

## Character Biography Private Jerry Parker Gordon's Company

Born: December 29, 1736

Born as the 4<sup>th</sup> child to George and Hanna Parker of the town of Newry, County Down, in the Kingdom of Ireland. His father suffered from the typical Irish past time which greatly affected his income toward the family. He was a drunkard. Furthermore, his great adaptation to drink put him in an the grave after freezing to death while in a state of drunkenness during he winter of 1750-51. His Mother being heavily in debt to several about town was forced to marry one of her debtors or be faced to with taking in boarders to keep potatoes on the table for young Jerry and his three older sisters.

Hanna Parker by late winter of 1751 married Mr. Jonathan Dixon, who was a wool merchant and took over all of the family debts. Unfortunately for young Jerry Mr. Dixon did not like the lad and constantly beat him about the head and ears. In addition he hired the lad out to assist those who cleaned the public necessities about Newry.

His sisters were no better in treating their brother than his step-father. They constantly were beating and abusing him whenever the opportunity presented itself. He complained to his mother about his ill treatment by his new father and siblings. Her only recourse was to beat him senseless with a churning rod and drive him from the family home and force him to live in the streets of Newry.

Here the young fellow took up with the vile drunkards and gin drinkers which were so numerous at the time. This became the era in young Jerry Parker's life when he would have sold his soul for a drink of gin.

It was during one of these drunken states in the year 1755 that Jerry Parker witless to what happened sold himself to be indentured in New York by Mr. Giles Bellingsford, agent for the Albany trading company. When our witless hero awoke from his drunken nap he found himself on the trading ship Pelican from Belfast heading for Cork Ireland and then to catch the winds to North America. Where he arrived in New York Harbor in the late Spring of 1755.

His indenture was sold to Mr. William Pringle, and worked in the dock front rope factory. His work was considered substandard and his frequent drunkenness forced Mr. Pringle to sell Jerry Parker's indenture to a Dutch farrier



Mr. Jonah Shlutze. At this trade young Parker was able to adopt a skill besides drinking that he could make a profit for his owner.

It was during this time, late May/early April of 1756, that a recruiting party under the command of Captain John Rutherford of the 62<sup>nd</sup> regiment of Foote. Took notice of this Irish lad and noted the skills he had learned about working with horses and their assorted tack.

After much conversation with Parker at a local tavern, and I might add several tankards of ale, he convinced Jerry Parker to enlist for seven years or the duration of the present war against the French. In addition he would have his Indenture bought, and a promise of 200 acres of land after being discharged at the end of the war.

Therefore Jerry Parker took the oath of allegiance to King George the II of Great Britain and became a soldier of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foote on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1756. He was assigned to Captain Harding's company where the name PARKER is heard quite constantly.