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Graham B. Parker, January 2020

RUTLEDGE HISTORY

Of the very early history of this (*Rutledge*) family, I am not able to give an absolutely authentic account.

It is sure that the early members of the Rutledge first settled in the Colonies on the south Atlantic seaboard and it is definitely known that one of them, Edward Rutledge, was a signer of the immortal Declaration of Independence in 1776 as a delegate from the colony of South Carolina.¹

Following the close of the Revolution, when the Illinois Country became definitely American instead of British, one of this family left his southern home and settled along the Illinois River. To this father were born children, among whom was a son Blasengim. Coming to manhood he married Nancy (*Elizabeth*) Hopkins. To them were born three daughters. (*Sarah*) Jane Morris, Caroline *Roselle* Parker, born April 24, 1842 and Elizabeth (*Millicent*) Matlock.²

The wife having died he was married a second time to Sarah (*Jane*) Markley. To this union were born the following children: Louisa Matlock, Eveline (*Evelyn*) Gilbert, Blasengim, Jr., Sylvester, Ida (*May*) Buchanan, and Thomas Lee.³

As previously documented, when the Oregon fever overran the Central West, Grandfather Rutledge (*Blasengim*), in 1853, set out at the head of a band of emigrants and, with John Stoops, was co-captain of the train whose fortunes I have already related.

He was a man of splendid physique, weighting well over 200 lbs., 6 ft. 2 in. in height, very quiet and reserved and splendidly fitted to direct the train to the promise land.

Arriving in Oregon, he located near Trent, then known as Rattlesnake Valley, where he erected quite a pretentious house which still endures (1933⁴) the ravages of time. It is occupied at present by Henry

¹ A brief history of the life of Edward Rutledge can be found at <https://www.revolutionary-war.net/edward-rutledge.html>

² Blasengim (b. 1816) and Elizabeth (b. ~1818) were married in 1837.

³ Matlock, Gilbert and Buchanan were married names of his daughters. There was also another child, Narcissie Lucilla, born in 1858 after Blasengim Jr.

Knowles. He (*Blasengim*) was a pioneer merchant of this early day and was marked far and near as a just an honorable man, universally loved and respected. He passed away in 1870.⁵

Caroline, the ~~second~~ (*third*) daughter of B. Rutledge, as we have already related, was married to Joseph Monroe Parker on Jan. 24, 1858, at the old homestead. As was the custom of the times, young Joseph, having won the consent of Caroline to marriage, when with shaking legs and trembling heart to ask the stern and silent father for her hand. He granted the request in the following words: "Take her Josy, and be good to her." And he was always true to the trust.

Ellis Rutledge Parker, born near the old Pleasant Hill church and school, on November 8, 1869.⁶

Rose Ennis Holbrook, born near Sparta, North Carolina, August 11, 1872.⁷

It is just the old story of how these two met and loved. Suffice to say, that they were married at the residence of the bride's brother, Jesse, on Big Fall Creek, about one mile east of the great gorge. The house has since burned down.

The ceremony was performed by Thomas Hunsaker, Justice of the Peace, on October 1, 1889. Immediately after this the young people went to Ashland, Oregon, where the young man hoped to secure work. But being unable to do so, they returned to Dexter (*Oregon*), just before Christmas of this year; secured a contract to slash 10 acres of brush for \$30.00.

In the spring of 1890, they began their first real housekeeping near the old grist mill, owned jointly by his father and "Uncle Jim." In the year 1891, he built a house which still stands just opposite the Baptist Church at Dexter, Oregon. Here was born to them six children as follows:

1. Vernon – August 11, 1891. This babe was taken by death in Sept. of the same year.
2. Verlin Edward – November 8, 1892. He, with his wife Luella, nee Graham, and children Caroline Ennis and Graham Ellis live at Klamath Falls, Oregon.
3. Joseph Letcher, his wife Ethel, nee Brown, live in Portland, Oregon. He was born March 16, 1894
4. Ethel Marie – April 30, 1896. Her good husband, Albert Goodside, passed away at San Francisco November 8, 1932, loved and respected by all.
5. Erma Laurel – February 2, 1905, married Fred M. Burton, living in Eugene, Oregon.

⁴ This manuscript is dated at the end and also likely establishes the date of the manuscript Ellis wrote describing the trek on the Oregon trail.

⁵ He is buried in the Pleasant Hill, Oregon Cemetery <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42447641/blasingim-rutledge>

⁶ Ellis was the third of five children born to Joseph and Caroline.

⁷ Rose was the third of three children born to Margaret M Crouse Holbrook. Father is unknown.

6. Norman Jesse – March 17, 1906. With his wife Eva, nee Salvi, living at Berkeley, California.

For seventeen years they continued to reside on the little farm near Dexter, the husband teaching country school in nearby districts, seven years of this time being in Trent district NO. 3, the children going to school with the father, until Verlin and Joe having completed the elementary grades, must be sent to high school. Then it was 1907 and they removed to Eugene, where he was employed as Principal of the Geary School. Through a long term of years, he has remained in this position until the close of this building in 1933, whereupon he was transferred to the Whitaker School as Principal. At the time this story was written, the father had taught since 1885 except one year, for a period of 46 years, all in Lane County. The last 26 years were spend as Principal of the Geary School.

In politics he is consistently a Democrat, having cast his first vote for Grover Cleveland in 1892, on this same was born his son Verlin.

One this same page you may read the faded and worn announcement of the marriage of Joseph M. and Caroline R. Parker on January 24, 1858. These pieces of ribbon bedecked the wedding dress of the happy bride. Also a little descriptive history dictated by father and mother many years ago.



Blasengim Rutledge (possibly)
Photo added by Graham Parker



Joseph Monroe Parker
Photo added by Graham Parker



Caroline Roselle Rutledge Parker
Photo added by Graham Parker