

CORNET'S CHRONICLE

PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.
www.parsonsfamilyassn.org

Volume 24, Issue 2

Deanna Parsons-Simons, Editor
Kim Graham, Co-Writer/Editor

Fall 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings Cousins!

Fall was very short for the New England area. Leaves turned and fell quickly. Just as quick will be the time the next Parsons Family Association reunion appears next July. Please take time and look ahead to summer 2018 to mark your calendars for Saturday, July 21st, 2018, the date set for our 96th Parsons Family Reunion.

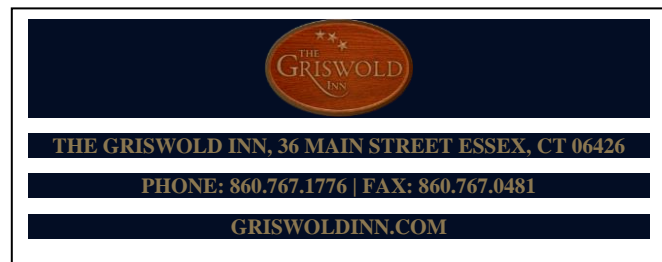
The 96th reunion will be held in Essex, Connecticut at the Historic Griswold Inn. We will be having a catered lunch in the Inn's Covered Bridge Room. The Griswold Inn is located at 36 Main Street Essex, CT 06426. Lunch will be ordered from a limited menu at noon. The day will start with the association meeting starting promptly at eleven a.m.

As an entertainment option, at 2:00 pm or 3:30 pm, the 1892 Essex Steam Train & Riverboat has a lovely one hour steam train tour of the Connecticut River Valley. The station is short drive (1.4 mi) away from the Griswold Inn. This is an added expense and can be added to your reunion total in the reservation section of the Cornet Chronicle. The train travels near the tidal wetlands of Pratt Cove and Chester Creek, both bountiful, natural habitats for birds including Cormorants, Ducks, Swans, Greenland Geese, Blue Heron, Egrets, and Red-winged Blackbirds. Adults: \$19.00, Seniors: \$17.00, and children (2-11) \$10.00. Other extras to your excursions include Open Car: \$7.00, First Class Car: \$12.00/passenger, and Caboose \$5.00.

There are several options for lodging in the Essex/ Old Saybrook area of Connecticut. The Griswold Inn and Copper Beech Inn have luxurious accommodations. Other options for lodging include the Quality Inn and the Liberty Inn in Old Saybrook, just a few miles from Essex.

As always, please pass on the word to your extended family to become members of the PFA. We are constantly striving to include all who believe in keeping the Parsons heritage alive and well. Your support is vital and appreciated to the fullest extent.

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



The Griswold Inn Profile in their own words (credited from Griswold Website GRISWOLDINN.COM)

A little history...

Independence was in the air, and on January 31st, 1776, the Colony of Connecticut authorized the building of its first warship for the Revolution, the Oliver Cromwell. Charged with this mission was shipbuilder Uriah Hayden of Essex (then known as "Saybrook") who quickly hired tradesmen and contracted with suppliers to outfit the vessel. Essex, perfectly situated for shipbuilding, suddenly experienced an economic boom as the Hayden's housed the shipyard workers, and provided food, spirits and lodging to the suppliers, politicians and other patriots who would visit: the Oliver Cromwell was successfully launched on June 13, 1776.

Born of Independence, these are the beginnings of The Griswold Inn, a destination for seafarers and land travelers alike for more than 238 years. Today the "Gris" remains the center of a thriving community, offering a unique experience and a comfortable connection to the past.

Following the war, a vigorous economic climate and remarkable innovations forever changed the way Americans lived and traveled. Regular steamboat service began on the Connecticut River in 1824 with Essex as an important stop, and a new ferry crossing and turnpike also opened nearby. Suddenly the population was able to travel, by land and water, and the citizenry was hungry to satisfy their curiosity. The Griswold Inn was in the perfect location to capitalize on both the land and water traveler and offered a warm and comfortable refuge from a difficult passage or inclement weather. Steamboats were built ever larger and regular service between Hartford and New York included a stop in Essex. This "golden era" of steamboating is remembered well in The Griswold Inn's outstanding collection of marine art and artifacts from the period. Prints by Currier & Ives and Endicott & Co., ship's portraits by James Bard, Antonio Jacobsen, [Charles Parsons](#) and others, and illustrations by Samuel Ward Stanton and Norman Rockwell cover the walls. There is also an extensive collection of firearms primarily used during the War of 1812 and/or the Revolutionary War together with Connecticut weapons made by Samuel Colt and others.

