

# CORNET'S CHRONICLE

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

**Volume 25, Issue 2**

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

**Fall 2018**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

### **Greetings Cousins!**

Fall sure came and went quickly and I hope some of you found some leaves to admire. Our trees dropped theirs early with just a few left to shine their brilliant colors. It is time to announce the 97<sup>th</sup> Parsons Family Association Reunion. Next year's reunion will be held in Newport, RI on Saturday, July 20, 2019.

The 97<sup>th</sup> PFA reunion will be held at Gurney's Newport Resort & Marina, located on Goat Island, RI, surrounded by Narragansett Bay. This resort is located minutes away from downtown Newport. It is a beautiful resort with a 360-degree view of the bay. Lunch that day will be catered in one of their meeting rooms. Gurney's Newport is located at 1 Goat Island Newport, RI 02840. One of the great advantages of this property is ample parking and handicap friendly. Both of these can be scarce in the ultra-busy, historic town of Newport! The day will start with the association meeting starting promptly at 11:00 a.m.



A direct descendant of Cornet Joseph Parsons, Harriet (Hetty) Eddy Parsons married wealthy railroad baron and avid sailor Commodore Arthur Curtiss James in 1890. James built 83 Round Hill Road in 1908. He built it as lodging for himself when he attended trustee meetings at Amherst College. For years, two of Harriet's sisters lived there. Part of the estate now houses the famous Blue Garden. Originally commissioned in 1913, this part of the 125-acre estate was built on the highest point of the island. It is currently a private garden, but does offer tours with request. We are currently requesting permission to tour this garden on reunion day. Better yet, the folks at Gurney's will provide transportation to and from the site, another luxury plus to our Newport experience. We also plan to do a hands-on craft activity that may appeal to both young and old.

As accommodations are pricey at the resort, I recommend alternative lodging away from downtown Newport—perhaps on the mainland. Summer hotel rooms will go quickly, so please plan in advance. Booking now is encouraged. For those who are Directors, my plan is to have that meeting in North Kingstown, RI. Warmest regards,

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



## PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION 2018 DIRECTOR'S MEETING & REUNION:

Director's Meeting held at the Luce Restaurant, Middletown, Connecticut



Left:  
Trisa, Bob  
& Araina  
Heath, &  
Emily  
Ethier;

Right:  
James,  
Jennifer,  
& Trisa



Left:  
Trisa, Bob  
& Araina  
Heath, &  
Emily  
Ethier

Below:  
Parsons' Family Reunion held at The  
Griswold Inn in Essex, Connecticut.





## **“Essex Steam Train Ride”**



Velma Champagne & Scott Shaw & Son,



Scott Shaw's wife Lisa & children (Velma's grandchildren)



James Parsons & Nancy Armstrong



Trisa Palacio, Deanna Parsons & Nick Simons



Phil & Cris Parsons



Laurie Pisano & Friend



James Parsons & Nancy Armstrong & Emily Ethier



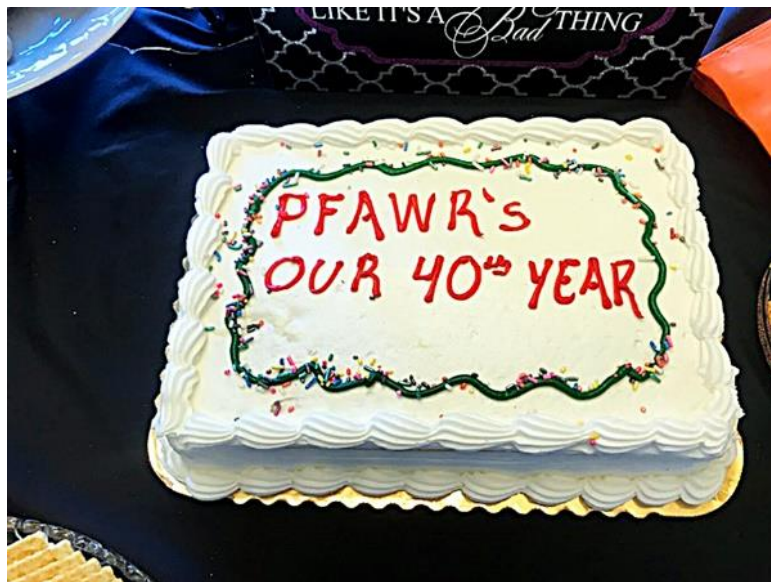
Bob & Araina Heath; Jerry & Martha Ethier



## WESTERN REGION PARSONS FAMILY REUNION:



On Saturday, October 6, we had our Parsons Family Association, Western Region's 40th annual reunion. This year we held our reunion at Harriet Parsons' beautiful home in Saratoga, CA. We had 21 members present, and lucked out with some excellent weather. One member even came all the way from New York City, NY. Gary



## Good News from Historic Northampton, Northampton, Massachusetts

*Update from Laurie Sanders, Co-Director of Historic Northampton*

During the last year, Historic Northampton has continued to expand its role in the community and region, both through its rich programming as well as through multiple collaborations with other organizations and institutions. Probably no better evidence of Historic Northampton's revival is the community's amazing response to last year's \$150,000 matching fund challenge. Thanks to more than 500 donors—including many members of the Parsons Family—we made the match in just a few months! This end-of-year appeal shattered all records, and as you can imagine, the \$150,000 donor was delighted that the challenge generated such an outpouring of giving.

