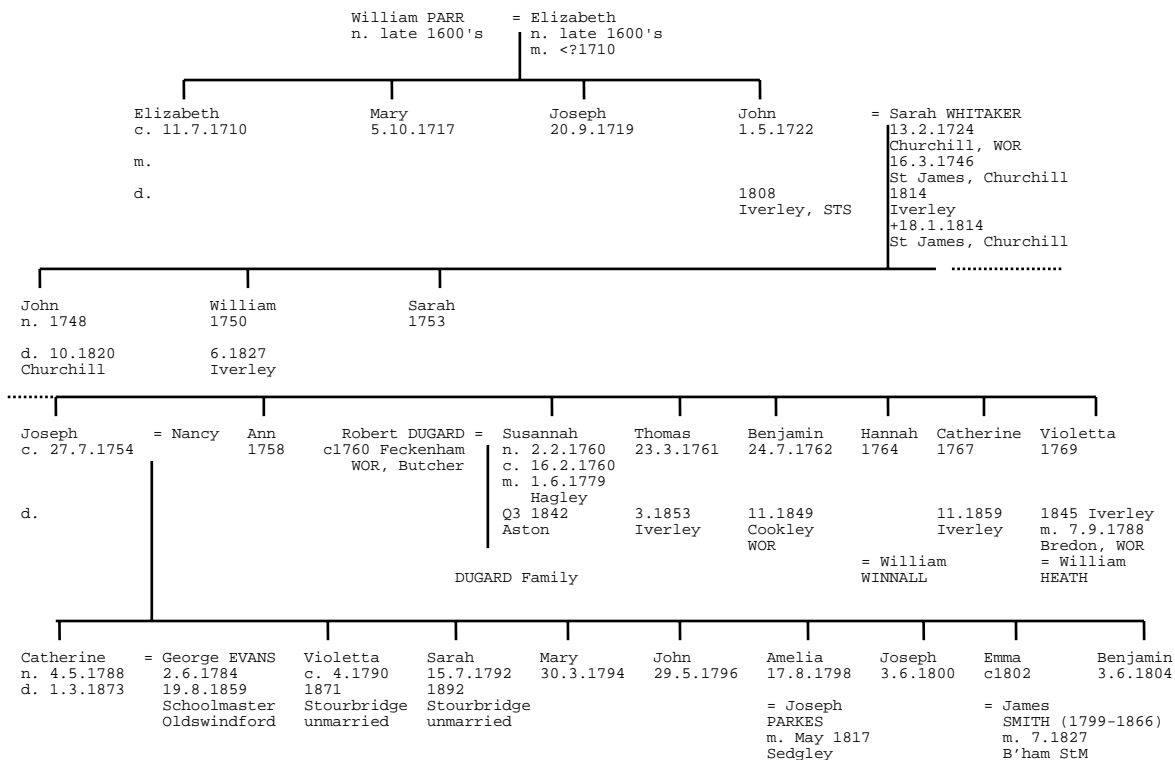


PARR Family of Kinver, Staffs & Churchill, Worcs.

CHART PRL: PARR Family (Kinver, Staffs & Churchill, Worcs. Late C17th - Late C18th)

All Kinver, unless noted.



Notes

- Marriage bond between Robert DUGARD, Butcher, and George HOLDEN 1.6.1779, so that Robert DUGARD (bachelor) and Susannah PARR (spinster of Hagley) may lawfully solemnize marriage.
- IGI entry: 12.12.1779 Robert DUGARD & Susan Parr.
- ** current nearest marriage is John PARR = Sarah MAYSOM 22.4.1746 Stoke on Trent, STS

Researchers (last updated 1992)

- * Paul B C Palmer, 38 Hartshill, Bedford, MK41 9AL (01234 266086) [4xGGS of common ancestor John (1722)]
- Eric Whitehouse, 166 Bleak Hill Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7BP [4xGGS of common ancestor Susannah (1760)]
- Nicky Speakman johnnick (at) btinternet.com & Malcolm Evan Malcolm (at) acoustics1.wanadoo.co.uk

