I started this project in 2003 in response to a newly found Parker cousin. This cousin, after hearing me say that Joshua isn’t a descendent of the “New England” Parkers, asked How do you know we don’t descend from Joshua Parker born 1740 in Massachusetts? The same question had been asked several years earlier, at that time I gathered together all the evidence I had to prove my statement. Afterwards I filed it all away, so now I had to dig it out again. I thought that if I put it all together in one paper then all I would have to do was e-mail or snail mail it thereby saving lots of time.

This project found a way, as a lot of mine do, to migrate to the “back burner”. I’d open it up from time to time and add to it, correct it, but then I’d save it away without a firm idea as to when to finish it. Although it was growing I saw no end to it.

Then in November of 2004 cousins Suzanne Hansen and Debbie Hadden told me of the “Parker DNA Project” of Dr. Greg Parker. In E-mailing Greg I mentioned this paper and he was interested in it. I began working on it again and although it isn’t perfect I hope it will serve the useful purpose of informing others about my / our Joshua Parker. I have scanned most of the pertinent documents and embedded these scans directly into the text. I also supplied my conclusions. Which you, the reader, are free to accept or reject.

I have lots of additional information on the seven children of Joshua and Sally and a much more thorough paper could be written including chapters on each son or daughter. However I’ve decided to finalize this paper, convert it to a PDF format, and pass it on to those that may be interested. With the hope of stimulating further research on our Parkers.

Here it is January 2005 and I’ve just had confirmation that a Moses Parker b.1806 descendent, Charles Parker, is a perfect DNA match with Keith Parker, a previously tested descendents of Joshua Parker b.1809.

January 2005
Your humble servant

Robert Carlton Smith
Joshua Parker (Jr.) was born about 1778 in Cortlandt Manor, NY.

Some of my Parker cousins have assumed a connection or descendancy from specific Parker families in Massachusetts or in Monmouth County, New Jersey. However I’ve found both to be in error. In the first case the error exists in confusing Joshua Parker b.1778 (I’ll call him “our” Joshua), with a Joshua Parker born in Massachusetts on 31 December 1764. This Joshua is also the son of a Joshua Parker born 13 December 1740. Both of them were born in Massachusetts.

Joshua b.1764 removed to Cavendish Vermont. In Vermont, he and his family lived, married, and died. His father also joined him for a time in Vermont, but then in his later years he removed to Gouverneur, NY where his daughter Dorothy resided. In about 1831 he died and he is buried in Gouverneur.

This “Wrong” Joshua b.1764 and most of his family are buried in Cavendish Vermont. (See photo taken 2001).

The second, New Jersey case, will be covered later in this paper.

I’ll begin at Cortlandt Manor, NY, as this is as far back that I, or any other Parker family member, can trace our Parker Ancestry with 100% accuracy. Our Joshua’s birthplace, Cortlandt Manor, NY came from the entry for him in the municipal ledger of deaths in NYC. I found this at the NYC Municipal Archives in Lower Manhattan in the early 1990’s.
The information for the ledger entry was most likely made by his widow, Sarah (Rogers) Parker. Although the place of his birth is slightly misspelled [Courtland Manor SNY {State of New York}], it is however unambiguous and clearly stands for Cortland Manor. I except Cortlandt Manor, NY as his birthplace. A little history of Manors along the Hudson River during the Revolution may be helpful.

In the 1600’s English towns were developing in New York. Large tracts of land North along the East bank of the Hudson River all the way to Albany were being established as so-called "freehold" manors. The manor proprietors could lease land to tenants or sell it to them outright. Although a proprietor was called the "lord of the manor," he was not a "Lord" in the sense of British nobility. Manors were formed along the Hudson River from NYC north towards Albany and between The Hudson River and the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts. In Westchester County there were six manors established: *Pelham, Fordham, Philipsburgh, Morrisania, Cortlandt, and Scarsdale*.

Cortlandt Manor and the Cortlandt Manor House, which is still standing, were located where the Croton River flows into the Hudson River. This is about twenty miles north of New York City. Cortlandt Manor was formed in 1697 and encompassed 86,123 acres. It stretched all the way East to the Connecticut Border. Upon the death of Stephanus Van Cortlandt in 1732 it was partitioned into 40 different parcels. About 37% of the land was sold to non-family members by the ten surviving heirs of Stephanus Van Cortlandt prior to 1776. Although the original Cortlandt Manor was subdivided and given to different heirs of Stephanus it was still considered The Cortlandt Manor.

Manor owners had to do a good deal more than just collect rents. Depending upon the type of tenant they were required to build mills for their tenants; to survey lots and provide livestock for the farms; to provide mechanics, millers, boat builders, and, if possible, a doctor, a clergyman, and maybe a schoolmaster.

After the Revolutionary War everything changed. The war had devastated Westchester County; seven years of raids and plundering had left much of the countryside in waste. Many homes had been burned. The population of the county was reduced by more than 1000 through war, casualties, and the emigration or fleeing of the Loyalists to Canada or back to England. As Westchester began the task of rebuilding, there was one big change that benefited local farmers. Many of the landholdings in the county that had belonged to Loyalists were confiscated by the state and sold by the ‘Commissioners of Forfeiture’. In all of Westchester County the holdings of fifty-four Loyalists were confiscated and thus sold off. As a result of such sales, many farmers were able to buy the lands they had previously farmed as tenants.

In 1788 the county was formally divided into twenty towns. The first federal census, taken in 1790, showed a Westchester population of 24,000, mostly concentrated in the northern part. The chief occupation was farming during the early part of the nineteenth century. Vegetables, fruit, corn, and wheat were the primary crops. Every farm had dairy cows and poultry, and sheep were grazed on land too rough for cultivation.

