

# CORNET'S CHRONICLE

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

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*Volume 18, Issue 1*

*Deanna Parsons-Simons, Editor*

*Spring-Summer 2012*

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

A warm spring welcome to all cousins!

The unseasonably warm weather seems to have everyone in good spirits. This year marks our 90<sup>th</sup> Parsons Family Association reunion. It will fittingly be held in Northampton, MA, the site our historical home. The date of this year's reunion is Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. We will begin the day early touring the Earle M. Parsons and Sons farm in Hadley, MA. This is fully working farm was owned by one of our dear past president's Earle P. Parsons. It is approximately 15 minutes from Northampton. Please bring a change of footwear and clothes if you are going to the barn.

Next, we will travel to see the Cornet Joseph Parsons house on Bridge St. in Northampton. There will be tours of the home and a bench commemoration for two of our outstanding members – Dr. Stuart Parsons and our founder Rev. Frank Miller. We will serve a catered lunch on site and hope the wonderful weather will carry us into July.

Please consider coming if you haven't in the past – this is a very special year and we welcome all new and friendly faces. Can't wait to see you all there!!

Deanna Parsons Simons, President PFA

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

On March 30<sup>th</sup> the 8-month CD at one percent APR will mature and the principle will be rolled into a 15-month CD at the same rate. The interest accrued will be deposited in the checking account on March 30<sup>th</sup>. This is the best CD rate available as compared to other competing banks. Another CD maturing in August 2012 will be rolled over into the best available investment.

Quickbooks 2012 Premier software has been purchased and is in the process of being set up. This year I will maintain a dual set of books (the old version) until the system has been reviewed and analyzed for accuracy. This process will be completed within the next fiscal year.

In a recent conversation with Historic Northampton staff it was noted the date of the Parsons House has been ascertained as 1719, versus the 1730 as previously stated.

Additionally, the president and I have been working in tandem to organize the reunion at Historic Northampton on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Historic Northampton staff has been very helpful in providing critical assistance in the planning process and in researching Parsons House Magnets for sale at the Museum as well as for any new members. A magnet will be sent to all current members in this newsletter as appreciation for your membership in this organization. I have enjoyed being involved in the logistics and working in depth with our President.

Kim Graham, Treasurer, PFA, Email: [kbqbandits@gmail.com](mailto:kbqbandits@gmail.com); Cell 413-475-2249

## WEB SITE REPORT

The Parsons Family Association has a new website with a new address: [parsonsfamilyassn.org](http://parsonsfamilyassn.org).

Here's some of what you'll find on the site:

Home Page: Please remember to sign the guest book on your first visit and look for *What's New on This Site*. The Web Administrator makes an effort to list here any additions to the site.

Membership Page: You will find a collection of reunion group shots going all the way back to 2000.

All Things Parsons has interesting bits of information about the family, its history and two of our famous cousins.

Cornet's Chronicle has a link to the last newsletter and also features a *Parsons Profile* on Theron Parsons.

Please send your historic photos to the Web Administrator to be uploaded on the Your Family Photos page, where you may be able to find out who you look like.

News Page: Reports current news and a link to In Memoriam, a gathering of stories about those who have passed on.

We also have a Blog. Use it to "talk to us." If you have something you'd like to announce (someone is ill and would like to receive cards or prayers, a new baby, landing a great job, winning the lottery) notify us. Please send your comments to the Web Administrator via email and she'll post them.

The Web Administrator would like you to contribute photos and stories to help make our website both a valuable resource and a fun visit.

Karen Vorbeck Williams, Web Administrator, Email: [k.vorbeck.williams@gmail.com](mailto:k.vorbeck.williams@gmail.com)

## HISTORIAN'S REPORT

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

Secondly, I would like to introduce myself and list some of my qualifications, including resources. My name is Gary Alan Parsons, and I've been a life member of both the Parsons and Strong Family Associations for many years. I've been researching my own family history for over 40 years and have authored and self published over eight volumes of my family's history. I've taken adult and college level genealogy classes and have taught genealogy at local senior centers.

