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## Will of

### Thomas Parks

Albermarle County, Virginia

24 February 1752, proved 12 March 1761

"In the name of God Amen, I, Thomas Parks of Ballengers Mountain in Albermarle County being very Weak in Bodily constitution but perfect sence and memory considering the Perils and dangers of this transitory life and to avoid future strife and controversy I do make and constitute this my last will and testament. First I do commit my Body to the grave and my soul unto God who gave it and for many causes and due consideration I do bequeath all my worly stock and substance unto my best beloved son, Thomas Parks likewise I do make and constitute him to be my sole heir and executor. Secondly I doth leave unto my son John Parks an English Shilling. Thirdly I doth leave unto my son Samuel Parks, an English Shilling. Fourthly, I doth leave unto my son Charles Parks, an English Shilling. Fifthly I doth leave unto my Daughter Martha Russell otherwise Parks an English Shilling. Sixthly I do leave my Daughter Mary Bond an English shilling. Seventhly I doth leave unto my Daughter Elizabeth Hutchins an English Shilling. As witness my hand this Twenty Fourth of February and in the year of our Lord God One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Two."

Being Present

Thomas Parks  
Daniel Burford  
Ellex Duggins

At a Court held for Albermarle County the twelfth day of March 1761. This will was presented in Court proved by the oaths of Daniel Burford and Alexander Duggins the witnesses therto and ordered to be recorded and on the motion of Thomas Park the Executor therein named who made oath according to law certificate was granted him for obtaining a probat thereof giving security on which he with Thomas Josling and Thomas Cottrell his securities entered into and acknowledged their bond accordingly.

Teste

John Nicholas, Clk.

The appraisement is as follows, a parcel of old pewter, wearing apparel; two rugs; bed and furniture; 2 wedges; bed and furniture; 3 old pots; 3 old basons and sifter, old table and chest, old saddle, 4 old \_\_\_ hooks coming to a total of 19 pounds 17 shillings and 10. It was returned to court 12 June 1761 and recorded.

### ESTATE RECORDS

The first known deed transaction of Thomas Parks was a purchase from Alexander Spottswood of a plantation in the forks of the Rappahannock River against the mouth of Hunting Creek. (Deed Bk A, page 377, Spotsylvania County, Va) There was a transaction between Thomas Parks "to my beloved son Samuel Parks, land on the Rappahannock". (Deed Bk 4, page 352, 5 Mar 1741, Orange County, Va). There was a transfer of land from Thomas Parks to Christopher HUTCHINS (son in law) for land in St. Marks Parish in the forks of the Rappahannock River. (Deed Bk 6, page 183, 7 Jul 1741, Orange County, Va).

From a Parks Society publication: Thomas Parks was in Spotsylvania

County, VA in 1728. He bought land in Orange County, VA in 1736 and in Albemarle County, VA in 1751.

According to researchers Joan Sellers, Martha Smart, and Patricia Smith Thomas is the first of the Parks that can be documented. He is found in the Spotsylvania County, Virginia deeds in the late 1720's. This Thomas left a Will which was probated in Albermarle County, Virginia (Will Book 2, page 101). The will names his 7 children; 3 sons-Thomas, John and Samuel are found in Albemarle and Amherst (created from Albemarle in 1761) counties, Virginia, in the 1750's and 1760's. These same three sons are then found in Wilkes County, NC and it is from these 3 that most of the NC Parks descend.

1670-1761

Old Rappahannock County, Virginia divided into Essex and Richmond Counties in 1692. King George County formed from Essex County, VA in 1720. Part of the time, the difference of place names do not mean a change of residence but a change in the county lines. Spotsylvania was taken from Essex in 1720/21. Orange was taken from Spotsylvania in 1734 and Culpepper was formed from Orange in 1748. Goochland was taken from Henrico in 1727 and Albemarle was formed from Goochland and Louisa in 1744. Most of these Counties are mentioned in one or another of these early Parks family members. Amherst was the last county these Parks were located before moving to North Carolina which was formed from Albemarle in 1761.

From Park/e/s Society Volume 34 #2 1997 Patricia M. Hull Fulton has an article "New Information of Thomas Parks VA 1724-1728?"

She is actually dealing with this Thomas and when He came to America, not when he was born. The sources used in earliest land records was Nell Marion Nugent's book "Cavaliers and Pioneers of Virginia" and also from "Virginia Settlers and English Adventurers" by Noel Currier-Briggs.

It is mentioned that when persons are used as head rights for paying their passage to bring them to America, it is not also that the land they are entitled to for this is applied for right away. It could be a good while even years before this occurs.

Phyllis Kumler and Joe Parks have compiled 2 Volumes on Thomas and his descendants. Thomas I and Thomas II or Jr. Earl Arnett did much research into this line and used these sources: "The Diary of Rev. Robert Rose" by R.E. Hall, "The Rucker Family Genealogy" by Sudie Rucker Wood, and records of Albemarle and Amhearst County. (Parks Society has a copy of the "Parks Family Collection of Documents VA, NC, IN and TX" compiled by Mr. Arnett. Many of the items below came from this source, or were found here and in other published sources. See article fo full scope of it's sources and material.

Spotsylvania Co., VA, 26 Feb 1728, Deed Book A, page 377, Alexander Spottswood to Thomas Parks a plantation in the forks of the Rappahannock River against the mouth of the Hunting Creek.

Orange Co., VA, Order Book 2, page 402, Court held 4 June 1741, Thomas Parks having taken the oath, appointed by act of parliament and met the subscribed test and was sworn Constable accordingly.

Orange Co., VA, Deed Book 6, page 138, 7 July 1741, Thomas Parks of Orange to Christopher Hutchins (son in law) land in St Marks Parish in the forks of the Rappahannock River.

Orange Co., VA, Deed Book 4 page 352, 5 March 1741, Thomas Parks to my beloved son Samuel Parks, land on the Rappahannock River.

Thomas Park witnessed the will of Robert Bond, Spotsylvania Co., VA. Will Book A page 14 dated Jan 1723/24 and proved 6 July 1725. The will names son John Bond who was executor and a daughter Mary or it could refer to Mary Parks who married John Bond.

Old Rappahannock Order Book 1683-1685) page 3A 14 August 1686 Stafford County Records Wills and Deeds, Deed of John Rowley to son Richard 1/2 of land witness, Thomas Parke

Virginia Colonial Abstracts Richmond County, VA 1692-1704 by Beverly Fleet page 5 Deed Book 1, page 16 dated 2 Sept 1691 Thomas Parke, witness to deed of William Griffin to Edward Price. Deed Book, page 17, Rebecca Griffin gave Power of Attorney to Thomas Parke of Essex County, VA 2 Aug 1692 Recorded 22 August 1693.



Or

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