

CORNET'S CHRONICLE

PARSONS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.
www.parsonsfamilyassn.org

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Deanna Parsons-Simons, Editor

Fall-Winter 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Cousins. This year marked a distinguished ninety years as an association. This is quite an achievement for any institution. Fittingly, the reunion was held at our symbolic Parsons Family homestead in historical Northampton, MA on July 28, 2012.



The day began with a tour of Earle M. Parsons Farm, a past president of the association for many years. Following, there were tours guided by a docent of the Northampton Historical Society, of the Cornet J. Parsons Home on Bridge St. in Northampton. A special bench commemoration was held to add the names of the PFA founder, Rev. Frank Miller and past president and good friend, Stu Parsons.



GERALD J. PARSONS	6-30-1924	—	12-29-2003
EARLE P. PARSONS	1-20-1924	—	10-22-2002
JOSIAH W. PARSONS	11-6-1903	—	2-4-1988
DR. STUART O. PARSONS	8-11-1926	—	12-22-2011
REV. FRANK E. MILLER	2-9-1865	—	1-9-1947

Rain and thunder storms followed us the rest of the day under tent on the back lawn of Historical Northampton. Karen Vorbeck Williams gave a truly enlightening talk on the historical daily lives of women living in the area in the early 17th century. Everyone was in good spirits as the much needed rain provided quite the entertainment. I was so pleased to meet new cousins as well as welcome back many others. A special thank you goes out to our treasurer, Kim Graham and chronicle publisher Muriel Poulin for their tireless efforts in coordinating this year's reunion. I hope everyone has their PFA magnets on your frig!

Please Note:

We are changing the proposed date of the 2013 reunion to **Saturday, July 20th, 2013**. The 91st PFA reunion will be held at the Silver Bay Association (YMCA) convention center on Lake George, NY. Look for the web site under **www.silverbay.org**. There are many options for lodging and inclusive meals. We will have access to their grounds and be able to take a cruise on the lake. I will be sending out more information on reservations early next year. It is a beautiful setting for what I am sure will be a memorable gathering.

Deanna Parsons Simons, President PFA

TREASURER'S REPORT

This fiscal year reflects the impact of the 2011 reunion being held in September in tandem with a later release of the newsletter. Since it was the 90th reunion, it was decided to really go "all out" and the organization celebrated by having the reunion at Historic Northampton as a first-rate catered event. Each participant received a collector's magnet of the Parsons House circa 1719.

The revenues generated in FY 2012 were \$4589.39 and the expenses were \$7317.09 resulting in a net deficit of \$2727.78. This deficit reflects expenses for two reunions in one fiscal year. This year each person was sent a newsletter and received a membership magnet. All new members will receive this magnet in the future. Two thousand five hundred (2500) membership magnets were purchased and 500 were donated to Historic Northampton to sell and increase their revenues. Some were given to Gary to distribute at the Western Association's meeting.

Additional activities which affected the financials were the organizations the fall newsletter in color, and the changing of web site providers mid stream resulted in a double expense. Four books were sold. The association voted to donate \$1719 to Historic Northampton for maintenance of the Parsons House in commemoration of the 1719 date as well as commemorating the association's 90th anniversary.

The balance sheet for FY 2012 remains steady compared to prior fiscal years and monies are continually invested in safe vehicles such as CDs to generate interest. Presently, the association has several CDs maturing in the next few years and has earned \$145.00 in interest through this type of investing. The Board discussed and approved looking into other safe investment portfolios. The organization's financial health is strong due to conservative investment practices.

The organization is looking to expand it's membership base. Anyone interested in becoming a member, please contact any officer or me at the contact information below.

For additional information email or call Kim Graham at 413-475-2499 or kbgbandits@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please note a special thank you to Gary Parsons for the photographs provided in this newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Graham, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT: 90th Family Reunion, Saturday, July 28, 2012. Thunder and Intense Rain

Attendees: John & Nancy Armstrong, Kim Graham, Muriel Poulin, Bob & Araina Heath, Phil & Cris Parsons, Lydia Omasta, James & Hannah Parsons, Gary Parsons, Deanna Simons & Jenna, Martha & Jerry Ethier, Emily Ethier & Nire Ragosa, Karen Vorbeck Williams, Trisa Palacio, Richard & Barbara Hildreth, Paul Hildreth, Jen Armstrong, Richard & Paula Parsons, Calvin Parsons & Cheryl, Rachel Kirouac, Chester & Kate Parsons, James Hildreth & wife and 2 children, Janet Parsons & Becky & Lynn Ziman, Forest Lyford, Shirley Parsons, Kerry Buckley & several Historic Northampton personnel.

