

CORNET'S CHRONICLE

PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

www.parsonsfamilyassociation.org

Volume 17 Issue 1

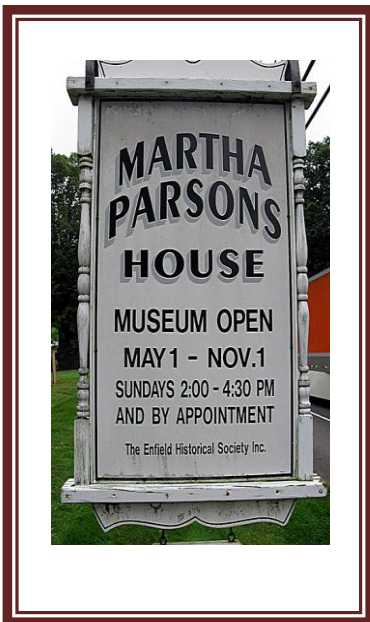
Deanna Parsons Simons

Fall 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Cousins:

This year's reunion was held in Springfield, MA, along with a tour of the Martha A. Parsons historical home in Enfield, CT. The tour was given by the Enfield Historical Society on September 24, 2011. It is a fully furnished home that held quite an interest for all of us, being a Parsons' home.



Our new historian, Gary Parsons, researched the lineage charts left in "healing room" of the kitchen. He concluded that one of the charts was correct and there is a direct line that follows to our family. This is quite a find for our family, both the house and our new historian. These are his findings:

Martha's small pedigree chart covered from herself, down through Christopher Parsons and Mary Pease. I doubled check all this information against census records (via ancestry.com),

headstone inscriptions and cemetery records (via findagrave.com) and found her information was absolutely correct. Using her pedigree and the reference book lists below, I was able to tie her line into Deacon Benjamin Parsons, Sr. I was lucky enough the reference book ended with Christopher Parsons and Mary Pease, right where her chart ended.

Williams Parsons, Sr. (abt 1575-1654) & Margret Hoskins (abt. 1584-aft. 1655)
Deacon Benjamin Parsons, Sr. (abt. 1625-1689) & Sarah Keep (abt. 1635-1677)
Christopher Parsons (1691-1749) & Mary Pease (1695-1774)
Benjamin Parsons (abt. 1729-abt. 1795) & Sophia Pease (abt. 1729-____)
Simon Parsons, Sr. (abt. 1764-1840) & Abigail McNeil (abt. 1764-1837)
Simon Parsons, Jr. (1803-1888) & Martha Potter (1805-1880)
John S. Parsons (1833-1880) & Juliaette Allen (1848-1916)
Martha Adelia Parsons (1869-1965)



A GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE FIRST SETTLERS IN NEW ENGLAND, showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on The Basis of Farmer's Register, Volume III, pp 361. By James Savage, published by the Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc. Baltimore, MD 1977, Santa Clara, CA. Call # GR929 526 V3.

This was only a preliminary investigation, and if anyone is going to use this line in their own genealogy, it should be verified through CT and MA VR's. A big thanks to Gary for his time and photography. It is much appreciated.

Also, new to our organization is our web administrator, Karen Vorbeck Williams. Karen has taken the helm and is moving full steam ahead with our fabulous new web site. The new address of the Parsons Family Association is www.parsonsfamilyassn.org. The old site will still be standing for a period, but moving forward, add this to your favorites. Friends and family should be able to find us without a problem with a Google search. Please check out the new web site and blog your comments. This summer marks the 90th anniversary of the Parsons Family Association. This very special reunion will be held at the Historical Parsons Home in Northampton, MA. The home was built by Nathaniel, a grandson of Cornet Joseph Parsons. *Cornet is not a first name, but rather a rank in the military of the flag or standard bearer.* **SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, July 28th, 2012 is the 90th PFA reunion.