Violetta PARR, (d/o John PARR) & her husband William HEATH were the first owner's of the "Waggon & Horse" pub in Iverley. Violetta died there in 1845. All previous owners of the pub are written on the wall within. Iverley borders Ismere (where Parr's Farm and the "Waggon and Horses" Pub are located) which comes under the parish of Churchill, Worcs., for census. The land that her father John PARR farmed was in Ismere and was therefore in Worcs, although he may have lived over just over the border in Kinver they appear to have attended church in Churchill. Until the C17th this area was all Glebe land belonging to Churchill Church, and was divided into three huge open fields which extended over to Churchill and Blakedown. These fields were sub-divided into numerous strips allotted to the villagers, and were cultivated on a three year cycle. This was common-land until 1774, when it was privatized by means of the Churchill Common Inclosure Act. The three main beneficiaries at Ismere were Joseph SMITH, William CLYMER and John PARR of Three Crowns Farm, 28 acres. The oldest house at Ismere is probably "Three Crowns Cottage" beside Parr's Farm. It was originally the "Three Crowns Inn". Parr's Farm possibly originated as a secondary business of the inn, as its name was Three Crown's Farm until the latter part of the C19th. John PARR, after whom the farm is named, was a farmer at the time of the Churchill Common enclosure, and he may have been the inns' landlord. His son Thomas PARR, and his descendents continued to run the farm until 1934, when Frederick Parr HEATH was succeeded by Mr George GIBB. The *Old Waggon and Horses Inn* was built c1795, probably by Mr George BEDDOWES, and may have been opened because the nearby "Three Crowns Inn" was due to become a farmhouse. By 1798, William and Violetta HEATH were running it, and in 1835 she was widowed. Five years later she was also the owner of the cottage, (the present farmhouse), at Parrs Farm. In "Berrow's Worcester Journal" of Thursday, April 29th, 1762, under "To be SOLD, THE Several Messuages, Lands, and Estates, lett to several Tenants at the several Yearly Rents following" includes "A Messuage and Farm, called High Down and Iverley, situate near Stourbridge, lett to John PARR, clear of all Taxes at £35.0.0" In 1841, the PARRS were still living at High Down, Iverley, which may now be the present day Highdown Nurseries. Note: John PARR made provision for Maria HEATH, his grand-daughter, in his will, which may be why she didn't inherit from her father.

PARR Family of Kinver, Staffs & Churchill, Worcs.

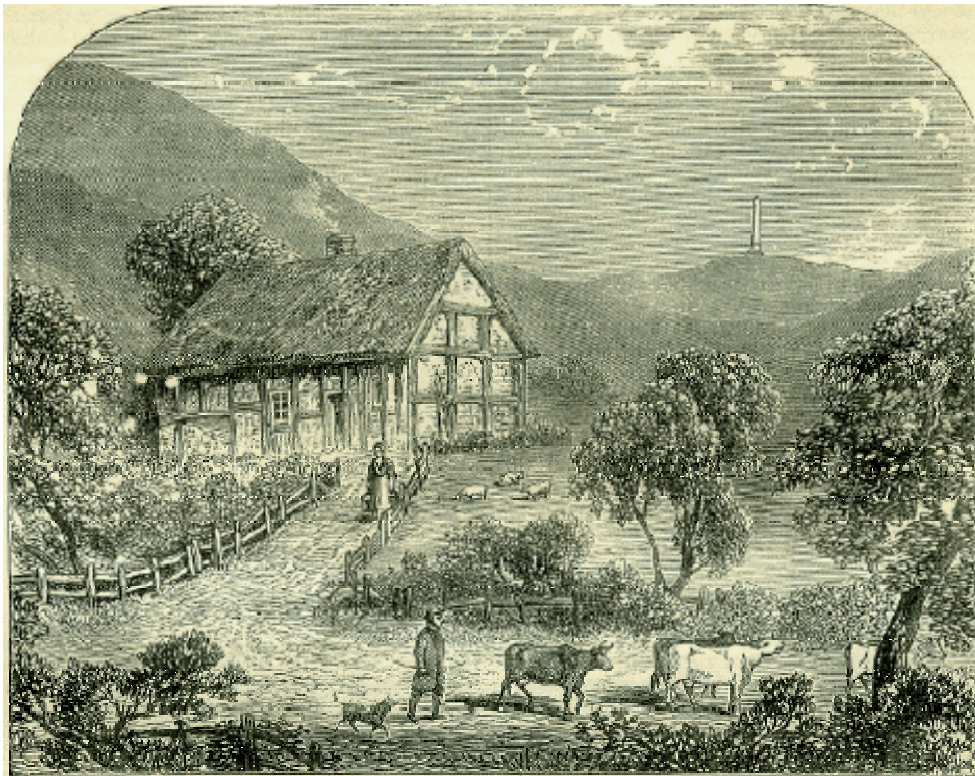
Extract from <http://www.thebookofdays.com/months/nov/15.htm>

THOMAS PARR

Though several sceptical individuals, denying the possibility of the life of man being protracted beyond the period of a hundred years, have maintained that no such instance of longevity can be produced, there is abundant and satisfactory evidence to confute this statement, and establish indisputably the fact of the existence of numerous centenarians both in ancient and modern times. One of these instances, that of 'Old Parr,' whose extreme and almost antediluvian age has become proverbial, rests on such well-authenticated grounds, that no reasonable doubt can be entertained as to its truth.

