

Adrian A. Parsons to Chet Parsons

May 20, 1918

Plainfield. 5-20-18

Dear Chip. Your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> of April came in and it surely was a good visit, but it had been a long time on the road. I was glad of the fact that you are in prime condition no doubt you have been initiated to the third degree ere this. Wish we could hear oftener and you could talk more freely, but everything is run by the democrat party and it is being talked that the edict will go out that any one not voting that ticket will be branded pro German. But we are in the war to a finish and will stand by the administration, when their inefficiency is costing us billions and if we get through with anything left, then will be a reckoning of home accounts. –

We are getting on with the work a little better than we did last year are almost done breaking for corn and have 25 A. planted but the seed is not very good, we planted, thick which is not good farming. we sure are up against it hard if we dont get a reasonable stand. for it is to late to plant over even if we had the seed.

I dont think there has ever been a time when occult knowledge would give more satisfaction and do so little good. the world is like a man at the bottom of a deep muddy stream he cant see an inch ahead but necessity impels him to put forth his best efforts to reach the light and free air, that intuition makes him feel is just a little above him.

Well we had a grand day yesterday the first nice Sunday for six weeks. N. E. came up in his "Seneca" brought the whole family dumped the kids took me & Mother up to the Berg to visit Ol and made other calls. it is surely nice and enjoyable to own one, Nellie is near foaling a pure sadler and we cant use her much and Mother is going down at about the same rate we have noticed for two years, and I dont feel very safe out in a buggy with her and if the prospects are at all favorable will ad one to our list. Frank urged me to do so, but I am probably too close on money matters, but if the crops are good I think I will – I guess I was defeated for the office of trustee, I made the announcement that I would give my best to the service but would not approach a single man to secure the nomination have never heard the result of the convention, but I thought the decission would be that we had had one too many deaf trustees and Byron worked for the job as it would give him a good excuse to stay at home – It is funy though that the result was never published and I would not ask about it. for I was not disturbed in the least. and I sure have as much on hand as I need. I think Bert is doing is dirty best but he is so careless never having had a spirited team he seems not able to realize the care needed but he has had no serious accident, but the four year

old has kicked with him, and he has never put a bridal on the three year old yet. The two high strung ones would have got away with him sure. And I would not let him work Nell at all, so we bought one well broke and bony but a very good mare 11 years old. for \$100. & he has been getting on nicely. Will just commenced planting Saturday and he has such a no account hand one that cant hitch & work four horses in fact cant handle two with any satisfaction has even got old Munday to kicking – so you see we are all in war and nothing is going smoothly. but we will pull it off in some form.

L. W. has been having a tough time, he got Miss Madison back as house keeper. but the political bee got in his bonnet and he was let down he said a poor third. and they have had dyphthera Miss M. being the worst Bob & Jim. next but we hear they are all better. We had a very nice visit at Harry's. Edith is quite poorly she is expecting a change but one of the mysterious things is she has no knowledge of when it will happen – we had a nice day to go on thursday cold & cloudy to come Sunday, and rain nearly all the time we were there, but that didnt spoil the visit. May was out last Sunday weak it rained all day, as usual but it was rather pleasant. Ben stayed at home and kept the two little ones he is still with Lillies, I think so many men are fools, with his mechanical knowledge – Raymond the same – ought to be in government service – Well I think I will hear from you soon again. Mother sends her love so long

Dad

[envelope:] Sergt. C. A Parsons/482 Aero Squadron/American Expeditionary Force/From  
A. A. Parsons/Plainfield/Ind.  
[postmark:] 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.

“edict” October 24, 1918 Wilson issued an open letter to U.S. urging them to vote for Democrats so Democrats could retain their majorities in the House and Senate. “The return of a Republican majority to either house of congress would, moreover, be interpreted on the other side of the water as a repudiation of my leadership.”

"N. E." is Chet's brother Norman Edgar Parson (1873 – 1939) who farms in Guilford township.

"Seneca" is an automobile from the Seneca Motor Car Co., Fostoria, OH 1917 – 1924.

"Berg to visit Ol" refers to driving to Brownsburg to visit Adrian's brother Oliver E Parsons (1854 – 1926).

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

"Will" is Chet's brother William "Bud" Nelson Parsons (1878 – 1961) who lives with his family Washington Township.

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

"Miss Madison" is Lester's housekeeper; details unknown. Lester's wife died July 1914 leaving him with 7 children. Census records show he was an operator on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Miss Madison did not appear on the 1920 census and he remarried in 1921.

"Bob, Jim" are Lester's youngest children Robert Aubrey Parsons (1909 – 1982) and James Lester Parsons (1911 – 1939).

"May and Ben" are Chet's sister and brother-in-law Mary "May" Elizabeth (Parsons) White (1885 – 1958) and Benjamin Toliver White (1882 – 1955).

"still with Lillies" implies Ben worked for Eli Lilly & Co. However, his draft registration paper listed his employer as Mid West Eng. Co. 1620 E 19<sup>th</sup> St. Indianapolis, his occupation: Mechanic.

"Raymond" may be Raymond Allen Parsons (1880 – 1918), Adrian's brother Oliver's son who was a truck driver living in Indianapolis.