In my research I could only find one reference to a Parker as a descendent or relative of the Stephanus Van Cortlandt family, James Cortlandt Parker, and this was by marriage. I
have been unable to positively connect our Joshua Parker or his descendents to this James Parker of Perth Amboy, NJ. However there is one, somewhat questionable, connection. Caleb Parker’s youngest son, Charles Parker, appears to have been interred in the above James Cortlandt Parker’s burial plot in Trinity Cemetery in NYC in 1912? Both Caleb Parker and James Cortlandt Parker bought cemetery plots in Trinity Cemetery in the northern part of what today is Manhattan. Very near where the George Washington Bridge connects to Manhattan. These two cemetery plots are adjacent to each other. Each is an eight grave plot. Caleb Parker’s plot is full (there are no gravestones markers), but James’ Cortlandt Parker had used only five of his eight graves. I was not able to find out how permission was obtained, if it even was, or if a family tie is involved in this burial. The cemetery has a record of the burial of a Charles Benjamin Parker but no other details except that he came from Bloomingdale, NJ and was (60.5.15). But there he is buried in James Cortlandt Parkers Plot, in the second row of graves directly behind James Cortlandt. His name appears to have been added at the bottom of James’ gravestone?
Now that I’ve mentioned Caleb Parker (my gg-grandfather), the fourth son of ‘our’ Joshua, I digress and mention Joshua’s (jun) siblings, I’ll also briefly summarize the children of our Joshua and Sarah, of which, Caleb is one, although most of that information on these children is well known and accepted by most Parker cousins.

**Joshua (jun)’s Siblings**

Not everyone is familiar with Joshua (jun)’s sisters and brothers; I’ll briefly mention them here. In Parker family records (Baptism for the dead performed in 1873 by Joshua b.1809, another son of Joshua b.1778) it was recorded that Joshua had two uncles, Daniel Parker and Talmage Parker. Since the above baptisms were performed in person by Joshua b1809, the Mormon, I’ll assume his knowledge of his uncles was ‘firsthand knowledge’. (See below next to the yellow dots)

![Baptism of the Dead (left and right side of the book) 1873 (yellow=males, red=females)](image)

Two years later in 1875 in “Baptism For The Dead” now performed by Mary Melissa (Parker) Summerhays, Joshua b1809’s granddaughter, it was recorded by Mary Melissa that she was the grand niece of both Mary Carlin and Susan Riker. Since Joshua and his wife Drusilla were both still alive, and active in genealogy, I’ll assume that they advised their granddaughter. In fact I believe Drusilla went with Mary Melissa to the Temple to perform the baptisms for the dead in 1875. I’ll also assume that the knowledge of the grand aunts is also ‘firsthand’. Few dispute these conclusions.

![Baptism of the Dead (left and right side) 1875](image)
A Summary of the above establishes Joshua Jr. and his siblings as follows:

1. Joshua b.1778
2. Daniel
3. Talmage
4. Susan
5. Mary

Is Joshua Parker really a Jr?

Our Joshua was listed as “jun” in only a few early NYC City directories.

There were only two Joshua Parkers in NYC city directories in the early 1800’s. Although they weren’t in every city directory they were in most. The other was a tailor.
and he was still alive well past 1820. At this point I want to state that as far as the father of Joshua Parker also being a Joshua, thus making our Joshua a junior comes only from a few City Dir. 1808, 1810, & 1811. The abbreviation “jun.” is all anyone has to go on. Out of 14 or more different years in city directories only a couple, in the middle years, have “jun.” and ironically those years only list the initial “J” instead of a first name. I haven’t found or heard that anyone else has another or second source that shows Joshua’s father was also Joshua. So I ask you “Is that enough or could “jun” be a mistake?” I am not sure.

If it is correct and I’m continuing on that assumption, then we must find another Joshua Parker in or around Cortland Manor prior to 1778. After an exhaustive search I found one. This ‘possible’ father to Joshua b.1778 was mentioned in a list with others in a local newspaper.

**Background:**

During the pre-Revolutionary period in Westchester County, farmers and residents were peaceful and there was, in general, good will until the “Meeting at the White Plains” on the 11th of April 1775. At this meeting there was talk about a Call for a Provincial Congress. Then there was a Military Expedition to Concord on the 19th of the same month. There began a rein of terror following these events that disturbed the good feelings and quiet in the County. Jonathan Fowler esq. and George Cornwall esq. (Judge of the Court of Common Pleas) were two respectable leaders of the County that had signed a “Declaration and Protest” as well as the “Resolves” at that meeting in White Plains on the 11th. They were now forced, by public opinion to publish a recantation of these loyalist political opinions. They did this in the Gaines New York Gazette: and the Weekly Mercury No.1229 dated Monday May 1, 1775. In this recantation they declared themselves “Friends to the Colonies”.

The second act of terrorism was against Isaac Wilkins a leading member of the general assembly of the colony. In order to secure his safety, as he was unwilling to “raise his hand against his Sovereign, the King of England”; he was forced to abandon his home and family to take refuge in England. This he did on May 3, 1775.

Lewis Morris, Chairman of the “Meeting at White Plains”, was a secure member of the Congress of the Colonies. He made an attempt to belittle the Protest Against the Proceedings (previously published in Rivington and Gains Gazette, after the Meeting at White Plains) by those who had objected to the Proceedings. He prepared an elaborate reply on May 7,1775. A few days later he gave it to the local newspapers. In this ‘reply’ he named 170 “Men” of the 312 who supposedly protested the proceedings. With the following comment

*“In this formidable catalogue of 312 sober and loyal protestors there are not less than one hundred seventy who after a most diligent inquiry, I cannot find have the least pretensions to a vote, and indeed many of them are lads under age”*

(A list of 170 names followed)

In this list of 170 were the names of Joshua Parker and John Parker

**(Remember:** The year is 1775)
He then added the following paragraph about the remaining 142 names.

“Of the others who are Freeholders”(land owners), “many also hold lands at the will of Col. Philips, so that the truth really is that very few independent Freeholders objected to the appointment of Deputies.”

