
SPRING 2022 ISSUE

CORNET'S CHRONICLE

PFA

Parsons Family Association

The latest news and updates from the Parsons Family



**NEXT PFA REUNION ON JULY
23RD, 2022 AT 5:30 PM**

Join us on Zoom for a remote reunion with
members from across the country!

NATHANIEL PARSONS HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, MA

Photo by Elizabeth Patton

The Nathaniel Parsons House stands on its original site on the eastern section of the home-lot granted to Joseph and Mary Bliss Parsons circa 1654. The house was framed in 1719 with construction continuing on for a year or two, according to pitch pine dendrochronology research conducted in May 2003. The earliest section of the house is a 2 ½-story wood frame with a center brick chimney. The house was expanded and remodeled in several stages in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Nathaniel Parsons (1686-1738), a grandson of Cornet Joseph and Mary Bliss Parsons, owned the property from 1709 until 1738 and is believed to be the original owner of the house.

INSTALLMENT ONE OF PARSONS FAMILY FILES AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING!

PFA unveils exclusive historical documents to members

Along with the Spring 2022 Issue of Cornet's Chronicle, the PFA Board of Directors, in conjunction with past and present PFA historians, will release a compilation of historical Parsons Family files to dues-paying PFA members. These documents span 100 years and catalog both the history of the association since its inception in 1923 as well as the accounts of various ancestors whose stories have been lost to time.

During his work on Parsons Family Vol. 1, former PFA historian Gerald Parsons preserved an innumerable amount of records, reports, and personal narratives concerning our family.

The PFA Board of Directors is excited to share with members new and old artwork and poetry from the 18th century, information about our family's involvement in the Revolutionary War, and historical issues of local newspapers chronicling the events of our family's journey, in an effort to reacquaint everyone with our past.



The first installment is a mere 1% of the files that we will be sharing in the future!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PFA President Deanna Parsons Simons shares her vision for the 100th Reunion

Greetings cousins!

We are excited to announce the upcoming centennial gathering of the Parsons Family Association! Next summer is our 100th PFA Reunion and we have scheduled it for July 29, 2023. This grand occasion will be held at the Hotel Northampton ballroom in Northampton, MA. We intend for the entire reunion to take place in-person so that all may attend and share in this historic event together, not through a computer screen.

We will host a luncheon accompanied by speakers and entertainment, as well as ample time for members traveling from far and wide to share stories and interact with our entire family. We will post a complete agenda on our website (parsonsfamilyassn.org) under the *Reunions* tab.

This year's reunion will take place on July 23, 2022 at 5:30pm EST via Zoom. We have adjusted the start time to accommodate our family in the central, mountain, and western time zones. As the date approaches, we will send an agenda and a Zoom link. Please join us if you can!

Also, please share the news of our 100th reunion with your extended family, this will truly be a celebration for the ages. We are very blessed to know so much about those who came before us, as many families do not have such a gift. In this time, more than ever, we must embrace our shared history to ensure future generations enjoy the same gift that we have.

If anyone has ideas for the 2023 reunion program, send them to parsonfamilyassociation@gmail.com.

Respectfully,
Deanna Parsons Simons



The 100th PFA Reunion will be held at Hotel Northampton (MA) on Saturday, July, 29th 2023.

PARSONS ANCESTOR SURVIVED THE TITANIC

An account of our ancestor aboard the Titanic

Mrs. Edwin Nelson Kimball was born as Susan Gertrude Parsons in Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA on 4 October 1866.

She was the daughter of Isaac Parsons (1829-1910), a merchant of paints, oils and pharmaceuticals, and Anna Grans Smith (1833-1891), both natives of Massachusetts who had married on 16 November 1852. Her known siblings were: Anna (1855-1857), Ellen "Nellie" Jane (1857-1955, later Mrs. Warren Kyle) and Fannie (1859-1945, later Mrs. John Arnold).

She first appears on the 1870 census living in Northampton and would still be present there by the time of the 1880 census.