Beyond fundraising successes, we're also pleased to report that our programming and exhibits continue to draw crowds and good press, with positive editorials, multiple newspaper articles and more than one front-page story. In January, an oxen demonstration on our grounds drew more than 200 people, and in the spring, an opening reception attracted a crowd of ~300 people. Just a few weeks ago, Parsons Family member **Kathy-Ann Becker** spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about Mary Bliss Parsons.

There were many other terrific moments and accomplishments this last year; here are a few highlights:

- our plans for a new major exhibit, "Making It on Main Street," are in full swing, with the opening set for March 2019;
- we installed new solar panels on the modern addition of Damon House, and all of Historic Northampton's electrical needs now come from renewable sources;
- new shutters were installed on Damon House, returning it to its 1813 glory;
- we were honored to receive an Historic Preservation Award from the Northampton Historical Commission;
- we co-sponsored the celebration of the Pomeroy Terrace Historic District;
- and we had the help of dozens of volunteers and interns with research, grounds, buildings, etc.

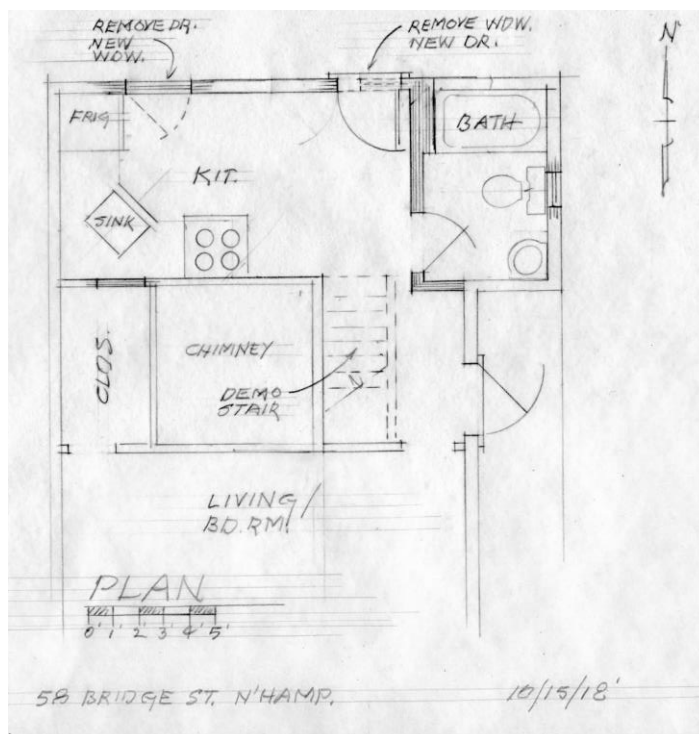
### Focus on Parsons House:

Building on the work we accomplished in 2017 (painting the house, exterior repairs to windows, new gutters, re-grading the back yard to improve drainage, completing an archaeological dig on a newly discovered cistern) we've focused our 2018 efforts on improving the drainage on the east and south sides of the house and taking steps to re-open the Parsons House to the public.

### Welcoming the Public & Scholars

In celebration of the Parsons House 300th birthday, our goal is to re-open the house to the public in 2019. To make this happen, during the last year we toured the house from top to bottom with the local building inspector and city planner. With their input, we began to identify what our next steps would be, specifically in terms of what code changes would apply, which ones would be waived because of the house's historic status, and how we can make the house more accessible to all.

With this information, we began working with Chuck Whitham, a former board member of Historic Northampton and a retired local architect. As a first task, Chuck has been helping us redesign the back two rooms so that we can offer them as short-term rentals (1-4 week) for historians, artists, and



Credit is due to **Chuck Whitham**, a retired architect, and has done all this work for free. Please note this is a preliminary sketch, not a finished drawing of the Parsons House bathroom redesign.



scholars as part of an artist-in-residence program. These rooms have been used as a residential apartment for more than a century, so the proposed use is both in keeping with the house's tradition and Historic Northampton's mission. The rental will also help us generate income, another important aspect for the organization.

Now that we have a clearer understanding for this part of the house, we can begin moving ahead on the rest of the building. It's an exciting time for the Parsons House, and we can't overemphasize how much we appreciate the past and present support of the Parsons Family. So many of the improvements that have been done to the house are thanks to your contributions.

### **Kim's Pitch for Fundraising:**

**Historic Northampton will be inviting donors to help us raise funds for this big project. It's a great idea to be able to use the Parsons House for short term or long term, Artist Residency. Stay tuned for how you can help! All donations, large and small, are appreciated and perhaps there could be a naming/recognition opportunity. Initial projected expenses are expected to be \$35K-\$45K to complete this project; volunteer labor will be used to offset costs.**

### Driveway Improvements

Remember the chorus in *Big Yellow Taxi* by Joni Mitchell? "They paved Paradise and put up a parking lot." Well, as part of a major driveway redesign and parking lot improvement, we recently unpaved parts of "Paradise" and removed a stretch of asphalt that used to run close to the Parsons House. This change will enable us to re-grade the land near the house, which will not only help get water away from the building's foundation, but will also allow us to reveal the foundation and separate the lowest clapboards from the soil. These improvements will greatly benefit the building's long term preservation.

