

Family Record.

DEATHS.

Adrian C. Parsons, Aug. 1, 1929.
Mary M. Parsons, Oct. 27, 1922.



Family Record.

DEATHS.

Frank Harrison Parsons.
In the Marine Corps of
the U.S. Army, died at the
Naval Ordnance Plant
So. Charleston W. Va.
October 21" 1918.

Family Record.

MARRIAGES.

Norman E. Parsons }
Minnie Barker } Aug. 5th 1896.

Lester W. Parsons }
Iva Webster } Mar. 3rd 1898.

Ethel Parsons }
Evan B. Davis } Mar. 23rd 1898.

Wm W. Parsons }
Gesse E. Simudler } Aug. 24th 1904

Edith Parsons }
Harry J. White } October 25th 1906

G
L
M
B
C
E

Family Record.

MARRIAGES.

Bert Parsons
M. Symmonds } Nov. 26" 1908

Ray Parsons
Fannie J. White } October 8" 1910

Hester A. Parsons
Agel F. Miller } June 11" 1911



Family Record.

BIRTHS.

Lester Wharton	Dec. 22" 1871
Norman Edgar	Jan. 17" 1873
Infant son still born	Aug. 16" 1874
Ethel	Aug. 11" 1875
William Nelson	Apr. 8" 1878
Edith	Apr. 28" 1880
Gilbert Roland	Jan. 27" 1883
Mary	May. 16" 1885
Chester Adrian	June 22" 1887
Frank Harrison	Feb. 11" 1889





Family Record.



MISCELLANEOUS.

Adrian A. Parsons

Born Nov. 7" 1846.
Died

Mary W. Fox

Born Dec. 19" 1850.

Married Apr. 10" 1870.



DEATHS.

Wanted for - *[illegible]*
March 15th 1891 1851

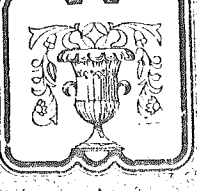
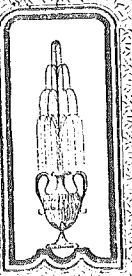
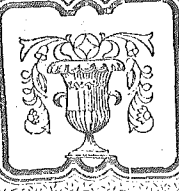
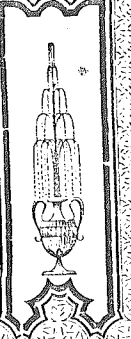
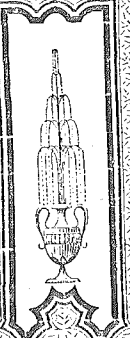
Elvira C. Parsons Aug 4 - 1893 Pleasant Parents of
Nelson Young Parsons Sept 1875 Pleasant *[illegible]*

Mary Hannah Parsons June 12 - 1876 Pleasant
mother of Nelson Young Parsons

Adrian A. Parsons Aug 2 - 1929

Mary M. Fox Parsons Dec 17th 22 - 1922

John Swain Father of Elvira Swain Parsons
Died Sept 29 - 1867



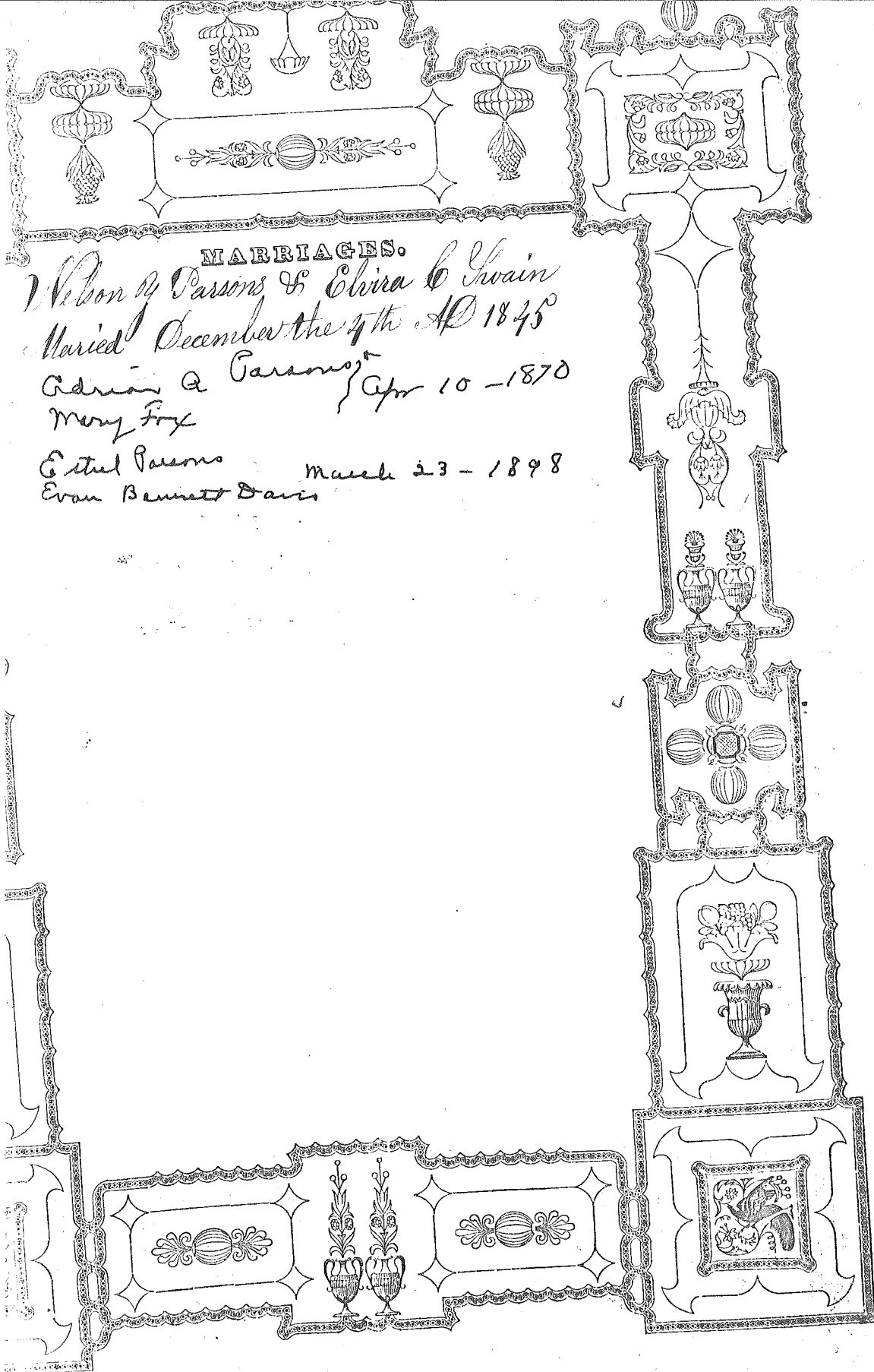
MARRIAGES.

Wilson & Parsons & Elvira C Swain

Married December the 4th AD 1845

Adrian A Parsons } Apr 10 - 1870
Mary Fox

Esther Parsons } March 23 - 1898
Evan Bennett Davis



1861
1865

Adrian P. Parsons
enlisted in Army Dec 15 - 1863
as a Private in Co D. 9th Ind. Cavalry
was discharged at close of war Aug 3 - 1865

Mary Parsons daughter of Joseph & Lydia Fields was born
the 24th day of September 1776

