

# CORNET'S CHRONICLE

PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.  
[www.parsonsfamilyassn.org](http://www.parsonsfamilyassn.org)

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Volume 21, Issue 2

Deanna Parsons-Simons, Editor

Fall 2014

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### Greetings Cousins

As the holidays' fast approach, please add next year's Parsons Family Association reunion to your new 2015 calendar! "Save the Date"

**Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 marks our next reunion commencing in Ithaca, NY.**

The Ithaca, New York area is known for their beautiful lakes and gorges. We will be gathering at Stocking Hall on the Cornell campus, home to the Department of Food Science and the Cornell dairy. In my role as the quality manager of the Cornell University Dairy, I take great pride in the process and products we make for the campus. I invite you to join your family this year in exploring this "gorges" area and all things dairy. We have planned a short hike for the morning (1.5mi, one way) on the Cascadilla Gorge trail.



In 1909, Cascadilla Gorge was originally preserved and donated to Cornell University by Robert H. Treman in order to support public use, education, and enjoyment. The Cascadilla Gorge Trail system, initially constructed during the Civilian Conservation Corp. era, ascends 400 feet in elevation between Lynn Street and Hoy Road, and currently totals 7,800 feet in length. Cascadilla Gorge Trail is managed by Cornell Plantation. They are committed to protecting the natural area by providing ongoing educational use, supporting safe public recreation, and enjoyment of the gorge.

In addition, we will be exploring the dairy and enjoying lunch in the newly constructed Conference Center Located in Stocking Hall. Ice cream will be served!!! We have included maps and hotel arrangements.

Below are photos of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Parsons Family Board Meeting and Reunion and at the Capen Gardens. Cousins visited the Capen Gardens at Smith College which were beautiful and well maintained. A donation of \$100 was presented to show our appreciation. The time was well spent, cozy, and very productive. Please note Kim's husband, Don Graham (aka: the ghost) was present – he is on the left in the group photo at Capen Gardens.



2014 Board of Directors Meeting at the Brew Masters Pub in Williamsburg, MA



2014 Reunion at the Sukura's Buffet in Northampton, MA



2014 Capen Gardens at Smith College in Northampton, MA: Group photo (left)  
President, Treasurer, & Secretary (below left/ right)



I look forward to seeing you!!

**Deanna Parsons Simons**  
**President, Parsons Family Association**  
[Deanna.simons@cornell.edu](mailto:Deanna.simons@cornell.edu)



## **BREAKING NEWS:**

First, I would like to introduce Nancy Rexford. She is the new Acting Director of the Historic Northampton Museum & Education Center. Nan Wolverton accepted a full-time position closer to home. However, she is an active board member so she'll still be happily involved in the association. Also, Nancy has provided an update on the ongoing work on the Parsons' House and in my opinion an exceptional and detailed report. See photos at end of report.



Update on work in Parsons House; Tuesday, November 04, 2014 10:36 AM

Dear Deanna and Kim,

Nan Wolverton gave me your names as the two officers who can best represent and through whom I can best communicate with the Parsons Family Association. I believe Nan told you that she has resigned as Director at Historic Northampton in order to take a full-time position at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester. While we are sorry to lose Nan, this change is much better for her, and she is still a member of our board, so we have both continuity and the benefit of her expertise.

As of October 1, I picked up where Nan left off. I recently retired and am able to give a lot of time right now, and I also have a long history with this place, as I was the Curator of Costume and then Assistant Director from 1975-1983 when Ruth Wilbur was the director. In 1981, when the new basement was dug under the east parlor, I was the person who diagrammed the floor joists, rafters and the chimney, so I am very familiar with—and fond of—the Parsons House and was far from pleased to discover what shape it was in when I returned to Historic Northampton last January.

I know that Nan has told you about the plan to replace the boiler in Parsons House, and that the Parsons Family Association has offered to give \$7000 toward that project, an offer which is deeply appreciated and desperately needed. My understanding is that you were planning to send half of this in advance and the other half when the work was complete. This letter is to bring you up to date about that and our other plans for the house. I apologize if I repeat some things you already know. I'm not sure how much Nan told you, and it's better to be thorough.