The Griswold Inn was the site of protests during the 1840's organized by the women of the "Temperance Movement". Several temperance banners remain from those protests, now hanging in the historic dining section of the Inn. For a time, The Griswold Inn itself became a "first class temperance hotel", although that doesn't seem to have lasted for very long. Even as the nation was turning toward prohibition in the early 20th century, the "Gris" was known as a reliable source for spirits. Often raided, occasionally fined and always back in business, the Federal authorities seemed to have had their hands full trying to stop the flow of liquor up the Connecticut River by "rum runners" at all hours of the night. These fast boats would dock on one of the many secluded coves along the river, unload, and be gone before anyone could track them down. The "Feds" were no match for the independent Yankee seaman who grew up on these waters, not unlike their ancestors, the "privateers".

The Great Depression, prohibition and the end of ship building all took its toll on Essex and the surrounding area. The economy sank and life slowed down but, despite these challenges, The Griswold Inn survived. It was the careful stewardship of the Ladd/Lovell family during this period that allowed the Inn to thrive again as Essex was discovered by a new force from the sea, the recreational yachtsman. By the 1940's, sailors were once again sailing into Essex harbor, yacht clubs were established, and the unique charm of The Griswold Inn rediscovered as a destination. By the 1960s, pleasure craft were in abundance, 1-95 had been completed and lots of weekend travelers from New York City and further found their way to Essex. The dining rooms of the 'Gris' were expanded and the Lovell's purchased adjacent historic properties to offer additional lodging. This expansion continued when the "Gris" was sold to William Winterer in the 1970s with the addition of several buildings across Main Street.

The Paul Family of Essex purchased the Griswold Inn in 1995 and has passionately preserved the historic property. The Griswold Inn Wine Bar was added in 2005 and the Griswold Inn Store in 2010. The Inn now offers three different dining options (Historic Dining, Wine Bar & Taproom), lodging in 33 unique guest rooms, on-site catering for private events and weddings, entertainment nightly in the lively Taproom and a full line of Griswold Inn merchandise and handmade artisan crafts in The Griswold Inn Store. And yet, The Griswold Inn still serves its original function. It is the gathering place for our community, a place where many have started family traditions, going on generations. The "Gris" is the authentic New England inn experience. In these times of "Comfort Inns" and "Four Seasons" some people don't know what to make of a place so unlike any other...the quirkiness, the camaraderie, the history, the fun...but if they figure it out, they fall in love.

Featured in television and film, The Griswold Inn was used as the "Collinsport Inn" for the cutting edge 1960s daytime drama, Dark Shadows. Essex and the "Gris" served as a backdrop for the 1961 film Parish starring Troy Donahue and Claudette Colbert and also for Doris Day's 1959 It Happened to Jane, primarily filmed in nearby Chester. Scenes for 2008's Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull were filmed in Essex, The Griswold Inn was mentioned in the 2010 Mad Men series premiere and most recently it was featured in a 2014 episode of abc's popular romantic-reality show, The Bachelorette. Print media continues to write frequently about the "Gris" as a unique and unforgettable destination. Notably, the "Gris" is included in Patricia Schultz' best-selling travel book, One Thousand Places to See Before You Die. Born of American Independence, the "Gris" is a place to make your own history. We look forward to welcoming you.

JULY 2017 PARSONS' FAMILY REUNION & DIRECTORS MEETING:

DIRECTORS MEETING: July 27th, 2017 at Historic Deerfield "Champys" in Old Deerfield, Massachusetts



Directors Meeting: Kim Graham, Trisa Palico, Nancy Armstrong, Jerry Ethier, Gary Parsons, Martha Ethier, Deanna Parsons Simons, James Parsons, Araina Heath, Bob Heath, Lydia

REUNION: July 28th, 2017 at Historic Northampton in Northampton, Massachusetts



2017 Parsons Family Reunion: Kim Graham, Bob & Araina Heath, James Parsons, Lydia Omasta, Nancy Armstrong, Phil & Cris Parsons, Gary Parsons, Deanna & Jenna & Nicholas Parsons Simons, Martha & Jerry Ethier, Trisa Palacio, Laura Pisano & Maria Popadic, Richard & Paula Parsons, Kathy Ann Becker, Nancy & David Desando, Matthew & Brenda Parsons, Velma Champagne and crew "Shaw Family (Rich, Nathan, Scot, Lisa, Taylor, Logan, Dylan), Anne Klump, Larry & Judy Underwood, Mary Anne & Ken Silsby, Lloyd & Judy Silsby, Marybeth Minson & Elisabeth Ssenjovu, Elana Chirinos, Russell Goddard. I think I have everybody even though they are not list as pictured in the photo.