Ruth Parsons was born the 9th day of July 1775

Joseph Parsons " " " 5 " " " 1777

George Parsons " " " 13 " " " April 1777

Lydia Parsons " " " 11 " " " " 1801

William Parsons " " " 12 " " " " 1803

Leine Parsons " " " 2 " " " " March 1805

Malinda Parsons " " " 8 " " " " February 1807

James Parsons (jr) " " " 25 " " " " December 1808

Eli Parsons " " " 19 " " " " 1810

Peter Fields Parsons " " " 20 " " " " 1812

Green Parsons " " " 13 " " " " June 1815

Benjamin Franklin Parsons was born the 17th April 1822

Polly Parsons " " " 23^d August 1824

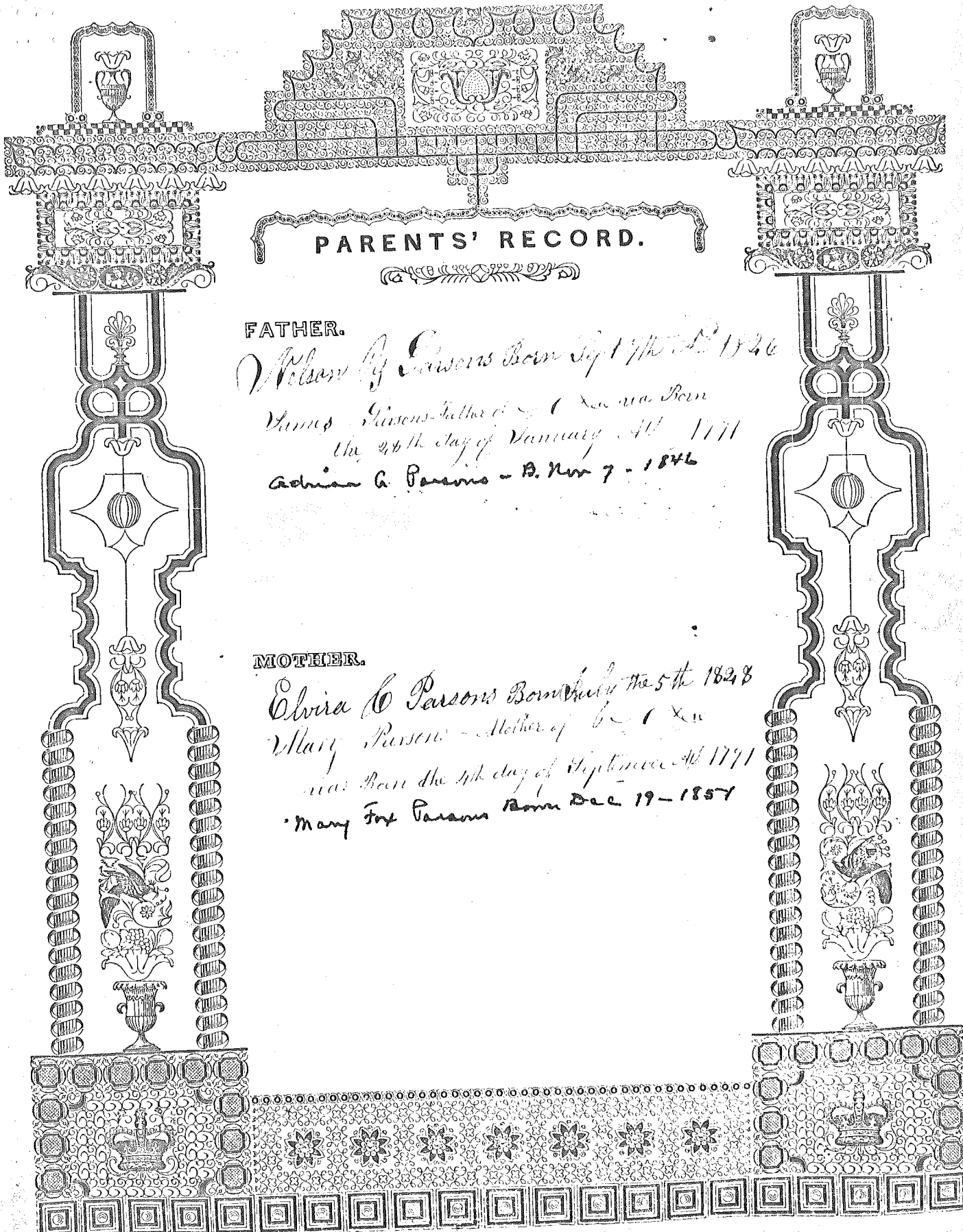
Martha Ann Parsons " " " 22^d September 1827

Cicilia Coalman Parsons " " " 17^d February 1831

Reuben Fitch Parsons " " " 4th October 1833

Amy Eliza Parsons " " " 22^d February 1836

(over)



PARENTS' RECORD.

FATHER.

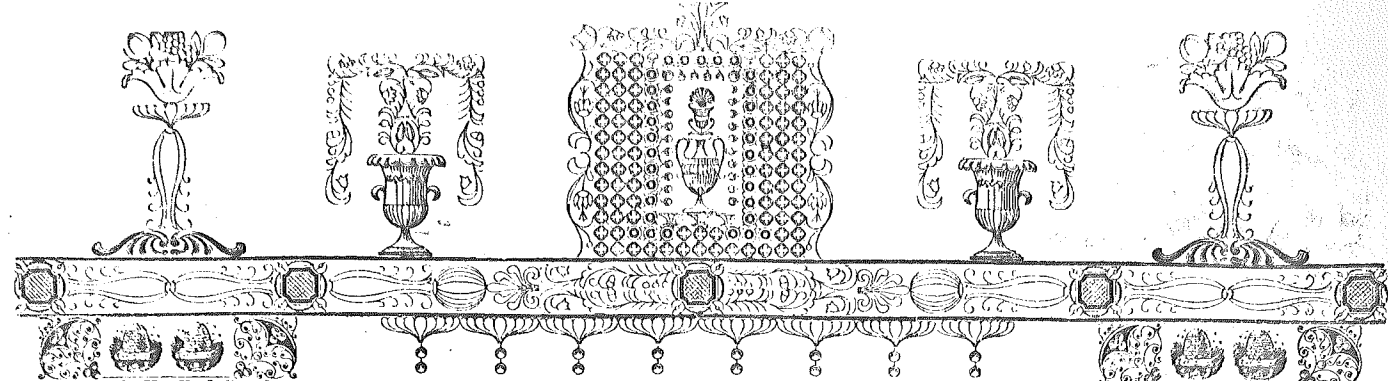
Wilson G. Parsons Born Sep 17th 1846

James Parsons - Father of Wilson G. Parsons Born
the 26th day of January A.D. 1771
Adrian G. Parsons - B. Nov 7 - 1846

MOTHER.

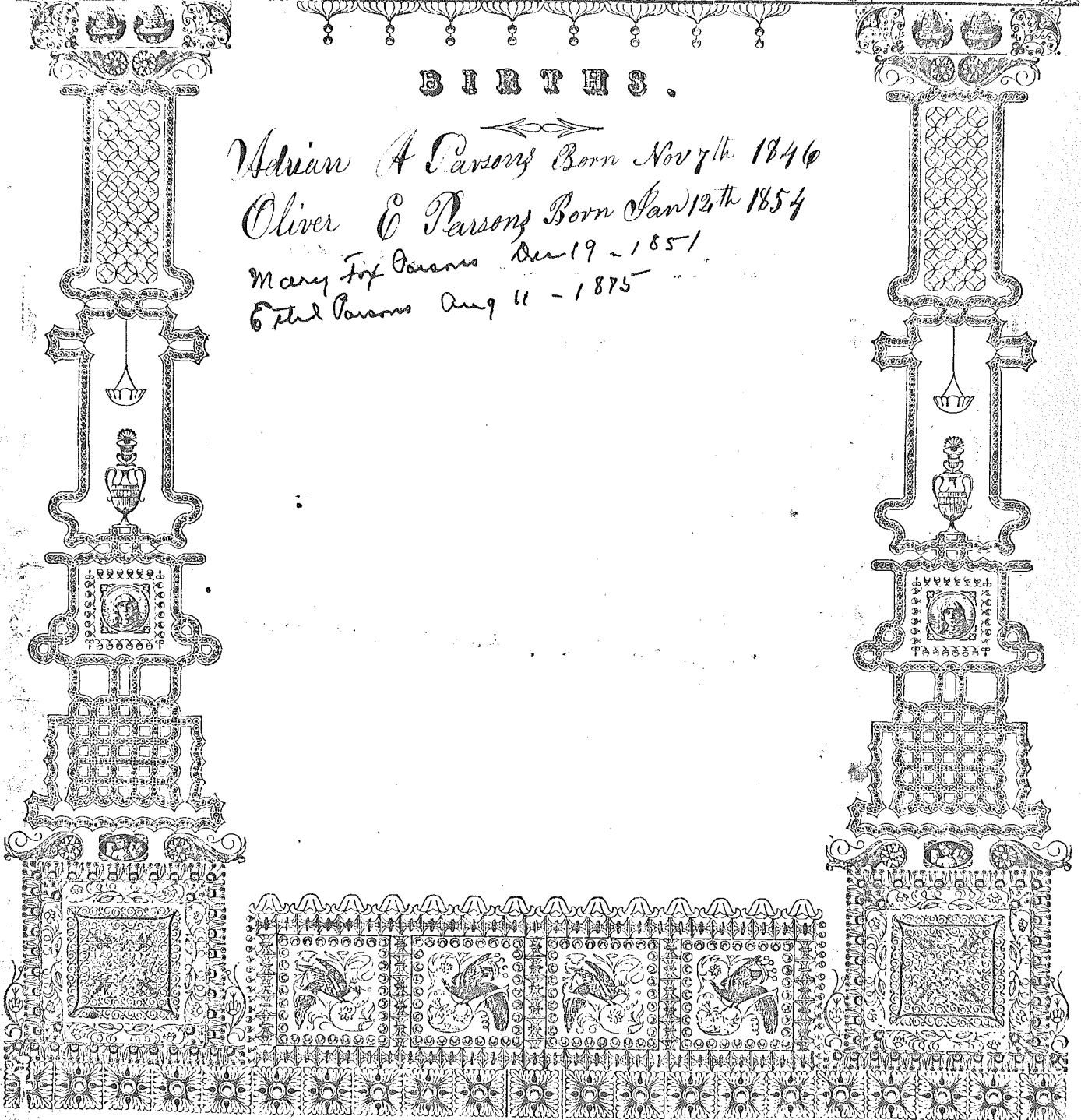
Elvira C. Parsons Born March 5th 1828

Mary Parsons - Mother of Wilson G. Parsons
was Born the 14th day of September A.D. 1771
Mary Fox Parsons Born Dec 19 - 1857



B I R T H S .

Adrian A Parsons Born Nov 7th 1846
Oliver C Parsons Born Jan 12th 1854
Mary Fox Parsons Dec 19 - 1851
Ethel Parsons Aug 11 - 1875



Lovell Hoyt Parsons

Lovell Hoyt Parsons, a descendent of Hendricks County pioneers, was born December 24, 1890 in the county. He was a son of James Wilson and Julia Ann Perkins Parsons. He had one brother, Herman, born July 24, 1892 and died May 14, 1959.

Lovell received his formal education in the local public schools. He was taught industry and thrift by parents who practiced these virtues.

Lovell served in the United States Army during World War I from June 21, 1918 until April 26, 1919.

On August 18, 1920, Lovell married Marie Pauline Hayden. The Parsons' residence is on the county line road north of State Road # 36, where the parents moved in 1906.