Conclusion:
The above Joshua is very possibly the missing Joshua, the father of our Joshua b.1778 (making him ‘jun’.)
The 170 “sober and loyal Protesters” were not Freeholders (landowners) therefore their names failed to appear on tax lists or deeds. Where these men or “lads” lived I don’t know but there were two Manors mentioned in the article Philipsburg and Cortlandt. They are next to each other in Westchester County on the Hudson River.

This “Newspaper article” was re-printed in “History of Westchester County” Vol. II pp 254-255 by Thomas Schraf in 1886. More research is needed to locate other references to this obscure Joshua Parker in Westchester County NY...

In addition to the above Parkers, I have another source that lists an Elisha Parker and an Augustine Rogers as but 2 out of the 15 “tenants at will” (a tenant at will is one where the landlord furnished farming utensils, equipment, livestock, and a house) at Cortlandt Manor. It also lists an Annanias Rogers as 1 out of 14 “tenant with tenure” Annanias’ tenure was from 1743-55 (extended) but in all my searching there were no other Parkers found in Cortlandt Manor Papers?

2004 Update:
In November 2004 another Joshua record in Westchester County surfaced. Debbie Hadden’s daughter, while working on a school project, located on a Library of Congress website, a notation about some petitions for military pensions. It was in the House of Representatives. One of the petitions was from a Joshua Parker, of Tarrytown, NY. Tarrytown is only a ‘stones throw’ from Cortland Manor. This request was for a pension for Naval service on board the USS Constitution. In which Joshua Parker of Tarrytown, NY was injured somehow? (See below for a partial copy of pages 201&202)

The USS Constitution was one of six frigates authorized by act of Congress, approved 27 March 1794. She was launched on 21 October 1797 and christened by Captain James Sever. She put to sea on 22 July 1798, commanded by Captain Samuel Nicholson. Following her trial runs in August, she was readied for action in the Quasi-War with France and ordered to patrol for French armed ships between Cape Henry and Florida. It saw action again in the War of 1812.

The US Navy sailors and their surviving spouses were eligible for pensions and it is possibly what this request referred to.
Initial attempts to locate the actual “military pension record” have not yet been successful. Two different fires destroyed many pension records and I’m not sure if this one was among those destroyed. Whether or not the pension record is found isn’t important for this paper. The simple fact that the mention of a Joshua Parker was residing in Tarrytown is what is important. A second Joshua in Westchester that could be the same Joshua as the one in the previous newspaper article. This adds to evidence that our Joshua could be a junior of this Joshua.

Maybe some cousins have read or heard of Harold Parker’s letter to Director of New York Historical Society in New York, NY. Harold wrote this letter on 6 Dec 1966 requesting help. Suzanne Hansen sent a photo of it in an E-mail last month and Debbie Hadden translated it into MS Word format and sent me a copy of the translation. I mention this letter, and after reading the sentence below that is quoted from that letter, I ask you to read again the above pension request of a Joshua Parker from Tarrytown.

“It seems to me like I have heard my father whose name was Daniel Parker” (1866-1932) “say of Joshua Parker as many years are that his g grandfather was a sea captain or mariner of some kind and that he went to sea on a voyage and never did return here again”.

A sailor? Now that would make him hard to find in census, land, taxes, etc records. I wonder when that Daniel Parker’s “g grandfather” was supposed to have disappeared? There are lots of coincidences in this story that beg further investigation. I wonder if any other cousins have heard the “Daniel Parker tale”?
Joshua jun’s Parents

Again, referring to the earlier mentioned baptisms, notice that there are two entries for a Sarah Parker by Mary Melissa. One reference was to “Sarah Parker- Gd. mother” and the other was to “Sarah Parker- Gt. Gd. mother” This is puzzling as there is no mention by Joshua of a “Gd. father” Joshua” or any other grandfather for that matter when he was baptizing the dead. If Mary Melissa is accurate then a Sarah (was the wife of Joshua Parker sr.) and may have had five children, one of which was Joshua Parker jun. that married a Sarah (Rogers)? This is not impossible but surely adds to the confusion. I still can’t guess as to why Joshua b1809, and his family baptized his Grandmother Sarah (was the wife of Joshua Parker sr.)? and not his Grandfather Joshua Parker (sr.)?

However, I sometimes wonder if the second Sarah notation might be a mistake for I would think that if Joshua b1809, was “baptizing” other relatives and he included his grandmother (Sarah Parker), he would have at least known and included his own Parker Grandfather, especially since he was another Joshua? He also never baptized his Rogers grandparents either. This is also puzzling, although it’s more likely to assume he didn’t know his “Rogers” grandparents than his “Parker” grandfather. Regarding this dilemma I have no conclusions.

Sarah Rogers Death Ledger

Joshua sr.’s mother was a Rogers from Connecticut, as per her Death certificate.

Sarah died of T.B. on 9 Feb 1829 and was buried in Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in NYC.