Trisa Palico, Secretary, Deanna Parsons Simons naming Emily Ethier currently residing in Rwanda the "Parsons of the year" award.



Martha Ethier and Emily Ethier in Rwanda 2017



[Left] Speaker Matthew Parsons of Parsons Farm in Hadley Massachusetts presenting the process and science of growing corn.
[Right] Cousins? Matthew Parsons and Martha Ethier.



Richard & Paula Parsons, etc.



Velma Champanges' crew "the Shaw family":



Lydia Omasta (oldest member) and Kathy Becker:



Phil & Cris Parsons



Laura Pisano & Friend



Ken Silsby & Lloyd Silsby



Parsons Fence Community Painting Event on July 22, 2017: Deanna Parsons Simons, Laura Pisano, Kim Graham: See Historic Northampton section for details.

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 activities happened in 2017. I am using photographs with comments by Co-Director Laurie Sanders. A picture is worth a thousand words and I believe the Parsons' Family will be very happy with the progress and beautification of the Parsons' Homestead.

Other work planned for the Parsons House in 2017 includes drainage & masonry work around the building. A visit from Bill Flynt of Historic Deerfield later this year will also help Historic Northampton identify the structural work that needs to be attended to prior to the building's public reopening in 2019, its 300th anniversary. In 2018, the top priorities include continued drainage improvements around the building, properly repairing the top of the cistern (in accordance with and with approval by MA Historical Commission), insulation upgrades and renovations to three of the rooms that were formerly used as an apartment.



Parsons House painted in 2017:

In June and July, a team of painters from Northeast Paint spent a week washing, prepping and painting the Parsons House. As part of this work, window mullions were also repaired. After the painters finished, we installed all new gutters on the Parsons House. The freshly painted house & a new flag out front.

In September, archaeologists Craig Chartier & Greg Walwer excavated the early 19th century cistern behind Parsons House. More than 50 people participated in the dig, including descendants of the Parsons family. The excavation made front page news in the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

Historic Northampton's Museum Manager Marie Panik in yellow shirt and Board Member Barbara Blumethal in blue are pictured digging and sifting soil.





On April 1st, 100 timber framers from the Timber Framers Guild explored the upstairs & downstairs of Parsons House on a field trip scheduled during their annual meeting. The members of the guild were from across the



During its nearly 300 year history, the Parsons House has witnessed lots of comings and goings--from stage coaches & Shay's Rebellion to Northampton's annual Pride March.



Hours after the Parsons Family Reunion, more than 100 volunteers arrived and painted all 300 feet of fence out front in less than an hour. The project, Good Neighbors Paint Good Fences, raised more than \$10,000, which is being used to purchase shutters for the Damon House (where the picnic was held). The excavation made front page news in the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

PARSONS HISTORIC PROFILE:

The Legacy of Charles Root Parsons, 1937-2016

--His Family and Friends knew him as "Chuck"

I'd like to tell you about my cousin, Charles R. Parsons. Why? Because he epitomized what we all believe to be the characteristics of a Parsons—intelligent, brave, loving, charitable, and as everyone who knew Chuck says at once when his name is mentioned: a gentleman. Chuck died—suddenly and tragically to all who loved him—a year ago last August.

His wife of 54 years, Elfriede, and Chuck took me under their wing when I was writing the story of my great aunt and his beloved cousin, Marion Parsons. He grew up across the street from Aunt Marion from whose front yard I would watch the comings and goings of Chuck, his parents, and his pretty sisters.

I didn't run into Chuck again until one night a few years ago at a community meeting where I was introducing my book project about Marion, the school she launched in my great grandfather's cherry orchard, and about our extended arm of the Parsons Family—the Parsons' farms and all the Parsons cousins.