Lovell retired from his employment at the Hoosier Box Manufacturing Company in Indianapolis in 1958. He also worked several years for the Hendricks County Highway Department. He was handy with tools and was a good gardener.

Lovell belonged to the American Legion Post # 118 at Danville.

He was a member of the Shiloh United Methodist Church where he quietly rendered service according to his ability as long as he was able.

For many years he also consistantly honored the Soldiers of Shiloh by participating in the placing of the Flag at their graves on Memorial Day.

Lovell had a decided sense of humor, was keenly interested in activities in the vicinity and was a congenial neighbor and friend. A dependable and responsible citizen he will be missed many times for the many services he performed as long as his health permitted.

Lovell leaves the widow Marie, the daughter Virginia, the son-in-law Howard Martin, Jr., the grandson Scott and grand daughter Linda.

Parsons Family

Lorell's Grandfather Parsons Family

William Parsons was born November 20, 1830
in Guilford County, North Carolina, died Aug. 11, 1907
Rachel Swain Parsons (his wife) was born September
27, 1830, in Guilford County North Carolina, died ^{Feb 24, 1903}
They were married, September 6, 1849 in N. Carolina
came to Indiana in 1852, with his ^{parents} father John
Parsons and Anna Bartley Parsons his wife.
They had eleven children.
Alonzo born March 17, 1851, died August 21, 1901
James Wilson born June 6, 1854, died, September 12, 1924
Infant son born July 23, 1857 died August 31, 1857
Isaac born October 16, 1858 died October 16, 1935
Laura born February 24, 1861 died January 23, 1931
Albert born November 8, 1862, died June 26, 1863
Nora born June 28, 1864, died July 17, 1864
Infant son born August 2, 1867, died Sept 12, 1867
Arthur born September 2, 1869 died July 16, 1937
Glendora born November 3, 1870 died September 13, 1946
~~Albion~~ born June 8, 1872, ^{died} July 26, 1873
Alonzo married Mary Fox, parents of Albert (Jobe)
William, Kate, Chet, Harry and Ben. Parsons
James Wilson married Julia Perkins, parents of
Lorell Hoytt and Herman Jethro Parsons
Isaac married Mattie Merritt, parents of Ora and
Jesse Parsons
Laura Parsons married Harre Johnson, parents of

Clyde, Clara, Anna & Cleo Johnson
Arthur Parsons never married
Glendora Parsons married James Norris, no children

Lowell's Grandfather Perkins Family

Joshua Perkins and Catherine Pierce were married in Johnson County Indiana, September 3 1859. He was born in Kentucky - Catherine born in Virginia.

Their children -

Julia Ann Perkins Parsons born January 3, 1861 died March 31, 1936

Mack Perkins born 1863, died December 21, 1933

Sara Perkins born - died April 17, 1943

Bettie Perkins Polk, born April 29, 1870 died July 10, 1929

Frank (Boat) Perkins born April 4, 1867, died Oct. 24, 1941

Martha Perkins Robinson born - died May 13, 1904

Emma Perkins Snedaker-Mitchell - born November 23, 1874 died May 6, 1944

Thomas Perkins born January 25, 1876, died July 5, 1953

Ollie Perkins Kersey born January, 1882, died Sept. 3, 1927

Joshua ^{Perkins} was married to Margaret M. Melton, August 29, 1850

Their children

Benjamin Perkins - Clara Mitchell's father

Abraham Perkins

Joshua Perkins was in the Mexican War

On June 20, 1846, Joshua Perkins (and others from Hendricks County) were mustered in Company H, First Indiana Volunteer Regiment, at New Albany, Indiana

Herman Jethro, was born, July 24, 1892, east of Salem Church on Wall Street road, Wayne Twp. Marion, County.

They moved from that location to what is known as Eagle Creek Hill on Denth Street.

Moved from there to Morgan County, Wilbur, Indiana ran a saw mill with Eugene Kernerd, for eighteen months.

About 1900, moved back to Griswold road (where Jesse Parsons lives).

May 9, 1906 They bought 7 acres of land on County Line road, Washington Twp.

Built a two room frame house, lived in it, until about 1909, began to make cement blocks and built present house, Jan 1929 and 1930 Lovell made cement blocks and added Three more rooms to the house.

Wils farmed and helped his father and brothers with threshing machine and saw mill. His brother Alongz was killed while working in saw mill, Aug. 1901, on his father's farm Griswold road.

Lovell and Herman attended school at what was known as "Mosquito College", Blair school and Shiloh school.

They worked with their father, they ran Threshing machine, did threshing and haling for miles around.

On May 24th 1918, Herman was drafted into World War One, left for Camp in Columbus, Ohio. was sent

James Wilson Parsons (Wils) was born June 6, 1854 in Washington Township, Hendricks County, Indiana on the Edward Mills farm, Shiloh road, south of Rockville road. Went to school in Washington Twp.

Julia Ann Perkins, daughter of Joshua & Catherine (Pierce) Perkins, was born January 3, 1861, on her father's farm, West Sixth Street road, (where Goodnight live.

She went to school in the "Red School House", north of Sixth Street, near the Pierce's home. Washington Twp.

James Wilson Parsons and Julia Ann Perkins were married, December 22, 1889, in the Frank A. Guthrie home in Aron (where the Dave Veneable's live.

They went to house keeping in the house belonging to his father, on the Griswold road, south of Sixth Street, where the road makes bend north of where Jesse now lives. It was a part of Grandfather W^m Parsons farm, he lived corner of Griswold road and Sixth Street. Wils and Julia had two children, Lovell Hoytt and Herman Jethro Parsons.

Lovell was born December, 24, 1890 in same house where his parents went to house keeping (it was called the "Weaning Pen") several of Wils Parsons, brothers and sisters went to house keeping in this house and their children were born there.

Hossier Box Manufacturing Company, Indianapolis
 Marie Pauline Hayden was born August 14th 1903
 in Washington Township, Hendricks County, Indiana
 south of Rockville road, Shiloh road, what was
 known as the Jesse Stout farm.

In August, 18th, 1920, Lovell Hoyt Parsons
 and Marie Pauline Hayden were married, Danville
 Indiana, at the Methodist church parsonage by
 the Rev. Charles Ford, pastor of the church.

Went to housekeeping same place we now live.

June 22nd, 1924, Virginia Mae Parsons, was born
 to Lovell and Marie Parsons.

She was born at her Grandmother Hayden's home
 west of Aron, Indiana, Washington Township, Hendricks
 County.

Virginia received her twelve years of schooling
 in the Aron, school, graduated from High
 School, May, 1942. In June, 1942 started to
 Central Normal College, at Danville, Indiana, graduated
 June, 1945. Taught third grade at Aron for
 nine years.

In July, 25th 1954, Virginia Mae Parsons and
 Howard Scott Martin Jr. were married.

They have two children, Scott Allen Martin,
 born May, 28, 1956, and Linda Mae Martin, born
 January, 14, 1959.

They live near Dana, Indiana, Vermillion County.

Harward's home.

In September, 12th, 1924, Lovell and Herman's father died and March 31st, 1926, their mother died. Both are buried, Maple Hill Cemetery, Plainfield Indiana.

Herman Jethro Parsons and Edna Orah Hull were married, October, 16th, 1923 in Kentucky. They went to house keeping near Aron, Indiana. They had four children, Lyle Hull, Eula Madge, Mary Ann, and Lois Marie.

Herman died, May 1st, 1959.

Lovell and Herman worked at Hoosier Box Factory until 1929 when the Depression hit, then they were home, and on their own. Hard times during depression days.

In March, 1937, Lovell worked for Speedway Lumber Company, until December, 1939.

Worked for Hendricks County Highway department in 1941, until February, 1945, then went to Hoosier Box Factory, worked there until June 1948, worked Aron school until September 1952, went back to Hoosier Box Company until May 28th, 1958, when he retired.

room to eat in, they ate out in the rain and mud.

Leaving Metzelle 3:00 P. M. December 31st hiking to Reppode where they entrained, riding forty-two and a half hours to La Ferte Barnarde, to Areze and billeted in old barns. Areze is in the beautiful valley of the Nuisne, seen from the hills it resembles nothing more than a large garden, where houses had taken root. There the silver willows bent over the brooks, chestnut trees covered the sloping hills.

January 27th, 91st division passed in review before General Pershing and Staff in field between Ige and Bellene. E. Company took trucks from La Chapelle Du. Bors, to Ige, going by the way of St. Cosme De Van.

Leaving Areze February, 3rd, and hiked to St. Germain 13 Kilos from La Ferte Barnarde

Leaving St. Germain 9:30, A. M., March 19th entrained at La Ferte Barnarde, arrived in St. Nazaire, embarkation camp, March 25th on board the Orizaba for the U. S. A.

Arrived at Hoboken, New Jersey, April, 2nd, going to Camp Upton Long Island, leaving there by way of Newark, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Harrisburg & Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to Chillicothe, Ohio, Camp Sherman, discharged April 26th 1919.

In 1920, Lovell and Herman went to work at the

stone house, with an old man and woman and their daughter. The girl was married on Thanksgiving Day.

This was the best place they had to stay in Europe, staying there only a few days, December 4th 8:30 A.M. and hiked through Pithem to Eghem, leaving Eghem, December 6th and hiked to Hoogede a distance of 20 kilos, leaving Hoogede and hiked 30 kilos to Oostereleter, December 7th crossing No Man's Land. The country was flat and swampy, passed a number of little villages that had been at one time, but now just a mass of ruins, on each side all one could see was miles of trenches, dugouts enough back-wise to go around the world.