On Columbus Day, October 13, a company called Abide came in to remove the asbestos-clad boiler. They erected a small room around the boiler area with wooden studs and walls of heavy plastic sheeting. This was vented to the outside through a hepa-filtered negative air machine. This was to make sure the asbestos did not fly all over the house while the boiler was being cut apart. I could not see the work as it was a hazmat job and only people wearing protective gear could go down there, but I gather that the boiler was wider than the bulkhead stairs, making it impossible to use their power lifting equipment, so they had to carry it out by hand and that it was very heavy. But they got the whole thing done in one day.

The next morning Wilson Services came in to install the new boiler, which is quite handsome, and a LOT smaller. Where the old boiler had been before, they built a new bit of wall which supports both the new boiler itself and also all the handsome copper piping that connects to it. The new boiler is a Bosch ZBR 42-3 side-wall vented gas-fired boiler rated at 151,000 BTUs and 95% AFUE. Gary Wilson estimates that heating Parsons House this year will cost only half of what it did last year. Most of the boiler work was finished October 14 and 15. A final bit of plumbing was completed the following week and the old oil tank was removed as well. So that job is now complete. I attach a few pictures so you can see what it looks like.

I think Nan also told you about the structural problems we discovered in the house. Last summer, the president, Kiki Smith, and I began to clean up the mess in Parsons House. Eventually I roped in my husband to help with the heavy lifting, and we moved out a lot of stuff that didn't belong there and scrubbed most of the floors, woodwork and windows. It was while we were scrubbing woodwork in July that we noticed that the back wall on the second floor seemed to be separating from the rest of the house. I called in Kris Thomson, a local contractor who loves old houses and is very generous with his time, to look at it. He immediately brought in a timber frame specialist, Alicia Spence.

The problem is that when the new basement was dug under the east parlor in 1981, Ruth and then board decided not to extend it under the kitchen, probably because the extra \$975 seemed like more than they could afford, though it would have saved many tens of thousands of dollars now had they gone ahead. At any rate, the kitchen of the old house is still sitting with its sills directly on—essentially IN—the dirt, and over time they have rotted to the point that they are no longer supporting the back wall of the house. So the back wall is sinking and there are signs of termite damage in the buttery. In addition to that, there is a major post that sits at one corner of the chimney mass, where the kitchen attaches to the original 1719 hall. This post rests on a sill that had rotted out before 1981. Most of the sill was “sistered” in 1981, but apparently no one bothered to support or replaces the bottom of the post sitting on that sill, probably because it is hard to get to and sits just beyond where the new basement ends. This post is also sinking downward. Exacerbating those problems, the weight of the roof pushing down on the unsupported back wall is pushing it outward resulting in the crack we saw when we were cleaning (picture attached).

Kris and I returned to look at this again more recently and were concerned that the crack had widened since we had looked 2 months earlier. Kris brought in Alicia again and when we went up into the attic, we could measure that the rear purlin had sunk downward 4-5” in the center of the house. Kris and Alicia were so concerned about this that they immediately went and got a set of straps – the kind that are used to strap heavy loads onto flat-bed trucks, and they strapped together the front and rear purlins in an attempt to stop the downward slide of the roof and take some of the pressure off the back wall.



2PH CB crack closer



Abide truck with worker

**This is hard to describe in words, but I've put together a PowerPoint presentation with a lot of photos and diagrams that makes it clear. I plan to show them at a meeting we are planning for December 6 at Historic Northampton, and any Parsons Family members within driving distance are more than welcome to come. I'll send more details about time when they are available.**

Kris, Alicia and I all agree that we need to fix this soon, and fix it permanently, by extending the basement under this last section of the house that doesn't have one. So we have made that the centerpiece of our application for Community Preservation Act funding which we submitted in early September. The review process for that grant is not complete, but we are pretty confident that the Committee will help as much as they can, given the heavy competition in this round of funding. We will probably have to do the work in stages, requesting a series of grants (these are awarded twice a year). I will let you know how that turns out.