I'm a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Historic Northampton, and the Silicon Valley Genealogical Computer Group. In my research, if I can't find the information I'm looking for in my own reference library, I have access to three excellent genealogical libraries in my area (i.e. National Archives, CA State library at Sutro, and Santa Clara Library) and a number of on-line resources (i.e. ancestry.com, findagrave.com, and americanancestors.org).

Thirdly, even though I've only been the historian for a short time (Sept. 2011 – Jan. 2012), I've received and answered over 108 PFA related e-mails, plus another 42 e-mails which entailed either offering or receiving genealogical information relating to our Parsons heritage. One of my first goals as historian is to obtain everyone's unique Parsons' pedigree from all of our current PFA members. Your pedigree can be submitted to me as a simple handwritten note, or it can be as complicated as you would like to make it. It can be sent to me

either by snail-mail or e-mail. Your pedigree should start with your immediate family and go back as far as you can. It should cover only your direct Parsons' line ancestors.

Also, if possible, could you please list the sources of your information (i.e. oral history, unpublished manuscript, reference book, census records, or other). As far as I'm aware of, this has not been done for quite a while. This information is for our association's records only.

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

## **PARSONS PROFILES**

### **Stuart O. Parsons, Jr., Past President of the Association:**

The late Dr. Stuart Overton Parsons, Jr., was born in Denver, Colorado, 11 Aug. 1926, and was the son of Stuart Overton Parsons, Sr., and Gladys East. He was fondly known to everyone as just "Stu."

Stu attended East High School there and earned his BA in Psychology from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado, in 1947. He went on to earn his MA and PHD from University of Southern California and was a member of the National Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Stu entered the service in 1944, and worked his way up from Seaman in the United States Navy to Col. In the United States Air Force Reserve, where he retired in 1983.

He worked for the Lockheed Martin Corporation for over 33 years as Manager of the Systems Effectiveness Engineering Division. Stu also taught part-time at both the University of Southern California and San Jose State University. In addition to all this, he was founder and President of Parsons & Associates, a consulting firm to industrial and legal organizations.

In October of 2011, Stu was awarded the Arnold M. Small President's Distinguished Service Award by the HFES for his lifetime contributions in the field of Human Factors, including breakthrough developments for NASA and the General Electric Corporation.

In addition to everything else, Stu was an active member of both the Episcopal Church and the National Ski Patrol. He enjoyed swimming, bridge, golfing and travel. He and Harriet visited all 50 states and over 65 countries, often taking his entire family. He also found time and energy to be an active member of the Parsons Family Association.

Stu passed away on December 22, 2011, and is survived by his wife of 56 years, Harriet Jaggard Parsons, three daughters Carol Tousley, Cynthia Davis, Pamela Blackwell, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He will be remembered for his storytelling, sense of humor, political & social awareness, and an unwavering loyalty to his family and friends.

### **Lydia C. Omasta:**

Lydia C. Omasta, past President of the PFA, was born May 31, 1925 in a farmhouse in the West Farms section of Northampton, Massachusetts. She is the daughter of Fred & Elgie (Parsons) Challet. She grew up on a chicken farm and later the family moved to Westhampton. Her father was a first generation American whose parents had immigrated from Alsace-Lorraine. Her husband, Paul supported his family as a bull dozer operator. He also was a first generation American whose parents had emigrated from Czechoslovakia. The Parsons were here to greet them. Lydia figures she is the 7<sup>th</sup> generation of Parsons' in Westhampton. If you were to research 12 generations, you would get to Cornet Joseph Parsons who arrived in America on the

Mayflower. Lydia moved to Easthampton in 2005 and shares her apartment with Mia, her 15 year old white Abyssinian cat

Lydia was educated in Northampton and graduated in 1943. She is one of the 14 surviving members of her class. She then matriculated at Massachusetts State College in Amherst. After college she taught kindergarten for 19 years and subsequently became the bookkeeper for Omasta's Excavation.

