

Adrian A. Parsons to Chet Parsons

April 23, 1918

Plainfield 4-23-18

Dear Chip

I just am so ornery I dont want to work it has rained so often and the wind so cold it just goes through me, and I shake we havent had but 4 nice days in 8 weaks, but have notched in and got considerable work done I have some garden up but I cant see what made it come, and Bert has the west field nearly plowed. he has not put the younger colt in but went after old Don as L.W. had a tractor and didnt need him only for cultivation We have had our plans laid to visit a lot, but the Cold East wind has kept us in, we went to Normans one day and to L.W.s one day and three days on the Wabash. it was a very enjoyable trip the Devas gave us a fine day to go and a cold cloudy day to come in but we enjoyed the time if it did rain most of the time I did not see Loren White for he lives in Clinton, But Unc. William was in full feather He gave some straw berry plants of his own make – Edith says it is the finest variety ever he has refused to commercialize it says it is to be given to his special friends--

Harry has considerable work done, from the fact that a lot can be done in a day. And little Tommy and the cat, are much of the time on tractor bill – he says she would ride all day if the weather was warm enough Loyd is doing good business with the dairy and in the house also, as the young wife is evidence of. Oscar Came sunday he can hardly be weaned, but he & his father own a farm together Our prospect for a wheat crop is good so far and I can almost smell the gassolin we will burn in the Auto if the crop is good. The fruit trees are blooming sparsely and I think the prospect not good, the grass is coming nicely and our stock is healthy We now have 4 Milk Cows and the Holstines kick them out of the barn – Bert had large ideas of how the work would would [sic] be easy, but he is mellowing up finds he has too big a bite and will soon be willing to unload some, but his notion was that the more cows the better.

[rest of letter is written at the top of the first page] I think the war will be a great educator all round at the the [sic] present we have not got beyond the dollar that surely is the principal object of worship. wish the censor was in the ranks so we could have a free interchange of ideas as we are bound to see from diferent standpoints. we surely will have much to talk about when you come back.

Frank thinks they will go over soon. Norman is trying for the Marines, but he is afraid he cannot look young enough. Well this is another cold cloudy morning 24" the Ceder chest hasent come yet neither has the mothes. write often so long

Dad.

[envelope:] Sergt Chester A. Parsons/482 "Aero Squadron/American Expeditionary
For[ce]/From A. A. Parsons/Plainfield/Ind.
[postmark:] Apr./25/[?]18 /IND

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.

"Bert" is Chet's brother Gilbert "Bert" Roland Parsons (1883 – 1959) who had been farming with Adrian.

"L.W." is Chet's brother Lester Wharton Parsons (1871 – 1958) who lived with his family in Decatur Twp. in Marion County.

"old Don" is a horse.

"Norman" is Chet's brother Norman Edgar Parsons (1873 – 1939) who lived with his family in Guilford Twp.

"three days on the Wabash" probably means he visited his daughter Edith (Parsons) White (1880 – 1971) who lived with her family in rural Vermillion County, IN along the Wabash River.

"the Devas" refers to Adrian's belief in Theosophy.

"Loren White" is unknown.

"Unc. William" may be William Bloomer White Jr. (1831- 1921), Harry Taylor White's (see below) second cousin, although he was living in California in 1918.

"Harry" is Edith's husband Harry Taylor White (1878 – 1950)

"Tommy, Loyd, Oscar" are unknown

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