Susan Gertrude Parsons, courtesy of Encyclopedia Titanica

She was married on 26 September 1893 in Brookline, Massachusetts to Edwin Nelson Kimball (b. 1870), a native of Atlanta, Georgia, and they appeared on the 1900 census living in Brookline, Massachusetts and on the 1910 census in Boston. Edwin was the president of the Hallet & Davis Piano Company in Boston, Massachusetts. The couple remained childless.

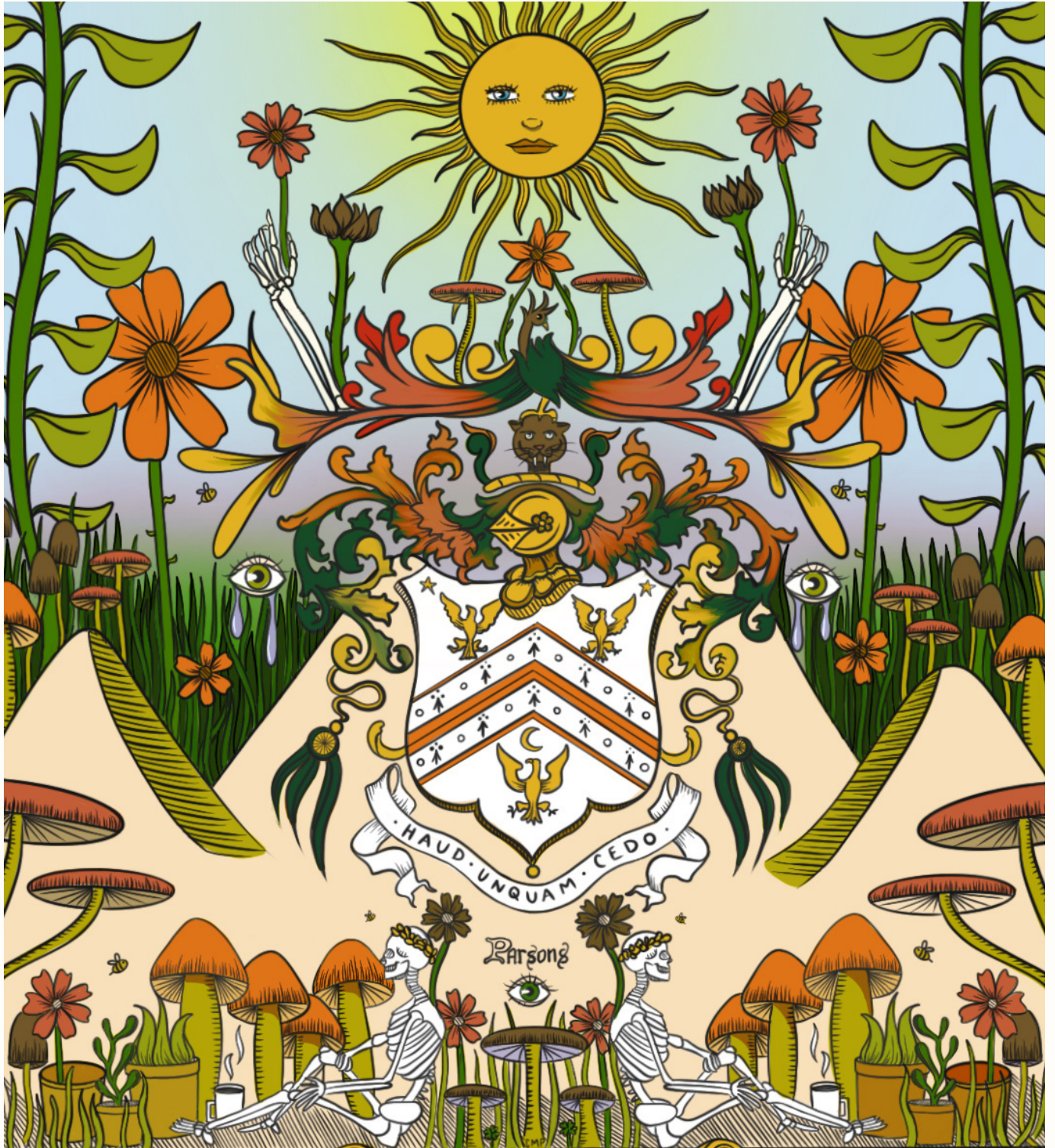
Travelling as first-class passengers (ticket number 11753, which cost £52, 11s, 1d), the Kimballs occupied cabin D-19. On the night of the sinking the couple were rescued in lifeboat 5 along with their friends Richard and Sallie Beckwith and Karl Behr and Helen Newsom.

