

# CORNET'S CHRONICLE

**PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**[www.parsonsfamilyassn.org](http://www.parsonsfamilyassn.org)**

**Volume 27, Issue 1**

**Deanna Parsons-Simons, Editor**

**Spring 2020**

**Kim Graham, Co-Writer/Editor**

---

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

### **Greetings Cousins!**

Thank you to everyone who made last summer's reunion a huge success. We met new family members and welcomed young and old to the event at the Blue Gardens in Newport, RI.

Our ancestor, Harriet Parsons, owned some of the most sought after real estate on the east coast and adorned it with immaculately crafted gardens designed by top architects. It was a jaw dropping experience and one that made us all very proud to be Parsons'. We will be showcasing some of the highlights in this addition of the chronicle through photos generously provided by Lauren D. Armstrong.

Graciously, an anonymous donor contributed over \$3,000 toward the 2019 reunion in Rhode Island. We take our hats off to this very generous family member, without their donation the reunion would not have been such a success.

*Save the date:* On **Saturday, July 18th, 2020** we will be holding this year's Parsons Family Association reunion in Cooperstown, NY.

This area is known for their rolling hills and steep traditions in agriculture. We will be gathering at the [Farmers Museum](#) pictured above for a tour after our meeting and lunch at the [Upstate Bar and Grill](#). Please refer to the reunion page for information on the lunch venue.

Last year, the Executive Committee recommended and the full assembly adopted a couple very important decisions for the future sustainability of the organization which are outlined below:

- We raised the membership dues as they had not been increased in over 20 years. The new dues are as follows:
  - Regular Membership: \$20
  - Sustaining Membership: \$40
  - Life Membership: \$300
- The second initiative was to test producing only one annual newsletter in Spring versus the bi-annual newsletters in Fall and Spring. Please feel free to let us know of any concerns you may have.

Please check out our new PFA Facebook [page](#) where we'll be providing more updates as we draw closer! I look forward to seeing you all in July!!

Warm regards,

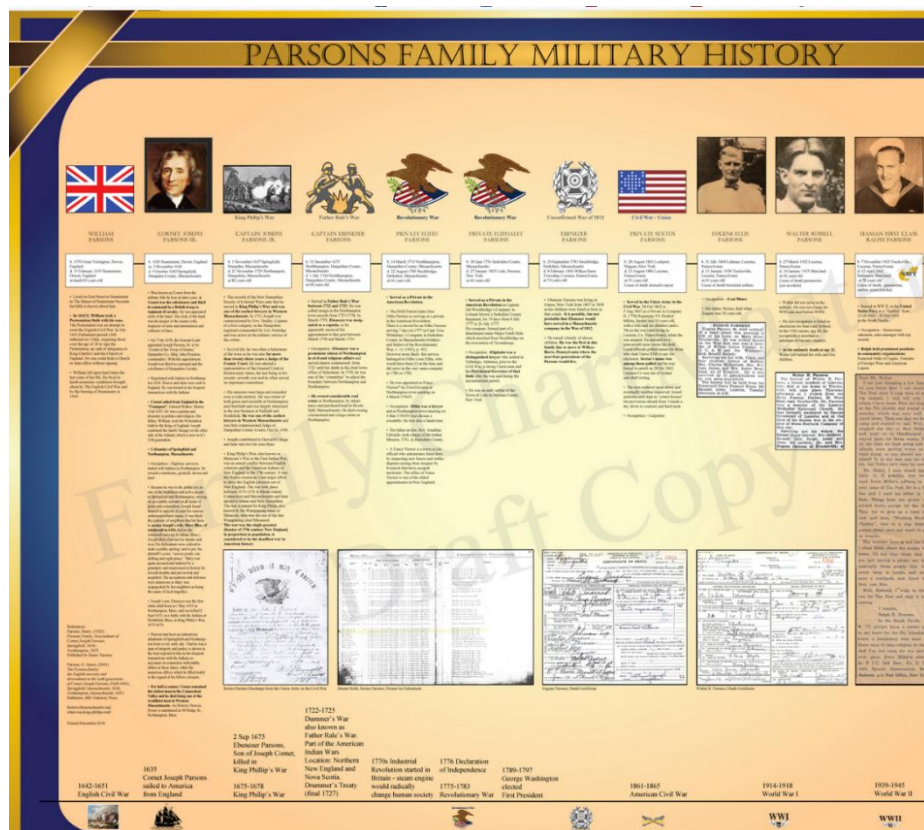
Deanna Parsons Simons  
President, Parsons Family Association  
[Deanna.simons@cornell.edu](mailto:Deanna.simons@cornell.edu)



## July 20, 2019: Gurney's Newport Resort & Marina



1<sup>st</sup> row: Velma Champagne & Taylor Shaw, Jennifer Armstrong, Araina Heath, Martha and Jerry Ethier  
2<sup>nd</sup> row: Phil & Cris Parsons, Kim & Don Graham, Bob Heath, James Parsons, Deanna Simons, Nancy Armstrong, Trisa Parsons Palacio, Lauren Armstrong  
3<sup>rd</sup> row: Rick & Nick & Kim Shaw, Scott Shaw & Nate Shaw, Beverly Parsons, Nicholas Simons, (Katie Curtin; Nick's girlfriend & Samantha Palacio)



Parsons Family Military History by  
Beverly Parsons of Maryland. She  
is a playwright and 8th generation  
Parsons