If anyone has questions about our projects, or if you'd like to contribute to the Parsons House renovations and improvements, please be in touch with Kim Graham or Laurie Sanders.



**OBITUARIES:** See website for full Obituary details, <http://www.parsonsfamilyassn.org>



Rev. Forest Lee Parsons, 98:  
Passed away on Friday, November 9, 2018



Bertha Parsons, 94:  
Passed away on Tuesday, December 15, 2017



Richard G. Parsons, 81:  
Passed away on Sunday, October 22, 2017



Timothy Parsons, 33:  
Passed away on Friday, April 6, 2018



## PARSONS HISTORIC PROFILE:

# Tracing our Roots by Nancy “Camille” Cole

We all want to know where we came from. We Parsons Cousins are fortunate to have the Parsons Family Association to help us trace a portion of our roots back to Cornet Joseph Parsons and Mary Bliss Parsons. They both came here under conditions we would find terrifying today. Joseph came on a ship called the Bart Transport from Devonshire England circa 1635. Mary and her family came to the colonies around the same time from Gloucestershire England. I've enjoyed, over the years, leafing through the genealogy books provided to us through the hard work of our kin.

As was typical for the day, Joseph and Mary had a large family: Joseph, b. 1647; Benjamin (namesake of Cornet Joseph's brother), b. 1649; John, b. 1650; Samuel, b. 1652; Ebenezer, b. 1655; Jonathon, b. 1657; David, b. 1659; Mary, b. 1661; Hannah, b. 1663; Abigail, b. 1666; Esther, b. 1672. Mary was clearly busy with child-rearing while husband Cornet Joseph was establishing himself in the Massachusetts communities he helped found—Springfield and Northampton—and as a fir trader and land owner. All their children would marry and have numerous children.

Many of us have traced ourselves and our immediate families back to the children of Joseph and Mary, and then taken it from there to build our stories, our family story and tree. Our family association has supported the publication of several books on the genealogy of this Parsons Family. I am a direct descendant of the eldest of Cornet Joseph and Mary', Joseph. Known later as Esquire Joseph, he was born to the Parsons settlers in the late 1640s, circa 1647. He married Elizabeth Strong, and they both lived into their 80s, and are buried at the Bridge Street Cemetery in Northampton.

The young Joseph was appointed as a lieutenant during the early 1700s, and would play an active role in the military; in the late 1600s, he sent two of his sons to Harvard College. Esq. Joseph followed in his father's footsteps, buying land, trading goods, owning mills, being active in local politics, and as an entrepreneur of sorts. He and his wife Elizabeth would have 12 children, including twins who died at birth in 1683. I descend from their fifth child, Josiah, who married Sarah Sheldon who was born in Northampton. They would have nine children and I descend from the third, Isaac, b. 1715, and married Lucy Strong. They are also buried at the Bridge Street Cemetery at Northampton. They had 10 children, and I descend from the youngest, Elias, b. 1772. He married Mary Stetson, who died young in her 50s, and then married Lois Strong.

I descend from Mary and Elias' eldest child, Maurice (pronounced Morris). He is my great great great grandfather. This is where I become more familiar with the people and my lineage, having kept an ear open for family stories as a child.

Of interest to me, I recently discovered that Maurice had a twin brother, Edwin, who died at the age of six. Maurice, and his wife, Amanda Clark Parsons's eldest son was named Edwin—a name that repeats over generations of my Parsons Family.

Edwin grew up in a large and close-knit Parsons family in Chesterfield, MA. In the mid-1800s, Great Great Grandfather Edwin and several brothers and cousins relocated, perhaps by oxcart, to the Syracuse area in Central New York. There, Edwin met my great great grandmother, Julia Armstrong Parsons, a graduate of Cazenovia College. (I mention this because it was unusual for women of the day to be sent on for higher education.) Julia and Edwin would have six children—my Great Grandfather, Willis, the youngest son.

In a letter to Dr. David Parsons Holton, dated January 25, 1865, postmarked from Worthington, Massachusetts, my Great, Great, Great Grandfather, Maurice Parsons, wrote: "My first nine children have all except one been teachers of primary schools, and I believe very successful in their occupation." He was writing to his kin to tell them about a family reunion. He added in his letter: "I have at the present time over 30 living grandchildren. Eleven of my children are located west of the Hudson River. I visited and saw them all last fall...found all my children good Union men and women, and for sustaining the government and crushing the rebellion, and in good circumstances, generally, for which I ought to be devoutly thankful to the good providence of God."

He may have enclosed a clipping about the reunion in Worthington, posted in the *Hampshire Gazette*.

