

Biography - Surry P. Roberts, MD

My name is Surry Parker Roberts and all the Parkers, Hunters, and Odoms in my mother's family are considered close relatives. Our Parker line traces directly back to Elizabeth Parker, the wife of Isaac Hunter of Chowan County. My grandmother was Mary Shepard Odom who married Surry Parker of Pinetown, NC, the site of his railroad and logging business. Surry Parker traces his lineage back to the Browsholme Chateau built by the Parkers in Lancastershire, England in 1507. Mary Shepard's sister was Elizabeth Brownley Odom who met and married Henry Holmes Hunter, MD who practiced medicine in Pinetown early in his career and later in Whaleyville, VA. Henry Holmes Hunter, MD had the same name as his father who was also an MD and served with the Confederate Army in the Civil War. His lineage traces back through Edward Riddick Hunter of Sunbury, NC and then to Isaac Hunter of Chowan. My mother, Elizabeth Parker Roberts, and Hunter Clarke's mother Patty Hunter Clarke always called each other the "other half".

As stated, my name is Surry Parker Roberts and I was born March 4, 1940 in Durham, NC, the son of Bennett Watson Roberts, MD of Gatesville, NC and Elizabeth Walton Parker Roberts of Pinetown. I attended Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA, the University of North Carolina, and the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, graduating in 1966. I served a rotating internship at US Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu and followed that with tours with the 82nd Airborne and the 5th Special Forces in Vietnam. I returned in 1969 to practice medicine at the Sea Level Clinic and Hospital in Atlantic, NC, residency in medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston for 2 years and then a year of specialty in rheumatology at the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville. Next was a 3 year odyssey beginning at the emergency room at the hospital in Kingston, Jamaica, working at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, CA., rheumatology training at Auckland General Hospital in New Zealand, the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Alicespring, Australia, a mountaineering expedition to Annapurna Sanctuary in the Himalayas in Nepal through Ausventure of Sydney, Aus. and finally 6 months at Cowper Clinic and Hospital in Big Spring, TX. I then settled in Raleigh, NC as a rheumatologist, but retired in 1983 with decreased vision. I then switched to business with enthusiasm, initially farming and real estate development with historic house renovations and timber sales in Wake County, Bland County Virginia, and northeastern Tennessee. Businesses have included: The Lamb Shoppe, importing glass products from the Czech Republic, destination resort – Sugar Hollow Retreat in Butler, TN, 18 Seaboard Restaurant in Raleigh, NC, CMS website services – Raleigh, NC and Jaipur, India, and also Ciniva – sales and marketing online in Norfolk, VA.

Outside interests have included: sponsored multiple Montagnard refugees from the central Highlands of Vietnam, Operation Raleigh and Youth Service International, sponsoring international students at Haas Business School in Oakland, CA, 500 mile camel expedition across western Australia, Board of Directors – Student Conservation Association (SCA) – Charlestown, NH, HavJazz Music and Dance Festival (twice, Havana, Cuba), Montagnard Human Rights Organization, Alexander Phemister Proctor Sculptor Museum in Seattle,

Washington, the Explores Club of NYC, and mountaineering trips three times to Nepal and also Sikkim.