

BENJAMIN PARKE.

[The following letter descriptive of Judge Benjamin Parke, was published by Alva O. Reser in *The Lafayette Sunday Times*, June 17, 1906. It was written to Prof. John L. Campbell, of Wabash College, some years ago, and is first published by Mr. Reser. Judge Parke, one of the most notable of the early founders of the State, was a soldier in the battle of Tippecanoe, was the first United States Judge from the district of Indiana, a jurist and a legislator. In legislation promoting schools and libraries he rendered especial service. Parke county was named for him.—*Editor.*]

Salem, April 16, 1900.

Prof. John L. Campbell, Crawfordsville, Ind.

My Dear Friend:—After so long I have obtained the inclosed information from C. C. Mennaugh and William N. Trueblood, with the little I remember of that noble, learned and distinguished good Salem citizen, Judge Parke, a personal friend of my father. He often told me of the admiration he had for the man with such wonderful knowledge that his opinion was often solicited on most any subject, and when given was considered final, and no appeal was necessary. He was kind, genial and of a benevolent disposition. He never wronged any one in a business transaction. He unfortunately became financially embarrassed and unhesitatingly surrendered all his property for the benefit of his creditors. So completely did he deny himself that his family at their meals drank from tin-cups. His wife, Elizabeth Barton Parke (Betsy, as she was called), was held in such high esteem in that community that I will venture to say more baby daughters were named for her than any other lady in southern Indiana at that early day.

Buggies or any vehicle aside from old road (I might say woods) wagons, were not known when going to hold court at different places. I clearly remember when Barton, his son, a very promising young man and of remarkable fine appearance, died of cholera on Sunday, the 30th of June, 1833. He was my Sabbath school teacher. He was beloved by all who knew him.

A daughter, older than Barton (Sarah) married Wm. Hite, a wealthy merchant of Louisville. They had no children, but adopted Francis Adams, an exceedingly bright boy.

R. MORRIS.