The day began with a tour of Earle M. Parsons farm in Hadley, MA. Special thanks to Martha and her family for this opportunity. After the farm tour, additional tours continued at the Cornet Parsons Home (1719) by Mary, the docent at Historical Northampton. Of special note was a bench commemoration honoring Dr. Stuart O. Parsons and Rev. Frank Miller (founder of PFA). Presenters', Bob Heath and Gary Parsons, dedications were moving and well received. While all were gathered around the bench, James Parsons gave an invocation. Soon thereafter, the sky began to deliver much needed rain. Fortunately, Gary Parsons captured pictures of the group before the deluge forced the group to adjourn to the tent. Approximately 50 cousins were in attendance.



Gathered under the tent, James Parsons said the prayer prior to the meal. It was a catered lunch-- delicious and well served. The cake was beautiful and had a picture of the Parsons historical home on the top. The flowers on the table added to ambiance and donated from Rachel Kirouac's garden (Kim's aunt). Due to Mother Nature's insistence, table modifications were made several times to keep as dry as possible.

After lunch, Karen Vorbeck Williams presented: *Goodwives: The Daily Lives of 17th Century New England Women*. Her talk was thought-provoking and full of historical information. She handed out a pamphlet which included the goodwife's expectations according to *The Book of Proverbs*: which included examples of dress, societal norms, and helpful household hints originally from *The English Housewife*, first published by Gervase Markham in 1615. The goodwife was not considered equal to man, was non-complaining, not an individual, nor a part of the community. Children worked as "young" adults. Pregnancy was considered superstitious and childbirth had a high morbidity rate. The arts were few and it was not considered important for women to write. Thank God we are not in those times now.

Also, a special musical gift was delivered by Barbara Hildreth and her family as they harmoniously sung, "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" as shown below. This family participates in carrying forth traditional style singing.



The meeting commenced at 2:25 pm under the tent with thunder and heavy rain resonating. The President brought the meeting to order and reports were read. Copies of corrected minutes from 2011 were passed out. Motion to accept secretary's report made by Phil Parsons and all were in favor.

Kim Graham gave the treasurer's report and copies were distributed. Comments included: two paid reunions on one year, quick books software and membership magnets were purchased. PFA double paid for dual websites this year. On the balance sheet, checking account and active CDs were listed. One correction was made in CD#464-2 year principal balance of \$2000. A discussion ensued on the reinvesting of funds. A motion to accept treasurer's report by Bob Heath was made and carried.

Discussion of maintenance and endowment fund revealed there is only a maintenance fund. According to Kerry Buckley of Northampton Historical Society there has never been an official endowment fund and so monies will now go and have been going to the maintenance fund in support of the house. Our president will request a report on how our donation is used. Trisha suggested donating \$1719 in honor of the 90th reunion. Nancy Armstrong asked if other resources could be used to make funds available vs. reinvesting \$2000.00 CD, and then motioned to reinvest monies in the most profitable manner by treasurer. All were in favor.

Bob Heath mentioned there are saving accounts with a 2.5% rate. Maybe PFA should create our own endowment fund? Various officers were concerned of this lack of information. Jim Parsons agrees investigation was needed and we should go forth with the recommendation of the Board of Directors last night regarding the \$1719 donation. The possibility of starting our own endowment fund was raised? Kerry Buckley was asked the endowment and maintenance difference. He stated in 1941, the Bliss family estate assigned the Parsons house to the city of Northampton. He stated \$150,000 spent in the last 5 years on Parsons' house.

Gary Parsons gave the historian's report and he reported 355 emails received and 13 family pedigrees sent. He requested all pedigrees be sent in to him. A motion to accept historian's report was made and the motion carried.

Karen Williams gave the website report stating the site is doing well, but the blog feature is underutilized. She inquired if there is a "talented blogger" amongst us? Jennifer Armstrong commented Gary Pollard has been on the blog and just maybe our "talented blogger." Our president commented she is enjoying the website and encouraged the membership to continue to send pictures (jpegs). A motion to accept web site report was seconded and the motion carried.

The group updated the officer's slate. A motion to accept Bob Heath to board of directors was made and seconded. All were in favor. Nancy Armstrong commented Bob has dedicated many years of service to PFA, and he has always been accommodating. Kudos were given to Gary and Bob for the excellent commemoration ceremony (loud round of applause).

New Business:

Nominations and resignations were explored, and there were no changes this year. The officers' slate was read aloud. A motion to approve list was made and, all were in favor.

Phil Parsons filed the annual certificate. Thank you Phil.

