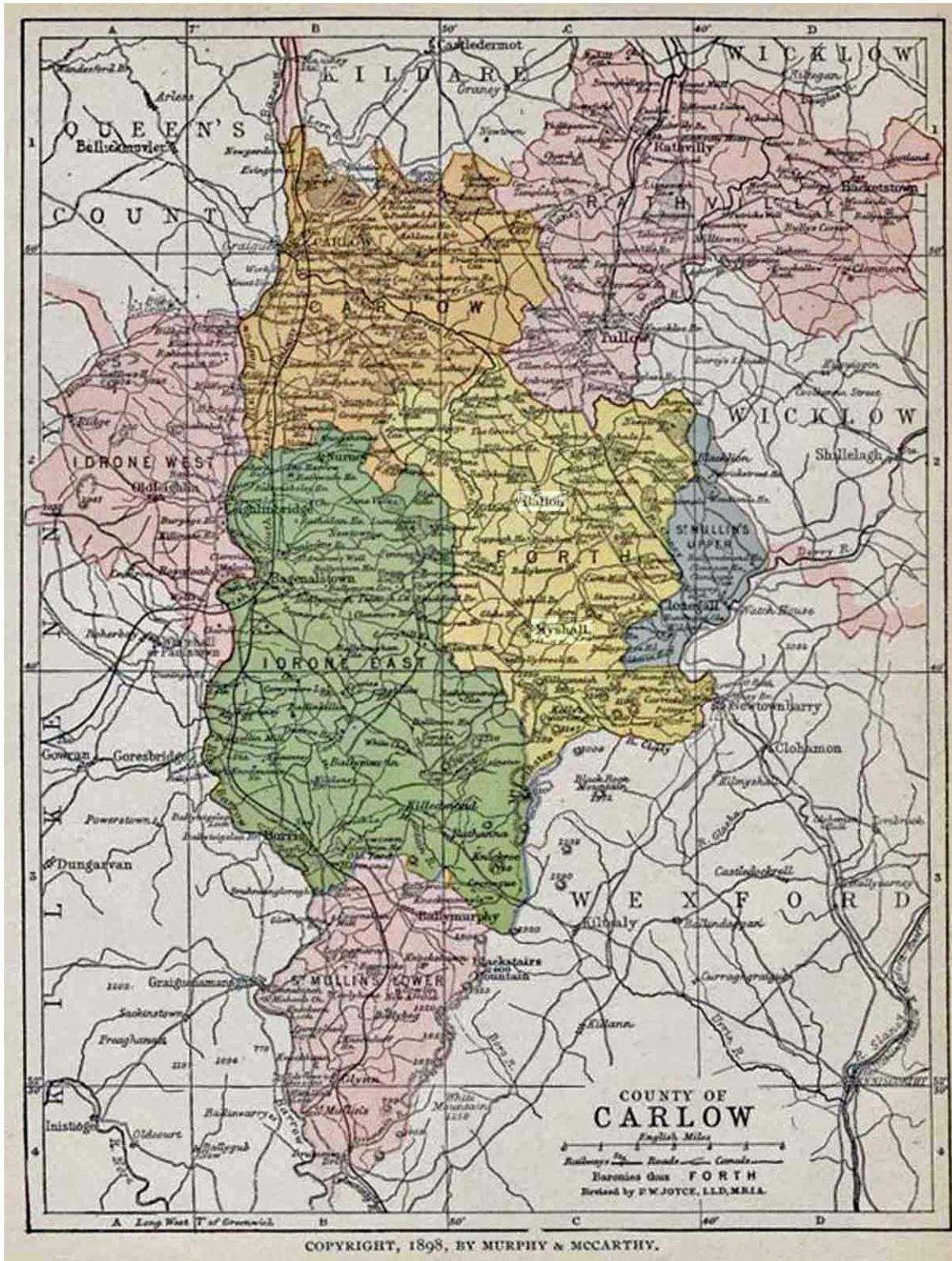
Rebecca Parke died on 21 August 1749 also in Caln. She is buried with her husband.