Chuck was proud of his Parsons' heritage. Like so many of us, he felt as close to his cousins three times removed as he did to first cousins. We Parsons are like that, right? Chuck's grandfather, Charles F. Parsons, and my grandmother, Grace Parsons Cole, were first cousins. Their grandparents, Edwin Clark Parsons and Julia Armstrong Parsons, were the patriarch and matriarch of an extended Parsons clan.

Edwin migrated from Northampton, Massachusetts to Syracuse, New York after the Civil War where he met Julia. Some say he traveled there in an oxcart. He and Julia would become the parents of six children—Edwin "Mahlon," Francis Dwight (Chuck's great grandfather), Charles Herbert, Mary Amelia, and Willis (my great grandfather)—and now their great grandchildren and great great grandchildren are the people they would have wanted us to be, and Charles (Chuck) Parsons, very much so.



Charles F. and Vernie Parsons



Right: "Chuck's" Grandparents, Charles & Vernie, and his father, John Parsons; his sisters, Martha and Karen

After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1959, Chuck joined the US Army and served as a 1st Lieutenant from 1960 – 1962, and was involved, among other world events, in the Berlin Wall Crisis. While overseas, he met the beautiful and intelligent Elfriede Metzner in Bamberg, Germany, and they married in 1962. When they returned from overseas, Chuck joined his father's insurance agency – John C Parsons, Inc., founded by his father in 1930, and known today as Parsons & Associates, Inc. Chuck took over the agency when John died in 1973.



Chuck and his dad, John

Chuck and Elfriede had three children: John C. II (Lynda), Robert M. (Sara), and Kristin Parsons Thornton (Barry), and eventually, five grandchildren: John III, Bailey, Jack, Connor, and Agnes. Chuck adored his family, and they adored him—his children and grandchildren, his sisters, Martha Parsons Paine (Richard) and Karen Parsons Duncker (Alfred), who pre-deceased Chuck.

Over the years Chuck grew the insurance business to 11 employees who now work with over 250 brokers and agents throughout New York State. Like him, his sons John II and Robert would work for the company and eventually take over the day to day operations in his place. Chuck served as Chairman of the agency and until his death, came into the office on a regular basis, offering guidance to the associates and working with brokers who he had helped educate on the intricacies of lawyers professional liability insurance.

A lifelong family man, he wrote to me in 2011 about a family reunion he organized on Lake George where twenty-two of his family members had gathered for the first of its kind. The family continues this tradition in his honor. Other traditions he and Elfriede enjoyed were traveling overseas and wintering in Sanibel, Florida where they had many close friends. Everyone loved Chuck.



Chuck, his wife, Elfriede, Sister Martha and all their families at Lake George

He was a firm believer in learning every day and helping others. Just days before his death he was awarded a certificate commemorating his 40 years as a Certified Insurance Counselor by the founder of the program, Dr. William T. Hold. He also supported community service agencies that served to improve the lives of those who weren't as fortunate, where he generously shared in the opportunities for which he felt he was blessed. Two of his favorites were Mercy Works and the Syracuse Rescue Mission.

Chuck contributed to the upkeep of Myrtle Hill Cemetery where he rests in the Parsons Family plot with earlier generations of our family. He is dearly missed by family, friends, and co-workers. His legacy will live on with his children and their children.

Nancy "Camille Cole" is the author of *The Brass Bell*, the story of one amazing Parsons Woman who started a school in a hen house in her father's cherry orchard that has grown to be one of the top-rated schools in the country. The book can be purchased on Amazon, or by contacting Camille at: schoolhouse2@comcast.net

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

95th PFA Anniversary held at Historic Northampton, Northampton, MA on 7/22/2017: Meeting commenced 10AM

President Deanna Parsons Simons warmly welcomed Parsons family members to the 2017 Parsons Family Business meeting and reunion. She stated she has been a PFA president since 2009 and announced past presidents present at today's reunion to include: Lydia Omasta, Phil Parsons, Martha Ethier, Nancy Armstrong, and Kim Graham.

Deanna announced our 2017 Speaker as Matthew Parsons of Parsons Farm who was awarded the National Corn Growers Association award 2017. He will be presenting at 11:00 AM.

Old business: The 2016 Secretary's report passed out and approved by the membership. The Secretary's report for 2016 was read and a motion to accept made Nancy Armstrong with Bob Heath, seconding, and the report was accepted.