Personalized gifts of PFA M&M's were given to:

- Earliest birthday-Lydia Omasta who clarified "not the oldest just the earliest birthday" - Proud lady at 87.
- Mary, docent of the Parsons house.
- Traveled the farthest-Gary Parsons, San Jose, CA. Noted Harriet J. Parsons missed this year. Gary will deliver pictures to her.
- Martha Ethier for opening up her farm for a tour.
- Barbara Hildreth and family for lovely song.

Ideas regarding increasing the membership were discussed. An example of a promotional idea was to link into Historic Northampton's website. Bob suggested putting written files on an electronic record. Scan documents to CD then onto web site for members to access information. This would be a privilege for members only.

Next year's reunion is located at Silver Bay, Lake George, New York. Dawn spoke about the Adirondacks around Lake George's convention center. The area is pristine, has a main inn, cabins, beautiful scenery, and lots of activities. The last full weekend in July 26-27th, 2013. Deanna will pursue this lead and confirm the actual date (see President's Message for actual date.)

A motion to accept all new business was made, seconded and carried. President thanked everyone for the participation and commended their presentations.

A special thank you to Kim, Muriel, and Martha for all their extra help in producing a wonderful 90th PFA reunion.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Trisa Parsons Palacio, Secretary

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

As reported to the PFA membership at our annual reunions in July and September; as your new historian, within the first year of taking office, I've received and answered over 300 e-mails concerning our Parsons Family History. In addition to that, I've received 13 pedigrees from members to be added to our PFA's Master Database of linked individuals. However, this is only a small percentage of our organization, we can do better!

The master database starts from William Parsons and Margaret Hoskins of Beaminster, Co. Dorset, England (ca 1575). They were the parents of Cornet Joseph and Deacon Benjamin Parsons. Our PFA's Master Database currently contains 14,747 descendants of William and Margaret Parsons. That doesn't include their spouse or spouse's parents. The master database currently contains 34,692 linked individuals.

Most of our PFA's membership claim to be descended from either Cornet Joseph Parsons or Deacon Benjamin Parsons. I would like, or my goal is to have most of our members linked together in the PFA's Master Database. I'm again requesting updated pedigrees from all of our current members, to be included in the PFA's Master Database. The submitted pedigrees should link your unique Parsons line to an individual in either Gerald's or Henry's reference books. Also, to be as up-to-date as possible, it should also include your sources, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

If you are concerned about identity theft, information concerning living individuals is not given out to anyone without your expressed permission; you can also leave out sensitive birth information of living individuals. You can either send me your pedigrees by e-mail or snail-mail, addressed to: Mr. Gary A. Parsons, 3551 Laurant Way, San Jose, CA 95132 or (parsons@frys.com)

As your relatively new historian, and in an attempt to serve our membership more efficiently, I've been taking refresher classes in all phases of genealogical research, either through adult education classes or through the various organizations I belong too (*i.e. The New England Historic Genealogical Society, The California Genealogical Society, or The Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group*). I'm also an active member and user of both the Find-A-Grave organization (<http://www.findagrave.com>) and Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

At my own expense, I've donated copies of Gerald's book (THE PARSONS FAMILY, Volume I) to four of our local genealogical libraries, here in California's San Francisco Bay Area (*i.e. Santa Clara City Library in Santa Clara; California State Sutro Library in San Francisco; LDS Family History Library in Oakland, and the California Genealogical Society's Library in Oakland*).

A short comment about our PFA's Western Region Reunion last September; this year we held our annual reunion in Oroville, California, in a covered pavilion in the beautiful Feather River Park. Our hosts this year were Ceyhun and Stephanie Inci (*Stu and Harriet's granddaughter*), and there were 21 PFA members in attendance. This year's events featured a catered lunch (*i.e. Subway sandwiches, broccoli bacon salad, David and Cindy's famous Mac-n-cheese, and cake for dessert*), activities for the children, each person generated a quilt square for Harriet's 2012 annual reunion quilt.



Harriet displayed her reunion quilt collection from past reunions, I demonstrated our PFA's Master Database, there was a genealogy display of reference books, and my short presentation report of the PFA's east coast reunion in Northampton, MA. Have a great Thanksgiving and Xmas Holiday.



Mr. Gary A. Parsons, Historian for the
Parsons Family Association of New England and
Web Page Administrator for the PFA's Western Region

Mr. Gary A. Parsons, 3551 Laurant Way, San Jose, CA 95132-1314
E-mail: parsons@frys.com, Web Page: <http://www.pfawr.org>

WEB SITE REPORT

At the present time, the website's greatest need is to have a Blogger. Ideally, this should be someone who enjoys posting information about the family and family events and also has an interest in genealogy and family history. An example would be some of the surprises you have found while researching your family's history. Tips for people who are learning can be found on Ancestry.com. Posts would not have to be more often than once a month. At the moment, the Blog is virtually unused. If anyone has stories to tell, please send them to me and I will post them. If you are interested in becoming our Blogger, let me know.