Respectfully submitted: Deanna Parsons Simons

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Parsons Family Association 89th Anniversary
Saturday, September 24, 2011
Art Deco Room, Springfield Museum

Attending: Deanna Simons, Jim and Hanne Parsons, Nancy and John Armstrong, Bob and Araina Heath, Phil and Cristina Parsons, Muriel Parsons Poulin, Kim Graham, Martha Ethier, Emily Ethier, Gary Parsons, Jennifer Armstrong, Lauren Armstrong, Richard and Paula Parsons, Janet Parsons, Karen Vorbeck Williams, Chet and Kate Parsons, John Parsons Douglas, Hunter Daughtrey, Trisa Parsons Palacio. Attendance 26

Greetings to all by President, Deanna Simons. Obituaries were read by Bob Heath. He reported the passing of Winifred Parsons, wife of Sid Parsons; Goddard Chaney Parsons (past president), and Robert H. Parsons. A moment of silence was observed to honor the deceased.

The President read the minutes of the 88th meeting. Additions to the 88th minutes were Rymn and Joan Parsons, and Wayne Sparks and a deletion of Marlene Conser under historical report. Minutes were corrected. Bob Heath, motioned to accept, Jennifer Armstrong 2nd, all were in favor.

The Treasurer's report was read by Kim Graham--copies given to all attending. Net proceeds and total expenditures were listed. Kim informed the group of changes such as moving the meeting from July to September had a negative impact on the financial net proceeds by deferral of revenue and expenses. The association sold 5 books. Kim discussed the balance sheet and investment vehicles (CDs) and reported CD rates are the highest for shorter investment periods (8 months).

Discussion occurred on the Maintenance and Endowment funds and it was suggested to keep monies the same as last year. Kim stated for the next CD rollover she would secure the best investment vehicle. As stocks are risky and the principle cannot be guaranteed, more CDs will be the best vehicle. The group nodded in agreement. Deanna Simons motioned to accept, Martha Ethier 2nd, all were in favor.

The Historian's report was read by Bob Heath and he reported 335 books sold to date, with 165 in stock. He will be retiring from his post to "re-retire." Motions to accept report were made by James Parsons, Jennifer Armstrong 2nd, all were in favor.

The Website report was read by Phil Parsons and he reported there have been several hits to the website. The Blog feature was removed due to lack of response. Email queries were forwarded to Bob Heath for individual answers. Phil stated he was retiring his post as webmaster. Bob Heath motioned to accept, Janet Parsons 2nd, all were in favor.

Corporate form filing was completed on time and Phil will continue to file for the Association.

Old Business:

Ancestry.com information was forwarded by Jennifer Armstrong who suggested the organization become an affiliate, like Face book, and it would be a possible revenue source. This option remains an outstanding issue.

New Business:

A discussion of one day vs. two day meeting times ensued. Emily stated she felt rushed in today's format and others agreed. Thus, the reunion will return to a 2 day format. A suggestion was made for a 6 month directors meeting or conference call. Bob suggested the President could reach out to board of directors as needed. Emily feels September not a good month for the reunion and prefers late July/August timeframe for the annual meeting.

Kim suggested the 90th meeting should be at the Historic Northampton Parsons House and we should reserve the space now. There was a preference for the last week of July for the next reunion or the first week of August. Kim and Deanna will investigate those two dates (July 28th or August 4th) and report back. Information will be placed on website once a firm date and place are decided.

The Maintenance (\$600) and Endowment (\$300) fund last year totaled \$900. A discussion ensued regarding the amounts and the directors suggested maintaining the same funding as in the prior year. The motion to accept was made by Bob Heath, Jennifer 2nd and all were in favor.

The slate of officers presented is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| President- | Deanna Parsons Simons; |
| Vice-President- | Emily Ethier; |
| Stationary2 nd VP- | Araina Heath; |
| Third VP- | James Parsons; |
| Secretary- | Trisa Parsons Palacio; |
| Treasurer- | Kim Graham; |
| Asst Treasurer- | Muriel Parsons Poulin, |
| Clerk- | Bob Heath |

Openings:

Historian (Gary Parsons is willing to serve)

Website Administrator (Karen Vorbeck-Williams willing to serve)

Web Administrator-Karen Vorbeck Williams is willing to serve though she is not sure what she is saying yes to with a smile. Phil stated his son set it up and stated to Karen, "For you, it will be fun." Karen asked about gallery page and Deanna encouraged members to share their history for the website.

