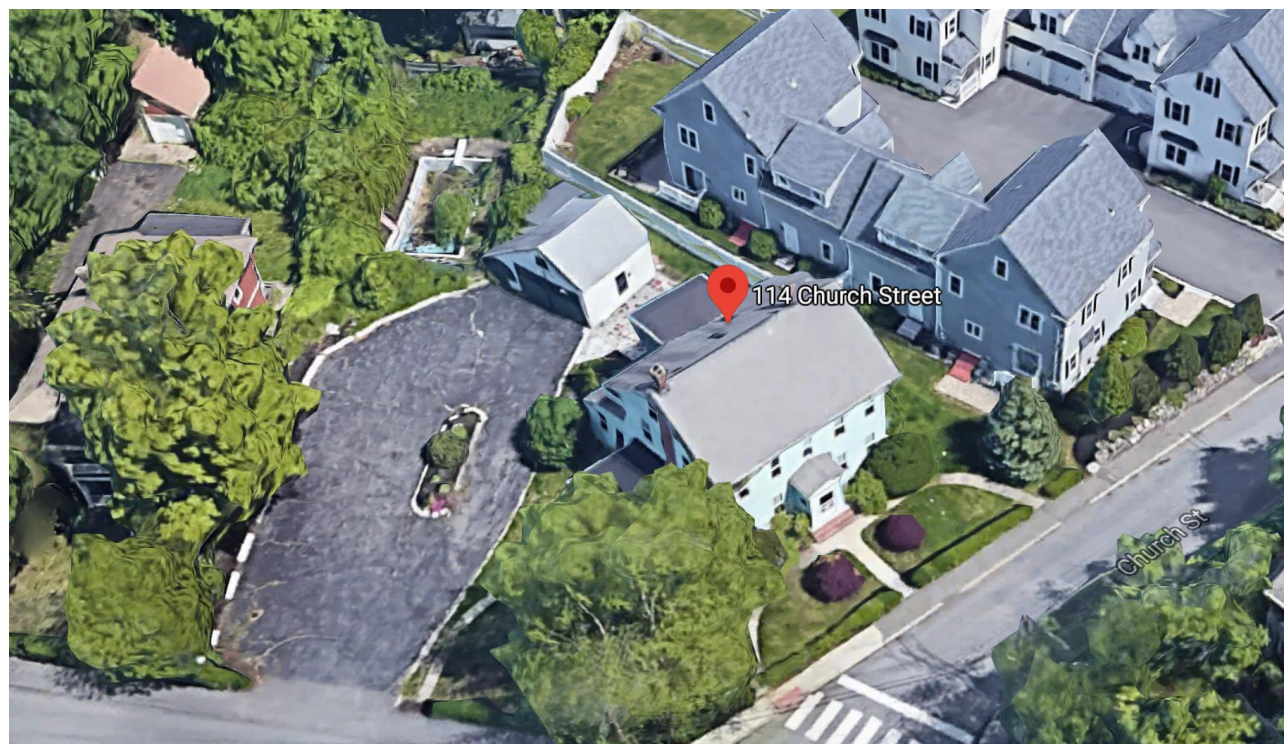
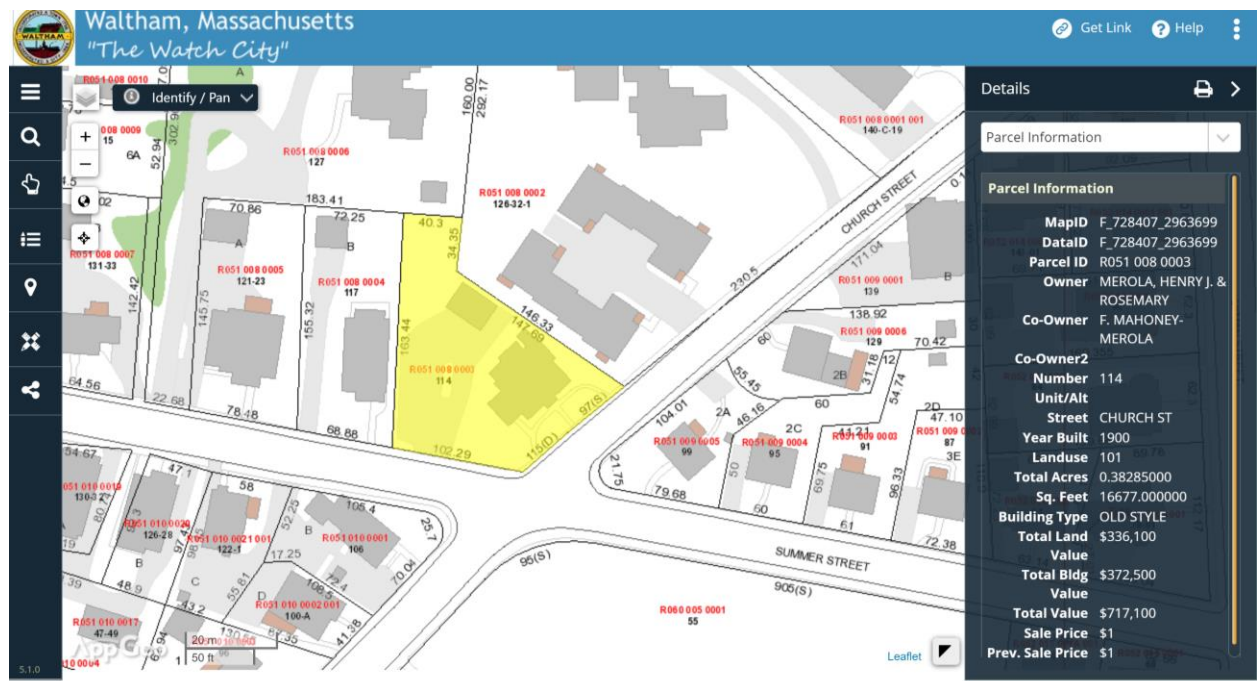