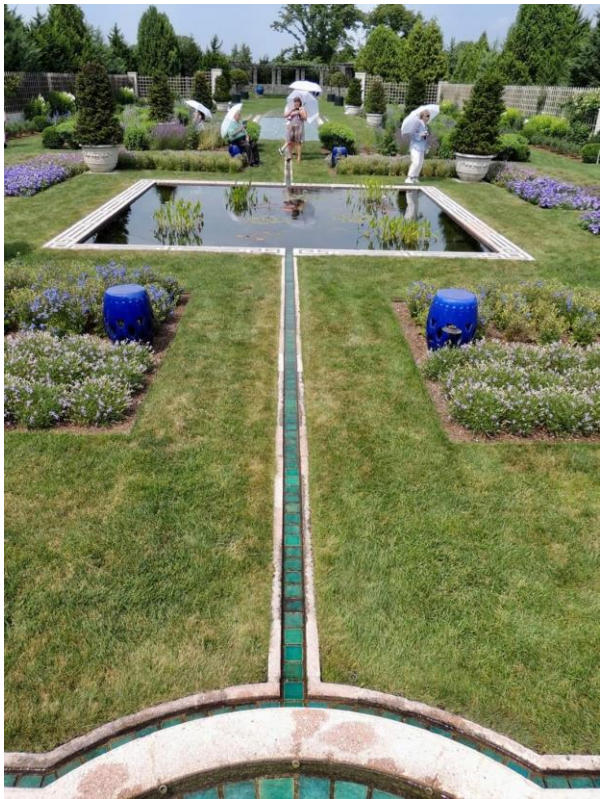
"Beverly Parsons created this timeline showing her surname military lineage with documents, stories and photos."

Here's a link where the Parsons Family Military History chart is posted online.

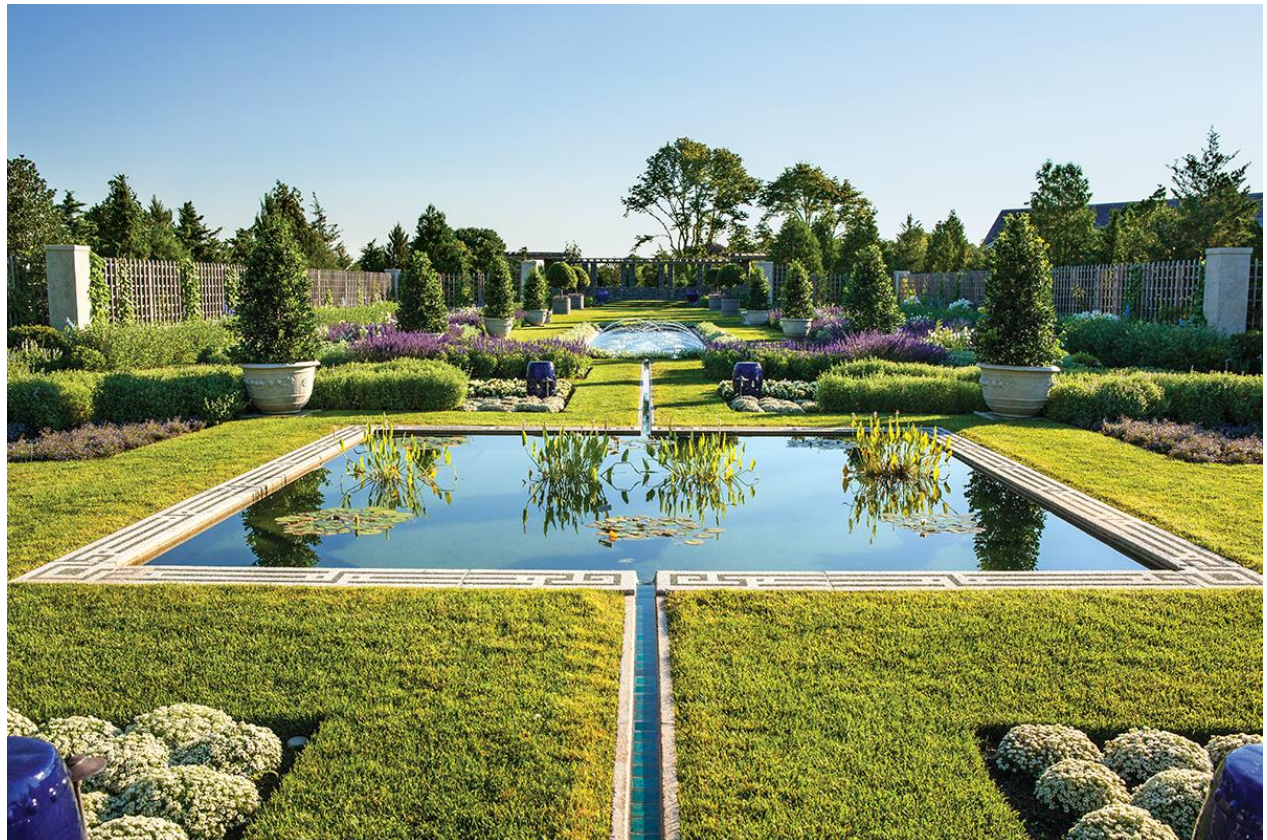
<https://familychartmasters.com/gallery/#/gallery/Parsons.png>