Nancy Armstrong elaborated about Phil and Bob's dedication to the Association and how appreciative she is for all they have done. (wild applause). All officers stood and proposed slate of officers be accepted. Cris Parsons motioned to accept, Nancy Armstrong 2nd and all were in favor.

Muriel will be storing the remaining books in her home and she will type for the Chronicle if Deanna proofreads before printing/mailing. The Chronicle needs to be to the President for proofreading by October 20. Any electronic information sent to Muriel needs the subject line to state PFA, otherwise she will not open it.

The name change on the safe deposit bank occurred last May. Martha Ethier and Bob Heath have the keys. Kim suggested the safety box be moved to the Greenfield Cooperative Bank in

Greenfield as they can take the monies directly from the account annually and Martha is a signer on the bank account. Kim has the support of the Association to look into better software for finances and maintenance of the membership directory for newsletter mailings.

Nancy Armstrong wished the group to introduce and elaborate on their family ties which is outlined as follows. The Armstrong's introduced themselves (John and Nancy Armstrong, daughters Lauren and Jennifer Armstrong). They are delighted to be here. James Parsons introduced his family by noting the NYS-historical flooding 45 feet above flood stage and how his wife, Hanne, saved their home (daughters, Trisa and Deanna).

Rich Parsons from Deerfield and Paula, his "long suffering" wife; Chester Parsons from Vermont introduced himself as scoring one for the bucket list and introduced his wife, Kate. Martha and Emily Ethier introduced themselves. Emily is the youngest member of the Association. She has been a member since she was 8 months old. Bob Heath introduced himself and his wife, Araina. She is the descendant of two Parsons lines. Gerald Parsons could not find a connection.

Phil and Cristina Parsons, from RI, introduced themselves and Phil points out he was hoodwinked through Bob to contribute. Janet Parsons, from Vermont, introduced her husband, Hunter and son John. They used to live in North Carolina. Gary Parsons, from San Jose, CA stated his line is from upstate NY then they traveled west for gold. His family has 15 volumes of family history documented by his mother.

Karen Vorbeck Williams rejoined this year from 30 yrs age. Welcome back. Her family roots are in Colorado. Presently, she resides in Rumford, RI. Karen discussed her new book, *My Enemy's Tears*. The group appreciated they were able to buy copies of her book (extra bonus reduced rate). The book discusses Mary Bliss Parsons' accusation of witchcraft and Sarah Bridgeman conviction of slander. This case went to trial in 1674. Mary was found to be innocent. Karen also took the time to sign copied for interested members. Kim Graham also introduced herself. She is the daughter of Muriel Parsons Poulin. Muriel is our oldest member at a young 79 and received a gift.

Gifts were presented to new officers: Gary Parsons (historian) and Karen V. Williams (web administrator) and to the outgoing officers: Phil Parsons (web) and Bob Heath (historian). (loud clapping and chorus of boohoo's and aahhhhh's over the gifts)

Motion to adjourn meeting at 2:48 pm by James Parsons, Jennifer Armstrong 2nd, all were in favor. Again, enthusiastic clapping.

Secretary would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Laura Pisano. Without her notes as guidance, this report would not have been possible. Thank you, Laura.

Respectfully submitted: Trisa Parsons Palacio

TREASURER'S REPORT

This year has been a year of change which had a direct impact on fiscal year 2011 (FY11) financial statement which ended in June. The first change is the reunion was moved from the traditional summer date to a September date. The newsletter was delayed from its traditional April publication to late June. These combined events resulted in deferred revenues which arrived in fiscal year 2012 (FY12). Thus, I provided the Board of Directors the normal statement as well as a proforma projection to assess the results compared to prior years. The organization's financial status is healthy even in these economic times.

