

Adrian A. Parsons to Chet Parsons

June 2, 1918

Plainfield 6-2-18

Dear Chip.

We are all in first rate shape now the grass have been fairly good and and [sic] we had plenty of smoked joal.

It is a wonder but we all got done planting by the last day of may I planted the lot North of the hog house and it is knee high but the others that wait for ideal weather just finished last weak. Bert planted the west field first and it has been rolled and he began plowing yesterday the field east of the road that was in beans last year he planted to corn and it shows a 75% stand the seed was very poor some are planting over. The wheat crop looks very fair dont think it will be very heavy it was sown too late. but it will make some people happy that are getting tired of corn bread. We have a very fine garden and a patch of sorghum and the beas have a great clover bloom if it yields to make the ginger bread and taffy, we have been quite short on sugar but now we get five pounds a weak. and great efforts are being made to save on all food. so as to have more for those that are so hard pressed We are still playing politics and I fear you will have to play a kind of lone hand until there is a change of administration but I hope it will not run that long. but the great Devas have arranged all the events to serve toward bringing the final result that is to forever make war impossible, It wouldnt do any good for us to know all the mooves or how long it will take, for it is up to this generation to fight it out to a finish as it is a final battle between darkness and light. No more of our boys are in yet, but they will probably go this fall. Frank is now at Washington D.C. he mad highest score on rifle range and seems to enjoy the work don't know how long they will stay or just what their service will be, but thinks it will be for show as they were issued four suits of clothes and must always be ready for inspection. All are well and busy. havent had a letter from you since the one written the 8" of april. The Money you spoke of sending has not arrived. I have been sending some papers, but

[in margin on first page:] havent much hope you will ever get any of them We are just compelled to screw up our patriotism and stand by the fool administration untill they get all the money out of the country and in their hands. I have given all I could to the Y & Red Cross and wish I could get your idea of how it is spent. I have recieved no bonds from you which surely should be showing up. it is all going out and nothing to show for it. Maybe it is all clear to some, but us country Jo are in the dark write all you can & as often.

So long
Dad.

Monday morning the 3rd I was monkeying all day yesterday with the bees and Nell she has a colt that is a dandy. and if I thought you would enjoy a sadler I would take her back to old Guy. surely the greatest horse in the state 29 years old. and as active as a yearling.

We havent heard from Edith for some time she is in bad shape and dont know when the trouble will end. I suspect the change of life is going to go hard with her L.W.s has had a tough time with dipthera Miss Madison cant talk the last we heard I had a letter from Martha they dont have a telephone and ours has been out of commission for three weeks. and Nell could not go on the road. so we have had nearly all sources of information cut. Bert is making a big effort to do what two men usually, and he is getting on pretty well, but he sure has a great helper in Maude, we have failed to give her proper credit for the good qualities that she possesses, it is so easy to see only the objectionable side. I think she is trying her dirty best to govern the violent temper and limber tongue – she surely is a tireless worker does the milking most of the feeding and see after Bert generally. I think Mother is beginning to see the gold under the dross, but her faculties are failing gradually all the time. When the women were being enrolled she gave her age as 98 and when Maud suggested 68 she gave her to understand she knew what it was. I am thinking that we will get thing adjusted so we can enjoy more life than when it was all new. I am still the buffer to get the shock of of both sides, but my shoulders are still squared and ready for a little more Uncle Mack celebrates the golden Wedding on your birth day. we will be there too. I was in France last night but did not see you I take it as a good omen the higher self knows but does not communicate often to the lower mind. as it would do no good really to know all the children are well as far as I know. we had no Co yesterday Will was shearing sheep he has a fine crop of lambs. Call the Colt Dixie she is sure build like an arab & a beaut. so long.

[envelope:] Sergt Chester A. Parsons/ 482 Aero Squadron/ US. Expeditionary Fo[rce]
[postmark:] unreadable

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.

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

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

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

"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. 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.

"Martha" is Martha Parsons (1907 – 1973), Lester's daughter.

"Bert" is Chet's brother Gilbert "Bert" Roland Parsons (1883 – 1959) who lived and farmed in Hendricks County.

"Maude" is Gilbert's wife Laura Maude (Symmonds) Parsons (1885 – 1965).

"Uncle Mack" is McKendree Smith (1842 – 1931), a farmer who lives just North of Adrian. McKendree's wife is sister to Adrian's wife Mary Mariah (Fox) Parsons (1850 – 1922).

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