James Parsons report on the bylaws, explaining simply, "work in progress". He said he should have a document by the next meeting defining the board of directors and written into the bylaws. He mentioned he may prepare drafts for view in the Chronicle for members to look at.

Deanna reports there are two vacancies and we need to nominate people for these positions:

1) Website Administrator, 2) Third Vice President

The obituaries read by Martha Ethier were: Harriet Parsons Danza 103 years 10 months; John T. Armstrong 1/9/2017; Hanna Parsons 12/18/2016. A moment of silence followed.

The Historian's report read by Gary Parsons. Gary reported he responds to all email inquiries and there were 1400 new inquiries. He uploaded the 1940 census versus the 1930 census as the group felt it pertinent to stay with 1930 format. Gary has been in communication with GoDaddy founder, Bob Parsons who is not interested in submitting his lineage. He passed it to Kate Parsons, then in Guinea, a relative was found. Nancy Armstrong acknowledged and praised Gary's dedication for traveling from California to be here and organize the Western reunion. Bob Heath motioned to accept Gary's report, Phil Parsons 2nd, report accepted.

Deanna announced that Historical Northampton's Co-Directors Laurie Sanders and Betty Sharp will be showing us the improvements on the Parsons House and archeological dig, plan on a tour after the meeting. Deanna voiced her support for Historical Northampton, noting good partnership is being demonstrated by multiple emails and communications. She noted shed/mud room has been removed as demolition was deemed relevant and cost effective. An old well or cistern was found partially covered by a large stone which was under the mud room. University of Massachusetts Archaeological Services plans to have a dig on the site. The consulting services have created a permit which allows the continuation of research to find out the origin and function of this well in relationship to the home. A 28-page report was provided and the summary section was read. It is available if anyone is interested.

A notable comment was made about the origin of the word "cornet". "The word cornet is a title, not a name". In 1646, Cornet Joseph Parsons married Mary Bliss. PFA has historically contributed to the upkeep of this home. A discussion on contributions commenced and the tax consequences of who the contributions go to. Last year, it was reported the association increased contributions to Historic Northampton. If you contribute to Historic Northampton directly, you can make a tax deduction versus thru the Parsons Association where it is not tax deductible. Deanna requested if making a donation directly, please make a note on the check so it can be kept track of.

A new item started in 2017 is the "Parsons of the Year Award". The recipient, Emily Ethier, was nominated and voted on at the Directors Meeting. Emily is Martha and Jerry's daughter. Deanna and Trisa mailed a plaque and care package to Rwanda. Martha spoke on Emily's behalf stating Emily joined the Peace Corps and is stationed in Rwanda working in maternal child health providing vaccinations which is a unique setting. She has helped the build compound and has decent living space albeit cold showers. She teaches numerous skills such as hand washing and proper coughing techniques.

The Treasurer's report was read by Kim Graham. She reported the revenues and expenses were down to normal proportions as the reunion was located in Northampton. The organization's net assets on the balance sheet was up by 12% due to the investments performing well in 2017. A motion was made and accepted to fund the annual Parsons contribution for \$1170 to Historic Northampton. Kim encouraged members to donate for the upcoming 100-year anniversary.

Nominations:

Third Vice President: Nicholas Simons – he accepted, motion made by Nancy Armstrong, Kim Graham Seconded, approved by all.

Website Administrator: Vacant. A discussion of possible candidates occurred and Bob Heath opened the concept that it is time we get Professional help for the website and Kim supported his affirmation. He stated that 2 years ago, the association spent \$2000 to put files on a flash drive and it has not been put on the website yet for members to view. There would need to be a password as an enhanced website, would be needed and hence a professional administrator. Bob mentioned Ken Silsby has expertise in this field and could provide guidance and recommendations with the company we would hire. Hanna Parsons Shelby, a New York volunteer could also be a candidate for the Website "Liaison". Nicholas Simons nominated Ken Silsby for the position of Website Liaison. Martha Ethier seconded, and all accepted the slate. Bob and Gary accepted the nominations. Welcome aboard Bob Silsby. Bob Heath suggested developing an ad hoc committee to put together a description of this new position. Summary: A new position was created "Website Liaison" and Bob Silsby is the new representative.

Nancy Armstrong reminded the members to think about the 2018 meeting followed by Nicholas Simons motioning for the meeting to adjourn; James Parsons seconded, all in favor – none opposed, the meeting concluded at 11:17 AM.