Many are the ways to fight, many souvenirs could have been picked up there too heavy, and getting heavier as they got worn out on the stretch of 30 kilos. "No Man's Land" at Oostereleter originally the old Hindenburg line or as the Belgians called it the line of Ypres.

Left Oostereleter, December 8th and hiked to Hergeel, France, via Westereleter where Lovell was living in a straw stack, when they were not hiking or on detail, they were drilling there, they would go out to the trenches and dugouts, getting the logs and lumber out of them to burn in their rolling kitchen, don't think they had a dining

Commander to remain where they were as it was rumored Armistice was signed, at 9:00, they received the official news that Armistice was really signed.

Need not state, they were delighted as were the French soldiers who happened to be there with them. They went as far as dancing with each other. never will forget this as long as they live, the three elevens, eleventh month, eleventh day and the eleventh hour, my what change, every thing was so calm and peaceful.

One of the finest sights was the return of the Belgians to farms and homes, although every thing was ruined, they came back with smiles and enjoying the opportunity to rebuild, most of the buildings that were standing had big gaping holes in the walls and roofs.

The soldiers moved back into old barns in the town of Hoosebeke Marie, here they started a fight with the "cooties" as they were eating them up. Stayed there until Monday, November 18th when they moved to billits in convents in town of Audemhove St. Marie, leaving there November 22nd going a distance of 12 kilos, left there November 23rd and hiked to Nazareth about 26 kilos, left there 6:00 P.M. November, 26th, and hiked 30 kilos to Mulebeke, Lovell's squad was billeted in the attic of an old

protection, many were killed and wounded, any time during the day you could see anti air-craft guns shooting at dutch airplanes which is a wonderful sight.

October 31st advanced about four kilos and dug in on ridge just past Spitaal's Bosschen with scrapnel flying in every direction, they could take time to get turnips which the Germans had planted, they almost lived on turnips.

Remained in that position until 10:00 A.M. November 1st, retired about one half kilos and took up their position as division reserve.

Remained there until 11:00 P.M. November 2nd then advanced 19 kilos to a hiding place, November 3rd they retired to Spittle Bochen again near Waercghen went ⁱⁿ the same dugouts they had dug the day before.

November 4th at 11:00 A.M. they moved back 12 kilos to Hulebke. During this time the German lines of defence was opposite Sand.

Remained there until 8:00 A.M. Friday November 8th, when they hiked 15 kilos located about 5 kilos behind the lines, stayed there until 2:00 A.M. Sunday, November 10th. During their stay there the lines had advanced 14 kilos, they hiked the 14 kilos to front through Audenarde, dug in on an apple orchard at dark, they had instruction to attack, but a runner came in and told their company

mud, leggings turned into a cake of mud.

At 8:00 on the morning of Sunday October 20th they were on the march again a march that led across "No Man's Land", toward the front and battle, scattered along were ruined tanks, crippled trucks, barbed wire, equipment and clothing, on every side could be seen the graves of those who had fallen, marked by a cross, a pile of stones or a stick with his helmet on it.

Thousands of men lay buried under the mud without sign or mark of their graves. Big rats were everywhere and showed no fear of the soldiers as they marched along.

October 24th hiking eleven kilos to billets in Vassenlem, remained there until October 28th hiking to Isegheem. That night the hum of airplanes motors were heard, the Germans were overhead.

The planes came near the ground and dropped bombs on the towns, but did not do much damage.

Left Isegheem, Wednesday, October 30th for the front arrived and went into reserve of first battalion on morning of Thursday October 31st.

Fritz's did not care what he hit you with, high explosive shells, gas shells and machine gun fire. The French artillery was putting over a barrage altogether, it certainly made the earth tremble many times they had to dig in the ground for

Soon came the area that had been made famous by the swaying struggle between the Briton and the Boche - the battle field of Ypres. No description ever read compared with what they saw there.

The country was a desert of mud, shell holes and debris of war, there was not an inch of ground that had not been torn by shells, most of it had been ploughed and reploughed by high explosives, shell holes lapped over shell holes, and all were filled with water and mud. They detrained at an English camp near Boesinghe at 4:30 P.M. October 18th.

This was not a cheerful camp, most of them were lucky enough to get into dugouts, some in "elephant huts," left by the British.

Less than two weeks before this place had been just behind the British front lines.

Had not the British placed signs where towns and houses had once stood, no one would have been able to locate the places where people had once lived and cultivated their fields, shell-holes overlapped shell-holes for a distance of twenty miles trenches crossed and re-crossed, cutting the earth in every direction as far as the eye could see. Everywhere was mud, they could not move without splattering themselves, shoes were hidden in

15th at 10:00, and hiked five miles to a small town. They had very little to eat here, drilling over hills of southern France, if they were not on some detail.

They remained there until October 7th when 209 of the company were transferred out of the company. They hiked back to St. Aestain at noon of the same day, expecting a troop train soon, remained along railroad track all night in the rain and mud, they entrained the next morning the 8th, were on the train three days, detrained at 9:00 at night, hiking twelve kilometers, arrived in a small town about 4:00 in the morning. In getting there they were lost, and really think never intended for them to go there - nothing to eat and no place to camp for a long time.

They were too tired to walk around after being cramped in a box car for three days and nights and too cold to sit down. They were in this town three days, leaving on Sunday October 13th at 3:30 P.M., hiking twenty miles to Mussey, France, pitching tents about 7:00 A.M. of the 14th and in the evening, they were assigned to various companies in the 91st division, Lovell being transferred to Company E. 364th Infantry and joined the company that evening who were billeted about five kilos from where they pitched tents. Entrained at Mussey, October 16th at 9:50 A.M.

to Washington, D.C. for awhile before going overseas, September, 1st.

Was over there until summer of 1919, when they came back to States, received his discharge July, 1919. Lovell was drafted into World War One, left home June 24th, 1918 for Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio. He was placed in 18th Company, 5th Training Battalion, where he received his first military training remained there about three weeks in tents, when he was assigned to a line Company, Co. I, 333rd, Reg. 84th Division.

They left Camp Sherman, August 30th, received their overseas equipment, went to New York City and out to Camp Mills, August 22nd.

On September, 1st before day-light they were on board a small boat taking them under Brooklyn bridge to Hoboken, New Jersey, where they went aboard the Aquatania, said to be next to the largest ship afloat, 500 nurses were on board.

Many ships were loaded with troops in the harbor, they departed September 2nd Labor Day at 3:30 P.M.

Arrived at South Hampton, England at 7:00 P.M. September 11th, changing ships and crossing the English Channel, arrived at La Harre, France on the 12th, left on 13th, was sent to southern France, at St. Aestain on Sunday morning of the

*Introduction to Recreation of November 5, 2000, illustrated talk
"Adrian A. Parsons and the Soybean"*

The following is a recreation of a talk entitled "Adrian Parsons and the Soybean" delivered by me, Lee Parsons, a great-grandson, on November 5, 2000, for the Hendricks County Historical Society, at one of its regular meetings held at the Hendricks County Government Center at 355 South Washington Street in Danville, Indiana. I was introduced by Betty Bartley, president of the Society, who originally tendered the invitation to speak in January 2000.

This recreation utilizes the same slide illustrations in the same sequence as the original talk. The narration is based on notes prepared for the talk, which include some additional comments and elaborations which were not offered in the original presentation.

Informational sources for this presentation include the following:

- ▶ reminiscences related to me in my youth by my father, Edgar Barker Parsons, who was born in 1905, was nearly 24 years old when his grandfather Adrian died in 1929, and was intimately acquainted with Adrian through living and farming in close proximity;
- ▶ interviews with other grandchildren who knew him, including Virginia Parsons Vapor, who spent her first 8 years in Adrian's household, and who now owns and lives at his homeplace, Lynn Parsons, and Lee Marshall Parsons (son of Gilbert); and with great-grandchildren who related second-hand reminiscences, including Charles Parsons (son of Tan) and John O. Parsons (son of Don);
- ▶ extensive archival and library research, including examination of files of farm publications, including *The Indiana Farmer*, *Indiana Farmer's Guide*, *Country Gentleman*, *Wallace's Farmer*, *The Prairie Farmer* [Indiana and Illinois editions], *Proceedings of the Americal Soybean Association* and *Soybean Digest*, some back as far as the 1880s; various local and regional newspapers; archival holdings in the Purdue University Special Collections relating to the Purdue Agricultural Experimental Station; archival holdings in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., and College Park, Maryland, relating to agricultural records of the USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, and Adrian's Civil War

Parsons Family

The Indiana Prairie Farmer

August 25, 1928

Volume 100, Number 34, page 24

Indiana's Pioneer Soybeaner

A. A. Parsons, 82-year old Hendricks county, Indiana, farmer is the pioneer soybean grower of the state. He started to grow soys 37 years ago after having several failures with clover. He experimented around with all kinds of legumes before finding soybeans fitted in with his rotation. He says that he almost succeeded with hairy vetch before trying soybeans.

When he started with soys the only three varieties known in America were Early Yellow, Medium Late, and Very Late. He grew the first two varieties for 20 years before better varieties were selected. When he first started with soys he tried for three years to inoculate beans with clover inoculation and finally sent to Manhattan, Kansas, for dirt for inoculation. "Folks thought I was crazy," he said. "Later when I decided to grow sweet clover I wrote to Professor Latta at Purdue University and asked him for some advice on the crop. He wrote back 'that if I had a plant of it on the farm that the best thing to do was to pull it up immediately.'"