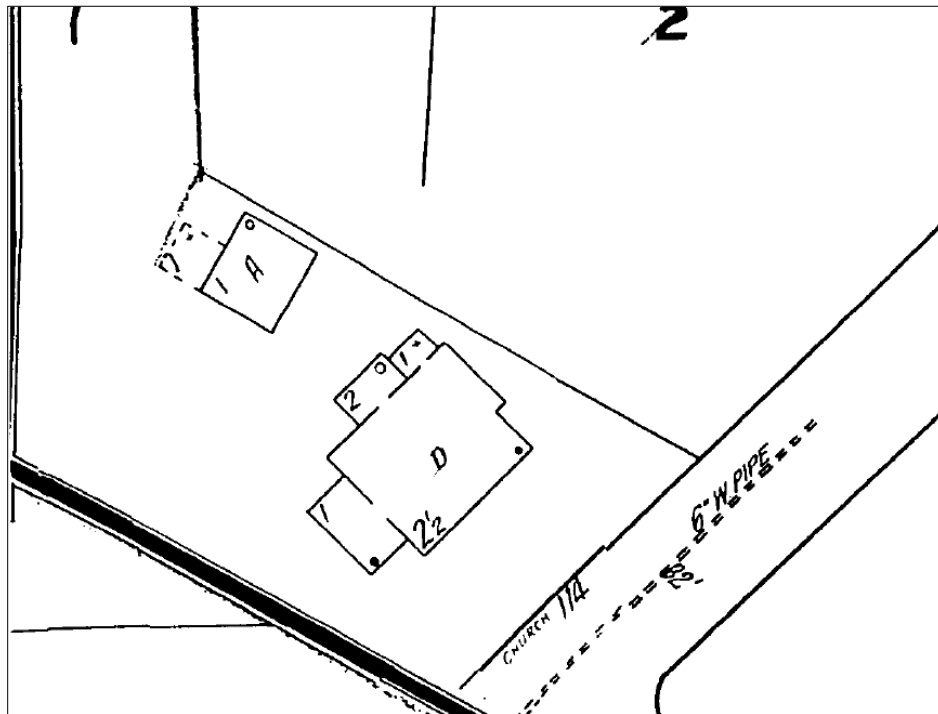
114 Church Street



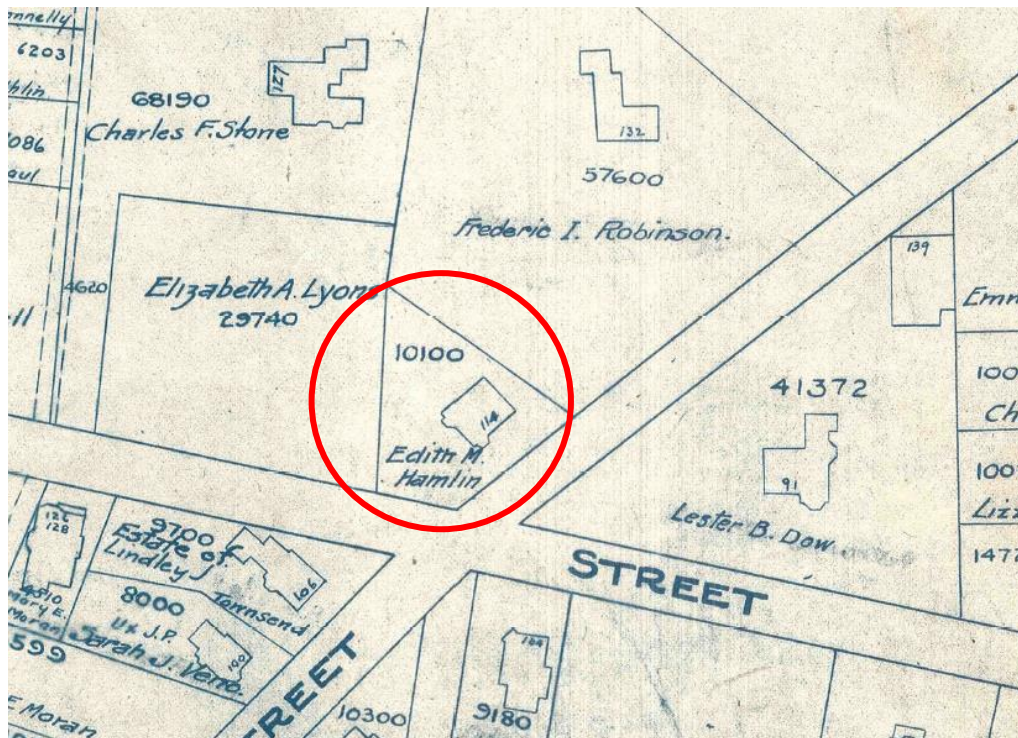
Google satellite



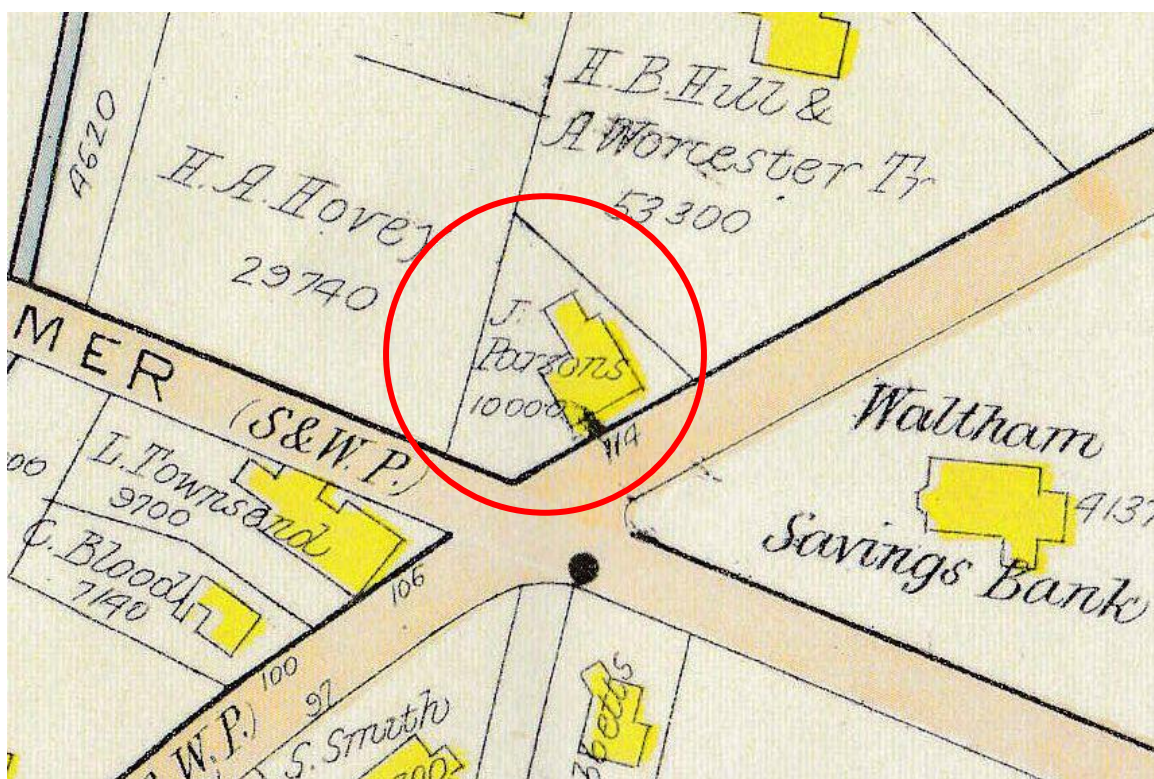
Google street view



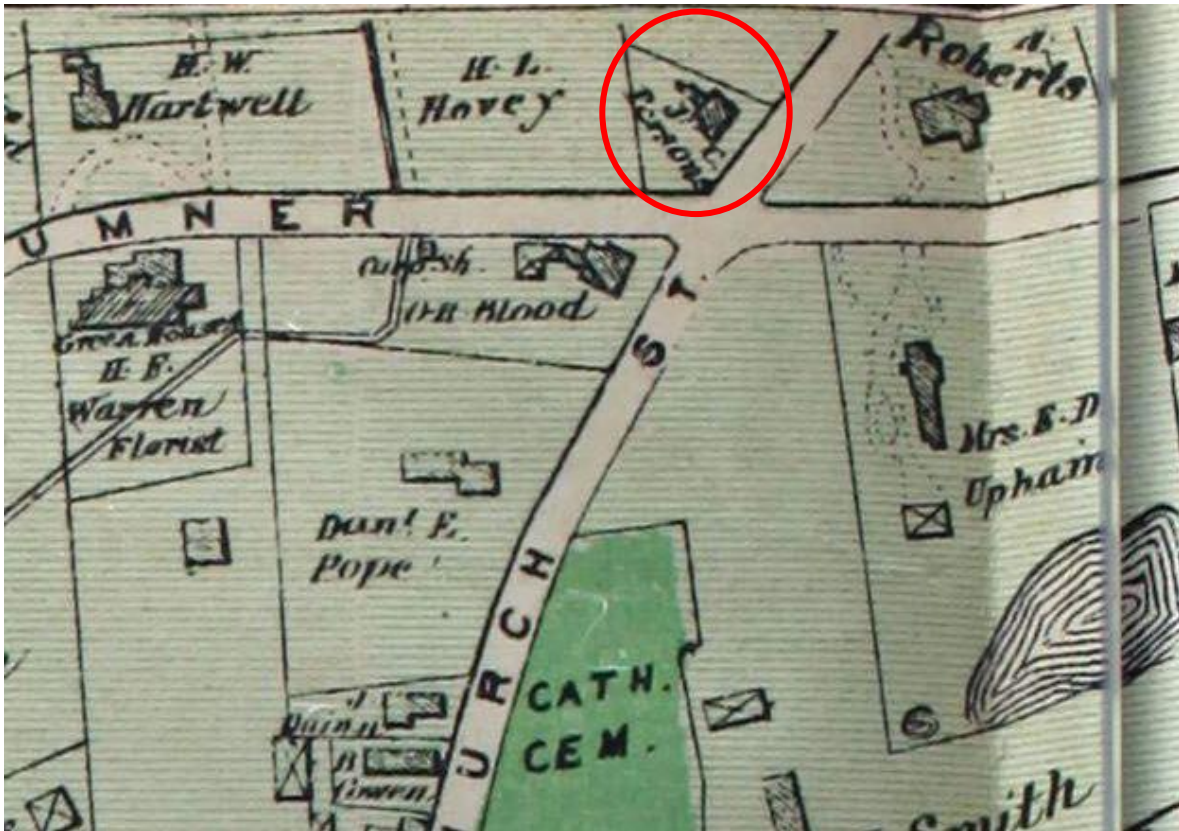
1938 Sanborn map



1918 map



1900 map



1875 map

Timeline

- 1860 Ordination, James C. Parsons, in Waltham [First Parish Church history]
- 1863 Newspaper, James C. Parsons, Chairman, Library Committee, Rumford Institute
- 1864 Newspaper, James C. Parsons resigns as pastor of First Parish Church, Waltham; preaches his final sermon on May 1, 1864
- 1865 Newspaper, James C. Parsons appointed headmaster, Waltham High School
- 1868 Deed, Dexter J. Cutter to James C. Parsons [1042/490]
- 1869 Deed, Thomas Hill to James C. Parsons [MLR 1104/131]
- 1869 Directory, J. C. Parsons, Chairman, Library Board
- 1871 Directory, James C. Parsons, teacher, high school, house, Church, corner Summer
- 1877 Newspaper, James C. Parsons founded the Unitarian church at Athol
- 1880 Census, Eliza & Rebecca Hobbs, Church, corner Summer
- 1880 Census, James C. Parsons, clergyman, Athol, Mass.
- 1888 Directory, Eliza E. Hobbs, 114 Church (daughter of Ebenezer Hobbs)