Lydia keeps herself involved in her community. Since retirement she is involved in 12 different organizations including the Westhampton Congregational Church where her daughter, Marcia, is the church organist. Her daughter Nancy lives in Florida. Lydia serves on the board of the Friends of the Westhampton, Council on Aging, the Pascommuck Conservation Trust, the Hampton County Regional Housing Authority, to name a few and is also a volunteer with the ECOA companion program. This year she made 700 Christmas cookies which were distributed to 100 lucky people. Recently, Lydia drove 30 miles each day to takes meals on wheels to home-bound people who reside in the outskirts of Easthampton, Southampton, and Westhampton.

Our cousin, Lydia, lives by the Golden Rule and by the wisdom of her mother, Elgie Parsons Challet. Who lived to be 101 with Lydia as her faithful caregiver. Elgie stated "I do not regret growing old. It is a privilege too many are denied. I will never be accused of sitting in a rocking chair and watching the world go by like my great aunt did. I can't conceive of that. I learned early on that you had to do a good deed every day just to earn your spot on this earth." It appears Lydia took her mother's message to heart. She is an extraordinary person of many talents and still works within our community to make it easier for those around her.

## OFFICERS

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[k.vorbeck.williams@gmail.com](mailto:k.vorbeck.williams@gmail.com)

## DIRECTORS

Dr. Kenneth T. Doran: 2 Loren Ave., Albany N.Y. 12203	518-456-4199
Muriel P. Poulin: 32 Oliver St., Easthampton, MA. 01027	413-203-1231
Martha Parsons Ethier: 18 Shattuck St., Greenfield MA. 01301	413-774-3645
Lydia C. Omasta: 16 Briggs St. #1, Easthampton MA. 01027	413-527-6770
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Kim Graham: 48 Parsons Road, Conway, MA. 01341	413-369-8028
Cris Parsons: 13 Bigelow Road, Johnston, R.I. 02919	401-934-1403

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Hotelpalner.com 877-430-1905  
Hotel Northampton, 36 King Street, Northampton, MA 01020, 413-5843100  
Autumn Inn, 259 Elm St, Northampton, MA 413-584-7660  
Howard Johnson, 401 Russell Street, MA 413-586-0114  
Clarion Hotel, 1 Atwood Drive, Northampton, MA 413-586-1211  
Econo Lodge, 29 Russell St, Hadley, MA – 413-582-7077

**PARSONS’ FARM**

People choosing to visit the Parsons’ Farm in Hadley – see the directions from Northampton listed here:

8:30 to 10:30AM you are invited to tour the Earle M. Parsons and Sons farm at 143 Mill Valley Road in Hadley, MA. This is the farm of the late, former president Earle P. Parsons. This is a working farm with sheep, pigs and goats so dress accordingly. Coffee and light refreshments will be served and family members will show you around.

Route I-91 North, take Exit 19  
Turn right onto Route 9 East  
Go over the Coolidge Bridge into Hadley  
Stay on Rt 9 for 2.9 miles.  
Turn right onto Mill Valley Rd.  
Drive 1.2 miles.  
Turn right into the farm driveway

Route I-91 South, take Exit 20  
Merge onto King Street and go 0.1 mile to the stoplight  
Turn left onto Damon Rd  
Drive for 1 mile,  
Turn left onto Rt 9 East,  
Go over the Coolidge Bridge into Hadley  
Drive 2.9 miles  
Turn right onto Mill Valley Rd  
Drive for 1.2 miles  
Turn right into the farm driveway.  
It will take about 15 minutes from Northampton

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS RESERVATIONS**

The Directors meeting will be held at the Brewmasters, (Rte. 9), 4 Main Street, Williamsburg, MA. We will convene at 6 P.M. and ordering will be from their menu.

NAMES:

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Directions to Brewmasters: Go west on route 9 until you reach the center of Williamsburg. Look for Brewmasters on the left just before you start up route 9 to Goshen. For detailed directions or a map please see the web site <http://www.thebrewmasterstavern.com/contact.html> .

**REUNION RESERVATIONS:**

Historic Northampton, 46 Bridge Street, Route 9, Northampton, MA, 01060 (413)-584-6011

Price: \$23.00 Per Person—Children under 12 Free

RSVP: Kim Graham, 48 Parsons Road, Conway, MA. 01341

**PLEASE RSVP BY: FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2012**

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

NAMES:

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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.

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**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**

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Conway, Massachusetts 01341