Parsons has six sons and they have all been soybean growers. Parsons has made several selections of bean varieties that are proving satisfactory in Indiana. In spite of his age he is still anxious to learn about beans and was one of the interested visitors at the Edmondson farm meeting in Hendricks county, on August 15.

[This was a sidebar article, that included a photograph of Adrian A. Parsons apparently taken at the time of the interview, which was placed at the end of a longer article entitled "In Pioneer Soybean Country" (pages 11 and 22) written by *Indiana Prairie Farmer* managing editor Floyd Keepers. This article recounted the August 15, 1928, regional field meeting held at the "Wampus Farm" of J. Ben Edmondson, located 1 1/2 miles southwest of Hazelwood, Indiana, in Hendricks County, with about 250 people in attendance. This was one of four such conclaves held at farms around Indiana that day in conjunction with the ninth annual meeting of the American Soybean Association. The longer article on the Hendricks County field meeting focused primarily on the local promotional group The Mid-State Soybean Association and the experience of the Edmondsons and allied Hendricks and Morgan County growers. Though not reported on in any other way, in the farm papers, local newspapers, or the Proceedings of the American Soybean Association, one local newspaper notice indicates that Adrian A. Parsons delivered a talk during the afternoon session at the Edmondson farm entitled "Pioneering in Soybeans" (*Plainfield* (Indiana) *Messenger*, August 16, 1928).]

Parsons Family



PARSONS REUNION

150 Years of Parsons in Indiana



Family Reunion June 22,
June 22, 2002

1852 TO 2002
150 YEARS OF PARSONS IN INDIANA
PARSONS REUNION
JUNE 22, 2002



James & Mary Parsons

Dear Parsons Family Member,

It's time to plan to attend the Parsons Reunion on June 22, 2002 at Virginia Parsons Vapor's home (WA PA KE WAY Farm). We hope you can all be there to join in the fun and talk about what you know about our PARSONS FAMILY. Once again, we are planning to have a photographer for a group photo to be taken around 1:00 PM. We hope to have some games for the kids and genealogy for all of you who are interested. Also, Lee Parsons and Virginia Vapor have some old Parsons pictures that need to be identified. They will have them at the reunion. Please bring your old pictures and other mementoes of by gone days. If you have any pictures that need to be identified and you think they may be connected to the family, please bring them and maybe someone there can help.



Nelson & Elvira Parsons

We are having a pitch-in lunch and would appreciate any help. We will be providing cold meats and drinks. For information contact John Jr. or Phyllis.



Adrian & Mary Parsons

We are looking forward to Cousin Lee telling about Adrian's influence in the wide spread use of soy beans. Few things have changed American farming more than this. Please help spread the word so we can once again have a great turn out of Parsons descendants.

John & Vicki Parsons
1366 W. US 40
Clayton, IN 46118
(317) 539-6691

We also welcome suggestions. Please let us know what you liked or didn't like about other reunions you have attended, not just Parsons' ones.

John & Phyllis Parsons
5676 S. CR 200E
Clayton, IN 46118
(317) 539-6680

Please join us rain or shine, because we have a large barn to reminisce in if the weather doesn't cooperative fully.

Virginia Vapor
1738 S. CR 625E
Avon, IN 46123
(317) 839-3082

Parsons Family Keeps History Alive

If the family were a building, it would be an old but solid structure that contains human history, and appeals to those who see the carved moldings under all the plaster, the wide plank floors under the linoleum, the possibilities.

Letty Cottin Pogrebin

Modern families don't have time for reunions. It's too hard to fit into the schedule.

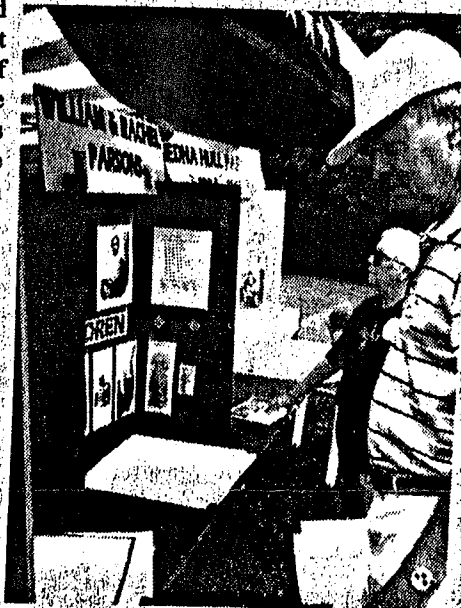
The Parsons family is different. They not only find time for a reunion, they used that time to teach a new generation who their ancestors were and what their ancestors did.



The younger members of the Parsons family gather under a shade tree to hear family stories.

Members of the Parsons family recently gathered at the Washington Township farm where Adrian A. Parsons (b. 1846, d. 1929) settled after the Civil War. Adrian's granddaughter, Virginia Parsons Vapor still lives on the homestead. Located on a bluff, surrounded by trees, the farm itself is an island of history in a sea of housing developments. The house, barns and outbuildings are reminders of an agricultural past that has all but vanished in this part of the county.

After the noon meal, the Parsons clan gathered beneath a shade tree in the barn lot to tell the stories that have been passed down through the family. Names of ancestors dead for a century are spoken, memories are shared. A group of children re-enact the family's heroic tale, the story of Adrian's experience during the Civil War. The narrator repeats the story that has been told for generations: how Adrian was wounded on a scouting mission near Franklin, Tennessee; how his fellow soldiers left him for dead at an abandoned cabin; how he lay wounded in the woods for four days, dragging himself to a spring for water; how on the fifth day, a member of his unit returned and took him to a cotton shed where members of the Christian Commission had created a makeshift hospital. "And on Christmas Day, before he was transferred to a Nashville hospital, the nurses came and gave him something to eat," the narrator said, "something that tasted so delicious, Adrian vowed to have on Christmas Day for the rest of his life..." The children in the skit looked thoughtful, then shouted the answer: "Oyster soup!"



Last December, several members of the Parsons family made a pilgrimage to Tennessee, to revisit the places of Adrian's Civil War experience. A special presentation was made, giving each pilgrim a commemorative walking stick, completed with an embedded minnie ball and a carving of a Union soldier at the top.

Adrian Parsons returned to his farm after the war. In 1886, he imported some "soya" beans from Japan and began to experiment with the little-known crop. For decades he worked to develop the soybean as a livestock feed, much to the ridicule of other farmers. Today, he is recognized as a pioneer in what has become the county's most important crop. For the Parsons family, his story is one of many that is told and retold to children, who at first listen, then eventually begin to tell the story themselves.



NOTE:
 X = Direct Ancestor
 ✓ = LDS Temp. Ord. Compl.

FAMILY UNIT CHART

PREPARED BY **JON W. GOODMAN** DATE **SEPTEMBER 1989**

Parsons Family

HUSBAND JOHN PARSONS OCCUPATION _____ ANCESTRAL CHART # _____ FAMILY UNIT # _____

	DATE - DAY, MONTH, YEAR	CITY	COUNTY	STATE or COUNTRY
Born	ABOUT 1715			ENGLAND
Christened				
Married				
Died				
Buried				
FATHER				
MOTHER				
OTHER WIVES:				

WIFE maiden name LADY CATHERINE WEATHERBY

Born	ABOUT 1717			ENGLAND
Christened				
Died				
Buried				MARYLAND

FATHER _____ MOTHER _____ OTHER HUSBANDS: _____

X ✓	SEX M/F	CHILDREN Living, Adopted, Dead-In Order of Birth	BIRTH			BIRTHPLACE		DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE Name of Spouse	DATE OF DEATH		
			Day	Month	Year	City	County		St./City	City	County
	M	1 GEORGE PARSONS	ABOUT	1740		MARY LAND		RUTH GREEN	1833	FEBRUARY	GUILFORD CO. N.C.
	F	2 A GIRL		1742		MARY LAND					
	F	3 A GIRL		1745		MARY LAND					
	M	4 JOHN PARSONS	ABOUT	1750		MARY LAND					
		5									
		6									
		7									
		8									
		9									
		10									
		11									
		12									
		13									
		14									

FAMILY UNIT CHART

✓ = LDS Ten.
Ord. Comp.