Here is an excerpt of the article:



"The Willis Parsons Family"



"One of the most interesting scenes lately witnessed in this mountain town, was a family gathering at the house of Maurice Parsons, Esq. The venerable parents were permitted to welcome to their quiet rural house for the first and only time, all their children, eleven in number, residing in Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Illinois, and Iowa, nine of whom are married and had their companions with them. The youngest of the nine, Captain Elias H. Parsons, came fresh from the service of his country, where he had battled manfully for the flag of the Union, having served as Captain under General Sherman in the long, tedious and perilous march from Atlanta to Savannah, and thence to Richmond. Twenty-three out of thirty-four grandchildren were present. A sumptuous repast was provided in the open air under a temporary bower erected for the occasion. Speeches were made by (the reverend) Mr. Bisbee, by Mr. Parsons, the venerable patriarch, and by some of the children. The music, both vocal and instrumental, was provided by the blooming bride of the young Captain and by her sister...It was indeed an occasion long to be remembered by parents and children....The following Sabbath found them to the number of about forty-five seated in one body in the house of prayer where the children in early years had gathered. May this happy family be found unbroken at the last great gathering, and there may the father be able to say, 'here am I and the children which thou gavest me.'"<sup>1</sup>

This must have been an incredible event, and no doubt the last time this clan was all together. The enterprise of travel was in the Parsons' Family genes that one can trace back to our ancestors, Cornet Joseph and Mary Bliss. Later Parsons Generations set out over the land to discover what lie beyond the boundaries of the colonies. Each of our families have stories about the migrations of relatives, about the education of the Parsons Clan, about their many achievements, and about their service to family and country.

Great Great Grandfather Edwin and Great Great Grandmother Julia would have one son, Willis Armstrong Parsons, my great grandfather. He married Mary Anna Clowes Parsons, and they would have three daughters, Grace, Marion, and Martha—no sons to carry on the name of that arm of the Parsons family. Legends abound in my family about the stern Great Grandfather, Willis—his expectations for his daughters, and his farms where he kept orchards and numerous crops of corn, potatoes, and wheat. All three women attended college, but only one married—my Grandmother, Grace Parsons Cole. Lucky for me, I had two bonus grandmothers, Marion and Martha.

One thing I've noticed over the years in leafing through the Parsons' genealogy books are the repetition of names over many generations. For example, one of my Great Grandfather Willis's sisters, Mary Amelia Parsons, married a neighboring farmer, James Jerome, and they would have a son named Edwin. This Edwin went by "Ned."

In a letter dated August 9, 1923, Willis wrote to Marion who was teaching school in the rugged Northwest region: *The Parsons clan are to have a reunion at Boonville the 19 of this month and we may go and hope others of the Syracuse relatives may go and make a bus load. We think that would be quite enjoyable.*

And so the story continues. I believe the above-mentioned reunion was the first of the PFA meetings. Many of us continue to support the organization and find nurture in the stories of our ancestors. I encourage all my Parsons cousins to take the time to link all your descendants and their stories from the volumes at our disposal. I have made dog-eared the volumes by Henry Parsons, 1920; and Gerald James Parsons, 2002.



"The Willis Parsons farm and family"

Camille is the author of *The Brass Bell*, a narrative nonfiction account of her Great Aunt Marion Parsons who launched a school in her father's cherry orchard in an old hen house that has grown today to be one of the top Blue Ribbon schools in the country.

To purchase a copy of *The Brass Bell*, visit Amazon.com or contact Camille at: 503.914.9515, or by email: [schoolhouse2@comcast.net](mailto:schoolhouse2@comcast.net)

<sup>1</sup> Parsons, Henry. (1920). *Parsons Family*, New Haven, Conn: The Tuttle, Morehouse and Taylor Co.

## PARSONS CURRENT PROFILE:

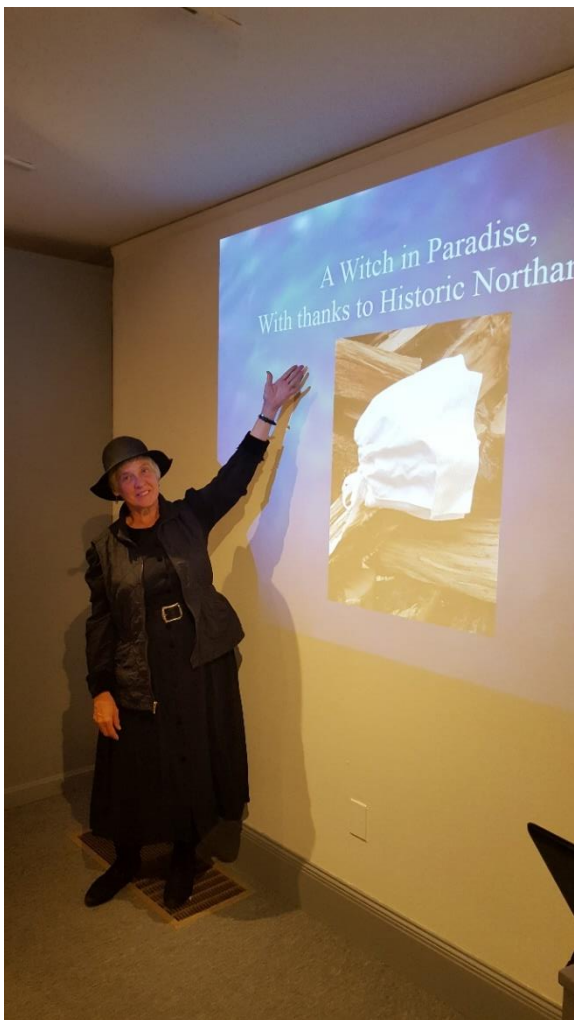
### A Witch in Paradise

A talk was given by author Kathy-Ann Becker at Historic Northampton on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

Kathy is the author of *Silencing the Women: The Witch Trials of Mary Bliss Parsons*. She is an 8<sup>th</sup> generation descendent of two of Mary Bliss Parsons's children and is a registered nurse by training. She lives in Wendell, MA.

