

Adrian A. Parsons to Chet Parsons

May 4, 1918

Plainfield. 5-4-18

Dear Chip

This has been an uneventful week and we have been busy as the weather has been such that farm work could be done but it is still cold. Our water pipes to the barn are still froze up, and the big tank at the well was lifted a half inch off the bottom I repaired that, but Bert has to carry water from it to the barn-- The sows are only doing fair with spring litters and the heifers we bought at the sale the first one the hogs got after her as she had begun labor before we were expecting it, she was nearly ruined & the vet. says she cannot be bred again the other two are fine prospects, but terrible kickers the smallest one is the best conditioned & she bawls after Maud if Bert tries to milk her. Maud is surely a great help to Bert, I took her and the boys to Car yesterday to visit City relations and it took him till 10 o'clock last night to get the work done and he got up at 3 this morning and has just now. (8 a.m) started to work he is plowing the field across the road for corn that was in beans last year. Me & the kids planted the lot north of the hog barn in corn and beans a few days ago. and I have the orchard ground all broke but haven't planted only in the garden the stuff is coming but I don't know how it can as I plowed with overcoat on, but it was warmer yesterday.

L.W. Called saying he had a letter from Frank stating he had the arch in one foot broken but could not tell how serious the case might be, I am sorry for him because they were going to the rifle range for two weeks practice and he will miss it. I think he would have scored well, and he was so well pleased with his comrades & the work. Earl Blair was third in shooting and another Hendricks Co. boy first – Nolan & Nola have put a one room two story front on Macks house and are fixing up fine, we have been going over rather often as the work is in good hands & we can be spared – Write often as you can

If the democratic administration would use their men in the ranks instead of making soft places like censoring your letter, they would gain more respect, but might lose a faithful worker some times, but 75% of the army is republican [*rest of letter written in margin of back page*] and 90% of the appointed officers are democrats but the republican party always have saved the day and we will stand by the president until he goes against the North to the point of another rebellion.  
so long Dad –

[envelope:] Sergt. Chester A. Parsons/482 Aero Squadron/American Expeditionary  
For[ce]/From A. A. Parsons/Plainfield/Ind.  
[postmark:] Plainfield/May/4/4PM

#### 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.

"Maud" is Gilbert's wife Laura Maude (Symmonds) Parsons (1885 – 1965) who grew up in Wisconsin.

"the boys" may be Maude and Gilbert's sons Lee Marshall Parsons (1911 – 2005) and Donald Earl Parsons (1914 – 1969)

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

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

"Earl Blair" (1891 – 1937) is Indianola "Nola" (Blair) Smith's brother (see below). Earl was single, living with his parents Washington Twp. No indication he was drafted.

"Nolan and Nola" are Nolan Ellis Smith (1881 – 1978) and Indianola "Nola" (Blair) Smith (1888 – 1973). Nolan's mother was sister to Adrian's wife, Mary Mariah (Fox) Parsons (1850 – 1922).

"Mack" is McKendree Smith (1842 – 1931) Nolan's father, a farmer who lives just north of Adrian.