

Parks Family Profile

This pioneer family profile is compiled from public records. Family members have not been contacted. Please forward any comments/corrections or additions to our Society. Thanks to George Norris for supplying information to correct this family profile.

The Parks family

1824 - Nelson Parks is born on October 2nd in the Ohio, USA to English parents.

1849 - March 4th. Nelson Parks marries Polly Ann Bowen, aged 14, in Bertrand Michigan USA. Listed as farmers. No children. The marriage failed as Polly Ann is recorded as marrying Edward Court, February 17, 1851.

1855 - May 4th. Nelson Parks marries Elizabeth Rowley in Bertrand, Michigan USA. Elizabeth was born in Ohio, USA August 9, 1836 of German descent.

1860 - Census - Nelson and Elizabeth Parks living in Dowagiac, Cass County, Michigan USA. Nelson's employment listed as a wagon maker. A son is born on March 19th 1860 who is recorded as "Frederick". His name is changed to George Theodore Parks in subsequent census.

1862 - A son James Edmond is born on June 22nd, in the USA.

1866 - Dec 15th A son Frank is born

1870 - Census. The family has relocated to Howard, Cass County, Michigan. Nelson Parks is recorded as a farmer.

1880 - Census. Nelson and family now living in County of Columbia, Washington. His occupation listed as farmer.

1883 Census. Nelson and family still living in Washington. His occupation changed to merchant.

1884- The family moved to Vancouver Island. Nelson Parks registered his land claim. The 1884 Tax assessment for Englishman's River lists James Parks with 320 acres, Nelson Parks with 160 acres and George Parks with 160 acres.

1886- On May 1st, the Englishman River Post Office was established with Mr. Nelson Parks appointed postmaster.

1887- On February 2nd the Englishman River Post Office which Nelson Parks operated was renamed the Parksville Post Office.

1888- A Post Office was established in French Creek on August 1st, and Mr. W. H. Lee was the first Postmaster. This Post Office remained open until April 30th,

1911 when the mail was again routed through the Parksville Post Office.

1898 - George Parks married Gertie McFadden in Vancouver on August 19th. (BC Marriage Registration Number: 1893-09-044216)

1891 - The [Census of North Nanaimo](#) lists Nelson and Elizabeth Parks and son James are listed as living in a district defined as "Nanoose and Englishman River and Qualicum" which would include the area now called Parksville. Nelson is listed as 66 years old, and a farmer. Elizabeth is listed as 60 years old. Their son James is listed as 24 years old also a farmer and living with them. George Theodore was working as a miner in Union Bay and Frank was working in Nanaimo as a barkeeper. The three are all listed as born in the USA. Nelson is listed as belonging to the Church of Despair and Elizabeth and James are listed as belonging to the Church of Advent. The census does not list anyone with the occupation postmaster.

1893 - Andrew Hirst is now listed as the postmaster of Parksville in the [Williams Directory of BC](#). The Parks family does not appear in the directory.

1897 - January 26th. Advert in The Cumberland News reads "Cumberland Shoe Shop. I have moved into my new shop on Cumberland Ave. where I am prepared to manufacture and repair all kinds of men's, women's and children's shoes. Give me a call. Nelson Parks."

1901 - The [Census of North Nanaimo](#) lists Nelson and Elizabeth as living with both sons, James and George in district defined as "Nanaimo North". Nelson is listed as a boot & shoe maker and the boys are listed as farm servants. Nelson is listed as belonging to the Salvation Army, Elizabeth is listed as Evangelical and the boys are not listed with a religion.

1902 - George Parks marries Florence Georgina Cheney nee Warrener in French Creek on June 8th. (BC Marriage Registration Number: 1902-09-096908)

1910 - Nelson Parks died in Union Bay, a short distance north of Parksville on January 11th, at the age of 85 of chronic myocarditis. (BC Death Registration Number: 1910-09-051539). His occupation listed as shoe maker. The informer was his son, Frank Parks. Declared age 88 years which appears to be incorrect.

1913 - Nelson's wife Elizabeth Parks (nee Rowley) died of myocarditis on August 29th in Cumberland, at the age of 77. (BC Death Registration Number: 1913-09-053230). Buried in Cumberland Cemetary. Informant was her son, Frank Parks.

1931 - James Edmond Parks died in Kamloops on November 12th, at the age of 68. (BC Death Registration Number: 1931-09-462754)

1944 - George Theodore Parks died on October 20th, in Kamloops at the age of 84 years. (BC Death Registration Number: 1944-09-651687)

1948 - George's wife, Florence Georgina Parks (nee Warrener) died on June 18th in Nanaimo at the age of 86 years. (BC Death Registration Number: 1948-09-006132)