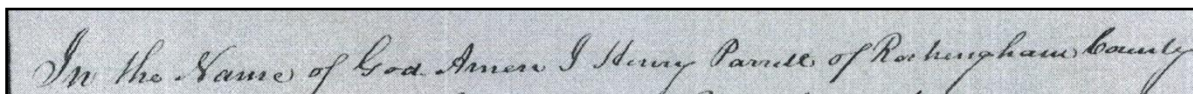


Henry Parrett (B Abt. 1742 - D 1827) of Virginia: His Life, His Last Will and Testament



The first line of Henry Parrett's will, written on July 7, 1826.

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(Various spellings of the surname in this family include Parrett, Parrott, Parretts, Paret)

Henry Parrett was the son of Frederick Parrett, a German or Swiss-German immigrant who had settled in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia by 1734. When Henry's father first settled here, his land was in Orange County. By the time Henry was born about 1742, their property was a part of Frederick County. In 1772, this same land was within the boundaries of the newly established Shenandoah County. The property was situated on Taylors Rim, which was later called Toms Brook, at the base of Little North Mountain.

It is believed that his mother was an English woman by the name of Margaret or Barbara Edwards. In 1853, a son of Henry's youngest brother Frederick, Jr. stated that his grandmother was a woman named Edwards. He provided no first name. The name of Margaret Edwards appears on some land transactions in Shenandoah County. The name of Barbara appears only in an early family history compiled in 1923 by Jessie Thomas Maims in Ross County, OH. The family historian Dawn Parrett Thurston suggests that the two names belonged to one woman, whom she calls Barbara Margaret Edwards (Source: Thurston, Dawn Parrett. *The Parrett Migration: Their Story is America's Story*. Pub. Memoir Mentor Books, 2014.)

The outline of Henry's life in the Shenandoah valley of Virginia is traced through marriage, census, and land records; tax lists; legal cases; and, finally his last will and testament. It is the last of these that provides the richest details of Henry's life. Family histories, written by various descendants of the Parretts of Virginia, have also added to what is known about Henry.

Henry Parrett was married twice. On June 27, 1773, he married Elizabeth Moyer (Meyer), the daughter of Henry Moyer. (Another daughter of Henry Moyer married Henry Parrett's brother John.) The year of Elizabeth Moyer's death is unknown. However, we do know that Henry married Catherine Wiseman on November 17, 1792. Both marriages took place in Shenandoah County and the marriages are listed in "Virginia Marriages 1785-1940" (Available online at FamilySearch.org and downloaded on February 1, 2011).

Henry and Elizabeth had two children: Elizabeth and Isaac. Apparently, Henry and his second wife, Catherine, had no children, or at least no children who survived to adulthood. (Henry's daughter, Elizabeth, was married in 1794, so she must have been a daughter of Henry and

Elizabeth, his first wife. In legal proceedings involving his son Isaac and son-in-law, John Tarflinger after Henry's death, Isaac refers to Henry's second wife as his step-mother.)

Another document that helps to establish family relationships is the settlement of the estate of Henry Moyer, deceased (published under Myers Family Documents on the Shenandoah County Website: www.vagenweb.org; downloaded on 2/4/2011, Document #8, Will Book E - pp. 391-392) In the settlement of the estate, Henry Parretts received his "late wife's share/and his children Elizabeth Taflinger and Isaac Parrett."

It is the general consensus among the descendants of Henry Parret that Henry served in the American Revolution, along with all of his brothers. However, details and documentation to that effect are scanty. This part of Henry's life is told in another story.

In the last quarter of the 18th century, there were several households in Shenandoah County headed by a Parrett. Henry is listed on page 66 of the "Heads of Families at the First Census of the U.S. taken in the Year 1790: Virginia" (Pub: Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908) This includes records of the State Enumerations 1782-1785. In Shenandoah County, Virginia, the census was taken in 1783 and includes 5 men with the Parrett surname: Henry (6 in household), John (10 in household), as well as Jacob, Joseph and Fred (Frederick) (3 in each household).

