

CORNET'S CHRONICLE

PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.
www.parsonsfamilyassn.org

Volume 22, Issue 2

Deanna Parsons-Simons, Editor

Fall 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings Cousins

We certainly have enjoyed a mild, lovely fall. Thoughts of upcoming holidays' bring memories of family and traditions many years in the making. One of those traditions has certainly been the Parsons Family Association Summer Reunion. This year will mark our 94th gathering of the Parsons Family and their descendants of Cornet Joseph Parsons and Mary Bliss.



Our summer reunion will be held on Saturday July 23rd, 2016 at the Deerfield Inn (*pictured above*) in historical Deerfield, Massachusetts. As a special interest to the family - Cornet Joseph's son, Joseph Parsons "Esquire Joseph" was an owner of both grist and sawmills at Deerfield and Northampton, as well as a Judge of the County Court and a one of the earliest lawyers in Western Massachusetts. The records of the New Hampshire Society of Colonial Wars state that he served in King Philip's War.

Fittingly, we return to the Deerfield area to tour a few of the historical homes restored, decorated and preserved by Historic Deerfield. The tour will take place from 10am-12pm and tickets can be ordered along with your reunion reservation on our traditional mailing slip. We have plenty of tickets, so please come along.



We will have lunch at the Deerfield Inn's Terrace room at 12:30pm. A lovely buffet menu is in store with our family meeting to follow. Friday night's Director's Meeting will be held from 5:30pm-9:30pm at the Deerfield Inn, in Champys' meeting room. We have consolidated our reunion activities to one central location. We trust this will help to aide in finding accommodations and simplify plans.

Please take notice of the option to receive the Cornet Chronicle by email only. We are trying to conserve cost of mailings to those who would prefer their copy online. This is a choice. Unless we receive your consent to stop paper mailing, the chronicle will continue to be sent through the United States Postal Service. Look for this option on your yearly membership renewal form.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the summer. Please feel free to contact myself or any officer with questions, comments or concerns.

Deanna Parsons Simons
President, Parsons Family Association
Deanna.simons@cornell.edu

REUNION PICTURES:

PFA [East Coast]: The 93rd Parsons' Family Association reunion was held on Saturday, July 25th, 2015 in Ithaca, New York at Cornell University campus at Stocking Hall. It was a great success and well attended. Here are a few pictures for your viewing pleasure. The photos were taken by our gracious Historian, Gary Parsons'.



Directors Meeting Friday 7/24/2015



Cornell's famous ice cream – yummy - especially the peanut butter butter.!!!



Parsons' Reunion Saturday 7/25/2015



Stocking Hall Tour Facility: 1-group on second floor; 2-dairy urns; 3-Cris & Phil Parsons and Dr. Rick Parsons

PFA [West Coast]: The 38th Parsons' Family Association Western Region (PFAWR) reunion was held on Saturday, September 19th, 2015 in Loomis, California at Rich and Donna Fields home in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains. Here are a few pictures taken by our gracious Historian, Gary Parsons'.



BREAKING NEWS:

We are saddened to report one of our local relatives; Ed and Trina Parsons historic home was destroyed by fire on November 19, 2015. Thankfully, everyone escaped safely and none of the farm buildings were affected.

At one time, our past PFA President (1964 & 1965); Mahlon Parsons and his wife Bertha also resided on the farm.- The Parsons farm has been in continuous operation by the family since 1778 and currently owns and operates a creamery on the property, selling various dairy products.

The Parsons Family Association sends its condolences and prayers to Ed's family.

Donations can be sent to the following places:

Parsons' Family Association, PO Box 63, Conway MA, 01341

Please mark memo line "Mayval Farm Parsons Fund" and I will make sure the funds are forwarded promptly.

**Westhampton Congregational Church, UCC,
1 Tob Road, Westhampton, MA, 01027**

Please write "Parsons Fund" on memo line

Gazette: Thursday November 19, 2015
(article recapped)

WESTHAMPTON – An overnight fire Thursday destroyed an Easthampton Road farmhouse owned by the family that owns and operates Mayval Farm. The fire was reported around 2 a.m. at 150 Easthampton Road. No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire is under investigation. The Parsons family has owned and farmed land on Easthampton Road since the late 1700s, according to the Mayval Farm website. The current farm operation includes a farm store and creamery at 137 Easthampton Road. This is a developing story that will be updated after further reporting.