The Blue Gardens in Newport, Rhode Island

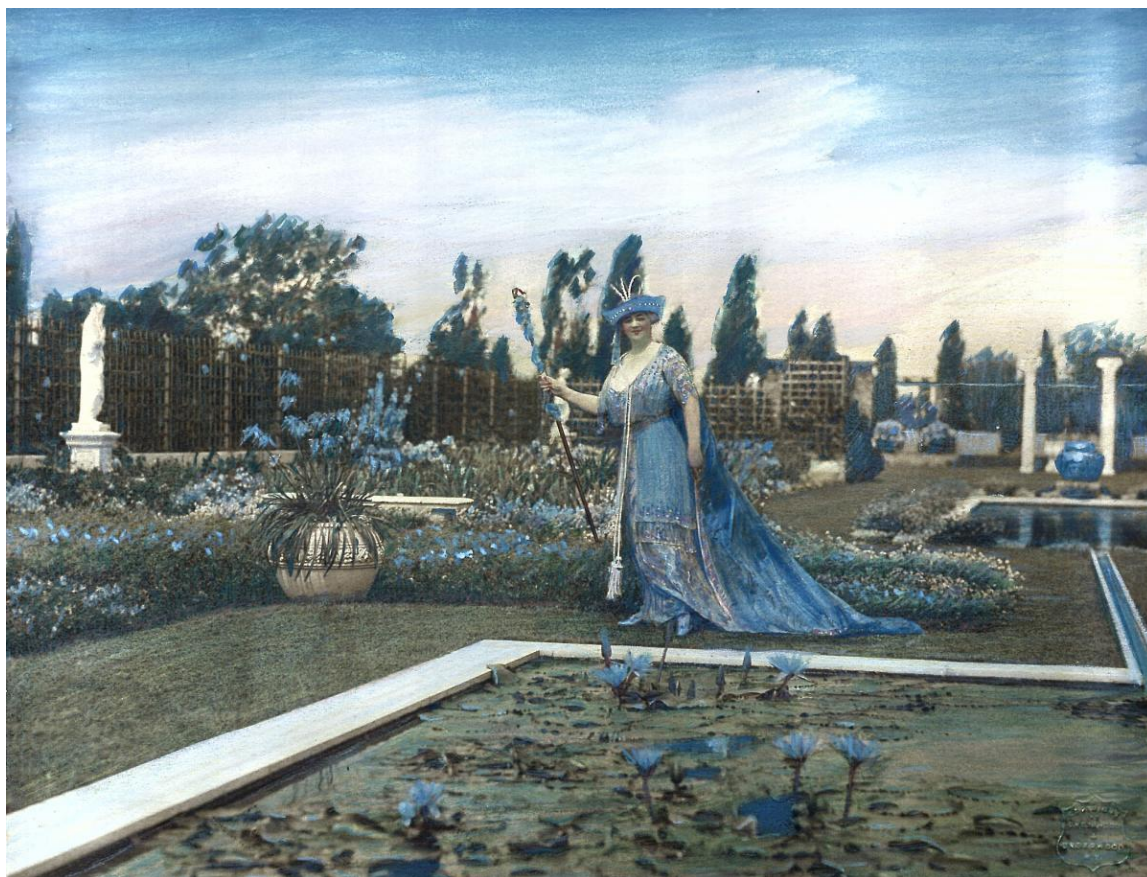








Harriet James as "Lady Sapphira." *The Masque of the Blue Garden* Scrapbook, Redwood Library.



"When the garden was completed in 1913, Mr. & Mrs. James used their vast wealth to throw a spectacular party that came to be known as the Masque of the Blue Garden. Three hundred guests were invited to enter the garden beneath a large arbor draped in dark blue fabric. The hosts themselves were dressed as 16th century Italian royalty. Mrs. James was particularly resplendent in a blue dress adorned with sapphires, diamonds, and amethysts. Her costume led many guests to address her through the night as "Lady Sapphira."

<https://www.redwoodlibrary.org/blog/mfarias/2017/08/25/celebration-garden-parties>

Harriet Eddy Parsons James was a prominent hostess in Newport RI and in New York City, known for her Newport estate's Blue Gardens. Born to Sydenham Clark Parsons and Harriet E. Morton Parsons, Harriet was a descendant of the early Parsons settlers in Springfield and Northampton in the 1600s. She married millionaire Arthur Curtiss James in Northampton, Massachusetts, on April 23, 1890.

#### Harriet Eddy "Hetty" Parsons James

**BIRTH** 6 Sep 1868; Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, USA

**DEATH** 15 May 1941 (aged 72); Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island, USA

**BURIAL** Green-Wood Cemetery; Brooklyn, Kings County (Brooklyn), New York, USA



## PARSONS HISTORIC PROFILE:

### **Rear Admiral William Sterling Parsons** (A Past Member of our Parsons Family Association)

Respectfully Submitted by  
Mr. Gary A. Parsons, Historian

As some of you may already know, there was a Parsons aboard the B-29 (*Enola Gay*) that dropped the atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The pilot was Commander Colonel Paul Tibbets; also aboard the *Enola Gay* was a young naval weapons officer named Captain William S. Parsons. The then Captain William S. Parsons was a 1922 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. He was trained in ordnance and studied ballistics at the Naval Proving Ground in Dahlgren, VA. He became interested in "Radar" and was one of the first to recognize the potential to locate ships and aircraft.



In 1943, as a naval gunnery officer, William "Deak" Parsons was pulled from sea duty to work on the Manhattan Project, as Associate Director under Robert Oppenheimer at the research laboratory in Los Alamos, NM. He helped turn the nuclear bomb into a weapon of war, from development, to assembly, and then delivery. To avoid the possibility of a nuclear explosion if the aircraft crashed and burned on takeoff, he was given the task of arming the first atomic bomb while the *Enola Gay* was airborne. He was awarded the Silver Star for his part in the mission.