Before we can excavate the basement of Parsons, we need to do an archaeological dig in the yard immediately behind the house, and even in the earth under the current kitchen floor, which used to be the immediate back yard of the original 1719 two-over-two room structure. I am working with Linda Ziegenbein, who has her doctorate in historical archaeology and is interested in helping us organize a community dig on the site next spring. We hope to raise some funds for this project through ValleyGives, a local online fundraising blitz that will happen December 10. Perhaps some of the Parsons family members who aren't too far away would enjoy participating in this project – who knows what we might find? I'll keep you in the loop about our plans for this—it's only in the early planning stages right now.

On a less romantic but equally important topic, we are taking a series of steps to prevent water from entering the basement and to combat the mold and mildew. A mason came in last week to repair the bulkhead walls, where water was pouring in, and as soon as we get permission from the Historical Commission, we will replace the completely rotten and nonfunctional bulkhead and window-well covers. Next week, we have a big construction container arriving, and my long-suffering husband and I are planning to start cleaning out the Parsons basement. We had hoped to do the job in full protective gear (Tyvek suits, goggles, respirators, gloves) since we need to pull down the fiberglass in the basement ceiling, which is probably full of rodent droppings and mold, but the ebola scare has made those supplies hard to come by, so we may be forced to delay the fiberglass work. At least we'll get started moving out the junk. Once we have the PPE, we'll hepa vacuum the basements and wash them down with the same disinfectant that professional mold remediation companies use and install an industrial strength dehumidifier. Then with a good spring airing, the house should start to smell a lot sweeter.

Sorry this is such a long email but there was a lot of news! I know how faithful the Parsons Family Association has been, decade after decade, in supporting this wonderful old house and I was sure you would want to know not just about the boiler—which we could never have replaced without your help—but also about all the other things we are working on to get the place into better shape. I hope that next summer when you have your family reunion, you'll be able to visit and see the fruits of our work. Kim, I'm guessing from your umass email address that you live in the area, so perhaps we can meet in person before that? I already mentioned our open house on Saturday afternoon, Dec 6, when we will be presenting an update on our recent accomplishments and plans, including but not limited to Parsons House. We'd be happy to have you attend that, but it might also be good to meet on a separate occasion when we have more leisure for conversation and you can catch me up on the Association's news, plans and concerns. Looking forward to meeting you both!

Best,

Nancy

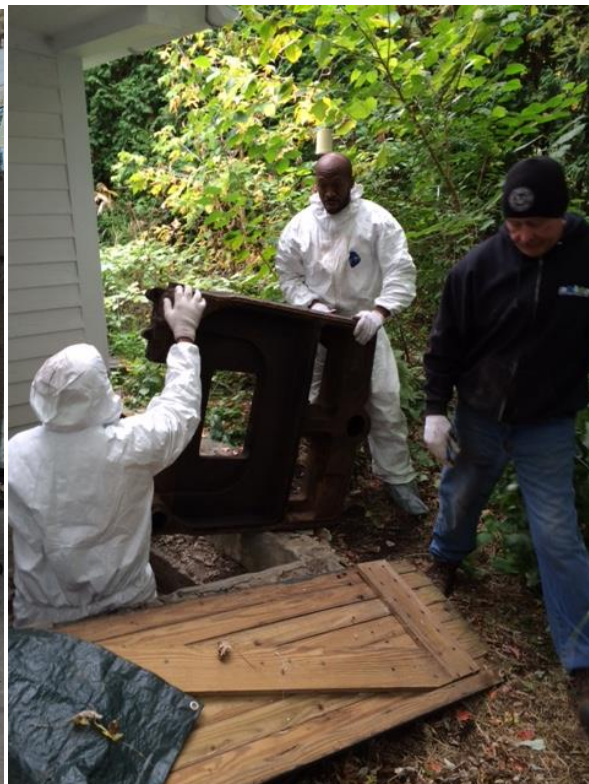
Nancy Rexford, Acting Director

Historic Northampton, 46 Bridge Street, Northampton, MA 01060, [nrexford@historic-northampton.org](mailto:nrexford@historic-northampton.org);





**Basement boiler with asbestos blanket**



**Eileens 2<sup>nd</sup> picture of the Abide men**



**Gary Wilson with new boiler  
Steam punk side**



**Gary Wilson with new boiler front**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The organization's financial health remains strong and in line with previous fiscal years. The revenues reported are \$ \$6,205 and expenses are \$3,500 and net proceeds ending in \$2,700.00 (a 24% increase over the prior fiscal year). The increase in revenues is directly tied to the fundraiser totaling \$1800 for the furnace and asbestos project at the Parsons House located in Northampton, Massachusetts at Historic Northampton Association and Museum. The remaining increase is due the redesign of the membership application and book sales.