Fire destroys Westhampton home at Mayval Farm



JERREY ROBERTS
The scene of an overnight fire on Easthampton Road in Westhampton. [Purchase photo reprints](#)



CAROL LOLLIS
Trina Parsons gets a hug from Amanda Parnell, of Easthampton, after a fire early Thursday morning that resulted in a total loss of the Parsons home in Westhampton. [Purchase photo reprints](#)



CAROL LOLLIS
Ed Parsons stands with Steve Hoyt, deputy Chief of the Westhampton volunteer fire department, and looks over a ledger pulled out from the remains of the Parsons home in Westhampton after a fire early Thursday morning.

WESTHAMPTON, Mass. (WWLP) – A total of nine fire departments battled an early morning house fire in the Hampshire county town of Westhampton.

Westhampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris told 22News that two adults and their young grandchild all made it out before the flames took over the home. They are now staying with family nearby.

The house is on Parson's Family Farm property on Easthampton Road. Chief Norris told 22News that the farm has been a fully-operating farming business, selling milk, cheese, and eggs for over 100 years.

Chief Norris also told 22News water supply was a challenge in fighting this fire. He said Westhampton has no municipal water supply meaning there is no hydrant system. Instead they used the help of other fire departments to truck water in. Northampton, Easthampton, Southampton, Chesterfield, Hatfield, Willamsburg, Cummington, Worthington, and Huntington all helped with tanker trucks to keep water available.

Firefighters will be watching the home closely throughout the morning to make sure the flames don't reignite. The State's Fire Marshal is expected to investigate what started the fire.

Historic Northampton Parsons Board Member Report by Kim Graham:

As an acting member of the Historic Northampton Board representing the Parsons Family Association, I am reporting the following with a hearty "THANK YOU" to all volunteers:

On the Gardens-Landscaping, I scheduled a group of volunteers in tandem with the Mullins Center to assist with fall clean up on November 17th from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. We had 5 from Mullins and 5 from Historic Northampton.

The photo to the right is Mullins Center staff from left to right is Josh Woods, Mike Brouillette, Kim Graham, Sarah Dench, Aaron Hibbard. Historic Northampton (HN) volunteers were Joe Ryan and his wife, Sarah Lennox, and a Mr. Graves and his wife (members of HN).



During the fall cleanup process at Historic Northampton, the first round Don and Kim Graham and Catherine Linberg cleaned up and filled 1 dumpster of leaves and debris.

A second dumpster was ordered and during the 11/17/15 volunteer day it looked filled but has since compacted to half full. I prepped piles of leaves for the volunteers to pick up in the preceding days before the event. Don and I have just finished the back parking lot at the end of November.

The Parsons' House will be having the dirt removed around the foundations and proper water proofing will be performed "similar to the Shepard House" to provide proper grading around the entire house. Dirt is above the sills in many areas.



After which, I would like to start the "Curb Appeal Project" on the front of the Parsons Homestead. Please send any ideas you may care to share. I also am looking to see if we have local members who would like to volunteer some time and help with this project. We have been given the go ahead to "Beautify" the Parsons Homestead.

Other VERY EXCITING and interesting work being done at the Historic Northampton and the Parsons House is as follows:

1. I attended a grant meeting at the City of Northampton's Community Preservation Committee to represent Parsons' House and Historic Northampton to raise funds for critical repairs the houses AND barn. Interestingly, there is a belief that the BARN dates back to the 1700s and its origins are affiliated with Parsons' House versus the Shepard House. This is believed by looking at old plot maps and the way the barn is set in comparison to the house. There will be a dendrochronology procedure done (tree ring dating) to determine their age and plausibility of this theory. More to be revealed as time passes!
2. The house is being readied for use and proper storage in the future, perhaps educational seminars, meetings, forums, music shows, genealogy training, etc.

HISTORIC NORTHAMPTON UPDATE:

Dear Parsons Family Association,

We are very pleased to report that the City of Northampton's Community Preservation Committee has voted to award Historic Northampton another \$38,420 to continue making repairs on the Parsons House. The grant will allow us to replace the remaining knob and tube wiring (which is a serious fire hazard), to repair the framing of the NE ell (now part of the resident's apartment) and the resident's porch, and to take care of several areas where windows, trim and grading need attention. This is part of a larger grant totaling \$131,310, the remainder of which will replace the Damon House roof and waterproof the basements used for storing collections. The work will be done in 2016 by Kris Thomson and Alicia Spence, the same team that has been working on the house in 2015.



