



David Ralph Parsons

Royal Canadian Air Force

R.C.A.F.

World War II

Born: 1919

Died: 04 Jan 2013

Place of Birth: St. John's, Newfoundland

Parents: William and Flora May (nee House) Parsons.

Although born in St. John's, David was raised in Bay Roberts by his aunt and grandparents. David's mother, Flora, died in 1920 making this scenario a necessity for a single dad at the time.

The 1921 Newfoundland general census for St. John's East shows William age 38, a widower with a young son David who is 2 years old. William's wife, Flora, died a year earlier in 1920.

Unable to care for David properly, William made arrangements to send David to Bay Roberts to live

with his parents, William and Dorcas. Since his parents were aged, William's sister Rachael Fanny did much of the child rearing, becoming more of David's mom than an aunt.

David enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1940 and served until 1945. He is not found in the Newfoundland Military Records since he enlisted from Nova Scotia where he was studying/working at the time.

David married Elizabeth Gladys "Betty" Christian of St. John's, Newfoundland in November of 1947. Betty was a teacher who had attended Memorial University of Newfoundland. Together they had three children, all boys, Jim, John, and Peter.

"Betty" died in 2009 at the age of 91, while David passed in 2013 at 93. They are buried in the Riverbank Cemetery, Hantsport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Here is David's Obituary

PARSONS, David Ralph — 93 of Hantsport, Hants Co., passed away peacefully Friday, January 4, 2013, as he had wished to do, at home in the comforts of his own surroundings. Born in St. John's, N.L., he was a son of the late William Ralph and Flora May (House) Parsons. David was brought up in Bay Roberts, N.L., by his aunt, Miss F. Parsons. David was part of the R.C.A.F. serving from 1940-1945 and he was a member of Lucknow Branch, No. 109 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Hantsport. He graduated from Nova Scotia Technical College in 1950, and he worked for Minas Basin Pulp and Power as an Engineer for 30 years. David was also a member of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Hantsport and was a former warden. He was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Elizabeth G. (Christian); a brother in infancy and a grandson.

Below are some clippings from the local weekly newspaper – The Bay Roberts Guardian.

David Parsons, son of Mr. Ralph Parsons, Fur Trade Commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Co., arrived here on Wednesday from Winnipeg, Can., to spend a vacation with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Parsons.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 09 Jul 1938

Sergt. David Parsons, son of Ralph Parsons, of Bay Roberts, received a Commission in the Royal Air Force according to a recent despatch.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 31 Dec 1943

SGT. DAVID PARSONS GETS COMMISSION

Sergt. David Parsons, son of Mr. Ralph Parsons, Bay Roberts, recently received a commission in the Royal Air Force, according to a C.P. despatch.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 23 Jan 1943

RECEPTION WILL BE HELD TUESDAY NIGHT

A reception will be held in the Public Building on Tuesday night in honor of the following service personnel now home on furlough:

Kathleen Wilcox, C.W.A.C., David Parsons, R.C.A.F., Warren Bradbury, R.A., Herbert Bowering, R.A., Arthur French, R.A. and Geo. Parsons, R.A.

The members of the W. P. A. are asked to provide in the usual way.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 11 Aug 1945

RECEPTION FOR RETURNED MEN

On Tuesday night at the Public Building a reception was held under the auspices of the W.P.A. for the following: F. Lt. David Parsons, RCAF; Gunner Warren Bradbury, R.A.; Sergt. Ray Keefe, RCAF; Gunner Reg. Mercer, R.A.; Gunner Herbert Bowering, R.A.; LAC David Sparkes, RCAF.

There was a very large number present—the largest gathering seen at a reception for a long time.

Just previously to the opening of the proceedings Japan's unconditional surrender was announced from London and this fact added to the joyousness of the occasion.

Mr. Ralph Parsons was the chairman and he was assisted by Mr. E. V. Hall, who led the community singing. Solos were rendered by Miss M. Fitzpatrick and Mr. John Pitt. Miss H. Norman gave a recitation. Addresses of welcome were made by Revs. Torrville and Pitt, and Major Pike, S.A.

Mrs. T. J. Pitt, Vice-President of the Bay Roberts W.P.A., in the regrettable absence of the President, Miss R. F. Parsons, in a brief address welcomed the men and made the customary presentations. Refreshments were then served.

Arrangements had been made to welcome others but they were unavoidably absent.

We are proud of the men and women who at the call of duty, went forth to do battle with

From Bay Roberts Guardian 18 Aug 1945

Parsons - Christian

On Friday, November 7th, at 4 p.m. in St. Andrew's United Church, Halifax, Elizabeth G., only daughter of Mrs. and the late H. Gordon Christian at St. John's was married to David Ralph, only son of Mr. Parsons, of Bay Roberts.

Rev. J. A. MacKeigan, D. D., performed the marriage ceremony and Mrs. Lohnes played the "Bridal Chorus" and the "Wedding March." The bride was given in marriage by her cousin, Mr. John Williams St. John's, who is attending the medical school of Dalhousie University. Mrs. Howard Moores, who came from Bay Roberts for the wedding, was the matron of honor, while Mr. Herbert M. Johnson, Corner Brook, a classmate of the groom, was best man. The bride's mother had also come from St. John's for the occasion.

The bride wore a green gabardinne suit, with green ribbon hat and matching accessories, and a corsage of white carnation. The matron of honor wore a grey suit and accessories, with a corsage of pink carnations. The bride's mother wore a grey green suit, with a black hat and a corsage of red roses.

The groom, a former officer of the R.C.A.F., is an engineering student at Dalhousie University. His classmates, who were allowed time off for the ceremony, went in a group to the church and formed an arch of crossed T Squares as the bridal party left the church.

The reception was held at the Chapter House of Sigma Chi Fraternity, of which the groom is a very popular member. The toast to the bride was proposed by Mr. Johnson, after which the members of the Fraternity sang the well-known "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi." In his reply, the groom traced a romance which began at the impressionage age of four years.

Following the reception the happy couple left amid a storm of confetti and the rousing sound of the Sigma Chi yell, to spend their honeymoon in the quiet of the Annapolis Valley at Kentville.

Mr. and Mrs. Parsons will reside at 31 Vernon St., Halifax.

War Veferan Graduates From Dalhousie



DAVID RALPH PARSONS, B.E.

Another young Newfoundlander who heard the call to arms in World War II and who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force has just graduated from Dalhousie University with the degree of Bachelor of Engineering.

David is the son of Mr. Ralph Parsons, retired Chief Factor and Fur Commissioner of the Hudson Bay Company, and the late Flora (House) Parsons, and was born at Bay Roberts where he attended school until 1935 when at the age of sixteen he went to Ravenscourt School and later to Wesley College, Winnipeg for three years. From 1938 until Sept. 1940 he took pre-engineering at Queen's University, when he joined the R.C.A.F.

Mr. Parsons saw much service before the close of the war, doing flying duty with Coastal Command in England, and a tour of operations with his squadron from bases at Gibraltar and in North Africa. Later he served with a special service group over Europe until the end of hostilities when he was discharged with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

In September 1945 Mr. Parsons resumed his engineering studies at Dalhousie and on May 11th past, received his degree and immediately went to work with the Gypsum Company of Canada and the U.S.A.

During the course of his studies Mr. Parsons took time out on Nov. 7th, 1947, to marry Betty, daughter of Olive and the late H. Gordon Christian, L.R.A.M., one time organist at George Street Church and Music Master at Prince of Wales and Holloway School.