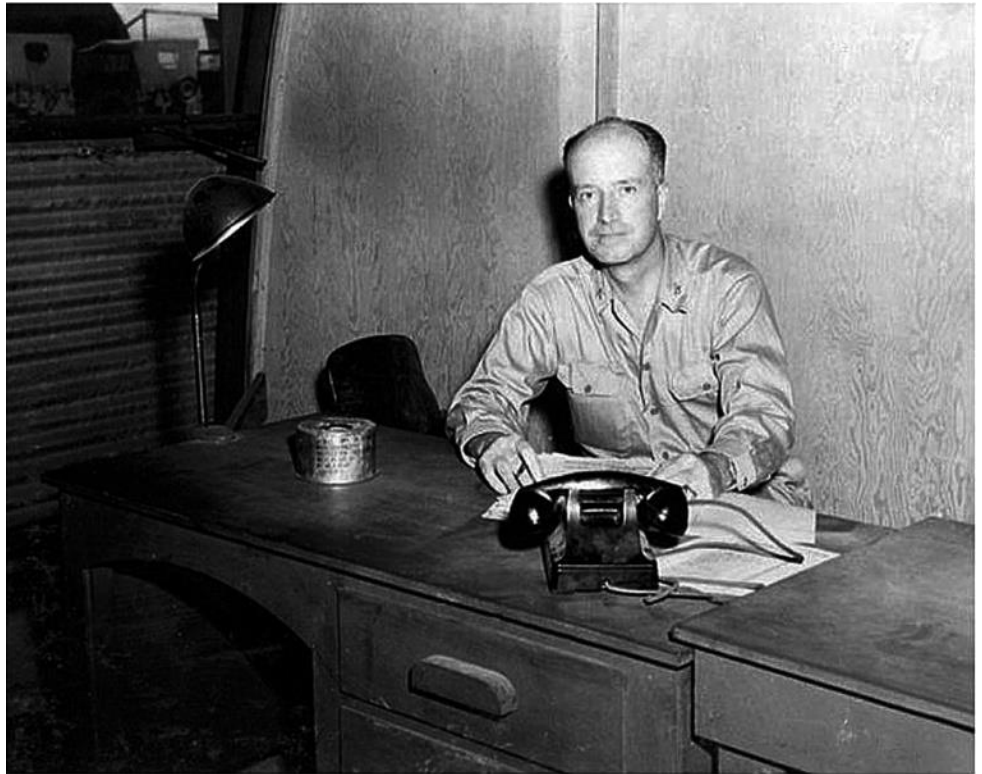
After the war, Parsons continued his research in nuclear weapons development, rising to the rank of Rear Admiral. In 1946, he oversaw Operation Crossroads, a nuclear testing project at Bikini Atoll. Rear Admiral Parsons also served on the Atomic Energy Commission and witnessed seven of the first eight nuclear test explosions. In 1947, he became the deputy commander of the Armed Forces



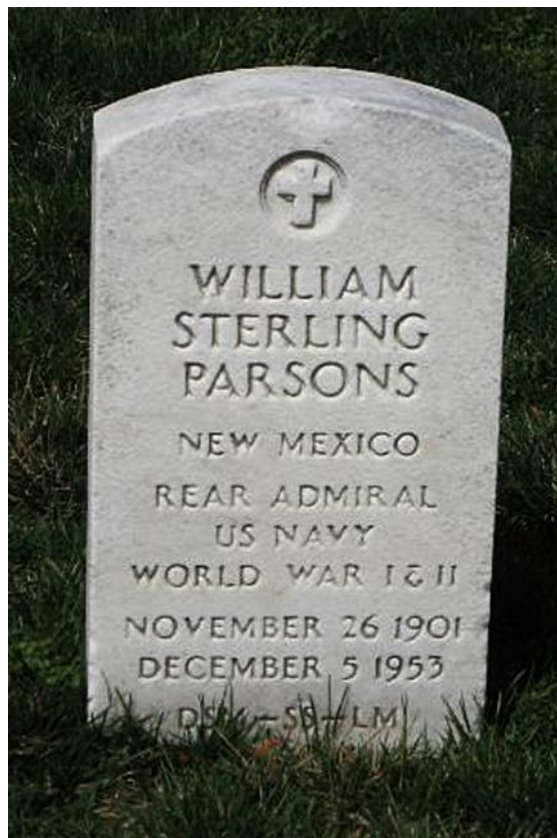
Special Weapons Project.

There are no quotes available from Parsons, as he was still serving in the Navy when he died of a sudden heart attack in 1953; He was only 52 years old.

William Sterling Parsons (b: 26 Nov. 1901 in Evanston, Cook Co., IL, m: 23 Nov. 1929 in Portsmouth, VA, to Martha Cluverius, d: 5 Dec. 1953 in Bethesda, Montgomery Co., MD) is the 7th great-grandson of Cornet Joseph Parsons, Sr., through his son Joseph Parsons, Jr., Esq. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Arlington Co., VA.



His short obituary was published in Washington, DC's, Evening Star, on Saturday, December 5, 1953, on page 1:, and reads: "**Late News Bulletins, Admiral Parsons Dead.** Rear Admiral William S. Parsons, 52, who set the trigger for the first atomic bomb used in combat, died suddenly today of a heart attack shortly after arriving at the Bethesda Naval Hospital."



# Packard, Elizabeth Parsons Ware

(28 December 1816–25 July 1897)

- Constance M. McGovern
- <https://doi.org/10.1093/anb/9780198606697.article.1500843>
- **Published in print:** 1999
- **Published online:** February 2000

**Packard, Elizabeth Parsons Ware** (28 December 1816–25 July 1897), mental health reformer, was born in Ware, Massachusetts, the daughter of Samuel Ware, a minister, and Lucy Parsons. Although her family moved from town to town in western Massachusetts during her childhood, she received an education at the Amherst Female Seminary in classics, literature, and mathematics that prepared her to teach in a number of local private schools by the age of sixteen. At nineteen, she suffered from what was then called “brain fever,” and her symptoms of violent headaches and visionary-like trances led to her commitment at the new public asylum for the insane in Worcester, Massachusetts. Within six weeks, the asylum superintendent discharged her as cured. Three years later, she married Theophilus Packard, a renowned minister of the Congregational church in nearby Shelburne; they had six children.