The greater part of the work funded by last year's CPC grant has now been completed. The sills and posts are replaced, the back wall tied back into the frame, we have foundations under the kitchen, and the 1981 basement has a vapor barrier and interior wall where moisture used to be a problem. The knob and tube wiring has been replaced in the basement, and the storm windows have arrived. We expect to take care of some of the finishing work in the next couple of weeks, but some final steps may need to wait until spring. Now we are beginning to turn our thoughts to cleaning up the very dusty interior and how best to interpret the building in the near term.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WORK in PARSONS HOUSE

The 2014 CPC grant addressed the two most urgent problems at Parsons House: the fact that the back wall was falling off the house, and the antiquated boiler. The wall has now been reattached and we are entering the last phase of that project. Last fall we replaced the ancient asbestos-covered oil-fired boiler with a new highly-efficient gas boiler. Half of that project was funded by the Parsons Family Association. The other half was paid for in savings since the cost of heating all our buildings in 2014-15 was \$8000 less than the previous year. CPC funds are being used to add storm windows in all the houses, which will reduce our operating costs yet again this coming winter.

Those critical priorities having been met, we are now looking at the next tier of maintenance issues – important but not as bad as walls falling off. These are:

- Replacing knob and tube wiring – this is a safety issue
- Replacing sills and posts near the side porch
- Repairing rotted windows and porch elements

PARSONS HOUSE: Replace knob and tube wiring

Parsons House was probably first wired after Anna Catharine Bliss moved here in 1910 with a minimal number of ungrounded two-prong outlets served by knob and tube wiring. Over the years, some sections were upgraded, especially near the west ell, which was used as an office in the 1970s. Over the years, as people required more electrical equipment, wiring was added and extended, resulting in arrangements like this:



As soon as our contractor Kris Thomson saw this, he brought in an electrician and an inspector to review the entire house and he reports that it is critical to replace the wiring in Parsons House.

OK, it's pretty ugly, but is it actually dangerous? According to a nice little article published on Angie's List (www.angieslist.com/articles/knob-and-tube-electrical-wiring-safe.htm):

One of the most common problems with this kind of wiring is its insulation, which is made of rubber instead of plastic. Over time, the rubber degrades, exposing bare wires to air and moisture, in turn increasing the chance of a short or a fire.

Extra circuits are also a problem because basic knob and tube installations only allowed for 12 circuits in a home. Often, homeowners who needed extra circuits would pay contractors to add new circuits at the panel or simply splice into an existing wire. Both of these modifications run the risk of overloading the system. We definitely have overloads and damaged insulation:



But the article goes on:

The 2008 National Electric Code addressed some issues with knob and tube wiring, most notably its high heat dissipation that poses a fire hazard when combined with fiberglass insulation. As a result, the NEC now requires that knob and tube wiring not be in "hollow spaces of walls, ceilings and attics where such spaces are insulated by loose, rolled or foamed-in-place insulating material that envelops the conductors."



When Kris and his experts dug around in the attic, they found these junctions embedded in the insulation. The one at right is particularly bad because the joins aren't even in a box.



As a first step, we have already replaced all the knob and tube wiring that could be accessed from the basement. That horrifying spider web of decaying insulation and electrical tape now looks clean and beautiful. But we need to extend the good work into the living spaces and attic above. We have invested so much in Parsons House, it would be very sad to lose all of it to another bit of deferred maintenance.



PARSONS HOUSE: Repair water damaged sills and posts under the side porch

The entire east side of Parsons House, shown below, is supported by a full foundation with a basement. The main house and east ell (jutting out toward the camera) are supported by the 1981 basement.



The one-story north ell (whose roof is obscured by the tree) is supported by an old brick basement. As you can see, the sills of the entire house appear to be at ground level.

The porch side of the north ell has suffered water damage going back decades. Concrete slabs and metal liners were installed around the sills in an attempt to prevent water getting in, but these only made it harder for the sills to dry out. Add to this a poorly maintained window well and the result was inevitable.



The pictures below show the ground line along the porch of the north ell. The sill that supports the north ell runs directly under the outer edge of the porch, right under the screens. In other words, the sills are below ground level and there is a basement under the porch floor. Any water not diverted from the edge of the porch will saturate the sill and eventually run into the basement (see picture next page). The outdoor faucet at left only adds to the problem.



Rotten below-grade sills exposed at ground level

This is a close-up of the sill under the left end of the porch, after we broke away half of the concrete splash slab under the outdoor faucet. The sill is clearly rotten and probably has termites.



To the right of the porch is a window well which has been a major cause of water entering the basement. This summer we permanently blocked up the window itself and filled in the window well. This picture, taken in the half-filled window well, clearly shows how the sills actually lie below the surface of the ground and also how badly deteriorated they are.



The picture below shows the Parsons House basement earlier this summer. Since we found water in the basement whenever it rained, we cleaned some gutters and resloped others and decided to block up all the sub-grade windows. Those steps alone were not enough to solve the problem. *Water in the north ell basement after an ordinary rain. This is the problematic window, now blocked.*



However we will be grading around the house this fall when the basement excavation is ready to be filled in. When the perimeter is properly sloped, it will be covered with ice-and-water shield and a layer of stones. This technique has worked extremely well in solving the similar problem in the Shepherd basement.