We had 2 CDs mature and get deposited into our checking account to fund ongoing projects. I will be taking a portion of the matured CDs and condensing the investment vehicles the organization utilizes. As always I'll invest in the best investments I can find.

The Mainstay fund was reallocated in January to diversify risk and liquidity for on-going projects. The Mainstay S&P500 Index fund is an aggressive fund. The reallocated funding strategy is still appreciating nicely. Approximately 2/5th remains in an aggressive growth fund (S&P500), 2/5<sup>th</sup> in a medium growth fund (non-taxable bond fund), and 1/5<sup>th</sup> in a money market fund.

There are 125 books left and I proposed to offer books at \$75 (\$5s/h) to stimulate book sales as well as reducing prices for multiple purchases and organization to \$65 (\$5s/h). The organization needs to be identified so we can write the appropriate correspondence with reference to the person donating the book. Historic Northampton is allowing us to store the books in proper storage and may allow us to put 2-3 file cabinets there for safe keeping. I am in communication with the Acting Director.

The Parsons Family Association normally contributes approximately \$900 annually to Historic Northampton to assist in the maintenance of the house. The fundraiser for Historic Northampton raised \$1,800 and a recommendation was made and accepted to donate \$7,000 with the agreement to pay \$3,500 up front and then the remaining \$3,500 when the project is completed with the stipulation that a full accounting be presented accordingly. A breakdown of the \$7,000 is as follows: \$1,800 raised in fundraiser, regular \$900 maintenance funded, and the remaining \$4300 derived from a cashed in CD which is was to be allocated to a project that was since cancelled. The first 50% payment allowed Historic Northampton to start the work. Interestingly enough, Ruth Datler, 85 years old, sent in \$2 donation with a note saying she is very proud of her heritage. Estelle Parsons made the largest donation and in combination with the several other donations made by members we were able to raise enough to start the project. All donations are extremely appreciated.

We still need genealogic stories or articles (past and present) for publication in the Parsons Profile or Historic Profile sections of the newsletter. Please contact Kim Graham at [kbqbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbqbandits@gmail.com) to get your article or history published. I would love to profile "Parsons Profiles" such as hobbies, art work, writings, businesses, etc. For example I volunteer my time to rehabilitating wild life to give them a second chance. I booked 2 ice skating fundraising events estimated to raise between \$1500 to \$2000 for the organization for milk and medicines.

We are looking to expand our membership base so please mail me yellow book pages from your area for Parsons'. Please call, snail mail, or email me with addresses of *additional people* you would like to receive the newsletter. We are trying to expand the membership and promote an interest in genealogy.

I have attached a membership form at the end of this letter for your convenience. If you have any questions, please contact me at 413-475-2499 or 413-545-3374 or [kbqbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbqbandits@gmail.com) or [kbgraham@admin.umass.edu](mailto:kbgraham@admin.umass.edu).

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Kim Graham, Treasurer**

## **SECRETARYS REPORT:**

On July 26, 2014, the 92<sup>d</sup> Parsons' Family reunion was held at the Sukura's Buffet in Northampton, Massachusetts. Attendees were Deanna Simons, Gary Parsons, Nancy and John Armstrong, Kathy-Ann Becker. Wayne Roberts, Janice Attersley, Paula and Richard parsons, Jenna Simons, Kim Graham (we met Kim's husband Donna). Thomas Maziarz, Laura Pisano, Teresa Canuel from Greenfield, MA, Cris and Phil Parsons, Martha and Jerry Ethier, Karen Vorbeck Williams, Trisa Parsons Palacio totaling 20 participants.

Deanna Simons warmly welcomed everyone and asked if everybody would introduction themselves and why they came to the reunion. It was a gift of sharing all enjoyed.

