

FREDERICK PARRETT

Tradition says the Parrett family once lived in France, but were driven by religious persecution to Switzerland. What is really known about the family, whose many descendants populated this immediate vicinity, is – a young man in 1737, by name of Frederick Parrett sailed across the Atlantic to seek his fortune in a new country. It took him six months to cross. On the same ship came another young man, Godfrey Wilkins. They settled in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. Frederick married a young English girl named Margaret Edwards. To this couple were born seven sons and two daughters. Little is known of this pioneer couple, except the fact they instilled their children with patriotism and set them a good example of thrift. When the Revolutionary War came, one by one, the seven sons marched away to defend their country.

This couple lived to a good old age and were buried in the family burying ground on the old farm near Toms Brook, Virginia. The oldest son, John, went to Tennessee, founding the little town of Parrottsville, near Newport. Jacob never left Virginia. George died there, but all the others came to Ohio during the years 1800-1814. Frederick, the youngest son, married Elizabeth Kellar in 1785. They came to Ohio in 1814 and settled near Lyndon, Ohio, on the farm afterward deeded to his son, Henry. For awhile they kept a tavern where the roads fork on Chillicothe pike, one going to Frankfort, the other to Chillicothe. Elizabeth died in 1821 and Frederick purchased an acre of ground near the old log Presbyterian Church in South Salem and she was the first person buried in what is now known as the South Salem Cemetery. Their ten children settled near them. John, who married Catherine Wendel in Virginia, Joseph, married Sarah Haas, also in Virginia. Sarah married John McArthur, brother of Governor Duncan McArthur. George married Milly Wilkins. Frederick, Elizabeth Wallace, Rachel, George Ware, Rebecca, David Fernow, Elizabeth, George Helphrey, Mary, John Harper, Barbara, James Harper, Henry, Christina Parrett, Ann Catherine, Joseph Harper. From this large family are many descendants, not only in Ohio, but all over these United States.

Frederick Parrett, Sr. was called to the service late in Revolutionary War as he was too young to go when his brothers went. He was at the siege of Yorktown, and saw the surrender of Cornwallis. After the war, he served in the Virginia Militia as Ensign. Two commissions, one signed by Henry Lee and the other by Edward Randolph are preserved by one of his descendants. One of his brothers, Samuel, settled in Perry County. In the Civil War, Jacob Parrett, a descendant of Samuel enlisted as private in Co. K. 33 O. V. I. In the spring of 1863 he joined the Andrew raiders.

One of Frederick, Jr.'s sons, Joseph, enlisted for service in War of 1812, and his father served also in that war as home guard, and providing provisions for army. There were probably other sons who also served in this war. A good many of his grandchildren served in Civil War.

At present, Miss Flora Parrett, Mrs. Charles Mains, Mrs. Donald Bender, and Miss Elizabeth Parrett are members of this Chapter on this line.