In years after the sinking Gertrude continued to reside in Massachusetts and was shown on the 1920 census living with her husband in Newton, Middlesex. She was widowed in 1927 and on the 1930 census was shown living in Boston with her widowed sister Ellen Kyle.

Gertrude remained living in Boston at 5 Arlington Street. She died at Wellesley Manor, Wellesley, Massachusetts on 21 March 1962 aged 95 and was buried with her late husband in Newton Cemetery, West Newton, Massachusetts.

OUR COAT OF ARMS REIMAGINED

PFA member Courtney Parsons shares a tribute to the family



Courtney, from Falls Church, VA, had this to say, "I was inspired to draw this after researching my family history, adding elements of my own style to make it a whole piece. Since the Parsons family is so large and goes back so far, the themes I had in mind while illustrating were life and death."

PAST PFA PRESIDENT REMEMBERED

Kenneth T. Doran served the PFA for over 30 years

It has been more than three years since the passing of Mr. Doran, who held a leadership position with our association for three decades. To this day, his commitment to the Parsons Family Association and his advancement of community colleges in the State of New York deserve recognition.

In addition to serving as PFA President in 1984 and 1985, Mr. Doran's professional career centered on education. He began his career as a teacher and subsequently held a position with the New York State Department of Education's Office of Higher Education.

He later became the Associate Executive Dean of the State University of New York. The now 64-campus system was in its infancy when Mr. Doran began overseeing the State's two-year institutions. He testified before the U.S. Congress during the development of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). The HEA was legislation signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson that would strengthen the educational resources of colleges and universities across the nation and provide financial assistance to college students.

Mr. Doran was also a military man; he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 8th Air Force following active duty in England during World War II where he served under General Eisenhower.

His lifelong passion for genealogy led him to publish four volumes of the Doran Family Genealogy dating back to the Mayflower. After serving as PFA President in the 1980s, he remained very active in our association serving as a director until shortly before his passing in December 2018.

He is remembered as a kind and quiet man who was very articulate when it came to business matters; a true value to our association in every way.

He died in Sun Prairie, WI at the age of 100 years and seven months, achieving his oft-stated goal of outliving his mother, which he did by four months.



A FARMER'S \$2.5M BEQUEST

David Henry "Red" Parsons leaves vast sum for the construction of a senior center in Southamptton, MA

The late resident, David "Red" Parsons, died May 17 at the age of 86. His second cousin, Dale Canon of Easthampton, was appointed as Parsons' personal representative of his estate, per his will, but that appointment took another two months. It wasn't until February of 2022 that the town learned that the conservative amount of the bequest was \$2.5 million. To say that the town was surprised might be an understatement, considering by most accounts, he had never spent any time at the senior center. But it turns out that those close to him were just as surprised. "I was shocked," said Canon. "I had no idea he had that kind of money."

Who was Red?

Parsons was born on April 10, 1935, to Phillip and Evelyn Parsons. He attended Sheldon School in Southamptton and graduated from Easthampton High School in 1952. Having inherited his father's dark red hair, many of his friends called him "Red."

He also held a degree in physics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, which led him to a brief stint working as an engineer in California. In December 1956, Parsons entered the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Army Chemical Center near Baltimore, MD, where he spent two years. From there, he returned home, resuming what Canon describes as Parsons' greatest joy in life: farming with the Searle family at Wolfe Hill Farm in Southamptton.