Our Joshua jun was born about 1778. This was during the Revolution; the Manors were still in existence. When Joshua died in 1819 his birth location was given as Cortlandt Manor. The parents of our Joshua Parker were not formal tenants and I found no record of them existing within the Cortlandt Manor Papers. Since I can find no record of them as landowners or freemen, no record of taxation, births, marriages, or deaths or even for that matter no cemetery records on them anywhere in Westchester County before or after the Revolution. One conclusion is that they were a young family, without roots or family anywhere in the area. They arrived while Cortlandt Manor was still in existence, Joshua was born, then they emigrated from Westchester county soon after. But to where, that is the million-dollar question?
The “First US Census” of 1790 may supply the answer. In the 1790 Census only the name of the head of household was given, then a count of males and females, broken down by age category. There are no Joshuas anywhere in or near Westchester County; in fact there are only three Parkers in the 1790 census in all of Westchester County, John and Joseph in the town of Harrison and Moses in the town of Yonkers. In all three households there are no males over 16 years of age not counting the head of household.

**Pittstown, NY**

There is however a Joshua Parker in Albany County in the town of Pittsfield. *In the middle 1790’s this area became Rensselaer County with Troy, NY as the county seat.* This Pittstown Joshua Parker is in the 1790 Census and matches our family count almost exactly. He was active for the next 20 years in this area.

In 1787 a Joshua Parker bought 121 acres in Pittstown, NY. I have a copy of that deed. Joshua subsequently sold the farm in 1797. In the deed of sale his wife also signed it. She was Mary (not Sarah). It’s possible that this could be our missing Joshua if Mary was a second wife (note: Joshua has a sister Mary possibly from this wife). *Accept this possibility for the moment and allow me to continue.* Next, I have a deed of Joshua Parker buying property in Lancingburgh (a northern section of Troy, NY on the Hudson river) in Oct of 1797. I have a deed of Joshua & Mary again selling the above (Lancingburgh) property in Feb 1814. This appears to be the same Joshua from Pittstown. Rensselaer Manor was a large manor on the east side of the Hudson River across from Albany, NY it was the northern most Manor in the Colonial Manor System. It included Troy and Lancingburgh but not Pittstown. Like all of the colonial manors it was dissolved after the Rev War.

I looked at the Rensselaer Manor tax lists for 1786, 1787, and 1788 (the only years available) and found several Parkers. (Hezediah Parker in 1786, ______ Parker in 1787, and Thomas Parker in1788). I could not find out who the 1787 Parker was. After the war Rensselaer County was formed from Albany County with Troy the county seat.

Three years after purchasing the Pittstown farm this Joshua Parker was enumerated in the US Census of 1790 in Pittstown with a family as follows:

- one male head of household [Joshua]
- three males under 16 yrs old [Joshua, Daniel, Talmadge]
- two females. [Mary {wife}, Mary / Susan]

*Assuming that the youngest daughter is not yet born it fits perfectly.*
Following this same Parker family to the 1800 Census I found the family as follows:

**one male > 45**  
[Joshua head of HH]

**two males 16 –26 yrs old,**  
[Joshua / Daniel / Talmadge]  
(The oldest son {most likely Joshua} on his own)

**one female < 10 yrs old**  
[new daughter]

**one female. 16-26 yrs [Susan/Mary]**  
(Oldest daughter married)

**one female > 45**  
[Mary {wife} wife]

Assuming that the oldest son and daughter have left the household, and since I don’t know the precise order of births of the children, they all could fit our family.

Following this family further and with the same assumptions, I now need to find another Parker (the son that moved out).

In the State Archives in Albany I found tax lists for the years 1799-1803 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Real</th>
<th>Personal value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1799</td>
<td>Joshua Parker</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Joshua Parker</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1801</td>
<td>Joshua Parker</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1801</td>
<td>Joshua Parker</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Joshua Parker</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Daniel Parker</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Joshua Parker</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803</td>
<td>Joshua Parker</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803</td>
<td>Daniel Parker</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803</td>
<td>Joshua Parker</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion:
In 1799 the only Parker taxed in Rensselaer County was a Joshua. Then in 1800 the same Joshua had real estate valued at $1500.
However in 1801 there was Joshua taxed on $1500. In addition now a second Joshua is being taxed on $100 (1st son that was not in the 1800 census) Also a Daniel showed up being taxed on $150 (second son now on his own).
If one assumes that sons Joshua and Daniel and moved out and established themselves, then the smaller valuations probably belong to them but Joshua the father is still valued at $1500. The following year is the same except now the ‘elder’ Joshua is valued at $2000. However in 1803 (the last year the tax list is available) the elder Joshua is still at $2000 but now Daniel increased to $1000 while the second Joshua remained at $150. (There is a conflict as our Joshua married in 1802 in NYC unless Joshua was still not fully relocated in NYC and therefore still taxed in Rensselaer County at the rate of the year before.

All the above proves nothing but I can find nothing to disprove this scenario either. Are they our Parkers? It is entirely possible that this is a totally separate family but then where was our family from 1790 to 1803 and where did this family go? In addition to deeds and tax records, I looked for wills in both the Albany County and Rensselaer County surrogate courthouses but found none from the late 1700’s to well into the latter
1800's for Joshua Parker, Daniel, or Talmadge (I think the indexes went past the 1880’s) none were found.

At the Rensselaer County Historical Society in Troy, NY. I found a complete cemetery listing or rather many listings. They were in loose-leaf notebooks. I was told they cover every cemetery in Rensselaer County. No! Joshuas at all and very few Parkers (no Daniels or any other names I recognize) and the few Parkers that were there were all born in the latter part of the 18th or early 19th century?

There is a lot of territory between NYC and Albany. Maybe they returned to Westchester and he is the Joshua that applied for the Revolutionary Pension from Tarrytown? (If that is where they came from) but one thing is sure, they simply disappeared. There is, even today, a very small presents of Parkers in NY along the Hudson? At this point my knowledge on the parents of Joshua b1788 ends. Now I haven’t exhausted all sources but more time in the field is necessary. I have scoured the internet to the point where I’m looking at the same things over and over! Actual fieldwork is necessary…

Joshua Marries Sarah Rogers

The marriage of Joshua b.1778 to Sally Rogers (both residents of New York City in 1802) was listed in the New York Weekly Museum (newspaper) on Sat July 3 1802. They were married on “Wednesday evening last”

Excerpt from Newspaper
They resided in NYC from 1802 until about 1811/12 and had 2 girls and 3 boys.