Karen Vorbeck Williams, Web Administrator, Email: k.vorbeck.williams@gmail.com

PARSONS PROFILE

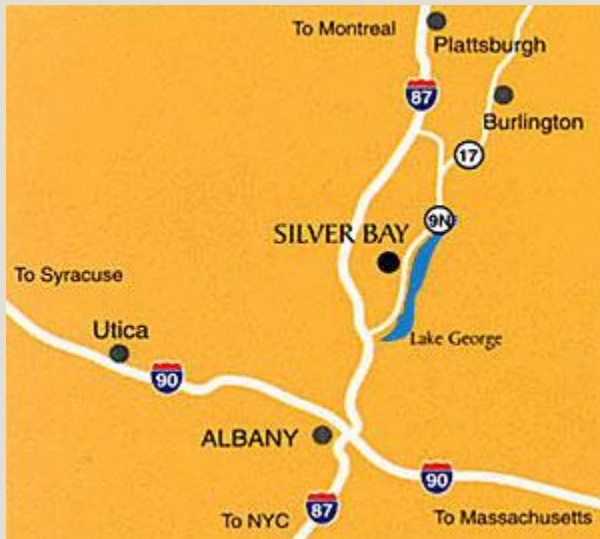
The William Parsons House was located at 392 Bridge Street in Northampton, Ma. It was erected in 1754 and dismantled in 1937 and relocated in Storrs, CT. This one-half sized replica was erected by James Parsons (our past president) in 1988 at his home on Chesterfield Rd., Leeds, Ma.

This building was donated to Look Memorial Park by its present owner (Erika Hernandez) in the fall of 2011. The relocation was 2.5 miles to its new home in the Park on April 13th and 14th. To accomplish this relocation, the building was split in two parts and trucked. It now serves as the train depot for the Park's 1853 replica train as well as the visitors' center. A plaque on the exterior of the house contains a short history of the building and biographical information about Lt. William Parsons. Below photos courtesy of the Look Memorial Park personnel.



SAVE THESE DIRECTIONS TO SILVER BAY

DIRECTIONS TO SILVER BAY



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By Car from the South: Silver Bay is 90 minutes from Albany, NY. Take the Adirondack Northway (RT 87) to Exit 24 (Bolton Landing)*, drive east five miles to the road's end at Route 9N. Turn left and drive north approximately 13 miles to Silver Bay. Look for SILVER BAY ASSOCIATION with the YMCA logo sign on the right, two miles past Sabbath Day Point. Turn right onto Silver Bay Road and drive onto the campus. Register at the Silver Bay Inn. The Inn is located on the circular drive just north of the tennis courts. Registration is on the first floor on the South side of the porch. Angle park in the Inn circle while you are checking in. You will be given directed where to unload and park your vehicle.

*Note that there is also an Exit 24 on the NYS Thruway you should follow if you are driving from New York City. Immediately after the toll booth at Exit 24, follow signs for Montreal/RT 87N/The Adirondack Northway.

By Car from the North: Silver Bay is 15 minutes from Ticonderoga, New York. Follow RT 9N to Hague, New York from the Monument in Ticonderoga. Silver Bay is 4 miles from the town of Hague. Look for the SILVER BAY ASSOCIATION signs and the YMCA logo on the left past the Silver Bay Post Office and Silver Bay General Store. Turn left onto Silver Bay Road and drive straight ahead until you arrive on campus. Register at the Silver Bay Inn. The Inn is located on the circular drive just north of the tennis courts. Registration is on the first floor on the South side of the porch. Angle park in the Inn circle while you are checking in. You will be directed where to unload and park your vehicle.

By Air: Albany, NY and Burlington, VT airports are served by both commuter and major airlines, with connections from anywhere in the nation.

By Bus: Buses from major cities stop south of Silver Bay in Lake George Village and Glens Falls, New York.

By Train: Two Amtrak trains per day stop in Ticonderoga (20 minutes north of Silver Bay) year-round. One departing from Penn Station in NYC and one arriving at Penn Station in NYC. All trains stop at the Albany/Rensselaer station to travel north to Ticonderoga.

OFFICERS

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Now might be a good time to get one for your Family, Friends or donate one to your local Library or Historical and Genealogical Societies. The price for members is \$75.00 plus \$5 shipping and Handling. For non-members it is \$85.00 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Massachusetts residence must add a 5% 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.

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