Deanna then introduced Kathy-Ann Becker's and her new novel: *Silencing the Women. The Witch trial of Mary Bliss Parsons*. Kathy graciously read a passage from her book and a discussion commenced regarding connections with Parsons with rivers, cemeteries, and with God. Deanna felt a connection of finding the tombstone of Martha as well as the Parsons noses. Nancy Armstrong was then introduced to Forrest Parsons with the commentary "we are cousins" and "if you can hold a pencil on your lower lip then "you are a Parsons". Interestingly enough, Forrest was a missionary in Burma. The meal commenced next and consisted of an Asian Buffet which was delicious and enjoyed by all.

### ***Obituary Report:***

- Muriel Parsons Poulin, 81 years young, was a strong presence in association. Her last positions held were Assistant Treasurer and she organized the Chronicle. Kim Graham is her daughter. Deanna proposed a tree planting and plaque at Smith College where she worked 30 years.
- Lucille R. Freeman passed 2/13/2014. She was a wonderful homemaker and mother. Her obituary was read by Laura Pisano, her daughter and past secretary.
- Clayton S Parsons Jr. passed 10/11/2013.
- Charles Glover passed 1/27/2013.
- Patricia J. Helderman passed 4/9/2012; Member Ruth Luff is her Daughter.

The FY2014 Secretaries, Historians, and Treasurers reports were passed out, reviewed, and approved by the membership. The FY2014 Treasurers report is to be re-issued with the following adjustment: Remove the \$155 web-site expense as Karen V. Williams; PFA's web-site manager has donated the web-site hosting expense (round of applause for Karen).

### ***Historians Report:***

The PFA's Master Database only contains linked individuals and a suggestion made to include all pedigrees submitted whether related or not. Upon further consideration, Gary rejected the suggestion citing the master data base would become large, cumbersome, and time consuming. Only descendents of William Parsons and his wife, Margaret Hoskins, of Beaminster, Co. Dorset, England, should be cataloged. Bob Heath mailed me about 700 pedigrees which were submitted over the years from and reside in our extensive files. Gary entered about 500 into the master database of linked individuals. He also uploaded a revised database of PFA's Western Regions web site: <http://www.pfawr.org>

Gary followed up on Gerald J. Parsons Volume 2 research materials located at the New England Historic Genealogical (NEHGS) facility in Boston. He concluded it would be too expensive and time consuming as well as no rough draft exists. Additionally, a letter from Gerald J. Parsons stating because of the trouble he had compiling Vol.1: he had no intention of publishing Vol. 2.

### ***Treasurer's Report:***

Organization is in excellent financial health. FY2014: revenues \$6,205; expenses \$3,500; net proceeds \$2,700.00. Revenues increase directly reflects approximately \$1800 of donations collected for furnace fund plus increased book sales and membership dues directly related to newsletters membership application redesign. Ruth Datler, 85 years old, sent in \$2 donation with a note saying she is very proud of her heritage. Estelle Parsons made the largest donation and in combination with the several



other donations made by members we were able to raise enough to start the project. All donations are extremely appreciated. The Mainstay fund was reallocated in January to diversify risk and liquidity for on-going projects. A CD matured and the denomination was re-deposited into the checking account to fund the project Bob Heath is currently working on. Kim reported 125 books left and proposed to offer books at \$75 (\$5s/h) to stimulate book sales. She also recommended reduced rate of \$65 for multiple sales and purchase for organizations.

***Additional Business:***

A donation of \$100 donation was presented to Capen Gardens this morning for the tour. It was a beautiful, sunny, and brisk morning and a very nice outing had by all. The gardens are outstanding in their design, beauty, and informative touring guides.

Gary Parsons West Coast Reunion will by September 7 in Los Gatos, CA. The event is to be catered by Armadillo Willy's. Gary stated Stu would send brochures "West of Miss". Gary mails to CA and neighboring states. Please send pedigrees to Gary. Also, his letter openers have all his information there for you.

