

= Isaac Parsons (Virginia politician) =

Isaac Parsons (January 27 , 1752 ? August 25 , 1796) was an American planter , politician , and militia officer in the U.S. state of Virginia (now West Virginia) . Parsons served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates representing Hampshire County from 1789 until his death in 1796 . Following an act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1789 , Parsons was appointed to serve as a trustee for the town of Romney . In 1790 , Parsons began serving as a justice for Hampshire County . He served as a captain in command of a company in the Virginia militia during the American Revolutionary War and continued to serve as a captain in the Hampshire County militia following the war . Parsons operated a public ferry across the South Branch Potomac River , and later died from drowning in the river in 1796 . Parsons was the grandfather of Isaac Parsons (1814 ? 1862) , who also represented Hampshire County in the Virginia House of Delegates and served as an officer in the Confederate States Army .

= = Early life and family = =

Isaac Parsons was born on January 27 , 1752 , in Hampshire County , Virginia (now West Virginia) . Parsons was the third son of Thomas Parsons and his wife Parthenia Baldwin (also spelled Bayldwin) Parsons . The Parsons family was a prominent family whose ancestors arrived to the Thirteen Colonies from England in 1635 and relocated to Hampshire County around 1740 . Parsons ' father settled on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in 1725 prior to relocating to Hampshire County , Virginia .

= = Landholdings = =

Following the death of his father Thomas Parsons between the date of his will and testament on May 27 , 1771 , and his will 's recording on March 10 , 1772 , Parsons inherited a plantation on Lot Number 16 of the " South Branch Survey " of Thomas Fairfax , 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron 's Northern Neck Proprietary and other valuable lands in Hampshire County and in the present @-@ day counties of Hardy and Grant . Parsons and his brother Baldwin also received land their father had acquired from Luke Collins , which was divided between Parsons and his brother by Nathaniel Kuykendall , John Foreman , and William Foreman . By 1778 , Parsons owned 161 acres (65 ha ; 0 @.@ 252 sq mi) of Lot Number 16 and all of Lot Number 17 of Lord Fairfax 's " South Branch Survey " .

By 1790 , Parsons also owned the corner of Lot Number 1 within the town of Romney . In 1795 , Parsons acquired an additional 100 acres (40 ha ; 0 @.@ 16 sq mi) along the South Branch Potomac River . Parsons ' Lot 16 property along the South Branch Potomac River was later purchased by David Gibson in 1836 , after which Gibson established his Sycamore Dale plantation there .

= = Ferry service = =

Parsons petitioned the Virginia General Assembly to establish a public ferry across the South Branch Potomac River , thus connecting his property on both sides of the river . In October 1786 , the Virginia General Assembly passed an act establishing the public ferry at Parsons ' property near the present site of the U.S. Route 50 bridge west of Romney . The assembly 's act set the ferry 's toll at three pence and three farthings per man , and the same price per horse . By 1790 , Parsons was continuing the operation of the ferry , which had become known as " Parson 's Ferry " . On December 26 , 1792 , the Virginia General Assembly passed an additional act for the settlement and regulation of public ferries . The assembly 's act mandated that Parsons ' ferry be " constantly kept " at its location , and established its toll amounting to six cents per man , and six cents per horse .

= = Political and military careers = =

During the American Revolutionary War , Parsons served as a captain in command of a company under the charge of Major Vincent Williams in the Virginia militia . By December 11 , 1788 , Parsons was again serving as a captain in command of a company in the Hampshire County militia .

Parsons served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates representing Hampshire County from 1789 until his death on August 25 , 1796 . Parsons represented Hampshire County , which was a multi @-@ member electoral district , in the Virginia House of Delegates . During the October 19 ? December 19 , 1789 , session , Parsons served alongside Elias Poston and Isaac Miller . In the sessions between 1790 and 1793 , Parsons served alongside Elias Poston . Parsons served alongside Francis White during the 1794 session . During the 1795 session , he again served alongside Elias Poston . Parsons died on August 25 , 1796 , before the November 8 ? December 27 , 1796 , session of the Virginia House of Delegates , where he was to have served alongside Alexander King . Parsons ' seat was filled by Fielding Calmes , who served out Parsons ' term during this session . During his final two sessions in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1794 and 1795 , Parsons was a member of the Federalist Party .

By February 14 , 1788 , Parsons had been appointed as an appraiser of property in Hampshire County by an act of the Virginia General Assembly . On December 4 , 1789 , Parsons was again appointed by an act of the Virginia General Assembly to serve as a trustee of the town of Romney . Parsons served as a trustee alongside Isaac Miller , Andrew Wodrow , Stephen Colvin , Jonathan Purcell , Nicholas Casey , William McGuire , Perez Drew and James Murphy . Parsons and his fellow trustees were given authority by the Virginia General Assembly to settle disputes regarding the town 's land lots and to " open and clear " the town 's " streets and lanes " in accordance with the original survey and plan for Romney . In 1790 , Parsons was either elected or appointed as a justice for Hampshire County alongside Jonathan Purcell , James Martin , Cornelius Ferrel , Edward McCarty , Solomon Jones , and Elias Poston . Parsons died on August 25 , 1796 ; according to tradition , he died from drowning in the South Branch Potomac River .

= = Personal life = =

Parsons was married on April 23 , 1772 , to Mary E. Ellender Gregg . Mary E. Ellender Gregg was born on February 27 , 1756 . Parsons and his wife had two sons : James Gregg Parsons (1773 ? 1847) , married to Mary Catherine Casey in 1795 , and David Parsons (born 1775) , married to Catherine Miller .