PREPARED BY JON W. GOODMAN

DATE AUGUST 1989

HUSBAND GEORGE PARSONS OCCUPATION LANDOWNER/FARMER ANCESTRAL CHART # _____ FAMILY UNIT # _____

Date - DAY, MONTH, YEAR	CITY	COUNTY	STATE or COUNTRY
Born	ABOUT 1740		MARYLAND
Christened			
Married	1764		
Died	FEBRUARY 1833	GREENSBORO	GULLFORD N. CAROLINA
Buried			
FATHER	JOHN PARSONS		
MOTHER	CATHERINE WEATHERBY		
OTHER WIVES: _____			

WIFE maiden name	RUTH GREEN	CITY	COUNTY	STATE or COUNTRY
Born	ABOUT 1742			N. CAROLINA
Christened				
Died				
Buried				
FATHER				
MOTHER				
OTHER HUSBANDS: _____				

X ✓	M/F	CHILDREN Living, Adopted, Dead--In Order of Birth	BIRTH			BIRTHPLACE			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE Name of Spouse	DATE OF DEATH		
			Day	Month	Year	City	County	St./Civ.		City	County	State/Country
	M	1 JOHN PARSONS			1765	DEEP RIVER	ROMAN	N. C.			DEAD BY 1815	
	M	2 WILLIAM PARSONS			1767	DEEP RIVER	ROMAN	N. C.	ELEANOR BARTLEY 25 JANUARY 1792		1814	
	M	3 GEORGE PARSONS JR.			1769	DEEP RIVER	ROMAN	N. C.	MARY MARY FIELDS 1794		1843	
	M	4 JAMES PARSONS	27	JAN	1771	DEEP RIVER	GLFRD	N. C.	PATIENCE FIELDS 23 DECEMBER 1799		15 FEB 1857	
	M	5 EVIN PARSONS			1775	DEEP RIVER	GLFRD	N. C.	MARtha DIED 30 SEPT 1829		GULLFORD CO. NOV 1841	
	M	6 THOMAS PARSONS			1799	DEEP RIVER	GLFRD	N. C.	JOHN WELBORN 30 MAY 1800		1818	
	F	7 MARY PARSONS			1783	DEEP RIVER	GLFRD	N. C.	JANE WOLFINGTON 27 NOVEMBER 1813		19 APR 1866	
	M	8 ROBERT PARSONS			1789	DEEP RIVER	GLFRD	N. C.	DR. JOHN PARKER		NEW WINCHESTER, INDIANA.	
	F	9 CATTHARINE	11	OCT	1790	DEEP RIVER	GLFRD	N. C.	SOURCE: PARKER-PARSONS-THRIFT GENEALOGY..		ROBBINS GRAVEYARD HENDRICKS CO.	
		10							DEPARTMENT ARCHIVES & RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA			
		11							GULLFORD CO. WILLS & MARRIAGES			
		12										
		13										
		14										

FAMILY UNIT CHART

PREPARED BY **JON W. GOODMAN**

DATE **AUGUST 1989**

HUSBAND JAMES PARSONS

OCCUPATION **FARMER-MILLWRIGHT**

ANCESTRAL CHART #

FAMILY UNIT #

DATE - DAY, MONTH, YEAR

CITY

COUNTY

STATE OF COUNTRY

ANCESTRAL CHART #

FAMILY UNIT #

Birth	27 JANUARY 1771	DEEP RIVER	GULLFORD	N.C.		
Christened						
Married	29 MARCH 1821	DEEP RIVER	GULLFORD	N.C.		
Died	15 FEBRUARY 1857	DEEP RIVER	GULLFORD	N.C.		
Buried	EBENEZER METHODIST CEM	FAIRFIELD	RANDOLPH	N.C.		
FATHER	GEORGE PARSONS					
MOTHER	RUTH GREEN					
OTHER WIVES: #1 MARY FIELDS SEPT 1770-JANUARY 1820						

WIFE maiden name **MARY BARNARD (QUAKER)**

Born	4 SEPTEMBER 1791					
Christened						
Died	12 JUNE 1876	PLAINFIELD				
Buried	SUGAR GROVE CEMETERY		HENDRICKS	INDIANA		

FATHER **LIBNI BARNARD 1765-1828**

MOTHER **AMY MACY 1766-1819**

OTHER HUSBANDS:

X	SEX	CHILDREN	BIRTH	BIRTHPLACE	DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE	DATE OF DEATH
✓	M/F	Living, Adopted, Dead-In Order of Birth	Day Month Year	City County St./Cty.	Name of Spouse	City County State/Country
	M	1 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	17 APRIL 1822	DEEP RIVER GLEFRD N.C.	SARAH JOSSETT 5 APRIL 1842	1870 MISSOURI
	F	2 POLLY	23 AUG 1824	DEEP RIVER GLEFRD N.C.	ELVIRA C. SWAIN	10 AUGUST 1828 N.C.
	M	3 NELSON YANCEY	7 SEP 1826	DEEP RIVER GLEFRD N.C.	4 DECEMBER 1845 CAPT. JAMES LOWE	SEPT 1825 PLAINFIELD HENDRICKS CO. IND.
	F	4 MARIHA ANN	22 SEP 1828	DEEP RIVER GLEFRD N.C.	12 JUNE 1848	
	M	5 ELIHU COALMAN	17 JULY 1831	DEEP RIVER GLEFRD N.C.		27 DECEMBER 1831
	M	6 RUBEN FITCH	4 OCT 1833	DEEP RIVER GLEFRD N.C.	IRENA ARMFIELD 5 JANUARY 1854	19 SEPT 1862 PLAINFIELD
	F	7 AMY ELIZA	22 FEB 1836	DEEP RIVER GLEFRD N.C.	ALFRED BISHOP FOX #1 ALFRED SWAIN #2	HENDRICKS CO. IND. 1911
		8				
		9				
		10				
		11				
		12				
		13				
		14				

FAMILY UNIT CHART

PREPARED BY JOHN W. GOODMAN DATE AUGUST 1989

HUSBAND PETER FIELDS PARSONS OCCUPATION FARMER ANCESTRAL CHART # _____ FAMILY UNIT # _____

DATE - DAY, MONTH, YEAR	CITY	COUNTY	STATE or COUNTRY
20 DECEMBER 1812	PARSONSMILL, DEEP RIVER	GUILFORD	N.C.
5 JUNE 1833		GUILFORD	N.C.
26 DECEMBER 1893	JACKSON TOWNSHIP	HAMILTON	INDIANA
	JACKSON TOWNSHIP	HAMILTON	INDIANA
OTHER WIVES: #2 SARAH COUGH			

WIFE (maiden name) JANE MARIAH STANFORD

Born	12 JANUARY 1812								
Christened									
Died	25 MAY 1852								N.C.
Buried									

FATHER _____ **MOTHER** _____

SEX	CHILDREN	BIRTH			BIRTHPLACE			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE	DATE OF DEATH			
		Day	Month	Year	City	County	St./Cty.		Name of Spouse	City	County	State/Country
M	1	16	APR	1834	PARSONSMILL	GLFRD	N.C.	UNMARRIED	31	MAR	1863	UNION ARMY HOSPITAL, VA.
M	2	1	NOV	1835	PARSONSMILL	GLFRD	N.C.	NANCY LOOKABAUGH	16	AUGUST	1915	ROCK, KANSAS
M	3	6	OCT	1837	PARSONSMILL	GLFRD	N.C.	AMELIA BARKER	29	OCTOBER	1868	
M	4	8	AUG	1839	PARSONSMILL	GLFRD	N.C.	JOHN SMITH	25	AUGUST	1864	
M	5	12	MAY	1841	PARSONSMILL	GLFRD	N.C.	RACHEL NOBEL	25	JANUARY	1878	HAMILTON CO. IND.
M	6	20	APR	1843	PARSONSMILL	GLFRD	N.C.	ELIZA M. SALLEE	1	JANUARY	1867	1906
M	7	1	JUN	1847	PARSONSMILL	GLFRD	N.C.	ISAAC NEWBY	4	NOVEMBER	1864	MOUNTAIN VIEW, OK.
M	8	24	FEB	1851	PARSONSMILL	GLFRD	N.C.	MARY CAROLINE PARSONS	29	JANUARY	1868	NOBLESVILLE, IND.
M	9							MARY CAROLINE PARSONS	9	FEBRUARY	1874	17 JANUARY 1878
M	10											HAMILTON CO. IND.
M	11											
M	12											
M	13											
M	14											

SOURCE: JOHN E. PARSONS BIBLE
LDS CHURCH IGI FILES
HAMILTON CO. INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MERYL PARSONS DAVIS
ROCK, KANSAS

HUSBAND PETER FIELDS PARSONS OCCUPATION FARMER & CARPENTER

DATE - DAY, MONTH, YEAR	CITY	COUNTY	STATE OF COUNTRY	ANCESTRAL CHART #	FAMILY UNIT #
20 DECEMBER 1812	PARSONSMILL-DEEP RIVER	GUILFORD	NO. CAROLINA		
17 JANUARY 1858	JACKSON TOWNSHIP	HAMILTON	INDIANA		
26 DECEMBER 1893	JACKSON TOWNSHIP	HAMILTON	INDIANA		
HINKLE CREEK CEMETERY	JACKSON TOWNSHIP	HAMILTON	INDIANA		
FATHER JAMES PARSONS	OTHER WIVES: #1 JANE STANFORD				
MOTHER MARY FIELDS					

WIFE maiden name SARAH (SALLIE) COUCH

Born	30 NOVEMBER 1822	GUILFORD	NO. CAROLINA	QUAKER
Christened				
Died	16 AUGUST 1898	HAMILTON	INDIANA	
Buried	HINKLE CREEK CEMETERY	HAMILTON	INDIANA	
FATHER	JAMES COUCH	OTHER HUSBANDS:		
MOTHER	SALLY EDWARDS			

X	SEX	M/F	Living, Adopted, Dead-In Order of Birth	BIRTH			BIRTHPLACE		DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE		DATE OF DEATH			
				Day	Month	Year	City	County	St./Civ.	Name of Spouse	City	County	State/Country	
✓	M		1 JAMES ELZEVAAN											
	M		2 LEROY PARSONS	9	DEC	1858	PUTNAM	IND.	LIZZIE VESTAL	10	MAY	1940		
	M		3 ELLI OLIVER PARSONS	8	MAY	1851	HAMILTON	IND.	SARAH LUCENA PARSONS	19	DECEMBER	1888		
	M		4 JOHN ADRIAN LINCOLN	8	JUN	1863		IND.	LYDIA ANN REESE	23	AUGUST	1896		
			5											
			6											
			7											
			8											
			9											
			10											
			11											
			12											
			13											
			14											

SOURCE: HAMILTON CO. INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

EDNA COUCH OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
MERYL PARSONS DAVIS, ROCK, KANSAS

✓ = LDS Temp.
Ord. Compl.