We expect that these steps will go a long way toward keeping water out of the basement in the future, and the new dehumidifier purchased with grant funds from the Beveridge Family Foundation will gradually dry out the residual dampness in the walls. Therefore we can look forward to having usable basements and a healthier house before long. ***This technique has resulted in a dry basement in Shepherd House.***



But grading and dehumidification, essential as it is, does not fix the damage done by water in the past. The sills on the north ell are compromised and they have to be replaced. Almost certainly we will also have to replace one or more connected posts, but it is not possible to predict the extent of that work as the posts are cased inside and out.

However, in the area repaired this summer, termite damage in the buttery extended from the corner six feet up the post and back along the girt from the buttery sill. We expect to find something comparable in the north ell, but we will not have to create a foundation and basement because those already exist. We will use white oak timbers if we can get them and Alicia Spence will tie the new timbers into the old ones using traditional joints. Once the sills and posts are replaced, the porch floor will be replaced so that it looks similar to the current floor but is more functional.

PARSONS HOUSE: Other necessary repairs

In addition to these structural repairs, we add some smaller ones that should not be allowed to get worse. These include replacing three windows and fixing the bases of the columns on the little porch over the east parlor side door. The bottoms of the porch posts have already been replaced, but the modern lumber used in the repair has not held up very well. The window sashes are also modern, installed about 1980.

Like the posts, the lumber they are made of has not held up to exposure to the weather. At some time in the 1990s, the decision was made to remove the storm windows and use interior storms. This looked pretty, but interior storms promote mold growth on the inside of the window sashes and offer zero protection from the weather on the outside. The 2014 CPC grant is paying for storm windows for all the buildings, so this kind of deterioration will not continue.



Nancy Rexford, Acting Director

Historic Northampton, 46 Bridge Street, Northampton, MA 01060, nrexford@historic-northampton.org;

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The organization's financial health in Fiscal year 2015 remains strong. Pursuant, to the Boards direction, I researched safe investment vehicles with higher rates of interest. I'm always looking investments with higher rates of interest and presently there are not many safe opportunities and interest rates are trending ~1%. The Mainstay Funds values are trending positively through 2015. Money market remained flat.

The financial activity on the revenue side was performed in line with previous year's revenues when omitting the fundraising activities for the furnace. Memberships and renewals are down approximately 20%. Book sales down compared to prior year (5 full price/ 7 multi purchase price). We have about 100 books left in inventory and the idea was to move the books as there may be an electronic version of Gerald's book available in the future.

The financial activity on the expense side largely for the furnace donation, scanning Gerald's book, and file conversions were illustrated in the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) financial statements. We had a record year in activity with positive overall effects for the organization:

In the previous year, the PFA agreed to help fund purchasing a furnace for the Parsons' House. PFA donated \$7000.00 which consisted of a fundraising campaign, the annual house maintenance donation, and liquidation of a CD which we have been waiting for worthy project. The Parsons's House saved ~50% *in fuel cost* last year as a direct result and *the goodwill* of the Historic Northampton Board members.

Additional notable expenses are: Funding Memorial Day archeological dig; Scanning Gerald's book and files project; and purchase of 5000 envelopes [quantity discount] which will last between 6 and 10 years.

A discussion regarding the newsletter and its format [hardcopy or electronic] occurred in an attempt to reduce hard costs for producing and mailing the newsletter [printing/postage/envelopes/stickers]. There will be a notice in the newsletter (Fall 2015 issue) to allow the customer a choice of method of delivery [by hardcopy or by email].

Further discussion regarding renewal notices and dues process occurred: *Renewal notices will be sent June 25th, on the baptism date of Cornet Julius.*

My recommendations to the Board of Directors were: **(All recommendations accepted)**

- Allocate \$1600.00 to Parsons' House maintenance fund
- Move \$3000.00 from market fund to checking fund
- Speak to financial advisor regarding moving monies from bond fund to equity fund.
- Meet with financial advisor prior to board meetings as deemed necessary.

We are looking to expand our membership base so please mail me yellow book pages from your area for Parsons' or Parsons Relatives with other surnames. I would like to send a newsletter and see if we *can increase the membership by 10-20%* this year and I need your help in order to meet this goal. I have attached a membership form at the end of this letter for your convenience.

PFA is actively looking for interesting genealogic stories or articles (past and present) to be published in the Parsons Profile or Historic Profile sections of the newsletter.