According to Longworth’s NYC directories the parents (Joshua & Sarah) were still living at 440 Greenwich St. NYC during 1810 & 1811. Then there was no listing for Joshua in any NYC directories from 1812-1818. During the period between 1812-1818 the final two children, both sons, were born. They were not born in NYC but rather they were both born in New Jersey.

Although the entire family later returned to New York, Ironically the last two children Caleb and Benjamin, that were born in NJ, were also the only ones to return to NJ to end up dying here in New Jersey as well.

**JOSHUA and SARAH’S Children**

[PAMELA, MARGARET, MOSES, AARON, JOSHUA, CALEB, BENJAMIN]

It would appear that Sarah Rogers was pregnant before Joshua married her. Soon after their marriage Pamela was born then a second daughter, Margaret, was born. Two years later the first son, Moses arrived, followed shortly by a second son, Aaron. Aaron, was followed by the their third son, Joshua. Following a move to NJ Caleb (my gg-grandfather) was born and then finally the last child, Benjamin, was born.

1. **Pamela** (the first child of Joshua and Sarah) was born 30 Nov 1802 just five months after their marriage.

1802 Joshua and Sarah were living at 273 Greenwich Street in NYC.

2. **Margaret** (the second child of Joshua and Sarah) was born on 29 Apr 1804...

1804 Joshua and Sarah were living at 43 Chambers Street in NYC.

3. **Moses** (the third child and first son of Joshua and Sarah) Moses, was born 1 Feb 1806 in NYC. He was married in 1827 to Susan Glass but he was not listed in the city directory until 1829-30. He was at first a mason and eventually became a successful builder in NYC. It was during this time...
that Moses and Susan had their first child of the seven that they eventually would have. This son was born on 24 Oct 1828 and they named him Joshua, of course!

The year after Moses’ mother Sarah died he is found in the 1929-30 NY City Directory, listed as a mason living on Hudson St.

4. Aaron. (The fourth child and second son of Joshua and Sarah) was born in 1807. Almost nothing is known about this son. He was listed in the NY City Directories of 1829/30, 1831/32, 1832/33, and 1835/36 as a tinsmith.

1808 Joshua and Sarah were living at 440 Greenwich Street in NYC.

Soon after Aaron was born the first four children were baptized. On 24 July 1808 in the Methodist Church records in NYC Pamela, Margaret, Moses, and Aaron along with their exact birth dates appear.

Aaron is first found in the 1829-30 NY City Directory, listed as a tinsmith. He was living with his older brother Moses on Hudson St. He was also found in 1832-33 to be living with his brother Moses and Moses’ wife Susan at 266 Hudson St.

In 1920 Fredrick A. Parker in "baptism for the dead" lists 2 Aarons one b.1807 the other born about 1830 and dying about 1880. This Aaron was purported to have moved to E. Bloomfield, NY. In 2000 June and I spent several days in East Bloomfield researching this Aaron Parker. Below is a summary of that trip.

East Bloomfield is in Ontario county NY. Canandaigua is the County seat. I found many Aaron deeds there, made copies, and notes on other Parkers in the county. At the surrogate courthouse I found the Wills of Aaron, his Brother Benjamin and most importantly his father "James C. Parker". (See will at right)
Maybe there was another Aaron that didn’t own any land? So, I next went to the E. Bloomfield Historical Society. The Historical Society was in an old brick schoolhouse on the village green. It was the neatest, best organized, and best equipped one I have ever been in, but no Aaron. The full time, paid, director was very helpful. He even called a person at home, who came in and helped me. She had done a lot of Parker research and personally showed me the “Parker Homestead” that is still standing from the 1700’s. She also knew the location of the undocumented “Parker family burial ground” and took us there. From the road one could only see a clump of trees in the middle of a fallow farm field. (Right)

*From the road I hiked through weeds as tall as my chest to get to the clump of trees. There was only one large 6-foot tall pyramid type gravestone in the overgrown thicket. It was close to the HUGE Locust tree that I’m standing next to at the right. It had 14 Parker names on it but none were ours.*

*Back at the Historical Society she found an old hand written list of all the Parkers buried in the cemetery that I had just came from. There were 14 names in all. James and his wife Sally were the oldest. Aaron, Benjamin, David, Silas, James, and John all Sons of James and Sally were among the other 14 Parkers found there.*

Conclusion:
The death date of our Aaron matched this Aaron! This Aaron had a daughter Mary as ours was reported to have had! However his wife was Barbara A? There were many other family similarities including a brother Benjamin but he was indeed a different Aaron! Although there was an Aaron Parker in E. Bloomfield, NY he is the son of James Parker and not Joshua Parker. Frederick A. Parkers has mistakenly crossed our Aaron with this E. Bloomfield Aaron Parker. Since I don’t have access to his notes as to where Mary Blauvelt is from and why he chose her. I now doubt the wife Mary or son ‘Aaron Jr’. info as well.
Another cousin has applied Barbara Ann Parker as his wife. This is the correct wife for the Aaron in Bloomfield but not for our Aaron born in NYC. Joshua acted as a proxy for Aaron in "Baptism for the Dead" in 1873. When and where he died and whom he married is still very much a mystery.