FAMILY UNIT CHART

HUSBAND JOHN EVERETT PARSONS

PREPARED BY JON W. GOODMAN
SANTA FE RAILROAD
STOWMAN

DATE SEPTEMBER 1991
ANCESTRAL CHART #
FAMILY UNIT #

DATE - DAY, MONTH, YEAR	CITY	COUNTY	STATE OF COUNTRY	REPUBLICAN	UNIFIED METHODIST	INDIANA NATIONAL	GUARD 1898
Born 19 JUNE 1875	FOXLEY	HAMILTON	INDIANA				
Christened							
Married 7 SEPTEMBER 1912	WINFIELD	COMBLEY	KANSAS				
Died 14 JANUARY 1970	WINFIELD	COMBLEY	KANSAS				
Buried	ROCK	COMBLEY	KANSAS				
FATHER WILLIAM MILTON PARSONS							
MOTHER AMELIA BARKER							
OTHER WIVES: #2 VIRGIE EVELYN WALLIS							

WIFE maiden name DELPHENE BOVIA (DAISY BROWN)

Born 6 AUGUST 1876	MALONE	FRANKLIN	NEW YORK				
Christened							
Died 21 OCTOBER 1924	WICHITA	SEDFEWICK	KANSAS				
Buried	WIDENER CEMETERY	COMBLEY	KANSAS				
FATHER MICHAEL BOVIA							
MOTHER OCTAVIA CHILDREN							

X SEX	M/F	Living, Adopted, Dead - In Order of Birth	BIRTH			BIRTHPLACE			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE		DATE OF DEATH	
			Day	Month	Year	City	County	St./Cty.	Name of Spouse	City	County	State/Country
✓		1										
		2	11	AUGUST	13	ROCK	COMBLEY	KAN.	RALPH WALDO GOODMAN	24	JANUARY	1939
		3										
		4										
		5										
		6										
		7										
		8										
		9										
		10										
		11										
		12										
		13										
		14										

SOURCE: PARSONS-BARKER FAMILY HISTORY

BY ERN HOLMES PARSONS

JOHN E. PARSONS BIBLE

PARSONS-BROWN MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

BROWN DEATH CERTIFICATE

ALITENE PARSONS BIRTH CERTIFICATE



Adrian A. Parsons

THE WA PA KE WAY REVIEW

Special Edition



Mary Fox Parsons

VOLUME XV, ISSUE I, NUMBER 46

edited by Lee Parsons lee_parsons@sbcglobal.net

December, 2014

It's Official! ADRIAN A. PARSONS FARMSTEAD ENTERED ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Listed September 30, 2014

Adrian A. Parsons' farmstead in Avon, Indiana, the site of our biennial family reunions, has been entered on the National Register of Historic Places as of September 30, 2014. Listing on the separate Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures occurred on July 23, 2014, the date that the Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board considered and approved the nominations for both Registers.

The National Register of Historic Places is this nation's official list of historic places that embody significant aspects of our cultural heritage and are worthy of preservation. It was authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and is maintained by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. In Indiana the National Park



Virginia Parsons Vapor Receives National Register Certificate

Service delegates authority for administering National Register listings to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Ordinarily, the official certificates for National and State listings are awarded annually to all new listees of the preceding year during Heritage Day at the Indiana State Fair in August. However, in this instance DNR

kindly offered to present the certificates early.

In a visit to the Adrian A. Parsons Farmstead on Saturday, December 6, 2014, Mr. Paul Diebold, with DNR's Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, presented the National and State Register certificates to Virginia Parsons Vapor, in the presence of her son Curt, granddaughter Leslie, and other Parsons kin.

Parsons Family

**A PERSONAL MESSAGE
FROM CURT VAPOR**



**DNR's Paul Diebold,
Curt & Leslie Vapor Ratliff,
Virginia Parsons Vapor**

Editor's Note:

Curt Vapor is the son of Rudy and Virginia Parsons Vapor, a grandson of Chet and Hazel Miller Parsons, and a great-grandson of Adrian and Mary Fox Parsons.

The Adrian A. Parsons farmstead today stands as a place of family celebration and a monument to a person important to Indiana agriculture thanks to the enormous effort, trouble, and expense expended over the years by Virginia, Rudy and Curt for its preservation and maintenance.

Curt shares his heartfelt sentiments on this auspicious occasion.

... ..

12/20/2014

To: Adrian Parsons' descendants
From: Curt Vapor
Subject: The Parsons family farm recognized on the National Register of Historical Places

Recently the Parsons' family farm was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Many members of the Parsons family came to be a part of the presentation, made by a

representative of the Indiana State Government who visited the farm to present the award.

It was great to see so many family members take interest and participate in this event, an event culminating a three year process to create the documentation, have it reviewed, then subsequently approved by State and Federal Government Officials.

Most of the Parsons family are well aware of Adrian Parsons' role in bringing soybeans to Indiana. While soybeans are now a prolific crop in Indiana, it is important to recognize Adrian's pioneering vision in experimenting with what was then an unknown commodity.

Awareness of Adrian Parsons' accomplishments has been fueled by the impressive work and documentation of Lee Parsons. The soybean story itself, combined with Lee's research, interest and diligent efforts are THE reason the Parsons' family farm is now included in the National Registry.

The process began three years ago, when my Mom, Lee and I had a conversation about pursuing this recognition for the Parsons' family farm. We discussed what it means to be part of the National Register, including the two key benefits such recognition brings:

- 1) The farm cannot be broken apart by eminent domain;
- 2) The work and accomplishments of Adrian Parsons and his family are documented and gain official recognition.

We decided to pursue registration, and now I'll look back and share a more personal perspective.

Growing up I was privileged to know my Parsons Grandparents and be around them often. In my Grandparents' later years my Mom was at the farm almost every day, and sometimes my Dad and I went along too, especially on weekends. On many weekends, when it wasn't baseball season, we'd work with my Granddad (Adrian's son, Chet Parsons) on farm projects. As a result I got to know my Grandparents well.

As I became an adult I found it very comforting to be related to my Grandparents. I'm blessed with the world's best parents, but my Parsons Grandparents were also a key part of my upbringing; I'm proud to be their Grandchild and appreciate being "rooted" by their example of strong values, hard work and the toughness of their generation.

It was also very clear Chet Parsons was a most impressive person. He was an elderly man when I got to know him best. He still worked hard on the farm every day, and despite physical limitations related to advanced age, kept plugging until he found a way to get things done. It was inspirational to see him maintain his daily routine. His eyesight, hearing and strength were on the decline and, at times, I know he was frustrated he couldn't do as much as he was used to doing. But he didn't dwell on or let frustrations deter him; he kept on working and caring for his farm. Actually, I think the farm was a

National Register of Historic Places


This is to certify that the

A.A. Parsons Farmstead

Was listed in the
National Register of Historic Places

September 30, 2014

by the United States Department of the Interior
in cooperation with the
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology



Cameron F. Clark, Director
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State Historic Preservation Officer



Mitchell K. Zoll, Director
Division of Historic Preservation and
Archaeology

In Recognition

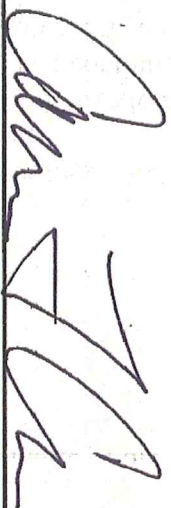
This is to certify that the

A.A. Parsons Farmstead

Is worthy of special consideration as part of the
cultural heritage of the State of Indiana
and was entered in the

Indiana Register of Historic
Sites and Structures

July 23, 2014



Cameron F. Clark, Director
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State Historic Preservation Officer



Mitchell K. Zoll, Director
Division of Historic Preservation and
Archaeology

(continued from page 2)

source of strength for him.

My Granddad also held strong beliefs and good values and he always conducted himself accordingly. My guess is these beliefs and values came from his Dad, Adrian, and I know for a fact he passed these positive character traits along to my Mom.

Another part of knowing my Granddad was to know he loved the farm, and my guess is that his Dad, Adrian, felt the same way. I can still picture my Granddad working on the farm, every day getting up and setting out to make some improvement, every day getting up and thinking, "What needs to be improved today", then doing his best to do it. With him it was easy to see working on the farm was a labor of love.

When I'm at the farm today, my Grandparents are still there. Their toughness, strong will and strong beliefs and good values remain on display. Through my memories they are in the house, the buildings, the garden and all around the property. They are part of the fabric of the farm and vice versa; and now, my parents are part of this fabric too.

I think of my ancestors as the "old farmers", and this is a



Aerial view of Adrian A. Parsons Farmstead, ca. 2006

totally positive description. After all, they were farmers. They were ingenious and creative farmers. They were new ground-breaking farmers. Some of the evidence of their ingenuity and inventiveness remains for us to see, appreciate and experience today; and now, some of that inventiveness and ingenuity is recognized in the National Register of Historic Places.

I hope all of Adrian's offspring can use the farm's National Recognition to reflect on the ingenuity and inventiveness of the old farmers.

We can all feel very good about our genealogy. We've all been blessed by the roots the old farmers laid in place for us.

I think the old farmers are pleased too.