The Packards moved from Massachusetts to various states in the Midwest, finally settling in Manteno, Illinois. Both Theophilus’s ambitions and his disapproval of Elizabeth’s behavior contributed to the peripatetic nature of their lives. He was discomfited by her ventures into the community to carry out missionary activities, her travels on her own for extended periods, and her expressions of religious views contrary to his. Her spiritualist and Swedenborgian ideas especially clashed with his traditional views about Calvinism. Elizabeth’s challenge to the Calvinist doctrines of depravity, her insistence on the right of the individual to interpret Scripture, and her outspokenness led her husband to commit her to the Illinois Hospital for the Insane in 1860.

Never discouraged by refusals of writs of habeas corpus, the interception of her letters, or any other seeming institutional malevolence, Elizabeth finally convinced the hospital trustees of her sanity. She was released in 1863, only to suffer virtual imprisonment in her home by her husband. Although released through a writ of habeas corpus from the room where her husband locked the doors and nailed shut the windows, Elizabeth still had to withstand a five-day trial to prove her sanity. When the trial ended in January 1864, she was a free but penniless woman. Her husband had confiscated all the family resources and taken their children back to Massachusetts. Realizing that the statutes that limited the legal rights of married women and other dependents offered her no redress, she set out to change those laws.

Elizabeth Packard argued that the insane were the “most exposed, defenseless, unprotected class of human beings on God’s footstool.” She had learned that the law offered “not even a shadow of protection, to the oppressed,” and especially none to married women who had no recourse against arbitrary actions by their husbands. Thus, she set out to change asylum commitment procedures and the postal rights of patients. Beginning in Illinois in 1865, she argued that deviant behavior, not deviant ideas or opinions, should constitute a definition of insanity and that a jury should determine whether a patient should be confined. Illinois passed this jury law in 1872.

Meanwhile, Packard also took her crusade to Iowa, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. Facing the opposition of many in the now powerful and highly organized psychiatric profession (the forerunners of the American Psychiatric Association), she won battles for monthly visiting teams to asylums in Massachusetts, Iowa, and Maine. In Iowa, the “Packard Law” also guaranteed that patients’ mail would not be intercepted by asylum officials and that at least one woman would be a member of the visiting team. In Illinois, [Myra Bradwell](#)’s petition for the right of married women to their wages benefited from Packard’s arguments



about the vulnerability of married women. Packard lobbied legislators, wrote books, garnered newspaper publicity, and addressed any interested audience on the justice of her causes. There is some evidence that she continued her crusade in areas as far-flung as Nebraska, Minnesota, and the Washington Territory well into the 1880s.

In 1869 Packard had persuaded the courts to grant her custody of her three youngest children. She supported her family and her reform activities on the income she derived from her writings. At first she wrote about her specific circumstances, as in her 1860 "Mrs. Packard's reproof to Dr. McFarland for his abuse of his patients, and for which he called her hopelessly insane," but by the late 1860s she had expanded her concerns. In 1864 she wrote *The Exposure on Board the Atlantic & Pacific Car of the Emancipation for the Slave of Old Columbia*, a religious treatise; in 1865, *Great Disclosure of Spiritual Wickedness!! In High Places, with an Appeal to the Government to Protect the Inalienable Rights of Married Women*; and in 1866, *Marital Power Exemplified in Mrs. Packard's Trial . . . or, Three Years' Imprisonment for Religious Belief*. Nearly 30,000 copies of her works were sold even before she wrote *The Prisoner's Hidden Life* in 1868 (reissued as *Modern Persecution, or Insane Asylums Unveiled* in 1871) and *The Great Drama; or, The Millennial Harbinger* in 1892. Packard was an accomplished lobbyist as well. When she traveled to promote legislation to guarantee the rights of the insane, she first contacted the prominent citizens of the community and convinced them to purchase her relevant works. She then took up residence in a hotel in the vicinity of the meeting place of the legislature and talked with the delegates individually and in groups, selling her books to them as well.

Packard remained active until the late 1880s, testifying before the Minnesota legislature as late as 1889. She spent her later years living with her son and his wife in California, while caring for her daughter Lizzie. When Lizzie's mental health failed, Elizabeth decided to return with her to Illinois to live but died upon reaching Chicago.

Elizabeth Packard successfully fought for personal liberty laws and against wrongful confinement in a number of states. The "Packard Law," though no longer mandatory after a few decades had at least brought the plight of married women and dependents to the attention of the American public. For forty years, the psychiatric profession had to combat popular suspicions raised by Packard's crusade. Nearly two decades after her death, prominent psychiatrists were still questioned by the public and asylum governing boards regarding commitment procedures and the jury law. In the 1930s, her issues were revived briefly by [Albert Deutsch](#) (*The Mentally Ill in America*, 1937) in his insider's view about the need for reform, and in the 1960s antipsychiatry movement she once again gained repute with dissidents like Thomas Szasz (*Law, Liberty, and Psychiatry*, 1963) and Phyllis Chesler (*Women and Madness*, 1972).

## Bibliography

The fullest account of the life and work of Elizabeth Packard is Barbara Sapinsley, *The Private War of Mrs. Packard* (1991), which includes a complete list of Packard's books. Myra Samuels Himelhoch, "Elizabeth Packard: Nineteenth-Century Crusader for the Rights of Mental Patients," *Journal of American Studies* 13, no. 3 (1979): 343–75, written with Arthur H. Shaffer, is an equally discerning analysis of Packard's crusade. (The biographical sketch by John Chynoweth Burnham in *Notable American Women* is an interpretation drawn largely from the unexamined assumptions of the nineteenth-century psychiatrists who opposed her work.) Obituaries are in the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Boston Transcript*, 28 July 1897.