A slide-show-enhanced story of the so-called "Witch of Northampton", Mary Bliss Parsons, was presented on the very grounds where Cornet Joseph and Mary Bliss Parsons made their early wilderness home in the 1650s.

The new community along the banks of the Connecticut River quickly became bedeviled by petty jealousies sparked by individual needs, fears and losses; power struggles, and conflicts between obedience to church, government and gender expectations. A crisis of suspicion of witchcraft emerged in the 1670s and fractured the dreams of the new town.



Laurie Sanders introducing Kathy Becker



Audience – 72 people strong

#### REVIEWS:

From Laurie Sanders: Dear Kathy-Ann, Thank you, thank you for a wonderful presentation tonight. I learned a LOT and I heard compliment after compliment after compliment as people were leaving. We so appreciate your generosity toward Historic Northampton! With gratitude and birthday wishes.

From Kim Graham: An awesomely, fun and informative presentation. Congratulations on a job well done.



Kathy Becker & Kim Graham at book signing



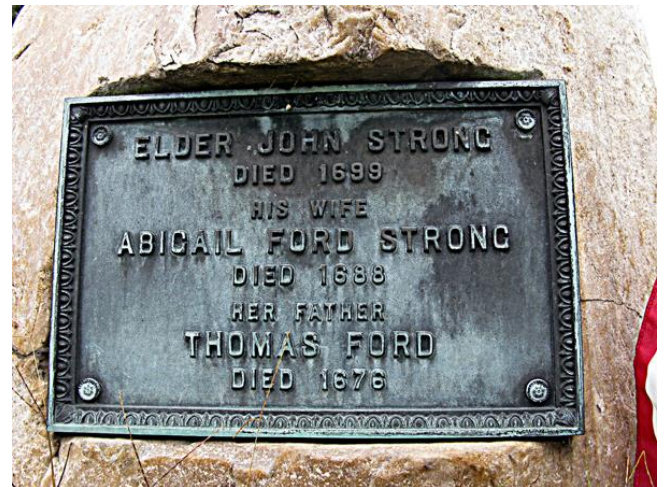
## **HISTORIAN'S REPORT:**

### **OUR PARSONS CONNECTION TO THE CURRENT ENGLISH MONARCHY**

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

Recently, most of us witnessed Prince Harry's royal wedding on TV at Saint George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, Windsor, England. But did you know that many descendants of Cornet Joseph Parsons, Sr., through his son Joseph, Jr., are related to Lady Diana, Princess of Wales and her two sons, Prince William & Prince Harry?

This story actually begins with another Northampton pioneering family of Elder John Strong, Sr., and his wife, Abigail Ford. He was the son of Richard Strong and Eleanor Deane, and was born in about 1606 in Taunton, Somersetshire, England. He died on April 14, 1699, in Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA, and is buried in the southeast corner of Bridge Street Cemetery in Northampton.



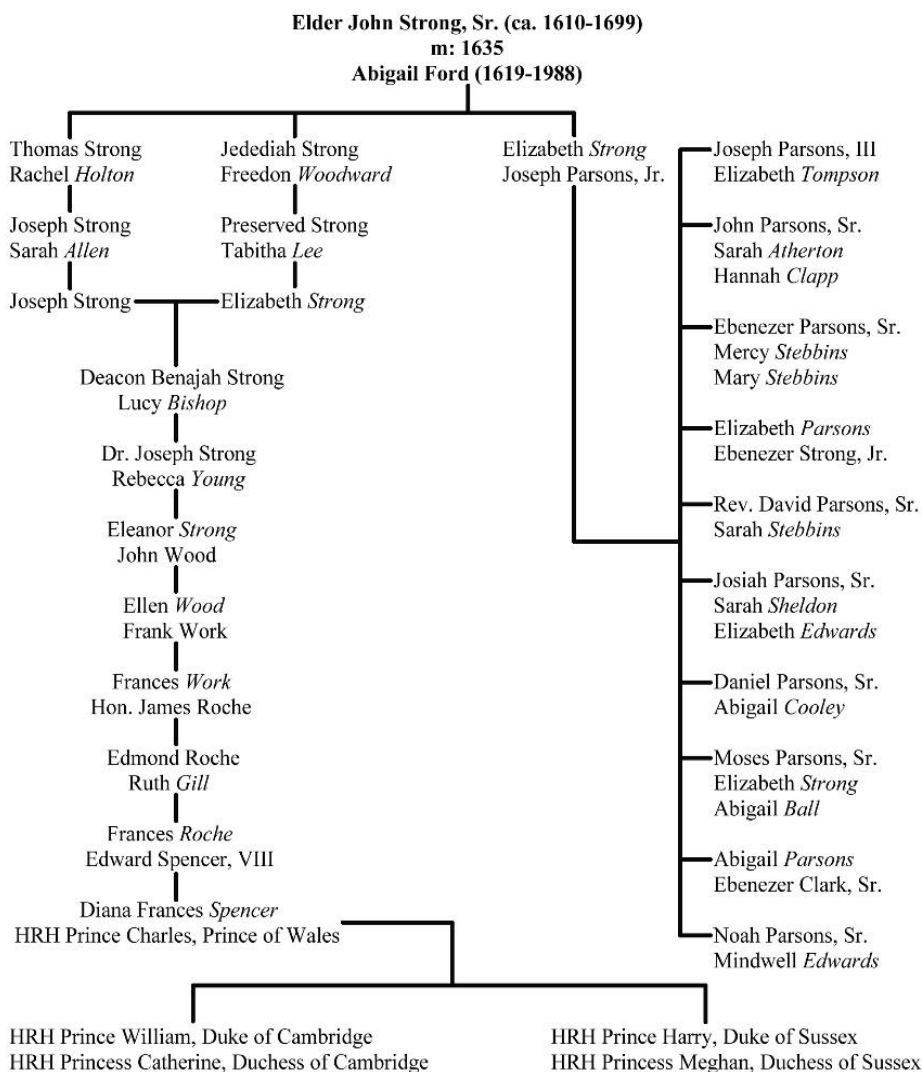
Elder John Strong immigrated to America from Plymouth, England, on March 20, 1630, supposedly aboard the ship *Mary and John* (Ships Master was Thomas Chubb) which landed at Nantucket, MA, on May 30, 1630. The *Mary & John* was part of the Winthrop Fleet which consisted of 11 ships that transported over 1,000 Puritans, their livestock, and supplies from England to the new world.