Please contact Kim Graham to get your article or history published. Also send obituaries as well.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 413-475-2499 or kbqbandits@gmail.com. I will be happy to help.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Graham, Treasurer**

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

93rd Parsons Family Association Reunion; July 25, 2015
Stocking Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Attendance: Deanna Simons, Nicholas Simons, Jenna Simons, Gary Parsons, Bob and Araina Heath, Cristina and Philip Parsons, James and Hanne Parsons, Rymn Parsons, Trisa Parsons, Nancy and John Armstrong, Lauren Armstrong, Kim Graham, Karen Dann Sunquist, Rick Parsons, Alta Parsons, Emilie Richmond, Ellen Maddix, Donna Cautcha, Laura L. Freeman Pisano, Christina Royer, Teresa Chandler, David Oann

Reunion began at 8:30 am with a walk from Stocking Hall to Risley Hall where Lina D. Parsons resided when she attended Cornell. It was a beautiful sunny day. The tour was headed by our President, Deanna Simons, who is control manager and academic coordinator for the dairy at Cornell University.

After the morning walk, a tour of the Cornell dairy was given by Deanna. The tour was thorough and informative. Young and old were present and learned about milk, yogurt, and ice cream. Of note, I enjoyed my nephew, Nicholas, leaving "**Parsons Rule**" on the blackboard.

At 11:45 am, the reunion began with a slide presentation prepared by Deanna Simons. History through Headstones. Cemeteries included Sharon Springs cemetery in Leesville, and Vestal Hills Memorial cemetery. Also, noted Cobleskill's Parsons Residence Hall named after George Augustus Parsons (1928-date unreadable on stone).

At 12:10 pm, invocation was delivered by James Parsons. A catered lunch, from Tess of Serendipity catering, was enjoyed by all. At 12:55 pm, a slide presentation by Kim demonstrated all the hard work she and her husband, Don, put into clearing the exterior of the Parsons family home. Work included removal of overgrowth of brush, and trees. Area cleaned around Parsons' bench. Gazebo needs to be painted. Three dumpsters were filled.

Historic Northampton slides showed: There are forms if members would like to donate more to historical society.

- Volunteers donning hazmat suits cleaning mouse debris, removing insulation.
- Termite damage repair funded by CPA.
- Additional work includes repair of beams and joists; roofing repairs, rear plate no longer fully supports girth of Parsons' home.
- The back porch had to be removed to allow for access to basement.
- An archeological dig on Memorial Day was underwritten by PFA and 90 volunteers show up.
- The home has new sills and post basement wall and floor repairs and repair on interior kitchen.
- Further electrical repair work needs to be done and could cost as much as \$10,000 which is not covered by CPA grant.
- A new birdbath stands out back near the Parsons' bench.

At 13:00, we sang **Happy Birthday to Deanna** who turned 50 on July 31st.

At 13:20, Gary Parsons presented information about our PFA's Master Database and the "Find-A-Grave" website. FAG memorial pages sometimes lists spouses, children, & parents. Gary suggested members visit the site, and check out Cornet Joseph Parsons memorial page # 36038380.

Old Business & Obituaries: One listed in Spring chronicle, John Cadwell Wilson, January 2, 2015.

Motions to accept FY14 secretary and revised treasurer reports made and accepted.

Kim discussed financial statement with members (see treasury report for details).

Last year was very active on expense side with donations to Parsons' house furnace, funding Memorial archeological dig, Scanning project, newsletters, and office supply expenses. Kim states we have a strong financial position for this organization. Investment mainstay fund and unconstrained bond fund discussed. Money market remains flat. Memberships and renewals are down 20%. Envelopes were purchased and 2 newsletters printed annually. Scanning Gerald's book and files completed. Reunions an expense. PFA gave historical Northampton maintenance fund \$7000.00 and CD472 deposited into account to help fund furnace. The Parsons House saved ~50% in fuel costs due to new furnace.

At the board of director's meeting, the board discussed and supported emailing format to help cut cost.

1. The Chronicle would be emailed to members and mailed to those who prefer hard copy. The intent of motion is to receive newsletters by email or hard copy by personal choice.
2. Renewals are down and dues need to be paid every year. *Renewal notices will be sent June 25th, on the baptism date of Cornet Julius.*

Recommendations:

Allocate \$1600.00 to Parsons' house by Kim Graham, Move \$3000.00 from market fund to checking fund.

Kim will talk to financial advisor regarding moving monies from bond fund to equity fund. Members are in favor of treasurer having discussions with financial advisor to board ahead of meetings as treasurer deems necessary.

Website administrator report: No news

Update of officer's directory: No change.

PFA has a new clerk: Kim Graham as the Clerk must be a resident of MA. Officer's list read and accepted with Kim Graham as clerk. Secretary cast ballot to accept. No nomination and no resignations.

Western chapter: 38th reunion will be on September 19th, 2015 in Loomis, CA at residence of Rich Fields.