### Lineage:

1. **Cornet Joseph Parsons/Mary Bliss Parsons**
2. **Joseph Parsons, Jr./Elizabeth Strong Parsons**
3. **Josiah Parsons/Sarah Sheldon Parsons**
4. **Isaac Parsons/Lucy Strong Parsons**
5. **Isaac Parsons/Mindwell King Parsons**
6. **Lucy Strong Parsons/ Rev. Samuel Ware**
  - a. **Elizabeth Parsons Ware Packard/ Theophilus Packard**

# Good News from Historic Northampton

Northampton, Massachusetts

**Parsons House update presented by Co-Directors, Laurie Sanders and Betty Sharp:**

## **Assessing Conditions, Restoring and Re-Opening to the Public**

Since we began as co-directors in 2016, one of our major goals has been to re-open the Parsons House to the public. The house was closed for tours in 2007 but now, thanks to a new grant from the City of Northampton's Community Preservation Committee, hooray, we're going to be able to re-open it again!

Beginning this spring, an amazing team of professionals will conduct a thorough preservation assessment of the house's present conditions. This is critical. Although an excellent study was done in 1992, during the last five years, a variety of repairs—some major, some minor—have taken place, including new sills, improvements to the basement, upgraded electrical wiring, removal of asbestos, a new furnace, a fresh coat of exterior paint, a new roof and gutters, plus two archaeological digs!

The consultants, Greg Farmer and Myron Stachiw, will evaluate the entire house—including this newer work too. In addition to their report, they will provide a prioritized list of repairs and restoration work for Historic Northampton to complete before we re-open the first floor to the public. Our goal is to complete all of the critical repairs by December 2020, so that by Spring 2021, Parsons descendants (and other visitors) will be able to walk in the footsteps of your ancestors, hear the stories of past inhabitants, and see what's inside.

We can't overemphasize how important the support of the Parsons Family Association and many Parsons descendants has been throughout the years. During the next few months, our goal is to raise another \$25,000 to complete many of the repairs that we know will be required.

If you'd like to contribute to these improvements, please consider making a donation and thank you. <https://www.historicnorthampton.org/give.html>

## **About the Parsons House History**

For those of you who have not yet visited, the Parsons House is one of the most important homes in Northampton. It stands on its original location-- on a home site granted ~1654 to Joseph and Mary Bliss Parsons. (In the 1670s, Mary was falsely accused of witchcraft and represented herself in front of the court. For this, she could easily be considered the first female "lawyer" in North America.) While Joseph and Mary built their house on what is now known as Market Street, this house was built in the early 1700s by their grandson, Nathaniel Parsons. A dendrochronology study in 2015 revealed that the framing members were cut in 1719 and the house was probably built within a year.

Originally it was a two-and-a-half story wooden frame house with a center chimney, typical of those built by prosperous Connecticut Valley farmers up until the 1750s. By the end of the 1700s, the owners had added a large kitchen and two small rooms. Over the next fifty years, more additions took place and the roof was enlarged to incorporate all the house.

For Historic Northampton, all of the different remodeling projects in the 18th and 19th centuries are important. They tell the story of changing tastes, rising affluence, expanding families, widowhood, and priorities. And lucky for us, the early core of the house remains intact.

Historic Northampton's Facebook page is a great resource to be able to keep up to date on the progress and happening relating to the Parsons House. You can also view a video of the Sugar Maple being taken down.

The Parsons Family have been given 9 discs of the Parson Sugar Maple. Kim will be bringing them to the reunion for potential art projects or keepsakes for the Family. A cool little piece of Parsons History for posterity.

Also, the 2nd Annual Parsons Lawn Concert Series is coming in July! It was so fun last year and hundreds of people attended.



# A Slice of History: the Parsons House Sugar Maple

Just wanted to let you know that I've recently posted on the Historic Northampton Facebook page about the sugar maple in front of the Parsons House. You and others in the Parsons Family Association might be interested. I'll be posting more images later today that show how it was cut down, piece by piece this morning. There was a lot of evidence of rot, so definitely a good decision.

A highlight was having 2 classes from Bridge Street School come to measure the tree--guesses ranged from 20 yards to 230 yards! The winning guess will receive a pint of maple syrup. I'll disclose the height on December 2. The arborist, meanwhile, guessed its height within 8 inches!







Sawyer Jay Clarke of South Deerfield uses his 59" chainsaw to smooth the surface of the sugar maple stump in front of the Parsons House. Like so many older sugar maples, this tree was dying and during the last two days, Jay has used his portable mill to saw up dozens of boards with beautiful features and spalting. All told, he moved about 10,000 pounds in boards, or more than 2,300 board feet.

Our hope for the stump is that students and visitors will count the rings, figuring out which ring formed when they were born or how big the tree was when, say, the first Earth Day happened or when women won the right to vote....or countless other important times in history.

Our plan and hope for the gorgeous boards is that it will be converted into beautiful benches, tables and other pieces that will be meaningful to the furniture makers, craftsmen and future owners--both here at Historic Northampton and elsewhere in the community.

Laurie Sanders, Co-Director  
Historic Northampton  
46 Bridge Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
413-584-6011



**WEB MASTER'S REPORT:**

We continue to investigate establishing a "PayPal" option for payment of dues and to accept donations. Digital forms have been prepared and tested that would allow completion of applications and reunion registrations online. This payment option is intended to complement the alternative of mailing completed forms with payment by check.

The website has been updated with current application fees approved by the Board of Directors. Other website updates include photos from the 2019 Reunion. We welcome website items from association members. Please email submissions to: [ksilsby66@gmail.com](mailto:ksilsby66@gmail.com)

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Ken Silsby, Web Master**

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT:**

I've been asked to submit a short report of my activities as Historian. First and most importantly, I maintain the PFA's Master Database of over 44,000 individuals by adding new Parsons lines to the database as PFA members and independent researchers submit them. I also add the required supporting documentation to each of these new lines, and correct any errors, as I find them. We only enter into the master database descendants of William Parsons and his wife, Margaret Hoskins, their spouses and their spouse's parents. We are not trying to catalog the world.