Henry is also listed on the Tax List for Shenandoah County in the year 1783. (Source: VA Early Census Index, available through Ancestry.com and downloaded on 2/1/2011)

On June 6, 1788, Henry received a grant of 143 acres in Shenandoah County, described as "adjoining Augustine Wendle, John Hoffman, and William Wendle on a drain of Toms Brook, a branch of the North River of Shanandoah." (Source: Virginia Land Office Grants, Archives of the Library of Virginia, Northern Neck Grants S, 1780-1788, p. 464-465 (Reel 298),downloaded on February 1, 2011 from the Library of Virginia Online Catalogue)

Henry moved into Rockingham County in the latter part of the eighteenth century or in the first decade of the nineteenth century. He is listed in the U.S. Census of 1810 for Keezletown, heading a household of six individuals. Only the heads of households are listed by name in this census. On the next two lines of that census are John Taffinger and Jacob Taffinger. Peter Polcel and Jacob Moore were other neighbors listed on the page. (These families would be linked through marriages in generations to come.)

Henry appears in the U.S. Census of 1820 for Rockingham County, again with a household of six. As in the census of 1810, only the heads of households are listed by name in this census. Also listed in this page of the census are Jacob and Philip Parrot (each with a household of seven) and Isaac Parrot (with a household of nine).

The Last Will and Testament of Henry Parrett of Rockingham County, VA, along with a transcription of the will follows.

The will makes interesting reading. Like so many other Germans who had settled in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, Henry was a hard-working and successful farmer. At the time of his death, this man had more than 500 acres (half of which he had received from his father). It was producing corn, oats, hay, barley, and flax. He had cattle and sheep, as well as fruit trees and a vegetable garden. Henry certainly had the wellbeing of his “beloved wife” in mind when he gave specific instructions to his children concerning the care and goods Catherine should expect to receive from them. Henry’s will also confirms family relationships: Henry provides the first name of his father, his second wife, and his two children, along with the name of his son-in-law. The will was dated July 7, 1826. While there were men of that era who were literate, there were many who were not. Henry was illiterate; he signed his will with his mark. This second-generation Virginian farmer died on September 4, 1827. (The date of death was found in the legal case filed in Rockingham Co. VA concerning a dispute between Henry’s son Isaac, executor of his estate, and his son-in-law, John Tarflinger, regarding payment of a debt owed the estate by the latter.)

Source of Henry Parrett’s last will and testament: *The Archives of Virginia Memory, Library of Virginia; Digital collections: Chancery*. It was part of the legal case involving John Tarflinger and the Executor of Henry Parrett (Isaac Parrett) of Rockingham Co, VA, dated 1831-34; Index Number 1835-012; Images #40-42; Electronic copy downloaded from the website on July 20, 2014. [Virginia State Library](#)

In the Name of God Amen I Henry Parrett of Rockingham County
 and State of Virginia being weak in Body but of perfect mind and
 memory I beseech to God for the same do make and publish this my
 last Will and Testament in manner and form following First
 and principally I do recommend my soul to Almighty God my bra-
 ve and mighty body to the earth to be interred decently and in a Chris-
 tian manner and after my funeral and other Just debts to be paid
 out of my estate I dispose of the residue in manner and form
 following (that is to say) First I give and bequeath unto my beloved
 wife Catharine this my homestead now occupied by me consisting
 of the dwelling house, the stable and yard around it the one
 half of the Spring house & Spring the Garden the lot around the
 house and other buildings thereon the fields known by the name of
 the elbow fields and the fields next the Stable with the heap
 potato therein (the Isaacs part) and the fields along the mountain
 road together with the meadows grounds included therein for John
 Terfingers part) all of which shall be hers and for her use
 during her natural life or so long as she remains my widow
 she shall also have from this my Estate one horse best 3 cows
 her choice 2 beds & Bedsteads & Bed clothes my black Horse the
 Cowen Cupboard the ten plate Stove & Pipe and some mits of fruit
 household & kitchen furniture as she stands in need of and things
 proper to keep for her use she shall also draw yearly and every
 year during her natural life or so long as she remains my widow
 from my heirs on this my Estate Twenty four bushels of wheat, fifteen
 bushels of rye Sixty Bushels of headed corn in the ears four
 bushels of oats 100 lb of good portland plaster of the land 50 H of
 good fattened beef two good loads of first crop hay and two good
 loads of summer crop 80 Bundles of wheat straw and 20 bundles
 of Rye straw eight pounds of good wool and one quarter of an acre
 of good ground well prepared to be sown with flax and for her use
 all of which I will that my heirs hereinafter mentioned pay and allow
 to her an equal share the share also provided cut split and haul
 a sufficient quantity of firewood both winter & Summer for her and