The Parsons Family Income Statement for FY11 presented total revenues of \$2,017.85 and the total expenditures of \$2,540.10; creating net proceeds of negative \$432.25. The changes are directly affiliated to the FY11 results. Across the board revenues were down. Five books were sold and the association had one new life member. The association donated \$600 to the Parsons Maintenance Fund and \$300 to the Parsons Endowment Fund.

The balance sheet for FY11 has remained steady over the last few years and I am continually investing monies in CDs over different terms to generate interest. Presently, the association has several CDs all maturing over the next few years at variegated intervals. The organization earned approximately \$175.00 interest via the above investing model. The capital assets increased by approximately 20 percent over the prior fiscal year. However, due to the economic downswing and the stock market's volatility, this increase in assets is expected to decrease or flatten by the third quarter 2011 calendar year.

A projection for FY12 for the first quarter was presented to the board to illustrate similar trends and financial results if the reunion had been in July. This projection depicted total revenues of \$3,842.85, total expenses of \$3,194.71, resulting in net proceeds of positive \$648.14. This projection illustrated the organization's financial results were in line with prior fiscal years. For additional information, email Kim Graham at kbgbandits@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted: Kim Graham

OUTGOING HISTORIAN'S REPORT

With regret, I have decided it is time for me to resign as the PFA's historian. Gary Parsons of California will now serve in this capacity. I am sure Gary will be able to assist you with any requests. I have enjoyed this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted: Robert Heath

FROM THE INCOMING HISTORIAN'S CORNER DESK

First of all, as your new historian, I would like to thank Bob Heath for the great job he has done over the last eight or so years as the PFA's Historian. In this capacity, he will be sincerely missed. I hope that I will be able to fill his shoes satisfactorily. As I see it, my primary duties will be to maintain the PFA's historical and family history files and to answer to the best of my ability, any and all genealogy questions concerning our common heritage. If I am unable to answer your questions, I will try to refer you to a resource that will.

As your new historian, I would like to introduce myself and list some of my qualifications, including resources. My name is Gary Parsons, and I have been a life member of both the

Parsons and Strong Family Associations for many years. I've been researching my own family history for over 40 years and have authored over eight volumes of my family's history. I've taken adult and college level genealogy classes and have taught genealogy at a local senior center. I'm a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Historic Northampton, and the Silicon Valley Genealogical Computer Group. In my research, if I can't find the information I'm looking for in my own reference library, I have access to three excellent genealogical libraries in the area (i.e. National Archives, CA State library at Sutro, and Santa Clara Library) and a number of on-line resources (i.e. ancestry.com, findagrave.com, and americanancestors.org).

One of my first goals as historian is to obtain by any and all means possible, a unique Parsons pedigree from all of our current members. The pedigree can be submitted to me as a simple handwritten note, or it can be as complicated as you would like to make it. It can be sent to me either by snail-mail or e-mail. Your unique Parsons pedigree should start with your immediate family and go back as far as you can. It should cover only your direct line ancestors. Also, if possible, could you list the sources of your information (i.e. oral history, unpublished manuscript, reference book, census records, or other). As far as I am aware of, this has not been done for quite a while. This information is for our association's records. My current address, e-mail, and web page are: Mr. Gary Alan Parsons, 3551 Laurant Way, San Jose, CA 95132-1314 E-mail: parsons@frys.com; Web Page: <http://www.pfawr.org>.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Parsons.

WEB SITE ADMINSTRATOR

Karen V. Williams, author of *My Enemy's Tears*, a novel about Mary Bliss Parsons, has been elected as the Parsons Family Association's new webmaster. In addition to her writing abilities, she has designed and operated several web sites for local non-profits. Visit our website at <http://parsonsfamilyassociation.org> to view the recently updated website.

Respectfully submitted: Phillip Parsons.