On average, I receive through the Internet about four or five requests for help each month from numerous independent researchers concerning their unique Parsons projects. Using the PFA's Master Database, reference materials, and on-line resources, listed below, I try and help these researchers, the best I can. Most of these requests turn out, not to be part of our New England Parsons clan.

I maintain a FaceBook account and am befriending anyone with a Parsons surname in an attempt to locate other Parsons relatives. If they are related, I try to entice them to submit their unique Parsons line to our master database and to join our organization.

The above three tasks takes me, on average, about 4-5 hours each day to complete. To assist in the above, and on behalf of the PFA, I've joined a number of genealogical organizations, at my own expense:

Historic Northampton	(I support them and they support our PFAWR web page)
New England Historic Genealogical Society	(New England Records)
California Genealogical Society	(Expert speakers concerning all aspects of genealogy)
Ancestry.com	(Census, Birth, Marriage, & Death Records)
Genealogy Bank	(Newspaper Articles like Obituaries)
Find-A-Grave	(Cemetery, Burial Records Plus Possible Family Ties)
Computer Genealogy Group	(Genealogy Research, Using Computers and the Internet)
Fold3	(Military Records)
Family Search	(LDS Records)

Additionally, I have taken on-line Genealogy classes through Boston University and adult education. Currently, through my Parsons line, I'm trying to join the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Gary Parsons, Historian**

## **SECRETARIES REPORT:**

**Parsons Family Association 97th reunion; July 20, 2019 in Newport, Rhode Island**

### **Gurney's Newport Resort & Marina and The Blue Gardens**

Attendance: Deanna Simons, Nicholas Simons, Katie Curtin, James Parsons, Trisa Parsons Palacio, Samantha Palacio, Nancy Armstrong, Lauren Armstrong, Jennifer Armstrong, Bob and Araina Heath, Martha and Jerry Ethier, Cris and Phil Parsons, Velma Champagne, Kim and Rick Shaw, Nick and Nate Shaw, Scott Shaw, Taylor Shaw, Kim and Don Graham, and Beverly Parsons.

***Please note the below Secretaries Report is a summary of highlights of the full report. The full report can be found on the Parsons website or by contacting one of the Officers of the organization.***

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Deanna Simons. Nicholas Simons chaired the meeting and performed the roll call: Officers unable to attend due to travel issues were Laura Pisano, Gary Parsons, and Ken Silsby. The invocation was delivered by James Parson.

The Obituaries mentioned were Forrest Parsons, Phil's father; and Priscilla Parsons, Martha's Aunt who lived in Northampton.

Our newest member, Beverly Parsons, a playwright and 8th generation Parsons from Maryland was introduced and welcomed. She developed and presented a Parsons Family Military Poster.

The meeting proceeded with the review and acceptance of the following Fiscal Year 2018 reports:

- Secretaries Report
- Treasurer's Report with date correction
- Website Report presented by Deanna in Ken's absence. Discussion of uploading forms on website and meeting on subject via Skype or Facetime for interested parties.
- Historian's Report omitted as Historian unable to attend reunion.

The Audit findings were presented by James Parsons for Fiscal Year 2018. His conclusion is the Treasurer's financial reports are accurate and he noted the audit reports location is with the Secretary. The only recommendation is increasing the clarity of some of the documents. The Board reviewed and accepted the 2018 Audit Report. James Parsons has been engaged by Board approval to perform the 2019 audit.

A discussion commenced on a rate increase for membership dues. It has been 20+ years since the last increase. The organization needs to adjust its rates to offset the operating expenses and to utilize new technologies needed to expand. *New rates of \$20/\$40/\$300 were reviewed and approved.*

Trisa Palacio led a discussion about membership with key points listed below:

- Development of new membership handwritten greeting and plaque is being well received.
- Entertaining new ideas and delivery methods [Facebook, Ancestry.com, etc.] on increasing membership and visibility of the organization.

The 2019 Financial were presented by Kim Graham. She highlighted revenues and renewals were down and suggested cutting costs and the need to increase revenues. Several members are donating for the Parsons' house direct to Historic Northampton for tax benefits. Kim recommended \$500 be sent for the maintenance of the Parsons House.



A discussion ensued regarding the cost of the newsletter and postage costs could be reduced by emailing newsletters in tandem with only doing one newsletter in the spring. The 2019 Treasurers' report, Parsons House maintenance allocation of \$500, and the single newsletter were all reviewed and approved by the membership.

A discussion regarding Marcellus letter 1834 brought up by Bob Heath. This letter involved two families in Chesterfield. The Parsons' family in possession of letter. A lively debate on where this letter should be located occurred: The younger generation think it should be in an institution where it can be shared and protected. The issue is tabled presently until a decision can be agreed upon.

The future use of Historic Northampton's Parsons House was discussed. Some ideas being considered are a historic residency apartment or an Air B&B or other commercial uses. Many members feel it needs to be historic mission related. Phil Parsons commented that members of PFA have an emotional attachment to the home and not a legal one... That said, they are soliciting donations to fund a match on renovation a bathroom in the Parsons House.

Next reunion dates & location: July 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 -- Possibly Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts.

The executive committee motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 pm. James Parsons motion to adjourn meeting, Jennifer Armstrong, second. All in favor, none opposed.

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

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Statements reflects revenues decreased by 17% in regular membership and 47% in sustaining membership and life members remained flat. Book sales were also down by 50%. Donations for the Parsons House Maintenance fund were down by over 50%, but that is attributable to members donating direct to Historic Northampton for the tax benefit. Expenses remained flat compared to previous fiscal years. Overall, the organization remains healthy; however, it would be prudent to find places to either reduce costs and/or increase revenues.