The Christian name of this venerable patriarch was Thomas, and he was born at Winnington, in the parish of Alberbury, Shropshire, in 1483. His father, John Parr, was an agricultural labourer, and Thomas throughout his long life followed the same occupation. Till the age of eighty, he continued a bachelor, and then married his first wife, with whom he lived for thirty-two years. About eight years after her death, when he himself was a hundred and twenty years old, he married for the second time. Having, in 1635, attained the wonderful age of a hundred and fifty-two years and upwards, he was visited in that year by the Earl of Arundel, who, having gone down to see some estates of his in Shropshire, was attracted by the reports which reached him of so remarkable an old man. His lordship was greatly struck by the intelligence and venerable demeanour of Thomas Parr, who was thereupon induced to pay a visit to London; the earl, as we are informed, 'commanding a litter and two horses (for the more easy carriage of a man so enfeebled and worn with age) to be provided for him; also that a daughter-in-law of his (named Lucye), should likewise attend him, and have a horse for her owne riding with him; and to cheere up the olde man, and make him merry, there was an antique-faced fellow, called Jacke, or John the Foole, with a high and mighty no beard, that had also a horse for his carriage. These all were to be brought 'out of the country to London, by easie journeys, the charges being allowed by his lordship; and likewise one of his honour's own servants, named Brian Kelly, to ride on horseback with them, and to attend and defray all manner of reckonings and expenses; all which was done accordingly.'

It would have been better, however, had Lord Arundel left the old man undisturbed in his native parish. Partly owing to the fatigues of the journey, partly to the crowds of visitors who thronged to see him, and above all to the unwonted mode of life which he led, Parr, ere many months were over, fell ill and died. He was buried on 15th November 1635, in Westminster Abbey, where a monument was erected to his memory. After death his body was examined by the celebrated Dr. Harvey, who found it remarkably stout and healthy, without any trace of decay or organic disease, so that had it not been for the abnormal influences to which he had been subjected for a few months previous to his death, there seems little doubt that Parr might have attained even a much greater age.



Old Parr's cottage, near Alberberry (Alberbury), Shropshire

The principal authority for the history of Old Parr is John Taylor, the 'Water Poet,' who, while the patriarch was residing in London, about a month before he died, published a pamphlet, entitled *The Olde, Olde, very Olde Man; or The Age and Long Life of Thomas Parr*. From the period at which this work was issued, we are warranted in placing considerable reliance on its statements, which appear never to have been controverted. In addition to those above quoted, we are informed by Taylor that, at the age of a hundred and five, Parr was obliged, in consequence of an intrigue with Catharine Milton, whom he afterwards married as his second wife, to do penance in a white sheet at the door of the parish church of Alberbury. When presented to Charles I at court, that monarch observed to him: 'You have lived longer than other men, what have you done more than other men?' Parr's reply was: 'I did penance when I was a hundred years old.' In the meeting of the venerable patriarch with the British sovereign, a parallel is almost suggested with the grand simplicity in which the presentation of Jacob to Pharaoh is recorded in the Book of Genesis.

PARR Family of Kinver, Staffs & Churchill, Worcs.

Thomas Parr seems, through life, to have been of temperate and industrious habits, of which the following metrical account is given by Taylor:

Good wholesome labour was his exercise,
Down with the lamb, and with the lark would rise:
In mire and toiling sweat he spent the day,
And to his team he whistled time away:
The cock his night-clock, and till day was done,
His watch and chief sun-dial was the sun.
He was of old Pythagoras' opinion,
That green cheese was most wholesome with an onion;
Coarse meslin bread,* and for his daily swig,
Milk, butter-milk, and water, whey and whig:
Sometimes metheglin, and by fortune happy,
He sometimes sipped a cup of ale most nappy,
Cyler or perry, when he did repair
T' Whitson ale, wake, wedding, or a fair;
Or when in Christmas-time he was a guest
At his good landlord's house amongst the rest:
Else he had little leisure-time to waste,
Or at the ale-house huff-cap ale to taste;
His physic was good butter, which the soil
Of Salop yields, more sweet than candy oil;
And garlick he esteemed above the rate
Of Venice treacle, or best mithridate.
He entertained no gout, no ache he felt,
The air was good and temperate where he dwelt;
While mavisses and sweet-tongued nightingales
Did chant him roundelays and madrigals.
Thus living within bounds of nature's laws,
Of his long-lasting life may be some cause.'

There was doubtless something peculiar in Parr's constitution which enabled him to resist so long the effects of age and natural decay. As a corroboration of the theory of the hereditary trans-mission of qualities, it is a curious circumstance that Robert Parr, a grandson of this wonderful old man, who was born at Kinver in 1633, died in 1757, at the age of a hundred and twenty-four. Perhaps one of the most ingenious devices in the art of quackery is that by which a well-known medicine, bearing Parr's name, is vaunted to the public as the mysterious preparation by which he was enabled to attain the extraordinary age of a hundred and fifty-two. The portrait which is frequently attached to the puffing placard advertising these drugs, is derived from a likeness of Old Parr, drawn by the celebrated painter Rubens.

In the Gentleman's Magazine for March 1814, a view, which we have copied, is given of Old Parr's cottage, in the parish of Alberbury; Rodney's Pillar, on the Breidden Hill, appears in the distance. It is also stated in the work referred to, that the cottage has under-gone very little alteration since the period when Parr himself occupied it, and that a corner beside the huge misshapen chimney is shewn as the place where the Nestor of Shropshire used to sit.

More can be found here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Tom_Parr