Curt 12-20-14

Significance of the Farmstead

The Adrian A. Parsons farmstead is no showcase of agricultural opulence. Its scale is quite modest. Rather, its listing on the National Register was based on criteria including the age and integrity of its buildings and other features, its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history, and its association with the life of a person significant in our past.

The nomination registration form states in part: "The A.A. Parsons Farmstead contains a broad collection of agricultural buildings that visibly and functionally demonstrate the physical characteristics of a farmstead from the Golden Age of Indiana's agricultural heritage 1880 - 1920. The integrity of the

ACCESSING THE NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING DOCUMENTATION

Documentation for the listing of the Adrian A. Parsons Farmstead may be accessed by the public via the secure Indiana DNR SHAARD database (State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database) at <https://secure.in.gov/apps/dnr/shaard/welcome.html>.

Click "Enter SHAARD as a guest", at the bottom of the next page click acceptance of terms and conditions and continue, on the next page ("Structural Surveys") choose "National Register" from the pull-down menu, then on the next page choose appropriate identifiers ("County" = "Hendricks" and "Areas of Significance" = "Agricultural" would suffice). Then click on "A.A. Parsons Farmstead".

farm buildings is exceptional. ...” The farmstead is particularly distinguished for its association with Adrian A. Parsons, who was acknowledged both in the Indiana farm press of his day, and by the early American Soybean Association, as Indiana’s pioneer soybean grower. It was on this farm that Adrian became the first farmer in the State of Indiana to engage in the purposeful and sustained experimentation with and production of soybeans.

The listing application cites the farmstead for local significance, but when it was approved by the Review Board one of its members commented that she believed it was also of statewide significance, and we agree.

History of the Farmstead

Adrian Parsons bought his original farm of about 82 acres in 1884 at a sheriff’s sale, in the middle of his 4-year term as Hendricks County Recorder. The official record of this transaction happens to be in his own hand-writing in a volume of county deeds.

Land surrounding this farm had been first bought from the U.S. Government as early as 1826. However, Adrian’s 80+ acres had been held by Washington Township as Congressional School Lands until finally sold in 1854 to Aaron Carter. The land passed to a succession of owners, and finally the Walton family, before Adrian’s acquisition.

The house and possibly the shop predate Adrian’s ownership. His early farm ledger indicates that a stable also existed

on the property. It is believed, however, that the other buildings arose after his residence there commenced at the end of his term as Recorder in 1886.

Around 1905 the county vacated the original road which ran directly past the east side of the house. Since the road was moved 1/4 mile east (CR 625 E), Adrian had to buy land for an access lane.

Adrian called his property Wa Pe Ke Way Farm (his own printed stationary spelled it “Wa Pe Ka Way”), the reputed Indian name for White Lick Creek, which flows south along the west side of the farm.

In 1923 Adrian’s son Chester (Chet) bought the farm. Adrian shared the house with Chet and Hazel and their young family, Virginia (“Gin”), Mary Frances (“Jake”), and Frank (“Peter”), until Adrian’s death in 1929.

The farm remained in Chet’s line, with approximately 45 acres, including the house and buildings, being maintained to this day by Virginia Parsons Vapor. She and her husband Rudy remodeled the house and moved there in 1987.

About Some Buildings

(photos taken November 2002)

The House



The south half of the house was probably the original onsite dwelling, possibly predating the Civil War. Ancient hand-hewn and even unhewn timbers can still be seen in the cellar ceiling.

At some time before Adrian bought the property a second house had been moved to the site and joined to the north side of the original house. This architectural joining can readily be seen in 1895 and 1909 family photos taken on the east side of the house.

The upstairs dormer was added by Adrian, reportedly with his brother Oliver’s help, sometime around the turn of the twentieth century (not 1930 as the Register application states).

The house still holds many artifacts from Adrian’s time. Perhaps the most interesting is an octagonal table in the west room which Adrian made to facilitate the sharing of schoolwork as his children sat around it.

The Shop



The shop probably dates well before the turn of the twentieth century, and has always been used for work involving hand tools. It once housed an astonishing variety of Adrian’s old tools, especially for carpentry.

Tool Shed / Bull Pen

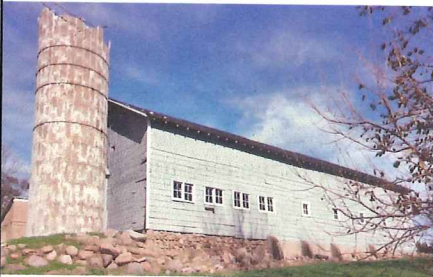


This multi-purpose building, built in the mid-1920s, has a more interesting story than most.

The main level, the “tool shed,” was where larger farm equipment was stored and repaired. In its northeast corner is a forge used for fabricating metal parts and general blacksmithing. Chet used this forge at least as late as the 1950s. The double machinery doors on the north end have an ingenious levered latch said to have been designed by Adrian.

Beneath the main level, excavated into the hillside, is a concrete “bull pen.” This was provided to house a particular young Guernsey bull acquired from Pennsylvania in the mid-1920s. The bull was named “Wa Pa Ke Way”, and reportedly grew up to be quite mean. The pen is configured such that hay and feed could simply be dropped into racks and troughs through the back floor of the main level, without having to enter the testy animal’s pen.

Horse Barn / Dairy Barn



The east half of this building is the horse barn, and may have incorporated an earlier stable known to have been on the property when Adrian bought it. The dairy barn half on the west end was possibly a later addition, obviously upgraded in the early 1950s to meet new State dairy regulations. A small milkhouse is attached on the north side. The concrete block silo that was at the west end had to be removed for safety reasons around 2006.

An interesting architectural aspect of this building is the combination buttressed concrete and stone foundation on the south downhill side.

Hog Barn / Corn Cribs



Built probably around or shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, this combination of units exhibits Adrian’s resourcefulness. It consists of a hog farrowing barn with second floor hay mow, and a pair of perpendicular concrete block corn cribs.

Adrian’s use of concrete for the farrowing pens was ahead of its time. He made his own concrete blocks for the corn cribs onsite using cement and gravel mined from his own segment of White Lick Creek. Spaces were left between the blocks sufficient to allow ventilation, but narrow

enough to exclude vermin. Adrian detailed his construction methods in an article entitled “The Corn Crib Question” published in “The Indiana Farmer” of January 15, 1910 .

European practice may have influenced Adrian’s advanced design concepts for this building. Shortly after Virginia and Rudy settled on the farmstead in 1987, Rudy found a license granted to Adrian and two of his sons by a German firm giving them the right to employ and promote the construction of this type of concrete block structure. (This license has not been found in recent years, but several of us saw it and can attest to its existence.)

The second floor hay mow was converted for use as a chicken house around 1960.

Note that the hog barn / corn cribs and the horse / dairy barn were placed with a narrow lane separating them to maximize logistical efficiency when transferring grain and fodder.

Unusually, Adrian’s employment of concrete extended to outside individual hog houses and even fence posts, a few of which remain. He certainly built for permanence.

What Happened to the Pond?



Adrian installed a pond in the early 1920s. Due to siltation it had to be drained around 2004.

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Plainfield-Guilford Township
Public Library-History Room
1120 Stafford Road
Plainfield IN 46168

Lee Parsons
5846 Scott Ian Court
Indianapolis, IN 46254



INDIANAPOLIS IN 460
22 JAN 2015 PM 21

**DESCENDANTS
OBSERVE CIVIL
WAR ANNIVERSARY**
December 17, 1864
Near Franklin, Tennessee



December 17, 2014, was the 150th anniversary of the Civil War action south of Franklin, Tennessee, in which the 18-year-old Adrian Parsons was severely wounded. To commemorate this event, descendants of Adrian's made pilgrimages to the scene of that action.

On the date of the anniversary Keith and Lee Parsons retraced their great-grandfather's campaign, visiting the place where the Confederate ambush likely occurred. They took with them two borrowed relics known to have been carried by Adrian on that fateful day, his Bible and his Civil War sword.

On January 3, 2015, great-grandson Charles Parsons led a contingent of 9 of his relatives for a similar retracing. Their itinerary included a visit to the historic Presbyterian Church in downtown Nashville, which served as Union Hospital No. 8, site of Adrian's convalescence in the week after Christmas 1864.

Adrian himself tended to under-characterize the scope and importance of the action in which he was wounded, calling it a "scouting mission". In actuality, his cavalry brigade was in the vanguard of Union General George Thomas' furious pursuit of Confederate John Bell Hood's southward fleeing army the day after Hood's defeat in the decisive Battle of Nashville (December 15-16, 1864).

General Ulysses Grant had been applying tremendous pressure on General Thomas to smash Hood's fleeing army once and for all. Thomas' cavalry was near the forefront of this pursuit. On that cold, damp night of December 17, Adrian's 9th Indiana Cavalry

Mark your calendar now!

**Next Reunion Set for
Saturday, June 13,
2015**

Come celebrate the listing of the Adrian A. Parsons Farmstead on the National Register of Historic Places at our next reunion, scheduled for Saturday, **June 13, 2015**. The Wa Pe Ke Way Farm is located in the Town of Avon, Indiana, at 1739 S County Road 625 E.

As usual, assembly may begin at 11 AM, aiming for the pitch-in lunch to begin by noon. Bring your favorite entrée, salad or desert, and soft drinks if desired. Iced tea and lemonade will be provided.

Also plan to bring any family memorabilia you have which may be of interest, and plan to stay a while to visit with everyone.

continued from last column
encountered the rear guard of Hood's army. Pursuit of Hood was paramount. Casualties like Adrian had to be left behind.