

JOHN C. PARKER | MARTHA WARD

We believe that **John C. Parker (1818–before 1870)** married **Martha Ward (1819–1886)** on July 9, 1837, in Walton County, Georgia (east of Atlanta). Most of what we know about these two ancestors is derived from census records.

It is likely that John C. (perhaps Culpeper) Parker was born in North Carolina* and that his wife, Martha Ward, was born in Georgia. Their first son, **James C. Parker (1838–_____)**, was born in Georgia in 1838. Shortly thereafter the family moved to Coosa County, Alabama, southeast of Birmingham. In the 1850 census record, John C. Parker, a 29-year-old living in Coosa County, is listed with his wife and six children. He is recorded as a laborer who did not own real estate.

In the late 1850s, John C. Parker and his wife moved to Kemper County, Mississippi, about 60 miles south of Clay County. In the 1860 census, he is listed as a 43-year-old farmer born in North Carolina. His three oldest sons, James (age 22), **William John Parker (1841–1921)** (age 19), and **David Parker (1843–_____)** (age 17), are not listed in his household. Shown are six children ages 1 to 16. That census record also says that he did not own personal property and could not read or write.

John C. Parker is not listed in the 1870 census. Because his last child was born in 1864, we surmise that he died between 1864 and 1870. We do not know the location of his burial.

In the 1870 census, Martha Ward Parker was living with her first son, 32-year-old James Parker, in Copiah County (southwest Mississippi). She is listed as a 49-year-old Georgia-born woman who could not read or write.

**One account by my mother and on Ancestry.com says John C. Parker was born in Tennessee and died at Gettysburg. This is highly unlikely, for he was 43 years old at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg (1863) and had a child in 1864. There was a John C. Parker in Company E of the 28th North Carolina who was killed at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. This John C. Parker was 20 years younger than my great-great-grandfather.*

John C. Parker and Martha Ward had 10 children. The second child was my great-grandfather William John Parker (1841–1921).

- **James (b. 1/7/1838 in Georgia)**
- **William John (b. 5/4/1841 in Alabama; d. 5/7/1921 in Clay County, Mississippi)**
- **David (b. 1/10/1843 in Alabama)**
- **Charles (b. 8/13/1845 in Alabama)**
- **Sarah E. (b. 5/2/1847 in Alabama)**
- **Marion Francis (b. 11/19/1849 in Alabama)***
- **Simon (b. 4/21/1851)**
- **Susan (b. 9/15/1854 in Alabama)**
- **Martha J. “Jane” (b. 8/27/1859 in Mississippi)**
- **Mary Emma (b. 12/22/1864 in Mississippi)**

In the 1880 census in Kemper County, Martha Ward Parker is listed as a 61-year-old living in Gainsville Junction, Kemper County, Mississippi, with her 20-year-old daughter **Jane Parker (1859–_____)**. Martha Ward died in 1886, and we do not know where she is buried.

**Marion Francis Parker is the grandfather of Sid Parker (1903–1996) of West Point. Sid Parker worked for the U.S. Postal Service. He was my father’s second cousin.*

Marion Francis Parker is also the great-grandfather of Jean Dill (b. 1938), a West Point school teacher who is my third cousin. Coincidentally, Jean Dill is the half aunt of Kenneth Dean Dill (b. 1940), my brother-in-law.