- 1900 Census, Eliza Hobbs, Rebecca Hobbs, 114 Church St.
- 1903 Marriage. Edith M. Trask to William E. Hamlin, physician, Soldiers Home, Chelsea
- 1914 Death, Eliza Endicott Hobbs and Rebecca Hovey Hobbs
- 1915 Deed, James C. Parsons estate to Edith M. Hamlin [MLR 3991/230]
- 1915 Newspaper, \$7,000 contract for alterations and additions, Church Street, awarded by Edith M. Hamlin, owner, to architects Ryan & Luscomb, general contractors, A. L. Cole, 89 Brown St. Work about to start [American Contractor, Volume 36, Nov. 6, 1915, p. 66] \$178,000 current dollars
- 1934 Directory, Hamlin, Wm E. (Edith M.), 114 Church St., physician, U.S. Public Health Service (Oteen, NC)
- 1944 Deed, Edith Hamlin to Winifred Donnell [MLR 6812/138]

- 1944 Deed, Winifred Donnelly to William & Edith Hamlin [MLR 6812/139]
- 1948 Deed, William & Edith Hamlin to Joseph & Emma Merola [MLR 7321/521]
- 1950 Directory, Dr. Joseph F. Merola, physician, & Dr. Emma Merola, physician, 114 Church
- 1964 Directory, Dr. Joseph F. Merola, physician, & Dr. Emma Merola, physician, 114 Church
- 1999 Deed, Joseph & Emma Merola to Emma Merola [MLR 30354/148]
- 2000 Death, Dr. Joseph F. Merola