5. Joshua, this third son and fifth child was the last child born in NYC. He also is the child that was to become an early pioneer in the Mormon movement. Joshua ended up in Salt Lake City in 1852. He eventually died 17 Jul 1870 and is buried in SLC.

Joshua, son of Joshua jr, is first found in the 1830-31 NYC Directory listed as a cabinetmaker living on Varick St. The following spring the 1830 US Census was taken and Joshua was found living on Van Dam Street but the only other person in his household is a female age 20-30?

In the 1831-32 directory Joshua, cabinet-maker is listed as living at "rear 48 Van Dam which agrees with the 1830 Census (remember the city directory can be a year behind)

Like Aaron, Joshua was last listed in the NY City Directory of 1835/6.

Note: This is the only year in which all five Parker Brothers were listed in the NYC city directory.
Then in June of 1837 Parley P. Pratt, a Mormon was sent to NYC by Joseph Smith to do missionary work for the Church. It was here that Joshua was introduced to Mormonism. He was baptized in the East River, NYC into the Mormon religion during the winter of 1837/1838. Parley Pratt and Elijah Fordham performed this baptism.

(Right) This is the account of Joshua Parker and his Mormon Beginnings.

This Page is from “Sacred Places”
By Lamar Barrett. In his book Lamar’s source was the autobiography of Parley P. Pratt.

NEW YORK CITY
LaMar C. Berrett

Immediately after the Church was organized in 1830, missionaries began preaching in New York City. Joseph Smith visited the city in 1832 and 1836 and was one of the first missionaries to preach here. Thaddeus B. Marsh from 1814 to 1818 and Orson Pratt in the 1820s both lived in New York City before they joined the Church, but it was not until 1837 that the enduring Mormon presence in New York City became a reality.

Elijah Fordham was one of the first Mormons in New York City. He was living here when the first American and Canadian missionaries bound for Great Britain arrived in June of 1837. He was the only known Latter-day Saint in the city. Fordham rendered assistance to the seven missionaries (HC 2:494-95) and a month later became a successful missionary companion to Parley P. Pratt. As the missionaries called to Great Britain in 1837 assembled in New York City, they did missionary work and published a broadside titled “Timely Warnings,” which they distributed on the street and sent to all of the 180 ministers in the city.

Elder Parley P. Pratt arrived in New York City in July 1837 to do missionary work and to preside over the Church in New York. He published the book A Voice of Warning here the same year. Parley P. Pratt and Elijah Fordham labored together as missionaries and participated in many of the first baptisms in the area, including those of three local New Yorkers: David Rogers, Wandle Mace, and Joshua Parker. These men and their families became pillars of the Church in New York City. In Apr. 1838, Parley P. Pratt led a small group of Saints from New York City to Missouri, and his brother Orson Pratt presided over the Church in the East in Parley’s stead. Before Parley left in April, he selected Wandle Mace to be the first president of the New York City Branch (JWMA 21-22). In May

(Right) is part of page 61 in it there is reference to “the families of” and Joshua Parker is one. The author was contacted but has no details of exactly who was included in “the families of”
Conclusions:
Both Joshua and Aaron ceased to be listed in NYC city directories at the same time. They both “disappeared” at the same time from NYC. After 1837 they never were found in general commerce or business again in NYC. However, his remaining three brothers (Moses, Caleb, and Benjamin) were listed in every city directory for many more years as well as much other documentation including census, death, and cemetery records.

According to "Sacred Places" In April 1838 Parley P. Pratt led a small group of Saints from NYC to Missouri. The names of the "Saints" weren’t given, Very likely Joshua was part of the "small group of Saints” mentioned above. There is no mention of Aaron but its possible that he may have followed or left NYC with Joshua as they headed up the Hudson River to Albany and then “west” along the Erie Canal route towards Ohio and Missouri. I find no baptism of Aaron into the Mormon Church but since there is mention of “families” it may have included Aaron, however this is just mere speculation on my part.
This was the normal travel route from NYC to the West during the early 1800’s was up the Hudson River to Albany, then turning west following the Erie Canal to Buffalo then southwest through Erie, PA and into Ohio and beyond.
Drusilla came from Mercer Pa. just North of Pittsburgh and a little south of the route that the Mormons must have used going to Kirkland Ohio. Somewhere along the way Joshua and Drusilla met and eventually marry, adopt their oldest child, Martin. And then go on to have twelve more children. Martin was born in Brownstown, IN.in 1842. Exactly who his natural parents were is not known. Maybe he was the natural child of one of them and only adopted by the other? I suspect that he might have been an illegitimate child born to Drusilla. She was only eighteen years and two months old when Martin was born and if Martin is her natural child she was only seventeen when she got pregnant.

2004 Update:
Recent information on Martin is that he is the natural child of Drusilla, born while she was single. This information was a “deathbed” revelation from Drusilla herself to her son Daniel and passed down through the family to Suzanne Hansen, one of Daniel’s great granddaughters.

Joshua’s Final Two Children

Sometime in 1811/12 the family moved across the Hudson to New Jersey. It was here that the last two children were born.

6. Caleb was the sixth child and third son of Joshua and Sarah. Caleb was born in Fort Lee, NJ on 2 Jan 1812.
Caleb had nine children over an 18-year period. He owned much property in Lincoln Park, Passaic County, NJ.

All Caleb’s children were born in NYC. Caleb, at first was a blacksmith, then a machinist, then a whitesmith. In about 1862 He moved to Lincoln Park, NJ, became a farmer, as did his son Caleb H. Parker. He remained in NJ until his death in 1888.

The meaning of “Fort Lee” on the below death certificate is not clearly understood. The present day town of Fort Lee was incorporated in 1904. There was a Military Fort named Fort Lee during the revolution but exactly what it meant in 1888 on Caleb’s Death Certificate is not clear. There were many small villages all around the area of the Fort Lee.