Will of Henry Parrett of Rockingham Co. VA 1826; Page One

Care the fences round her fields should be repaired she shall have
 privilege to cut rail timber to repair said fences on that tract of
 land where the field or fields are but in case my widow should
 get married again my heirs on this my estate shall then pay unto
 her five hundred dollars in five equal annual payments of hundred
 payments each of my heirs shall pay an equal share and she
 shall then when the first payment is made relinquish her right
 to my freehold estate. But in case my heirs on this my estate should
 hold or either of them fail to provide for her in her widowhood
 pay her in case she should get married again in either case
 she shall be entitled to have the one third part of that tract of land
 laid off to her and for her use during her natural life what was by
 me devised to him who fails in providing for her or paying her this
 above devised my widow shall also have yearly during her natural
 life or so long as she resides on my estate as much fruit of there
 to any on my estate as she wants for her use both present & future
 I also give and devise unto my son Isaac Parrett and to his heirs for
 ever provided he do his equal part in providing or paying my widow
 as above devised that part of my land which was conveyed to me by
 Frederick Parrett which is Isaac now occupied containing two
 hundred and thirty eight acres more or less the homestead which
 to my beloved wife as above written then after her death the whole
 tract shall be to his the or Isaac and his heirs and assigns forever
 I also give and devise unto my daughter Elizabeth and to her
 husband John Tenflinger that tract of my land which they now own
 by containing two hundred and twenty five acres provided they do
 their equal part in providing or paying my widow as above de-
 vised to be theirs and for their use during their natural lives only
 retaining the fields and meadows growing beyond the to my beloved
 wife as above written and after their death it shall be equally
 divided among their children as my Governor's children and con-
 cerning the land which which Isaac John Tenflinger my son in law
 purchased of Isaac Parrett in which purchase I paid \$693.23 and a part
 of a land being afterwards sold to Henry Tenflinger in which sale I

Will of Henry Parrett of Rockingham Co. VA, 1826; Page Two

Recuses \$206.75 and an acre land is now due to him the ^{sa} John Tinsler
 here will be due my estate from him a balance of \$46.61 of which
 I will that said Tinsler keep for himself one third part
 and pay on the other part to my widow and the remaining third
 part to my son Isaac and that my widow hold a share in the
 land as we now hold it to wit ^{sa} shares to have up to her Isaac
 by ^{sa} John Tinsler And whereas my son Isaac Parrett as a son in
 law John Tinsler as they occupy the land they were to furnish me
 with grain and whereas Isaac Parrett detains his part and to the
 Tinsler of a tract and is now 80 bushels of wheat behind I will
 therefore that this inequality be made equal in the division of my per-
 sonal Estate as also the reasonable charges which ^{sa} Isaac may have
 for having furnished me with firewood together with \$43.33 which is
 coming to him from the difference of the price in the tract of land herein
 to them due and also from this day forth the ^{sa} Isaac and
 John shall furnish me with grain they for which I will give
 them receipts as I receive from them and as I receive more from the
 one than from the other this inequality shall be made equal when
 my personal Estate is divided And concerning my personal Estate
 I will that my property which will be left after my widow has taken
 what I have herein bequeathed unto her be appraised by three apprais-
 ers for that purpose and that my son Isaac hold the ^{sa} property
 at the appraisment together with the money which is due my estate
 to wit a part for what is coming to him in the difference of the price of the
 land of one the wheat which John Tinsler is in arrears and his charge
 for having furnished me with firewood as aforesaid and if after he be
 paid as aforesaid there shall be a balance of my personal Estate left
 I will that it be equally divided between him the ^{sa} Isaac and my
 widow towards what is coming to them from John Tinsler and the
 purchase of the land of John Parrett as aforesaid And lastly I
 appoint my son Isaac Parrett to be the sole executor of this my last
 will and Testament here by writing all former wills by
 me made In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my