Addendum: Immediately following the meeting was a presentation by Matt Parsons of Parsons Farm located in Hadley, Massachusetts. In 2017, Matt won an award for growing corn from the National Corn Growers Association. The presentation illustrated the science and ingenuity which allowed him to succeed. The presentation was educational, witty, and definitely enjoyed by all. Congratulations Matt! Thank you for your time and talent.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Trisa Palacio, Secretary**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The financial profile of the organization remains steady. The investment profile has increased 25% over the FY16 investment profile. The organization is up by approximately 12% for FY7 financials for net assets. Revenues were down from FY16 by 13% or approximately \$450 and expenses were down by ~75% primarily due to previous year reunion expenses at Cornell University. FY17 expenses are reasonable for the average year when the reunion is located in Northampton. Membership sales both regular and sustaining remain flat; renewals are down. There were 8 new regular and 3 new sustaining memberships which offset the decrease in renewals. Book Sales have slowed with only 3 Genealogy's sold in FY17. We collected \$600 dollars to fund the 100th reunion.

The Parsons Family Association will be performing an audit on FY17 Financial Statements to test for accuracy and reasonableness of the financial reporting. The results will be reported at the next reunion.

I am continuing to send out newsletters by email and following up with a hard copy that includes the membership envelope. Book sales and new memberships and renewals are stagnant. Some ideas are advertising the organization, its mission and goals, which may possibly increase memberships, book sales and attendance at the reunions.

Also, I believe it is time to look at accepting payments by getting a "Square" or using PayPal in addition to accepting checks and cash payments. I think the charges for accepting other forms of payment would expand the organizations membership base, increase books sales, increase donations for the maintenance of the Parson Homestead, and fund other projects as well, the 100th reunion.

Additionally, it would also be beneficial to look at cloud based systems to track membership and allow multiple users to access the data in a real-time fashion.

If you have any questions about the financials or any other concern, please contact me at 413-475-2499 (texting best option) or kbqbandits@gmail.com or kim_graham@comcastspectacor.com.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Graham, Treasurer**

HISTORIAN'S REPORT:

As far as the PFA's office of Historian goes, not much has transpired since last spring's newsletter.

PFA's Master Database:

In the last year or so, even though requested, very few members have sent in their updated pedigrees. In order to keep busy, I've been methodically going through our PFA's Master Database, record-by-record, looking for duplicate entries, errors, missing information, and misinformation. I've also been taking family information, given by PFA members, and searching through census records, find-a-grave records, and Ancestry's birth, marriage, death indexes for supporting documentation. This source information is not shown in the online version of our PFA's Master Database.

Our Online Database:

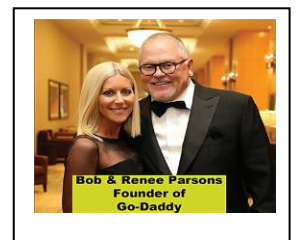
As most of you know, the PFA's online database has not been updated in many years, due to the lack of new information. The 1940 US Census was finally released, so I wanted to update our online database to reflect the new census release. After consulting with the rest of the PFA's board, it was decided to keep the old format in the new update. So, on June 8, 2017, I finally updated our on-line database. FYI: The online database does not intentionally contain any living individuals. It contains everybody born before 1930, and everybody born after 1930 with a death date.

Family Bible:

A few years ago, a family from Germany was vacationing in the US, New England in particular. When in Northampton, they were browsing through a used book store and discovered an 1834 edition of an old COTTAGE BIBLE (2 Volumes). Being collectors of old books, the husband purchased both volumes for their personal collection, back home. After a few years, he was going through the bibles and found records of birth, marriage, and death information of family members. The surnames included: *Parsons, Clark, Strong, Lyman, Emerson, Cordelia, Butts*, and others. Because the majority of surnames were Parsons, he contacted me by e-mail to see if our organization would be interested in the bibles, and to remain anonymous. My answer was yes, and offered to reimburse him for the cost of the books and postage to the US from Germany. He refused my offer of compensation and sent me the books anyway, at which point, I sent him a letter of appreciation. In going through the bibles lists of birth, marriage, and death information, I discovered many names were our relatives. At both of the last PFA's West and East Coast annual reunions, I offered these bibles to anyone who was interested, but had no takers. So, on behalf of the Parsons Family Association, I donated both volumes of the bible to Historic Northampton for their collection of rare books and local history.