GROWING A WEDDING DOWN ON THE FARM

Recently in the Hampshire Gazette located in Northampton, MA, a Parsons Family Farm Wedding was featured, Tim Parsons (great grandson of our former President, Earl Parsons) and Jenn Cranshaw was married on the family farm in Hadley. This farm has been in the family for 14 generations. The bride was brought to the wedding site on a John Deere tractor. The groom's shirt was cranberry to match the bride's sash. The bride's maids wore chocolate brown gowns and the groomsmen wore brown polo shirts and tan pants. Ralphie, Jenn's pet ewe, was ringer bearer. The couple was married under an arbor of cornstalks, pumpkins and mums which were grown on the farm. The wedding article, appearing in the *Hampshire Gazette's weekend magazine*, depicted the ambience of a family's dedication to its roots. The complete article and photos will soon be available for viewing on the family website.

WEST COAST PFA ANNUAL REPORT

The West Coast PFA's Annual meeting was held at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Monterey, CA. on April 1, 2011. Thirty-six cousins attended. It was a beautiful day with the sun shining and the temperature in the 70's. There was lots of playground equipment and space for the youngsters. Thanks to our hosts, Leslie and Tony Finnegan, lunch consisted of a six foot long multi-ingredient sandwich, Italian pasta, drinks and a large chocolate cake. Gordon Harper from Anchorage, AK. traveled the farthest and Polly Spring, 86 years young, was the oldest, fully recovered from the broken hip she suffered at last year's reunion.



Gary Parsons, the new family historian, related the highlight of the eastern PFA's reunion a week earlier. A number of people commented on how much they enjoyed this reunion. Next year it is planned to hold the reunion again in Saratoga, CA, (San Jose) or Carmichael CA (Sacramento).

Respectfully submitted: Stu Parsons.

GARY PARSONS' LINEAGE

As your new Historian and a long time member of the PFA, my Parsons line goes like this (William¹, Joseph, Sr.², Joseph, Jr.³, Noah, Sr.⁴, Noah, Jr.⁵, Noah, III⁶, Noah, IV⁷, Theron⁸, Silenus⁹, John, Sr.¹⁰, Robert, Sr.¹¹, Gary¹²).

Because most of you know of Cornet Joseph Parsons, Sr., his parents, siblings, and children, I see no need to go over that part of my ancestry. My research indicates that most of my early ancestors were farmers and Noah Parsons, Sr., Jr., & the III, all served in the Revolutionary War, and have SAR placards on their graves. Because of their service to their country, they were awarded land grants in up-state New York, as compensation.

Noah Parsons, Sr., & his wife Mindwell Edwards, Noah Parsons, Jr. & his wife, Phebe Bartlett are all buried in the Bridge Street Cemetery, in Northampton, MA. Noah Parsons, III, & his wife Sarah Edwards lived in Westhampton, Hampshire Co., MA. After the death of her husband and his burial in Center Cemetery, Westhampton, MA, Sarah relocated to Skaneateles, Onondaga Co., NY, to live with her daughter Sarah and son-in-law, Luther Clark. When Sarah passed away, she was interned in the Clark family plot, at the Lake View Cemetery, in Skaneateles.

Capt. Noah Parsons, IV, was given or inherited large tracts of land in Otisco, Onondaga Co., NY, which he farmed with his family. They had 5 children we know of, and I descend from their youngest son, Theron. When his wife, Thankful Edward, died, he disposed of all his lands in Otisco and relocated to Lima, Livingston Co., NY, where he met and married Rebecca Yale, a descendant of one of the town's founders. They are interred in the Old Presbyterian Cemetery, in Lima.

Theron Parsons, sometime after the death of his mother and the relocation of his father, relocated to Watertown, Jefferson Co., NY, where he met and married Lovina Collins on 25 Sept. 1827. According to the 1827 Albany Argus, Theron was the Editor of the Watertown Post. In 1854, Theron resettled his family in Mankato, MN, before going to Kelsey, El Dorado Co., CA, to seek his fortune in the famous 1849 gold rush. He did not strike it rich as hoped, so he went back to Mankato, sold all of his property, collected his family, and went back to National City in Southern California where he became an orchardist and land speculator. Theron and Lovina were my 2nd great grandparents.

The fascinating story of Theron Parsons will be available to read on web site. I encourage all to visit the site and comment and share with family.