I would assume his brother Benjamin and, or, his wife Cornelia were the informants on his death certificate.

I surmise that Caleb died while visiting his brother Benjamin in Teaneck. He suffered a massive heart attack and 19 hours later on June 10, 1888 he died. Ironically he died on my birthday. Also Fort Lee, whatever it meant, is only a few miles from where Benjamin lived in Teaneck.

His wife Cornelia died one-year later in Lincoln Park. As stated earlier both are buried in Caleb’s cemetery plot at Trinity Church (uptown) in NYC.

Whether the Joshua Parker family was only traveling through the Fort Lee area or looking for a new home during the birth of Caleb I’m not sure. However when Caleb was only ten months old Joshua bought a 50-acre piece of property from John Bennet in Howell in Monmouth County, NJ on October 1, 1812. The deed, (See below), didn’t say where this Joshua Parker was from. But he was further identified as “Joshua Parker cordwinder” (shoemaker). If this is our Joshua then Caleb was 10 months old and very possibly Sarah was pregnant with Benjamin (we only know Benjamin was born about 1813). The other five children were between 3 and 10 years old. The price paid for the 50 acres was 80 pounds. There are some inconsistencies in the wording on the deed and trying to locate its location today has been difficult.

Monmouth County originally contained three townships. Shrewsbury was the largest and Howell was taken from Shrewsbury Township in 1801.
I have an old map of Howell (date unknown) and on it one house is labeled “J. Parker” (I’m not saying it means Joshua Parker, J. Parker could also be for John, Joseph, or James Parker as I think this map may be from the latter part of the 1800’s)

This is taken from a larger map. I cut the middle out so it would fit.

The below deed also mentions “Forge Pond” There is a Forge Pond today but it is in Ocean County which is just south of Monmouth County. The problem is the deed mentions the “Sarah Greens Run” and the Shark River not the Metedecunk River. So far I can’t find anything about Sarah Greens Run today but the Shark River isn’t in Howell it is farther north towards Shrewsbury? I’ve decided go there after this holiday season, in early 2005, to try to straighten this out. Part of the problem is the Howell Map has no date on it. I think I got it in the Monmouth County Historical Society in the middle 1990’s
7. **Benjamin** (the seventh child and the fourth son of Joshua and Sarah) was the final child. He was possibly born in 1813.

He was born in 1813. Maybe he was born in (Howell), in Monmouth County, which is Central, NJ. This is where Joshua bought some property in 1812. However I’m not sure that it contained a house or was simply unimproved land. If the latter then maybe Benjamin was also born in the Fort Lee area of New Jersey as was Caleb. More research is needed.

No document mentions Benjamin’s place of birth other than NJ.

Benjamin is the only child of Joshua and Sarah not to have a known birth-date? His death certificate gives his age as 81. However, his elaborate Gravestone has age=82?
Benjamin’s death certificate in 1895 states he was a resident of NJ for 36 years but he still maintained a residence in NYC well into the 1870’s

He owned rental property in NYC and Brooklyn as well as two homesteads in Teaneck, NJ.

On the 20\textsuperscript{th} of May 1817 Joshua took a one-year loan of $150.00 from Joseph Lafetra, and gave a mortgage on the above Howell property in return.

The above mortgage is a one-year note; it was due in May of 1818. I don’t know why he mortgaged his property; maybe this money was needed to return to N.Y.City? Joshua and the entire family returned to NYC and were again listed in the 1819/1820 City Directory living on Pearl Street in NYC. However Joshua b.1778 soon died of “Bilious Fever” on 27 Sep 1819 and was buried in the Methodist Cemetery on Greenwich Street, NYC.

The exact definition of “Bilious Fever, Demetia” is hard to find. It is described generally as being associated with yellow fever, malaria, typhoid, typhus, liver disorders and generalized fevers. I strongly suspect Yellow Fever as in 1919 there was a yellow fever epidemic in NYC and the dementia, I believe, was referring to the hallucinations that often accompany the final stages of yellow fever. Although Yellow Fever is not always fatal those that do die usually die in less than two weeks from onset.

There is an interesting note on the above Howell deed. The property was never sold! To the best of my knowledge is it still in the Joshua Parker and his descendents family. I thoroughly looked through the Monmouth County index books, both grantor and grante. I was unable to find a transfer of this property via a deed sale, foreclosure, or even a sheriff’s sale- nothing. I looked under Sarah (she survived Joshua by ten years)- nothing. I looked under his children – nothing. When time permits in 2005 I am going to try to physically locate the property to see what is there today.

Sarah, now his widow, and her children moved to 29 Charlton Street (near the intersection with Hudson St.) and remained on Charlton St. until her death in 1829. She continued to be listed annually as a “widow of Joshua” in the same city directories. She died of Tuberculoses and was buried in the same cemetery as Joshua. This Methodist cemetery that was in lower Manhattan doesn’t exist today. In the 1851 laws were passed
banning burials in Manhattan below 86th street. The land was needed for a growing NYC. The place of the cemetery today it in the heart of NYC’s financial district. 15,000 Methodist graves were removed from Manhattan and relocated to Cypress Hill Cemetery in Brooklyn between 1854-1856. According to the Methodist Historian in 2004 no individual records of the removals were kept. She wasn’t sure of what happened to the grave stones…In total 35,000 graves of all denominations were moved from Manhattan to Cypress Hills after its founding in 1849.