Nan Wolverton offered PFA a seat on their Board of Directors. Kim Graham offered to be on the board of directors as our "eyes and ears". This is a nice gesture by historic Northampton. This is a definite plus per our President. A request was made to store books at historical association as well as the possibility of storing PFA records and filing cabinets. Nan Wolverton of Historical Northampton (HN) clarified issues Parsons House maintenance from furnace (oil to gas with chimney liner), asbestos, sills and cracks. Informed HN we raised \$1800 in donations. Board discussed helping out further and the board decided to help with this process. We normally give \$900. A suggestion to donate up to \$7000 with the understanding that we get documentation showing monies going directly to Parsons House and the funds be split in half (\$3500 at beginning of work and \$3500 when documentation of completed work). Kim will visit to see work and Nan has been communicating well with PFA board thus far.

**Updated Officer's Nominations:**

- Assistant Treasurer Position will not be filled.
- Emily resigned from 1st Vice President Position (she is very busy with college and band).
- Laura Pisano nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Position.
- Emily to assist Karen with Facebook social media format.

**Reunion 2015 Date: July 24 and 25, 2015**

Deanna would like the reunion to occur in Ithaca, New York, at Cornell University. There is a new food science building. She is the "Matriarch" of the Dairy. All dairy people come from all over USA to learn about the dairy business. There is a beautiful conference room with the ability to cater. The department has given approval for our reunion to be held there. There is a dairy barn with a viewing room open to the public. It is handicap accessible, boasts beautiful gardens, and has convenient hotels. The Class of 1919 matriculated cousins Julius and Lina Parsons and Deanna has developed a new flavor at Cornell which has @25 flavors. Cornell Colors are red and white. Kim Suggested the Ocean State (RI) for the 2016 Reunion. Nancy Armstrong described her visit to the Cornell dairy barn and said it was amazing to watch. The cows would be groomed then through stanchion and to water. Nancy relayed a story where her brother George, told her about a cow, Nancy, who happened to be the best milker at Cornell with the best butter fat.

Gifts presented by Jenna Simons: 1) Traveled the farthest: Gary Parsons; 2) New Vice President: Laura Pisano; 3) New cousins: Kelly, Wayne, and Janice

Meeting adjourned Nancy Armstrong 1<sup>st</sup>, Cris Parsons 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:57 pm

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Trisa Parsons Palacio, Secretary**

## **WEB MASTER'S REPORT:**

The Parsons Family Association has a brand new Facebook Page. At the moment we have 169 "likes" which means many new contacts with Parsons Family cousins. We would like to grow our family and this Facebook page may help us do the job. If you are on Facebook, you can find our page at <https://www.facebook.com/Parsons.Family.Assn?ref=hl> or simply enter Parsons Family Association in the search window.

When you get there, have a look around for some Parsons Family facts you may not know. We hope you will make your own posts and respond to the conversation. Here's a chance for us to keep in touch between reunions.

We all know that our most colorful ancestors made news in 17<sup>th</sup> century New England, but would like to find out if there are any more recent stories to tell: a horse thief, a war hero, a major sports figure, an author, a politician? In your line, do you have an ancestor descendant from Joseph or Benjamin Parsons that made the news? Tell us about her/him on Facebook. Pictures are welcome.

I hope to see you on Facebook soon and while you are there be sure to "like" us.

**Karen Vorbeck Williams**  
**PFA Website/Facebook Administrator**

## **HISTORIANS REPORT:**

Even though this year has been slow, research wise, here are eleven of the historian's activities since the last PFA's Annual Reunion in 2014:

- Finished digitizing approximately 500 pedigrees supplied to me, after the 2013 reunion at Lake George, by Bob Heath, our past Historian. These came from the PFA's extensive member files that are still in his possession.
- Found in the above material, was a letter written by Gerald J. Parsons, author of our reference book entitled: THE PARSONS FAMILY, Volume 1, 2002. The letter stated that because of the work, expense, and hassle involved in the publishing process, he had no intention of publishing a Volume 2.
- After his death, all of Gerald's research material was donated to the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) in Boston, MA. Over the last two years, I have been working with their staff, in an attempt to locate any material related to Gerald's Volume 2. Even though they sent me a detailed index of their holdings concerning Gerald's research material, unfortunately, there was nothing worth pursuing.
- Finished digitizing all of the pedigrees submitted by PFA members, over the last year.
- Uploaded an Internet version of our revised database to the PFA's Western Region web site, minus any living individuals, born after 1930. Next time an upload is performed, the cutoff date will be 1940, unless there are objections.
- After the last reunion in Northampton, I was given another 500 or so pedigrees, from our association's files, to enter into the PFA's Master Database, preferably before next year's annual reunion.
- We were able to reschedule our PFA's (off again-on again) West Coast Reunion on September 7<sup>th</sup>, thanks to Harriet Parsons and her daughters. We had Armadillo Willy's famous BBQ Rib and pulled pork lunch, with all the trimmings. There were 21 members in attendance, and all had a pleasant time around the pool, discussing our family history. Also discussed was information obtained at the PFA's East Coast Reunion in July.