Elder John Strong married Abigail Ford in about 1635 in Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA. Over the years, they produced at least 16 children that we know of. One of their many children was Elizabeth Strong (1647-1736) who married Joseph Parsons, Jr. (1647-1729) on March 17, 1669, in Northampton, MA. This is where our Parsons clan entered into the picture. Of Elder John and Abigail Strong's numerous descendants, a few found their way back to England and eventually married into the royal family.

The following information was taken from the *STRONG FAMILY HISTORY*, Volume II of V: Perhaps some of the most famous people outside our country that are direct descendants of Elder John Strong and two of his sons (Thomas & Jedediah) are H.R.H. Diana Frances Spencer, Princess of

Wales, and her two sons, H.R.H. Prince William (heir apparent to the throne of England) and H.R.H. Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex.

This line of descent from Elder John Strong, Sr. to the English monarchy, and our Parsons connection from Elder John Strong, are shown in the following diagram. If your Parsons line descends from Joseph Parsons, Jr. (Esq.) and his wife, Elizabeth Strong, you are related to the current royal family of Lady Diana, Princess of Wales, and her two sons, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex.



#### MAIN SOURCES:

1. THE PARSONS FAMILY: Volume I. The English Ancestry and Descendants to the Sixth Generation of Cornet Joseph Parsons (1620-1683), Springfield, Massachusetts, 1636, Northampton, MA, 1654. Compiled by Gerald James Parsons, A.B., M.S.L.S., Published by Gateway Press, Baltimore, MD, 2002.
2. STRONG FAMILY HISTORY: Update Volume II of V, Thomas Strong and his Descendants. Compiled by the Strong Family Association. Published by Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1990.



## **SECRETARY'S REPORT:            96th Parsons Family Reunion**

*Note: Edited version for newsletter by Kim Graham. If you want to see full version, please see the website or contact the Association.*

The Reunion was held on Saturday, July 21, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Griswold Inn, Essex, CT.

Deanna Simons, the President, greeted all and mentioned she was glad to have Emily Ethier back from Rwanda. She is glad to see everybody, including Laura Pisano and Ken Silsby, and commented on Jerry Ethier's improved health after receiving a kidney transplant. The Invocation was led by James Parsons followed by a roll call of executive committee and directors.

The 2017 reports for the Secretary's and Treasurer's Financial Statements (pre-audit) are to be filed as presented. Kim stated the organization's financial health remains strong and noted contributions have been given directly to Northampton Historical Society. A Historian's report from Gary was not received as he was unable to attend reunion this year as he was in Alaska.

Deanna had an idea for the newsletter and facebook of about "guess who are we related to?" Laura Pisano mentioned that younger folks maybe interested.

Bob Heath asked if Gary has given anyone a backup file. Phil Parsons stated he has a backup. Should we have more than one back up?

Trisa Parsons Palacio volunteered to accept new member director post. This volunteer is to be in charge of new members: welcoming them to our PFA.

In the spring issue, PFA acknowledge Martha Ethier's detailed and powerful account of her trip to visit her daughter in Rwanda.

Ken Silsby, the Website Liaison, reported as of March 1, 2018 he had a password feature created on the Homestead web host. He is the established administrator, and he informed the membership there are five (5) mailboxes available. Ken's initial work involved many corrections and organization of items in our website including testing all links (see Ken's report for details). Ken is exploring interest in establishing member directory on the website.

A discussion commenced regarding setting up a PayPal account for the website, a strong priority for the board of directors. The fee is a 2.9% transaction fee for PayPal, and the host is Homestead. Ken stated the host is changing over to the new software and they encourage him to use the new software. The group applauded Ken's involvement in PFA. Jim Parsons suggested we (members) can contribute to the website fund as viable options for donations and funding for projects.