Reunion 2016 Recommendations: Look Park, Sturbridge, & Deerfield Inn by Northampton. **All in favor of Deerfield Inn on July 23, 2016**

Deanna thanked everyone for coming to Cornell University. Meeting adjourned at 14:40 by Phil Parsons, Nancy Armstrong 2nd. After the reunion, many drove off campus to see the milking cows of Cornell University. The keeper of these cows was full of history and knowledge about these cows and farming.

**Respectfully submitted,
Trisa Parsons Palacio**

WEB MASTER'S REPORT:

The Parsons Family Association is reporting we get about 40 hits weekly. The Facebook page is being underutilized (250 likes). It would be nice to promote the organization in this form of social media. Does anyone have any suggestions, comments, or concerns in which you would like to share?

Karen Vorbeck Williams

PFA website and Facebook admin.

FIND-A-GRAVE WEB SITE: *"Gary Parsons and Ruth Ann Messick highly recommend"*

As the PFA's Historian, I'm also requesting that all members who have headstone photographs of their Parsons ancestors to please post them on this free web site, know as Find-A-Grave. Please visit the Find-A-Grave web site at <<http://www.findagrave.com>> and try this Find-A-Grave Memorial # 36038380 for Cornet Joseph Parsons', final resting place.

Ruth Ann Messick LOVES FIND-A-GRAVE and <http://fultonhistory.com/fulton.html>:

FIND-A-GRAVE: *"I have reaped tons of info from some of those because people are putting on loads of old family photos and extensive genealogy info on some. One family I just helped here in senior housing discovered loads of family photos of the earlier kin in Italy. Their cousins in Albany NY had put everything on for each child and sibling of each person and the family here did not have any of that. Find A Grave is all over the world now and that might be a great project for your association to preserve a lot of material. My son-in-law's oldest known ancestor's grave in Biden Germany was still there in a cemetery that the German's destroyed most of in 1943. We found photos of their big family mausoleum in another part of Germany. I had to use Google translation from German to English but obtained a lot of information that way. I want everyone to find their ancestors."*

NYS research: *"A man in Fulton County NY has digitized every known NYS newspaper and it very searchable way back into the early 1800s. In google put <http://fultonhistory.com/fulton.html> There is a search window on the left and I select 'exact phrase' from the menu on the right of that search window. I just put in Gerald Parsons and got 318 hits but not all of them are your Gerald Parsons. Almost every one of those from Clyde NY papers and other places around Syracuse and Rochester area are him. Carl's father was Corydon Parsons and I got 27 hits from the area around Rochester. This is one of the best ways to obtain obituaries for any Parsons in NYS."*

HISTORIANS REPORT:

HISTORIANS' CORNER PFA's MASTER DATABASE:

This year has been extremely slow, so I've been going through the PFA's Master Database, searching for any duplications, errors, and discrepancies that have crept into our files; then, either merging, correcting, or removing them. I've also been backing up member pedigrees with supporting documentation (i.e. reference books, census records, birth, marriage, and death information from Ancestry.com indexes and the free Find-A-Grave web site). Concerning the PFA's Master Database, I would like to reiterate what I covered at both the PFA's East and West Coast Reunions, this summer.

Back in 1995, at the PFA's West Coast Reunion, held at the Ft. Mason Officers Club in San Francisco, CA, I suggested the creation of a linked database, consisting of member pedigrees. Using the LDS's PAF database program of my own personal genealogy, I demonstrated how this would work. With Stu's endorsement, it was voted on and passed by the members present. I then offered what I had already created of my own genealogical database of about 5,000 individuals as the core or foundation for the new database. It was again voted on and passed that I should use my own files as the core of this new database and call it the "PFA's Master Database."

Ever since 1995, in every reunion brochure of the PFA's Western Region, I've been requesting member pedigrees of their Parsons line from everyone on our western regions mailing list. Ever since my appointment as Historian of the Parsons Family Association of New England, in 2013, I've also been requesting the same information from our entire membership, all to be added to the PFA's Master Database.