- In September, I attended a genealogical seminar in Oakland California, on doing research in New England and the surrounding areas. The seminar was hosted by the California Genealogical Society (CGS) of Oakland, California, and presented by the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) of Boston, Massachusetts. I am a member of both organizations and many New England research aids were offered for sale.
- Am in the process of trying to obtain a copy of a college thesis (Senior Research Paper) about the witch trials of Mary Bliss Parsons, entitled: SMOLDERING FIRE, by Betty Guffy Richardson. This was initially for one of our members, Kathy-Ann Becker, author of SILENCING THE WOMEN, but also for our PFA's Library.
- The criterion for a successful organization (listed below) was revised from a memo I obtained from the California Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies, for which I am also a member. I thought it would also be an excellent guide for our own organization.
- Last, but not least; Now that I have entered all of the pedigree's from members, and most of the pedigrees from the PFA's extensive files, into our association's Master Database, it's now time for everyone to start thinking about sending in their updated information, showing recent births, marriages, and deaths in their family. With your permission, and if enough information is supplied, this can be published in our annual newsletter.

### **Criteria for a Successful Organization:**

A Successful organization must have:

1. Capable and interested officers...most officers are capable but how about their interest? Do they have a devoted interest in your association? Do they put their association first? Are they interested in other groups? Are they really interested in the promotion and growth of their own association? This should be the first consideration in the selection of officers!
2. A healthy, growing membership. Keep a tally sheet, showing the increase or decrease in your association's membership. Are you losing more than you gain, or just breaking even? Do your members bring guests to meetings?
3. A sound financial structure. Do you operate on a budget? Regular reports to the membership are essential to keep everyone well informed.
4. Worthwhile projects. Every association should have at least one major project, and one minor project going at all times. Have you reviewed your association's projects recently?
5. Interesting and informative programs! Good programs also make it much easier to invite potential members.

### **FIND-A-GRAVE WEB SITE:**

We are continuing the request that all members who have headstone photographs of their Parsons ancestors to please post them on a relatively free new web site, known 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.

### **Respectfully Submitted,**

Mr. Gary A. Parsons, of San Jose, California

Historian for The Parsons Family Association and Web Page Administrator for the Western Region

E-Mail: <[parsons@pfawr.org](mailto:parsons@pfawr.org)>; Web Page: <<http://www.pfawr.org>>



JUNE 12, 2014

## *Leading the whey: Cornell at forefront of dairy safety outreach*

By [Stacey Shackford and Ellen Leventry](#)



Deanna Simons, quality manager for the Cornell Dairy, instructs workshop participants on pre-operational micro-organism detection techniques for food contact surfaces in the Dairy Processing Plant June 11:  
Andrea Alfano/Provided

**Any way you slice it, brine it or age it, Cornell's Food Science Dairy Extension [Program](#) faculty and professionals are helping New York cheese makers and dairy producers provide safe, high-quality products for consumers.**

**"The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Department of Food Science are committed to working with federal and state agencies and the food industry to generate appropriate scientific data for application by industry to produce safe food products, from the small artisanal scale to the large scale," said Kathryn J. Boor, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.**

**Case in point: Even as the program works closely with cheese makers and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to understand and address concerns about the United States Food and Drug Administration's national [policy](#) regarding the use of wooden boards for cheese aging issued this week, it was hosting more than 40 local producers at a dairy food safety and basic dairy science workshop.**