Will of Henry Parrett of Rockingham Co. VA, 1826; Page Three

hand and seal the 7th day of July in the year of our Lord 1826
Signed sealed published and declared by the
above named Henry Parrett to be his last will and
Testament in the presence of as who have hereunto } his
subscribed our names as Witnesses in the presence } Henry H Parrett Esq
of the Testator } mark
John Brown. Joseph Funks
Jacob Funder. Henry Funder
Rockingham County September Court 1827 This last Will Testament of
Henry Parrett Esq was presented in Court and proved by the oaths of
John Brown & John Funks Two Witnesses thereto as the law directs and
ordered to be Recorded and on the motion of Isaac Parrett the Executor therein
named who made oath thereto and entered into bond with security
in the penalty of \$800 as the law directs and Certificate Granted
him for obtaining a probate in due form
Attest H. S. Gamble C.R.C
Attest Teste H. S. Gamble C.R.C

H. Parrett Esq
Last Will & Testament
For File

Will of Henry Parrett of Rockingham County, VA, 1826; Page Four

A transcription of the will of Henry Parrett is below. The source of the transcription is William Kinsey Koerber; "Ancestral Files of William Kinsey Koerber" posted on Rootsweb (Genealogy Free Pages); Accessed on 11/13/2014. (On his website, Koerber gives permission to use the posted material.)

In the Name of God Amen I Henry Parrett of Rockingham County and State of Virginia being weak in Body but of perfect mind and memory blessed be God for the Same do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following First and principally I do recommend my soul to Almighty God my Creator and my body to the earth to be interred decently and in a Christian manner and after my funeral and other Just debts be paid out of my estate I dispose of the residue in manner and form following (that is to say) First I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Catharine this my homestead now occupied by me consisting of the dwelling house, the stable and yard around it the one half of the Spring house & Spring the Garden the lot around the house and other building thereon the field Known by the name of the elbow field and the field next the Stable with the hemp patch therein (On Isaacs part) and the field above the mountain road together with the meadow ground included therein (on John Terflingers part) all of which shall be hers and for her use during her natural life or so long as she remains my widow she shall also have from this my Estate one horse beast 3 Cows her choice 2 beds 4 Bedsteads & Bed Cloths my Clock & Case the Corner Cupboard the ten plate Stove & pipe and so much of my household & Kitchen furniture as she stands in need of and thereto proper to Keep for her use she shall also draw yearly and every year during her natural life or so long as she remains my widow from my heirs on this my Estate Twenty four bushels of wheat fifteen bushels of rye Sixty Bushels of husked Corn in the ears four bushels of oats 100 bl of good pork not striped of the lard 50 bl of good fattened beef two good loads of first Crop hay and two good loads of second Crop 80 Bundles of wheat straw and 20 bundles of Rye straw eight pounds of good wool and one quarter ~~acre~~ of an acre of good ground well prepared to be sown with flax seed for her use all of which I will that my heirs herein after mentioned pay and deliver to her an equal share the shall also provide cut split and haul a Sufficient quantity of firewood both winter & Summer for her and in Case the fences round her fields should want repairing she shall have privilege to cut rail timber to repair said fences on that tract of land whereon the field or fields are but in case my widow should get married again my heirs on this my Estate shall then pay unto her five hundred dollars in five equal annual payments of which payments each of my heirs shall pay an equal share and she shall then when the first payment is made relinquish her right to my freehold estate But in case my heirs on this my Estate should both or either of them fail to provide for her in her widowhood or pay her in Case she should get married again in either case she shall be entitled to have the one third part of that tract of land laid off to her and for her use during her natural life which was by me devised to him who fails in providing for her or paying her as is above directed my widow shall also have yearly during her natural life or so long as she resides on my Estate as much fruit if there be any on my estate as she wants for her use both summer & Winter I also give and devise unto my son Isaac Parrett and to his heirs for ever provided he do his equal part in providing or paying my widow as above directed that part of my land which was conveyed to me by Frederick Parrett which s^d Isaac now occupieth containing two hundred and thirty Eight acres only reserving the homestead &c bequeathed to my beloved wife as above written then after her death the whole part shall be his the s^d Isaac and his heirs and assigns forever I also give and devise unto my daughter Elizabeth and to her husband John Terflinger that tract of my land which they now occupy containing two hundred and twenty Six acres provided they do their equal part in providing or paying my widow as above directed to be theirs and for their use during their natural live only reserving the field and meadow ground