¹² Thomas Parke III was the son of Thomas, Jr., and Jane Parke; Abiah Parke was the son of Joseph and grandson of Robert Parke's brother Jonathan and his wife Deborah.

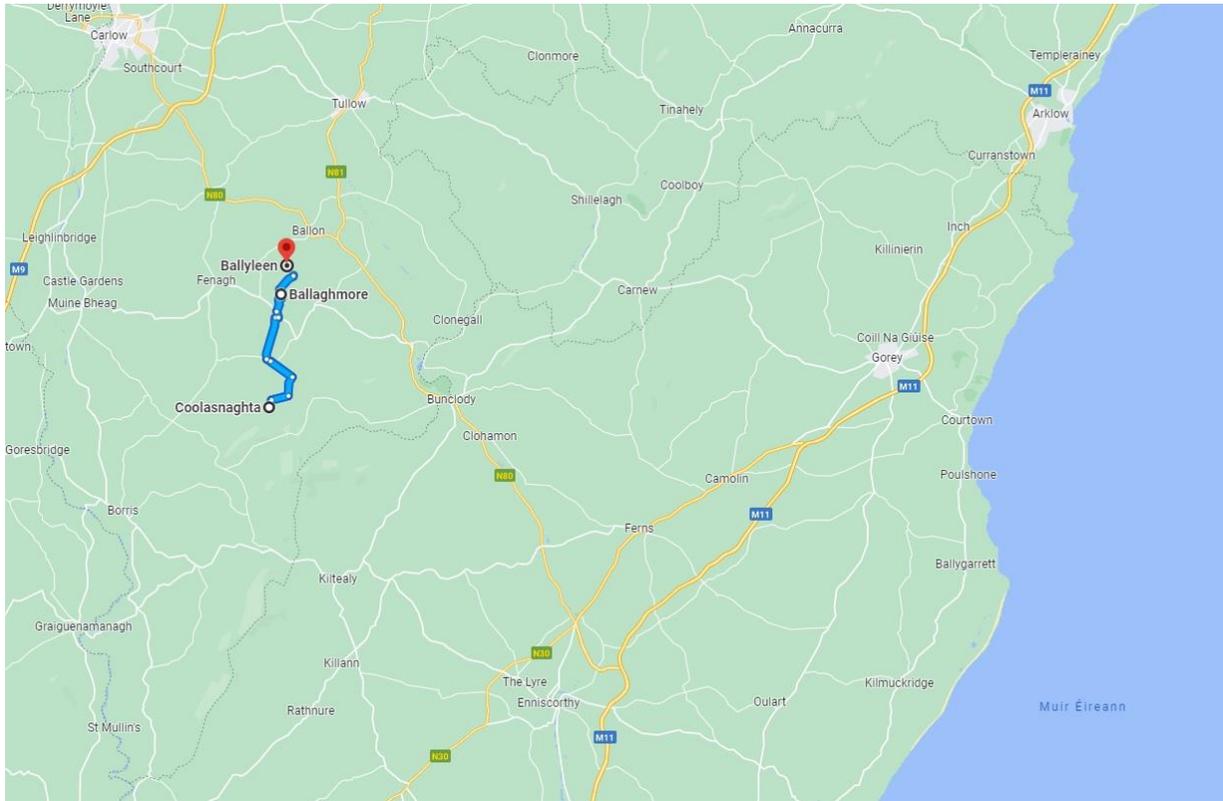
Appendix



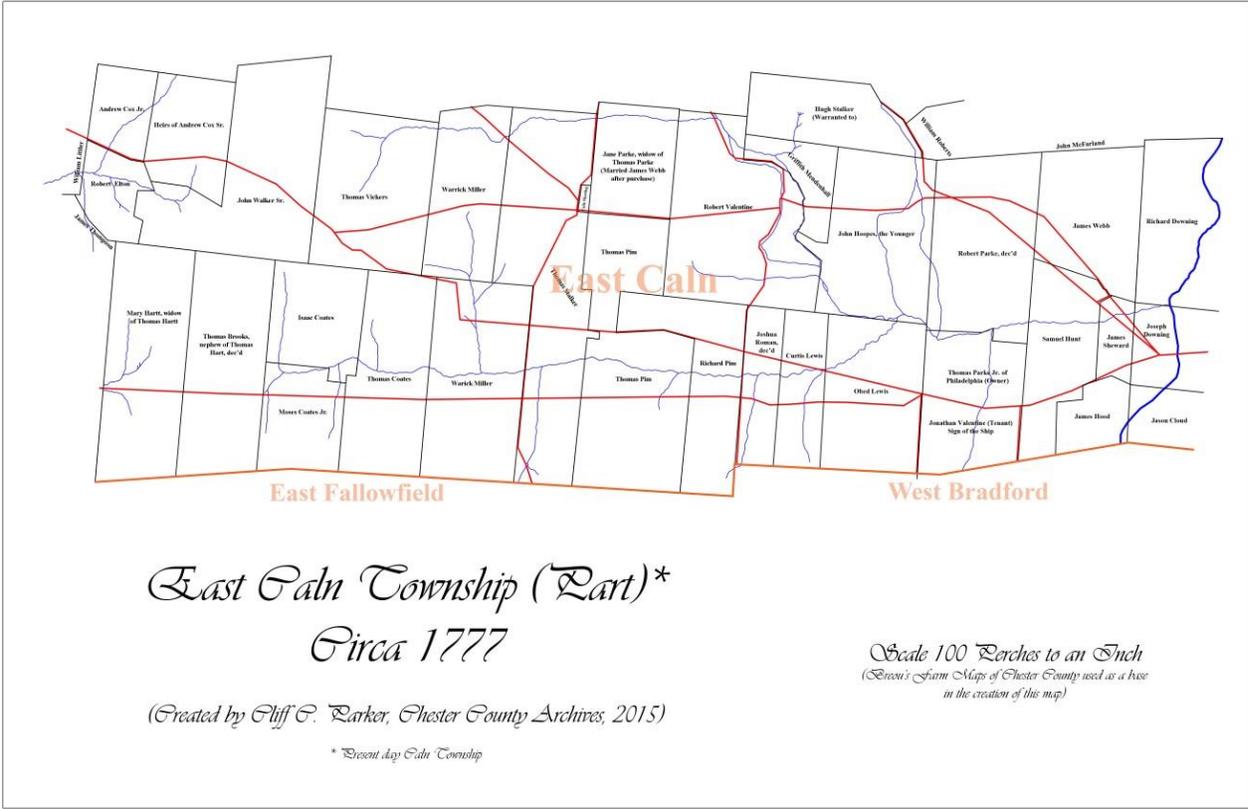
Map of Ireland, showing the Counties and the four Provinces