- 2005 Deed, Emma Merola to Joseph Merola et al [MLR 45392/96]
- 2011 Death, Dr. Emma (Varvaro) Merola
- 2013 Taking [MLR 61477/98]
- 2014 Deed, Henry J. Merola to Henry J. Merola & Rosemary Mahoney-Merola [MLR 63206/391]
- 2018 Notice, Notice to partition [MLR 71546/66]

Summary

The house at 114 Church Street is located at the corner of Summer Street on what was once land belonging to Rev. Thomas Hill, a Unitarian clergyman who was the pastor of the First Parish Church from 1845 – 1860, when he left to become president of Antioch College. In 1860, James Challis Parsons of Gloucester was ordained a Unitarian minister in Waltham, and assumed the role of pastor at the First Parish Church. He resigned as pastor in December 1863, giving notice of six months. He had given a stirring anti-slavery sermon, which antagonized some parishioners who had supported the Constitution Party. A vote to dismiss Rev. Parsons was voted postponed indefinitely, but he decided to resign in order to prevent dissension. In 1865, he was selected as the headmaster of Waltham High School, and he continued to maintain connections to the First Parish Church. In 1868 and 1869, he purchased land from Dexter Cutter and Thomas Hill to form a triangular-shaped parcel at the intersection of Church Street and Summer Street, and Parsons had a house built there in the following year. So the house dates to about 1870.

Rev. Parsons lived in the house from 1870 to 1877, when he took the position of founding pastor of the Athol Unitarian Church. He later was the head of a private academy in Greenfield, Massachusetts, and then in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where he died in 1897. Even though he had moved away, he retained ownership of the house and land. From 1877 to 1914, the house was the residence of Elizabeth E. Hobbs, and her sister, Rebecca. They were the daughters of Dr. Ebenezer Hobbs, who was a prominent Waltham citizen and agent of the Boston Manufacturing Company. They held a number of positions on corporate boards and civic associations, such as the Waltham Baby Hospital, and the Women's Auxiliary of the Massachusetts Civil Service Reform Association. In her will, Eliza left money to the Waltham Hospital, the Waltham Baby Hospital, the Waltham Training School for Nurses, and the Waltham District Nurses Association.