He enjoyed the day-to-day life of farming, milking, gardening and even delivering calves. He would get up early in the morning, head to the farm to cook breakfast on a one-burner hotplate and then spend his days doing what he loved most in life. He also collected coins and enjoyed studying and investing in the stock market.

He was described as the "strong, silent type." He was as a very private man, content being a little reclusive. He did have a good sense of humor, though. "Anyone that knows me knows that I can talk a lot and that I talk fast."

Near the end of his life, Parsons fell and broke his neck at home and ended up receiving care at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton. Unfortunately, Parsons contracted COVID-19 and died shortly afterward.

*continued on the next page

A FARMER'S \$2.5M BEQUEST, CONT.

David Henry "Red" Parsons leaves vast sum for the construction of a senior center in Southamptn, MA

Red's will

After covering the costs of his funeral and any administrative fees and debts, one of the first items Parsons bequeathed in his will was embroidered samplers to the town's Historical Society. Parsons also gave the entity the opportunity to sort through antiques and collectibles in his home that they deemed significant.

The executor was instructed to donate any and all additional personal property to the Southamptn Historical Society, all items to be acknowledged as in memory of the Phillip Parsons Family. Tammy Walunas, president of the Historical Society, swooned as she reflected on all of the items of historical significance the Historical Society was able to preserve.

Parsons also bequeathed \$100,000 to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children in Springfield, in memory of his mother, Alice Coe Parsons' brother, Leslie Phineass Coe. He left the remainder of his entire estate, including real estate, to fund the study of building a new senior center or an addition onto its current space.

If this is not complete by the deadline (May 17, 2023), the money will be split up as follows: 25% to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children; 25% to the First Congregational Church of Southamptn; 25% to the Southamptn Historical Society; and 25% to the Southamptn Council on Aging. All of the money may be used at the discretion of each entity, but be made in memory of David H. "Red" Parsons.



David Henry "Red" Parsons, courtesy of The Daily Hampshire Gazette

This article originally appeared in the Daily Hampshire Gazette, written by staff writer Emily Thurlow on March 22.

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To contact any executive committee officers or directors, please send an email to parsonsfamilyassociation@gmail.com and you will promptly receive an answer!

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ParsonsFamilyAssociation/>.

Check out our website <https://parsonsfamilyassn.org/> for all things Parsons and continuous updates on our next events.



Parsons Family Association

Parsons Family Association Membership Form

Fill out this form by hand or on your computer.

Name:			
Number of Other Members Registering:			
Names of Other Members: <i>If registering for other members, please include their names here.</i>			
Street Address, City, State, ZIP: <i>If registering for other members, please include their addresses here.</i>			
Phone Number: <i>If registering for other members, please include their phone numbers here.</i>			
Email Address: <i>If registering for other members, please include their email addresses here.</i>			
Descendant of (if known):			
New or renewing member(s)? <i>If registering for other members, please include whether they are new or renewing members here.</i>			
Membership type:	Regular (\$20) <i>Must renew annually</i>	Number of memberships:	Sum Total:
	Sustaining (\$40) <i>Must renew annually</i>	Number of memberships:	Sum Total:
	Lifetime (\$300) <i>No renewal needed</i>	Number of memberships:	Sum Total:
Donations or Special Gifts:	Parsons Homestead Maintenance Fund <i>Write dollar amount in box →</i>		
	100 th Year Reunion (2023) Fund <i>Write dollar amount in box →</i>		
	Parsons House Restoration Project <i>Write dollar amount in box →</i>		
	Website Fund <i>Write dollar amount in box →</i>		
Total \$ amount enclosed:	<i>Write dollar amount in box →</i>		

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For Electronic Form Submission

1. **Save** this completed form to your computer.
2. **Email** this completed form to parsonsfamilyassociation@gmail.com.
3. **Pay** on our website's membership page (<https://parsonsfamilyassn.org/parsons-family-association-membership/>) or **mail** check/cash to below address.

For Paper Form Submission

1. **Mail** this completed form and enclosed check/cash to:
*Parsons Family Association, Inc.
 PO Box 603
 Conway, MA 01341*

**Make checks payable to Parsons Family Association, Inc.