bequeathed to my beloved wife as above written and after their death it shall be equally divided among their Children as my Grand Children And concerning the land which I and John Terflinger my son in law purchased of Jacob Parrett in which purchase I paid \$693.33 and a part of s^d land being afterward sold to Henry Terflinger in which sale I Received \$206.72 and as said land is now deeded to him the s^d Terflinger there will be due my Estate from him a balance of \$486.61 of which sum I will that said Terflinger Keep for himself One third part and pay one third part to my widow and the remaining third part to my son Isaac and that my widow hold a share in s^d land as we now hold at late s^d shares be paid up to her & Isaac by s^d. John Terflinger And whereas my son Isaac Parrett and son in law John Terflinger as they occupy my land they were to furnish me with grain and whereas Isaac Parrett delivered his part and John Terflinger failed and is now 80 bushels of wheat behind I will therefore that this inequality be me equal in the division of my personal Estate as also the reasonable charges which s^d Isaac may have for having furnished us with firewood together with \$83.33 which is coming to him from the difference of the piece in their tract of land herein to them devised and also from this day forth they the s^d Isaac and John shall furnish me with grain & hay for which I will give them receipts as I receive from them and if I receive more from the one than from the other this inequality shall be made equal when my personal Estate a divided And concerning my personal Estate I will that my property which will be left after my widow has taken what I have herein bequeathed unto her be appeared by 3 men appointed for that purpose and that my son Isaac hold the s^d property at the appraisement together with the money which is due my Estate till he is paid for what is coming to him in the difference of the piece of the Land afores^d the wheat which John Terflinger is in arrears and his charges for having furnished me with firewood as aforesaid and if after he be paid as aforesaid there shall be a balance of my personal Estate left I will that it be equally divided between him the s^d Isaac and my widow towards what is coming to them from John Tarflinger in the purchase of the land of Jacob Parrett as aforesaid And Lastly I appoint my son Isaac Parrett to be the sole executor of this my last will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 7th day of July in the year of our Lord 1826

Signed sealed published and declared by the above named Henry Parrett to be his last will and Testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses in the presence of the Testator

John Brown Joseph Funk

Henry his H mark Parrett (seal)

Jacob Zwindel John Kepler

Rockingham County September Court 1827 This last Will & Testament of Henry Parrett Decd was presented in Court and proved by the oaths of John Brown & John Kepler Two Witnesses thereto as the law directs and ordered to be Recorded and on the motion of Isaac Parrett the Executor therein named who made oath thereto and entered into bond with security in the penalty of \$800 as the law directs a Certificate is Granted him for obtaining a probate in due form.

Atteste H. J. Gambill CRC

A Copy Teste H. J. Gambill CRC