It was noted that membership fees have not increased in 25 years; by increasing fees, it would fund any projects such as Paypal, etc. Deanna welcomes ideas to bring us into the future. Nancy Armstrong motions to accept website report, Trisa Parsons 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A motion to accept moving Ken Silsby to Website Administrator was made by Deanna Simons. James Parsons 2nd motion. All in favor. Congratulations.

Obituaries were read by Ken Silsby (see website report):

- Richard G. Parsons of Northfield, MA on October 22, 2017 age 81. Ran a farm and dairy operation. His passing was the result of a fall.
- Timothy Parsons of Hadley, MA on April 6, 2018 age 33. Employed by Earle M. Parsons and sons, Inc. and Amherst Farmers' Supply. Interests included education in agriculture, 4H, repairs to cars and tractors, and music
- Lee Parsons of East Falmouth, MA on May 23, 2018 age 32. Employed by Davey Tree Co, Falmouth, MA.

Emily Ethier, Timothy Parsons' cousin, spoke of Timothy's legacy. He gave a gift of a kidney to her father, Jerry Ethier. The family calls his new kidney "Little Tim". Jerry and six others received gifts of organ donations from Tim.

James Parsons discussed by-law revision. The biggest question is who ran the organization? The descriptions of the board of directors are new, and define the administrative personnel and board of directors. A request was made to clarify what defines a quorum, and Phil stated the language defines the majority present. Appreciation and thanks were given to Phil Parsons for his review. The question of "will there be future revisions?" was discussed and Phil commented "Yes" there would be. A motion to accept by law revision by Nancy Armstrong, Nicholas Simons 2nd. All in favor.

James Parsons stated the Audit Report for 2016-2017 fiscal year was complete. He stated he has a history running audits and noted he finally retired June 30, 2018. James stated the Financial Statement of the Treasurer is fiscally sound and acknowledged appreciation to Kim Graham. The Board of Directors gave approval to submit this report and a motion to approve audit made by Deanna Simons. Bob Heath 2nd. All in favor. Deanna appointed James Parsons to audit next year's report. Nicholas Simons moved to accept the appointment and Nancy Armstrong 2nd. All in favor.

Kim Graham commented she appreciates stories sent to her for our PFA chronicle. Nancy Armstrong commented she was aware of a missionary who was also in Rwanda at the same time as Emily. Maybe there is a Parsons connection in Rwanda? Emily expressed her gratitude to PFA for their support while she resided in Rwanda.

Treasurer, Kim Graham, discussed the 2018 PFA Financial Statements stating good financial health. Kim noted there are about 90 books left. She reported that total deposits of over \$2000.00 were made directly to Historic Northampton for projects so the donor could get tax break. Kim made the recommendation to pay Historic Northampton a \$1005.00 donation which was received by PFA for the Parsons House Maintenance. A motion to accept Kim's recommendation was made by Deanna Simons. Martha Ethier 2nd. All in favor. Motion to accept the financial reports was made by Nicholas Simons and Martha Ethier 2nd. All in favor.

Next year's PFA reunion site was discussed and Newport, RI, was accepted as the location with possible luncheon cruise. Deanna will get back to us with a location for the reunion. We need ideas for the PFA's 100th reunion and criteria? Lowville, NY was mentioned as the first site of PFA reunion which is an interesting idea for consideration.

A gift was given to Ken Silsby for traveling the farthest: "Auto Bingo". Another gift was given to Scott Shaw's family for bringing the youngest members: A jar of strawberry rhubarb jam "like Parsons's women sweet and bitter" which Nancy Armstrong regaled as a Parsons' tradition.

A discussion regarding the letter "Marcellus" occurred. Bob Heath stated the Marcellus letter should go to their historical society. This letter was dated in 1834 was written by a fellow Healy to a Parsons, who lived in Chesterfield, MA. They were cousins and it basically includes what was going on in that time period. Bob thought it appropriate to donate letter to their historical association. Bob made a motion to accept this letter recommendation. Emily Ethier 2nd. All in favor.

Scott Shaw asks about more members and encourages us all to invite more family to the reunions. Laura Pisano asked if we can link to ancestry.com. Ken Silsby also mentioned livingtree.com as an added source.

Nicholas Simons moves to adjourn meeting. Motion to adjourn meeting by Deanna Simons. Emily 2nd. All in favor at 12:04 pm

**Respectfully submitted,  
Trisa Parsons Palacio**



## TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Parsons' Family Association's Financials for 2018 continue to defy the see-saw investment market and remain solid. Revenues are trending with previous years and expenses are down compared to previous years. Book sales have slowed down compared to previous years. I would love to see this area increase next year as we still have a large inventory of books left.

Historical Northampton reported they received over \$1000. directly from Parsons Family members. Several donors contributed directly to Historical Northampton due to the tax write off. The Associations awarded the Historical Northampton \$1005. which it collected in FY2018. The approximate total support donated to Historical Northampton was over \$2000. combined. These donations help offset the expenses of the house and are truly appreciated.

The FY18 Audit went well. Thank you, James Parsons, for your services – they are very much appreciated. The PFA Board and Membership voted to engage in an Audit for FY19.

