

Adrian A. Parsons to Chet Parsons

June 26, 1918

Plainfield 6 – 26 – 18

Dear Chip,

I am going to send a few words just to hold my record for I intened to write every weak and so far I have not failed. but I havent much to say as my mind is kept busy on internal matters, for a consentration of all the forces that produce belly ache has been made and I cant make the belts tight enough to restrain them.

We are in the midst of harves wheat & clover Our alfalfa made a big cutting Will did not get all his grass in before the rain which was sorely needed and last friday night we had a freeze that did much damage to corn & truck It would seem that the forces of nature are not all on the side of the allies I guess it will be a repetition of all the crises of my life we will just pull through by the skin of a tooth we are beginning to get interested in the game, but are still playing politics. and the word democracy is being worn thread bare, an attempt will be made to set it in concrete but the old defenders of our collors are standing by the administration rotten as it is, and it is noticable how they run in families The Parsonses have gave their help to every war for liberty but none of the name went to Mexico which was a war of conquest and to retain the democratic party in power. –

We celebrated your birth day by going to the 50" aniversary of Macks Wedding and it sure was a big affair, all but Hank & Wes present Carl & Ot are expecting to be called in, Olie Mother & I & Mary Parsons were all the guests tat was at the first weding, three of her boys are are [sic] in only Ben in France the other two are instructors in Moter tactics. Bert is doing his best to keep the work up but we sadley need more help. but hands are hard to get at 5 per. all our stock are healthy so far corn all fed out & two weaks ago I got a sack of meal for old Mandy as she is not yet fat & lost her teeth which cost 50 per and last friday we got a load at 60 per. and since the freeze I expect it is near a 100.

Nell has the finest colt ever, So mean I call her Dixie, tell all you can. so lond
Daddie.

[envelope:] Sergt. Chester A. Parsons/ 482 Aero Squadron/ American Ex. Force
[postmark:] Plainfield, Ind./JUN /4 [parts 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.

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

"went to Mexico" refers to the Mexican American War (1846 – 1848)

"Macks" is McKendree Smith (1842 – 1931), a farmer who lives just North of Adrian. McKendree's wife was sister to Adrian's wife Mary Mariah (Fox) Parsons (1850 – 1922). The Smiths had 11 children.

"Hank" is Henry Herbert Smith (1869 – 1950), one of Mack's children.

"Wes" is Calvin Wesley "Wes" Smith (1872 – 1950), one of Mack's children.

"Carl" is Carl Elbert Smith (1886 – 1965), one of Mack's children.

"Ot" is unclear. Mack's youngest children are Arthur Regan Smith (1889 – 1984) and Harry Everett Smith (1893 – 1938), both completed WW1 draft registration cards.

"Olie" may be Adrian's brother Oliver E Parsons (1854 – 1926).

"Mother" is Adrian's wife Mary Mariah (Fox) Parsons (1850 – 1922).

"Mary Parsons" is Mary (Fox) Parsons (1855 – 1928) who married Alonzo Franklin Parsons (1851 -1901). They had 7 children. Her three youngest were: Robert Chester Parsons (1890 – 1945), Franklin Harrison Parsons (1892 – 1943) and Benton "Ben" Parsons (1895 – 1956)

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