Successful Parsons:

As some of you may know, the founder and CEO of Go Daddy, one of the largest Internet Service Providers (ISP) in the nation, is Bob Parsons. He is also the founder of many charitable organizations that support our veterans and is the sponsor of a well-known NASCAR racing team. After switching my ISP service to Go Daddy, I've been trying to make contact with Bob Parsons, to no avail. I wanted to find out if he was related to us. Every year when I called in to personally renew my account, I asked if I can get a family discount. The answer is always NO, but I got the chance to ask if their founder, Bob Parsons, could contact me about his family history. After many years of this, he finally answered my query by e-mail, with the statement "I'm not interested." From this, I was able to get his private e-mail address to ask him if anyone in his family was researching his Parsons genealogy. Shortly after this, I received an e-mail from his sister, Beverly Parsons. She informed me that a relative (Gregg Freese) in Conakry, Guinea, was researching their family history. I contacted Gregg and was able to obtain their unique Parsons line. It turns out, Bob Parsons, the CEO of Go Daddy, is also a descendant of Cornet Joseph Parsons.



West Coast Reunion:

Unfortunately, Our 39th West Coast Reunion this year was canceled, due to the lack of interest. Only one person sent in their reservation. Because I pre-paid for the park, Erika Mailman (our hostess) and I had a family picnic anyway. I've tried to keep up Stu & Harriet Parsons' (past president) tradition of having a west coast reunion going. However, this is the second time I've had to cancel our family reunion due to the lack of interest and the first time I've had to follow through with the cancelation. We have no funding for lavish reunions, field trips, or guest speakers. I thought, by having a pot-luck would help, but it didn't. Does anyone have suggestions on how to resolve our problem? If this keeps up, we'll have to fold up shop.



**Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Gary A. Parsons, Historian**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AND REQUEST FOR ARTICLES / STORIES:

We need to set up a membership committee to increase our membership base. I have spoken to Deanna and we will address this issue at the next board meeting. Any ideas are welcome and if you'd like to be on this committee, please contact Deanna.

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, history, or obituaries published.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 413-475-2499 or kbgbandits@gmail.com or kim_graham@comcastspectacor.com.

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	Deanna Parsons Simons	<i>deanna.simons@cornell.edu</i>
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:	Laura Pisano Parsons	<i>lpisano@westfield.ma.edu</i>
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:	Araina Heath	<i>whitestarris@gmail.com</i>
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT:	Nicholas Simons	<i>nsimons8165@gmail.com</i>
SECRETARY:	Trisa Parsons Palacio	<i>Dialtrisa2cnn@yahoo.com</i>
TREASURER/CLERK:	Kim Graham	<i>kbgbandits@gmail.com</i>
HISTORIAN:	Gary Parsons	<i>parsons@pfawr.org</i>
ASSISTANT HISTORIAN:	Philip Parsons, Esq.	<i>crisandphil@yahoo.com</i>
WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR:	VACANT	
WEBSITE LIAISON:	Ken Silsby	<i>ksilsby66@gmail.com</i>

DIRECTORS: (listed alphabetically)

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS MEETING RESERVATIONS:

Place: *To Be updated in Spring Newsletter with details*

Time: 5:00 PM

Date: July 20, 2018; Friday

Type: Ordering off menu

RSVP: Kim Graham, 48 Parsons Rd, Conway, MA. 01341
PFA, PO Box 603, Conway, MA 01341

kbgbandits@gmail.com; kim_graham@comcastspectacor.com; cell (413) 475-2499; w (413) 545-3374

NAMES: _____

REUNION RESERVATIONS: *** *PLEASE RSVP BY: JULY 5, 2018* ***

Place: The Griswold Inn, 36 Main Street, Essex, CT 06426 / GRISWOLDINN.COM

Date: Saturday, July 21
, 2018

Welcome: 10:30 AM

Meeting: 11:00 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM

Tour: 2:00 PM

Price: \$25.00

Type: Catered Buffet Style Selection from Limited Menu

RSVP: Kim Graham, 48 Parsons Rd, Conway, MA. 01341
PFA, PO Box 603, Conway, MA 01341

kbgbandits@gmail.com; kim_graham@comcastspectacor.com; cell (413) 475-2499; w (413) 545-3374

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NAMES:

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