I was aware that PFA members have been sending in their pedigrees to the association, since its formation in 1923. Since my appointment as Historian, in 2013, I've been requesting these member pedigrees from the association files, to also be included in the PFA's Master Database. At our 2013 East Coast Reunion at Lake George, NY, our outgoing Historian, Bob Heath, surrendered about half (~200) of these pedigrees. At our 2014 reunion in Northampton, MA, the other half (~200) of these pedigrees were supplied for inclusion. As of our 2015 reunion at Stocking Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, all of the linked pedigrees have been added to the PFA's Master Database. There are currently three versions of our PFA's database in existence:

1. **Master Database (Historians use only):** This version contains all of the known descendants of William Parsons, and his wife, Margret Hoskins of Beaminster, Co. Dorset, England, their spouses, and their spouse's parents. It also contains miscellaneous notes, copious sources, and sensitive contact information. That is as far afield as we go with our research, otherwise managing the database would get out of hand. Also, except for a few exceptions, the entire database is of linked individuals. The database currently contains over 41,397 individuals, and still growing, and as previously stated, also contains my own genealogy.
2. **PFA's Version (PFA Board use only):** This version is the same as the Master Database above, but does not contain any of my own personal genealogy, and currently contains over 21,000 individuals. A copy of this version is in the hands of Mr. Philip Parsons, Esq., our Assistant Historian.
3. **Internet Version:** The Internet version is currently posted on the PFA's Western Region's web site, but does not contain any individuals born after 1930, with an empty death date; thus, almost no living individuals are shown. It does not list any of the extensive notes, sources, or contact information that are included in the first two versions. It only displays vital information for William & Margret *Hoskins* Parsons, their descendants, spouse of their descendants, but not the spouse's parents; as in the first two versions. A revised version is uploaded to the Western Region's web page, when appropriate.

(Note: For all versions, source information only will be supplied to any researcher, upon request, free)

Respectfully submitted: Mr. Gary A. Parsons, PFA Historian, and
Web Page Administrator for the Western Region
E-Mail: <parsons@pfawr.org>
Web Page: <http://www.pfawr.org>

PARSONS' PROFILE:

Obituaries:

Ruth Parsons: 11/30/2015 Gazette: Easthampton – Ruth M. Parsons, 89, of Easthampton, died Thursday, Nov. 26, 2015, at Hospice of the Fischer Home in Amherst. Funeral will be Saturday Dec. 5, at 2 p.m. in Christ United Methodist Church, Northampton. Visiting hours at the church will be from noon until the time of the service. Complete obit published on Wednesday. Mitchell Funeral Home, Easthampton in charge of arrangements.

Carl Parsons' obituary: <http://www.fairhavenmemorialservices.com/fairhaven-obituaries/carl-willard-parsons>

Carl W. Parsons passed in peace Tuesday November 10, 2015 at the age of 80. Proceeded in death by his wife Luisa.

Loving father of Clint (Marlene) Parsons, Gary (Delia) Parsons, Karla Parsons and Laurie Parsons. Step father of Fabian, Flavio and Sergio Andrioli. Proud grandfather of Rebecca, Alison, John-Carlo, Jasmine, Andrew, Sabrina, Chreitian, Gabrielle, Anthony, Nicolas, Valentina and Guliana. Great Grandfather of Emma and Lily.

Carl will be fondly remembered by family and friends as a loving husband and father, devoted Christian, distinguished engineer and proud patriot and US Marine Veteran.



Memories/Condolences:

Luisa & Carl at 2000 Reunion

Deanna Parsons Simons wrote:

“Carl was a treasured member of the organization. He will be sorely missed. His contribution to the genealogy and commitment to the reunions was exemplary. “

Ruth Ann Messick comments: Genealogy researcher 35 years, worked with Carl and Gerald

“We (Ruth & Carl) had great fun visiting with Gerald Parsons and I did a bit of research for him in NYS before he passed. The Archives and Library in Albany helped Gerald tie up a lot of loose ends. We (Ruth & Carl) had many wonderful hours at reunions and running all over MA, CA, RI, and all over NYS in cemeteries, libraries and meeting people everywhere. He was so proud of all the connections to the history of those areas. We photographed and documented the cemetery in Enfield where his ancestor Benjamin and so many of his people were. I also copied Enfield clerk's records for everything Parsons and allied families plus Enfield's earliest cemetery which is still in use. Carl and I spent considerable time there and then I looked up every allied person in the clerk's records. I also copied all of the microfiche that the LDS (Mormon) had at their library near Albany for Parsons, Persons, Piersons for NYS, MA & CT and I made Carl a set from it.”

HISTORIC PROFILE: *Coming next newsletter!*

Criteria for a Successful Organization:

1. Capable and interested officers interested in the promotion and growth of the association.
2. A healthy, growing membership.
3. A sound financial structure.
4. Worthwhile projects.
 - a. Every association should have one major project, and one minor project.
 - b. Interesting and informative programs.

Every association should have at least one major project, and one minor project going on at all times.