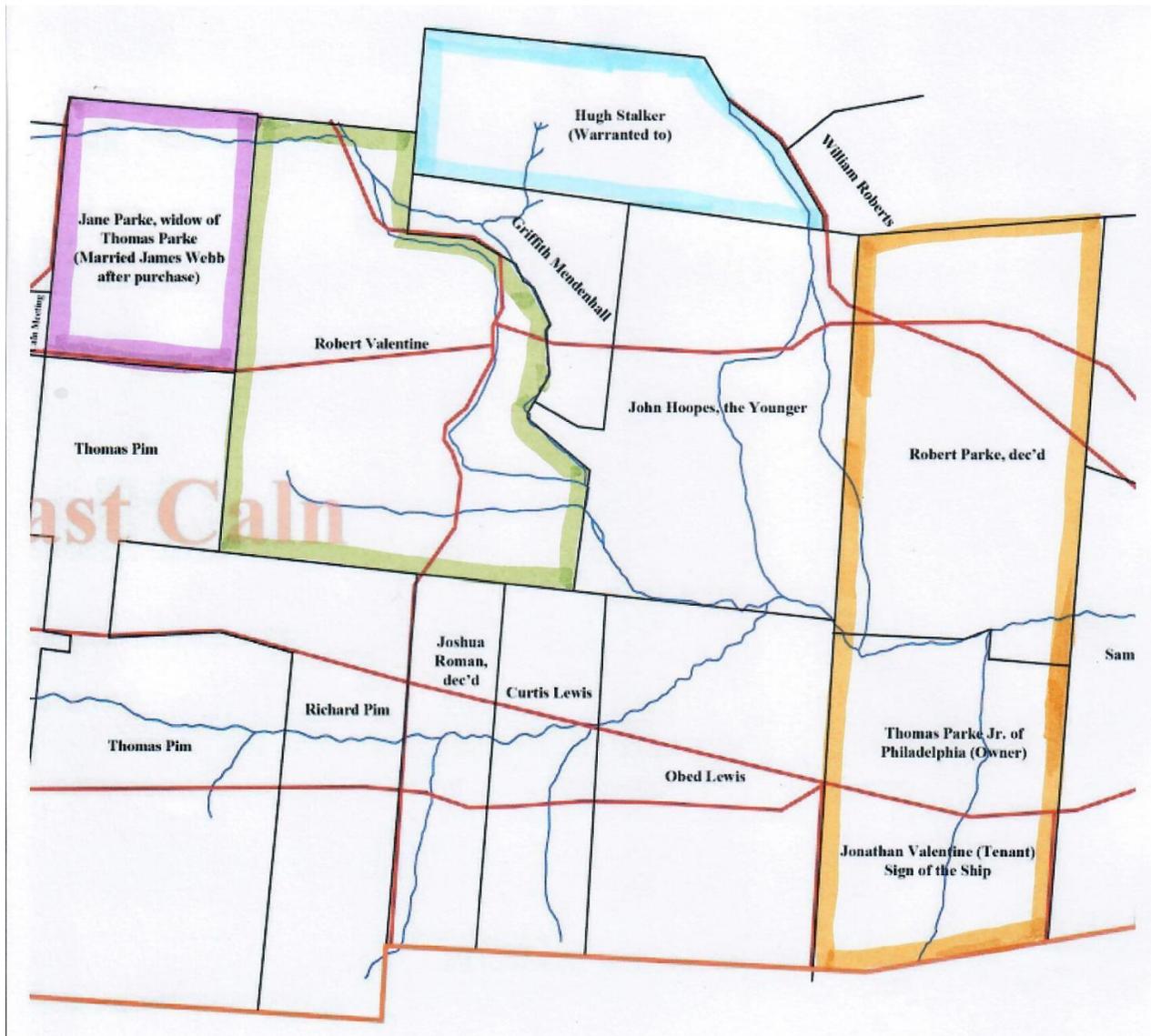
County Carlow (as it was in 1898), where Thomas Parke had extensive farmland in the 1720s and where his children were born



County Carlow, showing the location of Thomas Parke's farmland in the 1720s



East Caln Township, map from 1777. See the detail of this map below



Detail of the East Caln Township, map from 1777, showing the location of the 500 acres originally purchased by Thomas Parke in 1724 (orange outline). This map shows the owners of the land in 1777, 50 years after Thomas Parke bought it. Thus, this map shows the grandchildren of Thomas Parke: Robert Parke, [Thomas¹ (1660-1738), Thomas² (1705-1758), Robert³ (1740-1773)] and Thomas Parke, MD [Thomas¹ (1660-1738), Thomas² (1705-1758), Thomas³ (1749-1835)].

Note that this map also shows the land of Hugh Stalker (blue outline), who was Thomas Parke's son-in-law. It also shows the land of Robert Valentine (green outline), the son of Thomas Valentine, who was also Thomas Parke's son-in-law.

side of the valley and Beaver Creek is at its northern side. The Great Valley runs through Sadsbury Township, Valley Township, East Caln Township, West Whiteland Township, East Whiteland Township, and finally through the original Welsh Tract of Tredyffrin Township.