The estate of Rev. James C. Parsons sold the house and land to Edith M. Hamlin, whose husband, William, was a surgeon at the State Soldiers Home in Chelsea. In 1917, he helped operate ambulance companies in Europe during World War I. He was also a physician of the United States Public Health Service, and was assigned to various military and veterans hospital locations around the country. When Edith Hamlin purchased the house in 1915, she hired the renowned architectural team of Ida Annah Ryan and Florence Luscombe to design renovations and additions to the house.

In 1948, Edith Hamlin sold the house and land to Drs. Joseph and Emma Merola. Both husband and wife, were graduates of the Middlesex Medical School, where they met. They maintained practices on High Street, and Emma, who went by her maiden name, Varvaro, continued to see patients until her death at

age 103 years. Dr. Joseph Merola died in 2000, and Dr. Emma Varvaro died in 2011. The property remains in the ownership of their heirs.

Obituary

Dr. Joseph F. Merola of Waltham, Mass., died Tuesday, April 4, 2000, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Burlington, Vt., on Jan. 13, 1909, the son of the late Frank Merola and Louise Giardi Merola. Dr. Merola practiced medicine in Waltham, Mass., along with his wife of 62 years, Dr. Emma Varvaro Merola. A lifelong music enthusiast, Dr. Merola played trumpet in numerous Boston-area marching bands and locally for over 65 years in the Burlington Battery Park Sunday Summer Concerts. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Emma Varvaro; his children, Marianne, Joseph Jr., Dr. Henry and Anthony Merola, all of Waltham. Locally, he is survived by his brothers, Anthony, Robert, Louis, Arthur and Raymond Merola; two grandsons, Jonathan and David Merola of Natick, Mass.; and several Burlington area nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, Frank; two sisters. Sr. Clementine and Gloria; and two brothers, James and John Merola.

Obituary



Waltham – Emma M. (Varvaro) Merola, M.D., of Waltham, died Thursday, April 14, 2011 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. She was 103. Emma was born in New York City on January 1, 1908, a daughter of the late Ettore Varvaro, M.D. and Anna (Borghese) Varvaro. Following in her father's footsteps she decided to become a physician and came to Waltham to attend Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery, graduating in 1936. There she met her future husband, Dr. Joseph F. Merola, and the two were married on November 30th, 1939.

Dr. Varvaro, as she was known in her practice, saw patients at her office in Waltham until her retirement at the age of 82. In addition to tending to her patients she found time to care for her husband and family of five children. At one time she taught at Saint Charles School in Waltham and was a leader for both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. She also belonged to the League of Women Voters in Waltham. In later years, Dr. Varvaro earned a masters degree in psychology from the University of Vermont.

The wife of the late Joseph F. Merola, M.D., she leaves her children, Marianne V. Merola, Joseph F. Merola, Jr. and Henry J. Merola, M.D. and his wife, Rosemary, all of Waltham and her grandchildren, Jonathan, David, Henry, Jr. and Faith Merola. In addition she was an aunt to TJ Merola, Louise (Merola) Neilson, Sherie (Merola) Desaultes, Jane (Merola) McKenzie, James Merola, Mary Lou (Merola) LaFayette, Frank Merola, Robin (Merola) LaBelle, and Christopher, Raymond, Matthew, and Robert Merola, all of Vermont. She was also the mother of the late Frank R. and Anthony F. Merola and sister of the late Henry Varvaro.

REV. J. C. PARSONS.

Rev. James C. Parsons, a Unitarian minister, from 1830 to 1896 Principal of the Prospect Hill School for young women at Greenfield, and well known in the Connecticut Valley, died at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon at West Bridgewater, where he had recently made his home. He was born in Gloucester, Aug. 18, 1833. After graduating from Amherst College in 1855 he taught in the High School at Marblehead for two years and spent the following two years in the Harvard Divinity School. Then he was called to the First Unitarian Church at Waltham and remained there till 1861. Afterward he was for 13 years Principal of the Waltham High School.

In 1877 he founded and had charge of the Unitarian Church at Athol. He contributed to various periodicals and magazines, especially to the New World, and about six years ago published a book on English versification which has been used by several colleges.

Mr. Parsons was married in 1859 to Miss Ella Blaisdell daughter of Dr. Blaisdell of Marblehead. He leaves three daughters the eldest the wife of Dr. John MacDuffie in Springfield, a second the wife of R. W. Gifford, Principal of Howard Seminary at West Bridgewater, and the third the wife of Prof. C. A. Adams of Harvard.