OFFICERS

President: Deanna Parsons Simons, 17 Beacon St., Binghamton, NY 13901 Deanna.simons@hphood.com
First Vice President: Emily Ethier, 18 Shattuck St., Greenfield, MA. 01301 Emily_either@verizon.net
Second Vice President: Araina Heath, 41 Allen Coit Rd., Huntington, MA 01050 Whitestarr@comcast.net
Third Vice President: James Parsons, 3108 Sarasota Ave., Vestal, NY 13850 Jparsons9@stny.rr.com
Secretary: Trisa Parsons Palacio, 10 Anthony Road., Cumberland, RI 02864 Dialtrisa2cnn@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Kim Graham, 48 Parsons Rd., Conway, MA 01341 kbgbandits@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer: Muriel Parsons Poulin, 32 Oliver St., Easthampton, MA 01027 M32parsons@charter.net
Historian: Gary Parsons, 3551 Laurant Way, San Jose, CA 95132-1314 Parsons@frys.com
Web Site Admin.: Karen Vorbeck Williams, 110 Caitlin Ave. Rumford, RI, 02916 karenvw@verizon.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Dr. Stuart O. Parsons, 19740 Via Escuela Dr. Saratoga, CA 95070 | 408-867-0987 |
| Dr. Kenneth T. Doran, 2 Loren Ave., Albany, NY 12203 | 518-456-4199 |
| Muriel Parsons Poulin, 32 Oliver Str., Easthampton, MA 01027 | 413-203-1231 |
| Martha Parsons Ethier, 18 Shattuck St., Greenfield, MA 01301 | 413-774-3645 |
| Lydia C. Omasta, 16 Briggs St., #1, Easthampton, MA 01027 | 413-527-6770 |
| Mr. Nancy Armstrong, 82 Elmwood Drive, N. Kingstown, R.I. 02852 | 401-884-8579 |
| Phillip G. Parsons, Esq., 13 Bigelow Rd., Johnston, RI 02919 | 401-934-1403 |
| Araina Brown Heath, 41 Allen Coit Road, Huntington, MA 01050 | 413-667-3445 |
| Kim Graham, 48 Parsons Road, Conway, MA 01341 | 413-369-8028 |
| Cristina Parsons, 13 Bigelow Road, Johnston, RI 02919 | 401-934-1403 |

THE ENGLISH ANCESTORY AND DESCSENTS TO THE 6TH GENERATIONS OF CORNET JOSEPH PARSONS (1620-1830) compiled by Gerald James Parsons, A.B., M.S.L.S.

This book has received the Grand Prize for New England Genealogy given by the Connecticut Society of Genealogist as well as rave reviews by the New York Biographical and Genealogical Society, American Quest Magazine and The American Genealogist. **MASSACHUETTS RESIDENTS add \$5.00 Sales Tax.**

Member Prices: \$75.00 plus \$5 shipping and handling, plus \$5.00 total \$80.00 (with sales tax \$85.00).

Non-Member Prices: \$85.00 plus \$5 shipping and handling, plus \$5.00 total \$90 (with sales tax \$95.00).

ORDER FORM:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

NUMEBER OF BOOKS _____ TOTAL Cost \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION.**

Mailing address; **PFA, P.O. Box 603, Conway, MA 01341**

Please contact Kim Graham at 413-369-8028 or KBGBANDITS@GMAIL.COM with any questions.

PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 603,

Conway, MA 01341

***KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUSINS AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR PAST
BY BECOMING A MEMBER.***

Annual Memberships: Regular \$10; Sustaining \$25: Life Membership \$200

Additional Donations appreciated are as follows:

1) Maintenance of Parsons Homestead; 2) Endowment Fund for Parsons Homestead; 3) Website fund

.....

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 28th, 2012 is the 90th PFA reunion

“Parsons House”

Historic Northampton

Bridge Street

Northampton, MA 01060

This summer marks the 90th anniversary of the Parsons Family Association and will be a very special reunion.

The home was built by Nathaniel, a grandson of Cornet Joseph Parsons