**"The participants are being taught how to clean and sanitize different surfaces in food processing environments – exactly the skills that would be needed to implement consistent cleaning practices of wood boards, but also to clean and sanitize the overall facilities of any dairy processing and artisan cheese making operation," said Martin Wiedmann, professor of food science and director of the Cornell Food Safety Lab.**

**Attendee Marjorie Randles of Randles Fairview Farm, in Argyle, N.Y., makers of Argyle Cheese Farmer cheese and yogurt products, has participated in three other workshops at Cornell.**

**“Our goal is to make a high-quality, healthy, safe product,” Randles said. “These workshops help me see areas where I need to improve, and where I should put new plans in place. Then, when I talk to an inspector, I speak their language and understand what they are talking about – they’ll have more confidence in me and I’ll have more confidence in myself that I’m going down the right path.”**

**Cornell also has intensified collaborative efforts with industry partners, including Wegmans Food Markets and 3M, to develop and implement procedures that dairy and other processing plants use to test their facilities’ environments for organisms that may cause human disease and determine response plans. A partnership with Wegmans, now in its second year, specifically provides funding to assist small artisanal cheese makers develop and implement these types of testing procedures.**

**“In addition to the artisans in the Wegmans program, I work proactively with dozens and dozens of New York artisans to implement environmental testing programs and preventive control guidance and am in the process of helping them get this in place voluntarily,” said Rob Ralyea, senior dairy [extension](#) associate.**

**Moreover, Cornell provides technical advising and [certification programs](#) in cheese making, fluid milk processing, yogurt and fermented products to more than 500 dairy farmers, processors and industry professionals, and is collaborating with state and federal inspectors and regulators on training and recertification.**

**In order to keep expanding the safety net, the university is working with Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), who [visited the new Stocking Hall](#) last summer, to position the Department of Food Science as a national center of excellence in dairy and food safety. Federal recognition would enable the university to leverage its expertise and extensive extension and training network to secure more funding for food safety research and to lead development of industry wide quality and safety standards.**

**“Cornell is a world leader in food safety, and I commend them for all of the work they do to help ensure New York’s dairy [farmers](#) and cheese makers are leading the nation in quality and safety,” said Schumer. “I look forward to continuing to push for federal partnerships and [grants](#) that will help enhance Cornell’s work to grow New York’s dairy industry, which is a massive economic engine for the state.”**

*Stacey Shackford is a writer for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Ellen Leventry is a media relations officer in CALS.*

**Story Contacts:** Cornell Chronicle; George Lowery; 607-255-2171; [gpl5@cornell.edu](mailto:gpl5@cornell.edu); November 13, 2014  
<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2014/06/leading-whey-cornell-forefront-dairy-safety-outreach>;

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<b>Cris Parsons:</b>	<b>13 Bigelow Road, Johnston, R.I. 0291</b>	<b>401-934-1403</b>

Every association should have at least one major project, and one minor project going 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 Parsons Building and getting their history documented; there are three I know of offhand in Florence, Northampton, and Greenfield, maybe in 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 regions.
- Compile a profile of Parsons with their Professions and Hobbies (make them come to life again).
- Document construction or land grants from Parsons Cousins. One currently occurring in Conway and Kim will be submitting in next newsletter.
- 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 live (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/oce-10000/?gelid=CNrUuuPhhMICFVjgfgodtjlAwQ>.



**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS MEETING RESERVATIONS:**

**Place:** Cornell University, Stocking Hall, Room 148, Tower Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

**Date:** July 24, 2015, Friday

**Price:** \$20.00

**Type:** Finely catered menu provided by Cornell University Auxiliary Services.  
(Menu to be determined)

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

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

**NAMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**REUNION RESERVATIONS:** \*\*\* **PLEASE RSVP BY: FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015**\*\*\*

**Place:** Cornell University, Stocking Hall, Room 148, Tower Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

**Date:** Saturday, July 25, 2015

**Price:** \$20.00

**Type:** Finely catered menu provided by Cornell University Auxiliary Services.  
(Menu to be determined)

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

[kbgbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbgbandits@gmail.com); [kbgraham@admin.umass.edu](mailto: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

**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:	

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

**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 ANCESTRY 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

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**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**