Logical areas for cost reduction would be to save printing and postage by emailing more newsletters. A discussion regarding the bi-annual newsletter being converted to an annual newsletter distribution was held and it was agreed to "TEST" producing only the spring newsletter. The primary issue with this course of action would be the cash flow.

- *The organization collected \$395 for the Parsons House Maintenance fund. Kim recommended authorize of a \$500 donation, which the Board and Membership reviewed and approved.*

Membership rates have remained the same for well over 25 years [\$10/\$25/\$200]. The proposed action of increasing the membership rates to Regular \$20, Sustaining, \$40, Life \$300 is a logical next step to be able to offset the expenses and provide a minimal level of growth for the organization. It also enables the PFA to expand into 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies to reach the younger generations via the internet and phones applications.

***New rates reviewed and approved by the Board and Membership.***

- |                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| • Regular Membership    | \$20  |
| • Sustaining Membership | \$40  |
| • Life Membership       | \$300 |

Audit findings were presented by James Parsons for Fiscal Year 2018.

- *Treasurer's financial reports are **accurate*** and reports filed with the Secretary.
- Recommendation to increase the clarity and legibility of documents.
- The Board reviewed and accepted the 2018 Audit Report.
- James Parsons was engaged by Board approval to perform the 2019 audit.

I continue to send out newsletters by email and follow up with a hard copy which includes a membership envelope. Some ideas to rejuvenate the organization are to advertise the organization, its mission and goals, which may possibly increase memberships, book sales, and attendance at the reunions. It is time to look at accepting payments by getting a "Square" or using PayPal in addition to accepting traditional checks and cash payments. It is the wave of the future. Accepting other forms of payment allows growth for the organizations: *membership base / books sales / fund the 100<sup>th</sup> reunion / other projects*. Additionally, it would also be beneficial to look at cloud-based systems to track membership and allow multiple users to access the data in a real-time fashion. Currently under consideration is Little Green Light software which would allow 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. There are several other software programs to consider as well.

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AND REQUEST FOR ARTICLES / STORIES:**

- We need to set up a membership committee to increase our membership base. Any ideas are welcome and if you'd like to be on this committee, please contact Deanna.
- PFA is actively looking for interesting genealogic stories or articles (past and present) to be published in the Parsons Profile or Historic Profile sections of the newsletter. Please contact Kim Graham to get your article, history, or obituaries published.

If you have any questions, please contact me 413-475-2499 or 413-545-3374 or via email at [kbgbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbgbandits@gmail.com) or [kim.graham@spectrarp.com](mailto:kim.graham@spectrarp.com).

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

#### **OFFICERS:**

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Deanna Parsons Simons</b>	<b><i>deanna.simons@cornell.edu</i></b>
<b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Laura Pisano Parsons</b>	<b><i>lpisano@westfield.ma.edu</i></b>
<b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Araina Heath</b>	<b><i>whitestarris@gmail.com</i></b>
<b>THIRD VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Nicholas Simons</b>	<b><i>nsimons8165@gmail.com</i></b>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>Trisa Parsons Palacio</b>	<b><i>Dialtrisa2cnn@yahoo.com</i></b>
<b>TREASURER/CLERK:</b>	<b>Kim Graham</b>	<b><i>kbgbandits@gmail.com</i></b>
<b>HISTORIAN:</b>	<b>Gary Parsons</b>	<b><i>parsons@pfawr.org</i></b>
<b>ASSISTANT HISTORIAN:</b>	<b>Philip Parsons, Esq.</b>	<b><i>crisandphil@yahoo.com</i></b>
<b>WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR:</b>	<b>Ken Silsby</b>	<b><i>ksilsby66@gmail.com</i></b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:</b>	<b>Trisa Parsons Palacio</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:** The Depot, 4 ½ Railroad Avenue, Oneonta, NY 13820  
**Website:** [www.thedepotrestaurantny.com](http://www.thedepotrestaurantny.com); **Phone** 607-433-2074

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Date:** July 17, 2020; Friday

**Type:** Ordering off limited menu

Directions traveling rte. 88 west: Take exit 16 Emmons, Davenport. At stop sign, take a right on County rte. 47. At stoplight, turn left onto rte. 7 west. Proceed 1.7 mi. Turn left onto 8<sup>th</sup> St. Travel .1 mi, turn right onto Hudson St. After 0.2 mi take the first hard left onto Sand St. (follow the underpass 7'sign). Continue through the underpass and turn right onto Railroad Ave. Destination will be ahead on the left. The Depot Restaurant.

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

[kbqbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbqbandits@gmail.com); [kim.graham@spectrarp.com](mailto:kim.graham@spectrarp.com); cell (413) 475-2499; w (413) 545-3374

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

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

---

**REUNION RESERVATIONS:    *\*\* PLEASE RSVP BY: JULY 5, 2020 \*\****

**Place:** Upstate Bar and Grill, 5418 State Hwy 28, Cooperstown, NY 13326  
**Website:** [www.upstatebarandgrill.com](http://www.upstatebarandgrill.com); **Phone** 607-282-4525

**Date:** Saturday, July 18, 2020

**Welcome:** 11:00 AM

**Meeting:** 11:30 AM

**Lunch:** 12:30 PM

**Price:** Adults \$25.00 (*price includes admission to Farmers Museum with group tour*)  
Young adults under 13 - free

**Type:** Selection from Limited Menu

**Tour:** 2:00 PM; Farmers Museum, Cooperstown, NY 13326  
(1.8 miles from Upstate Bar and Grill Restaurant)

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

[kbqbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbqbandits@gmail.com); [kim.graham@spectrarp.com](mailto:kim.graham@spectrarp.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 \$300</b>	<b>Regular \$20</b>	<b>Sustaining \$40</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 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**