

Adrian A. Parsons to Chet Parsons

January 10, 1918

Plainfield 1-10-18

Dear Chip

Your letter came in to day and was very joyously recieved as we had not had but one since you went into camp. and we had decided you had gone aboard and it might be a long time before we had a letter. There is so much secrecy used to prevent information getting abroad. I had my mind made up to call on you if I got word in time before you shipped, it is not a long run to Newport News. but as you have a prospect of a furlough that will be better for you can have a short visit with all of us; had you got home xmas Ethel was intending to come up, Edith could not come on account of scarlet fever, all the rest were here but I think I wrote you about it. I have been called by girl from near Cartersburg who wanted to know about you That was yesterday, and earlier in the weak (probably last weak) Miss N. of Clayton I very much admired her voice but she was too far away for me to talk to but Frank was near and I called him and they had considerable talk I think she was knitting you a swetter, I have always wanted to meet her –

Frank went to Danville to day to fill his papers and to Plainfield this afternoon a he did not take any witnesses with him – I recieved yours. last weak and sent them back to the P.O. addressed to you, I recon Dalton will certify them back to Danville or send them to you, Frank will see the Secretary about your dues the lodge ordered them all paid and receipts sent. The red cross uses our hall and has mad us a service flag with 7 blue stars as that is our number in service

There has been the worst cold weather and snow we have had for years Mother and I have not been out on a single visit since last fall, the wind has been so cold that it has been a job to do the work, We have sold the pigs last weak (the rest of them) but have sheep on hand yet. The market is and has been bad for two months, we think they will not more than pay the purchase price but we will unload soon – well it did make my mouth water to hear you talk about the oyesters, I like to lift them out of the water pry open the shell and swallow them before they have time to kick,

Dad.

Historical Notes:

Chester “Chet” Adrian Parsons (1887 – 1977) served during WWI in the American Expeditionary Force in France from April 1918 – April 1919. He exchanged letters with his father, Adrian A Parsons (1846 – 1929), a disabled Civil War veteran. These letters provide insight into life on the home front and his political views.

"Ethel" is Chet's sister Ethel C. (Parsons) Davis (1875 – 1953) who lived with her family in Mobile, Alabama.

"Edith" is Chet's sister Edith (Parsons) White (1880 – 1971) who lived with her family in rural Vermillion County, IN

"Frank" is Chet's brother Frank Harrison Parsons (1889 – 1918) who entered the Marine Corp Mar. 28, 1918.

"Dalton" is Frank W Dalton (1864 – 1939), postmaster of Plainfield.

"the lodge" refers to Chet's membership in the Plainfield Masonic Lodge.