Newsletters will continue to be mailed with the membership envelope. They will also be emailed and available on the web-site. Please let us know if you would like copies sent to other family members. We are always looking to increase membership and streamline processes for maximum efficiencies and cost savings. Some ideas to rejuvenate the organization are to advertise the organization, its mission and goals, which may increase memberships, book sales, and attendance at the reunions. Please contact or email any Director with your ideas.

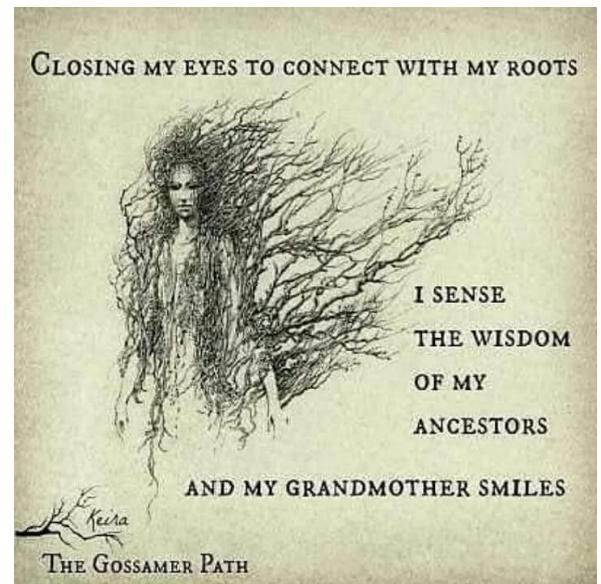
Additionally, we are upgrading the web-site which will be combined with reviewing cloud-based ESR systems to track membership and allow multiple users to access the data in a real-time fashion. The chosen system needs to be able to integrate with the web-page to allow for efficient functionality for all users, and membership access to upcoming data. A software we are reviewing is *Little Green Light* which allows multiple users to be able to work on it, and it can automate some processes such as sending out thank-you emails for membership, donations, or special gifts. It is the perfect time to find new ways/methods for accepting donations and membership funding.

Tools such as the Square or PayPal would be great resources in addition to accepting checks and cash for donations and memberships. These new forms of funding tools would enhance and create growth for the organization's membership base, increase books sales, increase donations for the maintenance of the Parson Homestead, and fund other projects as well, such as the 100<sup>th</sup> reunion.

As always, I am looking for stories and articles (current and historical) as well as your personal milestones and awesome travel expeditions. Your "Cousins" love to live vicariously through you – so please feel free to share your experiences.

If you have any questions, please email me at [kbgbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbgbandits@gmail.com) or [kim\\_graham@comcastspectacor.com](mailto:kim_graham@comcastspectacor.com).

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



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

As discussed during our most recent Directors' Meeting, plans are in progress to provide digital forms on the Parsons Family Association website for new and renewal memberships. Dues and donations made through digital forms would be payable by credit card. Digital forms for book orders and reunion registrations are also planned for the site.

These registration and payment options are intended to provide greater convenience. They will be offered in addition to printed forms appearing in our newsletters and pdf files downloaded from the PFA website for members who wish to continue making payments by check.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ken Silsby, WebSite Administrator**

## **OFFICERS:**

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

## **DIRECTORS:**

**James E. Parsons;**  
**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 Determined: North Kingstown, RI 02852  
**Website:** **Phone**

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Date:** **July 19, 2019; Friday**

**Type:** Ordering off menu

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

[kbgbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbgbandits@gmail.com); [kim\\_graham@comcastspectacor.com](mailto:kim_graham@comcastspectacor.com); cell (413) 475-2499; w (413) 545-3374

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**REUNION RESERVATIONS:** \*\*\* **PLEASE RSVP BY: JULY 8, 2019**\*\*\*

**Place:** Gurney's Newport Resort, 1 Goat Island, Newport, RI 02840  
[www.gurneysresorts.com](http://www.gurneysresorts.com); 401-426-5637

**Date:** **Saturday, July 20, 2019**

**Welcome:** 10:30 AM

**Meeting:** 11:00 AM

**Lunch:** 12:00 PM

**Price:** \$35.00 (Includes tour)

**Tour:** 2:00 PM In Progress – "Famous Parsons Garden Tour" (see 1<sup>st</sup> page)

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

[kbgbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbgbandits@gmail.com); [kim\\_graham@comcastspectacor.com](mailto:kim_graham@comcastspectacor.com); cell (413) 475-2499; w (413) 545-3374

**REUNION RESERVATIONS:** No. of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children \_\_\_\_\_

**NAMES:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION***



☐ **New Member/** ☐ **Renewal Application**

**Newsletter Format Preference:** *check one*

☐ **Hard Copy**

☐ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

<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/Donations:</b> <b>100 YEAR REUNION</b> \$		<b>Special Projects / House-Bathroom Fund:</b> \$

Now might be a good time to get a copy of the book for your family, friends, or donate one to your local Library or Historical and Genealogical Societies – *please call for special discount for donations.* Massachusetts residence must add a 6.25% sales tax.

**THE ENGLISH ANCESTORY AND DESCENTS TO THE 6th GENERATION OF  
CORNET JOSEPH PARSONS**

**(1620-1830) Compiled by Gerald James Parsons, A.B., M.S.L.S.**

**ORDER FORM**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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