MONMOUTH COUNTY ANCESTRY?
In the beginning of this paper I made mention of an “alternate” theory as to the parentage of Joshua b1778 having come through a Nathaniel Parker that married a Lydia Allen. They were from Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, NJ. Those Parkers did have a son Joshua, he died in 1800, and it was this Joshua that was reported by some Parker cousins to be the father of our Joshua b.1778.
However:
Several years ago I was researching a Will on one of Moses Parker’s sons (Robert d.1873) in the surrogates office in Freehold, NJ (Monmouth County seat). Robert died intestate in Manalapan, Monmouth County, NJ. Moses (Robert’s father) made a claim of $7377.23 against the estate of his son Robert for an unpaid business loan. It was eventually dis-allowed by the Monmouth County Orphans Court.
As I was looking through a large index book of the Letters of Administration for the Robert Parker Estate I came across Joshua Parker’s name. This was the same Joshua that died on 20 December 1800. When I looked at the actual Letters of Administration of this Joshua Parker I was surprised to see a letter from William Scott to the surrogate court of Monmouth County.
I copied the letter Dated 18 December 1800 and the accompanying inventory of his estate. The letter (page 2of 5) read exactly as follows (I made no spelling or punctuation corrections):

“Whereas Joshua Parker of Shrewsbury where possessed of Raile and Personal Estate Died without having made any will as we can hear of, neither leaving Widow nor Children, Brother, nor Sister living. We the under subscribers being his brother and sisters Children do give this Instrument of writing from under our hand devising thee to Grant a Letter of Administration to Timothy Corlies to take the said estate in charge”

It was witnessed by nieces and nephews of Joshua as follows:
Nathaniel Parker, poss. son of Joshua’s brother Nathaniel
George Allen, son of Joshua’s sister Lydia that married George Allen
Joseph Parker, son of Joshua’s brother Joseph
Sarah White, poss. daughter of Joshua’s sister Meribah married? White

The Inventory (page 3of 5) was completed on 19th of December 1800. Joshua had all of $281.22 and owed $146.92 (page 5of5)
As per the above letter, this Joshua doesn’t have a widow and all this Joshua’s siblings were deceased. He had no grandchildren either or else they would have applied to the surrogate to handle his estate before nephews or nieces.

There is little doubt there were several of “our” Parkers were in Monmouth County, NJ. In addition to Joshua buying property in 1812, Moses’ son, Robert and his children lived and died there. Robert owned and operated a brickyard in Matawan, NJ. However, the father of our Joshua surely wasn’t the Joshua that died in 1800. There was also a Caleb in Monmouth County but he died in 1886. My gg grandfather Caleb died in 1888 in North Jersey. Although there are many name similarities this Joshua that died in 1800 and his father Nathaniel Parker that married Lydia Allen is obviously a different Parker Family.

**DNA**

With the recent DNA testing that has been done on some of our Joshua descendents the idea that we are more likely to be connected to John Parker of Ireland than Parkers of Dutch or English descendents from New England causes me to rethink some old theories. Some connections that I felt didn’t fit earlier now need to be re-looked at. Maybe they will make more sense.

One of those is the early Methodist Church in NYC. The Methodist Church was started by Philip Embury and his wife, both of who were from Ireland. During the 1750’s a large number of Irish Methodists immigrated to New York City. *(Maybe our Parkers were among them?)* By 1760 the small congregation outgrew the loft they were in. The current John Street location was bought and although several churches were built and then rebuilt the current building was constructed in 1841 and still stands and is in use today.

Now, however, with the added knowledge that we “may” be related to Parkers descending from John Parker b1725, in Ireland, that immigrated to, most likely NYC, and ended up in Virginia. It’s possible that John Parker and the father or grandfather of Joshua b1788, whoever he is knew each other. Maybe they were cousins or brothers that first immigrated to NYC. One then moved to Virginia and another to Cortlandt Manor, who knows? But, with this new information I have a renewed interest, and so a few weeks ago I wrote to the Pastor of the John Street Church for help on the Methodist cemetery relocation problem. He had no knowledge of it but has referred me to the “Chairperson of the United Methodist Church's New York Conference of Archives and History.

He responded and put me in touch with the archivist of the Methodist New York Conference Center. I contacted her a week or so before Christmas and will possibly go to NY to see her within the next few weeks. In the meantime she is checking the Records for the Greenwich St. Church (Bedford St.) as all the Lower Manhattan Methodists and Methodists Episcopal, churches merged into one many years ago. Maybe the church Archives has Parker information.
In 1802 Joshua Parker in NYC and Sarah were married in the Dutch Reformed Church but he had his first four children and maybe more baptized in the Methodist Church? Then when they died they were buried in the Methodist Cemetery in NYC. As to why Joshua and Sarah, who were probably Methodists, were married in a Reformed church, the Methodist Archivist stated to me that it would have been difficult if not impossible to marry in the Methodist Church if they weren’t members. The Reformed church was much more liberal and it would have been much easier if “time were of the essence”. I suspect that Sarah was about four months pregnant when they married so possibly they didn’t have time to officially join the Methodist Church If they were Methodists but not members of the NYC Church then they may have recently arrived in NYC from wherever and just didn’t have time to become established in the NYC Methodist Church. I would say being new to NYC and four months pregnant would require a “hurry-up” wedding, as time would have been of the essence!

This ends my Joshua Parker - Sally Roger’s information. I make no guarantees as to the accuracy of my data or the conclusions I have listed.

**Final Observations:**

In light of the new DNA information that is still, as I’m writing this, developing, I want to add some closing thoughts. We, the Joshua Parker descendents, understand there is definitely a connection to the John Parker of Virginia branch that emigrated from Ireland. I recently contacted a Moses Parker descendent who has agreed through Greg Parker to supply a DNA sample. Greg, as all of us are, is anxious to see the results. It would be interesting to have one of those “New England Parkers” also be tested. In time this may also prove very interesting.

Robert Carlton Smith December 2004