The last one we did was the Bench at Historic Northampton and before that a monument. Here are a few of ideas which spring to mind:

- Possibility of getting an official Coat-of-Arms for our Parsons Family Association.
- Start a PFA sponsored ancestral DNA study.
- Photographing various Parsons Buildings and getting their history documented; there are three I know of offhand in Florence, Northampton, and Greenfield, maybe n Springfield too.
- Indexing cemeteries: A fellow in Conway Mass is doing this and we can get any Parsons cousins' data condensed in electronic book or other format and members can contribute from their own regions.
- Compile a profile of Parsons with their Professions and Hobbies (make them come to life again).
- Photograph and document cousins' hobbies for posterity: carving, quilting, painting, etc. Kim is working on her Great Uncle Darwin's carvings (priceless mementos of past talent).
- Join your local Historical Association and promote your Parsons related heritage.

Maybe we can compile and publish a companion book to complement Gerald's book that would contain information about cemeteries that contain remains of Parsons Ancestors. Each page could be devoted to a single individual, would have a photograph of the headstones, and if possible a photograph of the person and or family, and a paragraph or two about their life (ie: hobbies, interests, and occupations). This process could start with each member's immediate family and work back as far as possible, but only with their Parsons line. I'm sure that if the association did all of the digital art and editorial work, we could find a publisher that would print on demand small quantities, say 5-10 books at a time. That way we could add to the volume every now and then, keeping it current.

The price of on-demand publishing is highly variable, but you should look at this example: <http://www..i3output.com/solutions-services/oc-10000/?gelid=CNRUuuPhhMICFVjgfgodtjIAwQ>.

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	<i>Deanna Parsons Simons</i>	<i>Deanna.simons@cornell.edu</i>
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:	<i>Laura Pisano Parsons</i>	<i>lpisano@westfield.ma.edu</i>
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:	<i>Araina Heath</i>	daydream4663@yahoo.com
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DIRECTORS: (listed alphabetically)

Nancy Armstrong; Dr. Kenneth T. Doran; Martha Parsons Ethier; Araina Brown Heath;
Bob Heath; Kim Graham; Lydia C. Omasta; Phillip G. Parsons Esq.; Cris Parsons;

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS MEETING RESERVATIONS:

Place: Champy's at the Deerfield Inn, 81 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA, 01342
Time: 5:30pm
Date: July 22, 2016; Friday
Type: Ordering off limited menu with selections of beef, chicken, fish, & vegetarian
RSVP: Kim Graham, 48 Parsons Rd, Conway, MA. 01341
PFA, PO Box 603, Conway, MA 01341

kbgbandits@gmail.com; kbgraham@admin.umass.edu; cell (413) 475-2499; w (413) 545-3374

NAMES: _____

REUNION RESERVATIONS: * PLEASE RSVP BY: SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2016 *****

Please go online for direction to The Deerfield Inn and if staying there please call for group discount

Place: Deerfield Inn, 81 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA, 01342
Contact: *deerfieldinn.com or champneysrestaurant.com or 413-774-5587*
Tour Time: 10:00am – Noon
Meal Time: 12:30 PM in Terrace Room
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2016
Price: \$25.00
Type: Finely catered buffet provided by Champy's. (*Appetizers, salad & asentrée's: braised beef, chicken marsala, roasted vegetables*)
RSVP: Kim Graham, 48 Parsons Rd, Conway, MA. 01341
PFA, PO Box 603, Conway, MA 01341

kbgbandits@gmail.com; kbgraham@admin.umass.edu; cell(413) 475-2499; w(413) 545-3374

REUNION RESERVATIONS: No. of Adults _____ No. of Children _____

NAMES: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION



New Member/ **Renewal Application**

Newsletter Format Preference: check one
 Hard Copy
 Email Address: _____

**Parsons Family Association
P.O Box 603,
Conway, MA 01341**

Membership Rates (per family)
Life Membership \$200.00
Regular Membership (Annually) \$10.00
Sustaining Membership (Annually) \$25.00

Name:	
Address:	
City, State:	
Phone:	
E-mail address:	
Descendants of:	

Membership (circle choice):	Life \$200	Regular \$10	Sustaining \$25	BOOK ORDERS \$75 + \$5 = \$80 <i>Donation/Multi-book purchase price \$65+\$5 = \$70</i>
PFA Computer - Website Fund: \$	Maintenance Fund for Parsons Homestead \$	Special Gifts or Donations: \$		Special Projects / House Fund: \$

Now might be a good time to get one for your Family, Friends or donate one to your local Library or Historical and Genealogical Societies – please call for special discount for donations. Massachusetts residence must add a 6.25% sales tax.

THE ENGLISH ANCESTORY AND DESCENTS TO THE 6th GENERATION OF CORNET JOSEPH PARSONS (1620-1830) compiled by Gerald James Parsons, A.B., M.S.L.S. ORDER FORM

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

NUMBER OF BOOKS _____ **TOTAL COST: \$** _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION AND MAIL THEM TO:
PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC, PO Box 603, Conway, MA 01341