

Adrian A. Parsons to Chet Parsons

July 7, 1918

Plainfield Ind. 7 – 7 – 18

Dear Chip. It is some source of pleasure to get a letter from you and also a storm breeder against against [sic] the pickeyune methods of our government We don't want any war secrets that would give comfort to the enemy if captured, but we are entitled to recieve much more information than we get, the administration is being justly criticized for ineficiency at home, and such a system of going through soldiers letters was never herd of before, and looks like a scheme to keep us ~~from~~ in the dark as to management abroad. I have a picture in mind of how the Kaiser would enjoy reading one of your letters to me where you told where you were and the kind of work you had on hand. especially if you had helped put a few of his planes out of business, But the thought is impressing itsself constantly on my mind that the President is a special agent of the great Devas, gifted with more than the comon brand of diplomacy, to handle a refractory party. The patriotism of the democratic party is hardly skin deep, being such a short time since they tried to shoot the old flag out of existence, and being so numerous that if they laid down on every measure for the good of the country if which would have been the case had Hughes got in we would not be able to pull through. for it is going to be a hard scratch with what help they render. But we will make it all right and come out on top at last but all the resources of the Country will be exhausted. –

I have just made a dinner on canned sausage & honey. We are by ourselves to day, as Bert & M went to L.W.s. Martha was making an ice cream social for the children making the cakes her self. she is the high muck there L. says she make them walk the line – in her letter she insisted that some way should be fixed to get Mother & I down, but we are having one of our rains peculiar to this summer. just a drizzle with occasionally a little more so. and we would not venture out. a couple from the city came very early to fish & said Bill was coming just after dinner, so I must work while I can Mother is washing dishes while I write. Ben is in France & Harry & Bill are instructors in Motor training schools. or Harry is with Bill as a kind of helper – We hadent seen Mary for a year untill at Macks golden wedding, . It was a big day, Mother Olie & I were all the guests at dinner that was at the first, but Eli & Carie came after. Hank has not been heard from & Everett could not get a furlough but all the others were there – and Mack was in the seventh heaven, and appropriated to himself all the gold things service pins badges & & gold coins; which Maw was to share, which seemed all right with Ettie, she is surely one of Gods most patient souls enjoying the crumbs of comfort that she can get from what is left by the others – We finished cutting

our wheat last sunday the boys were rained in twice but Will did not finish till wednesday, the threshers are intending to start tomorrow but it will be too wet. the corn is coming out of the freeze and looks like it would make a fair crop. Bert is plowing all he can and is ready for threshing

I went to Danville yesterday to post meeting and to make application for increase of pension Congress made a substantial increase on all. I guess it will raise me about 14 dollas a month above what I am getting. It looks funny to pay 30 & 40 a month now when we got only 50 cents a day while doing the fighting We had a very enjoyable meeting, they had me go over all the details of how it was I got shot in the back. and Marsh Hess in the back of the head. (turned to open a box of ammunition) they made special inquiry about you & say Our boys, You can begin to feel the fraternal link that binds. I am sure many of us got early training under Sir Wm. Wallace as our family has been always strong in war for human liberty but never for conquest. Not one of the name went to Mexico in the forties, but would have been there in the fourteens if we had had a leader that was not too proud to fight. We had a letter from Edith stating her condition was very critical and would not reach a final settlement for two weeks. –

Am sending you a Messenger this weak from which you ma draw a few crumbs of comfort while off duty, Always tell something about your Comerad I did hope to get his photo. (other than the Kodac)

So long

Dad.

[envelope:] Sergt. Chester A. Parsons/ 482 Aero Squadron/ US. Ex,- Force.

[postmark:] Plainfield, Ind./ Jul 8/4PM

#### 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.

“special agent of the great Devas” refers to Adrian’s belief in Theosophy.

"tried to shoot the old flag" refers to Adrian's disdain for the Democratic party whom he associates with the Confederacy.

"Hughes" is Charles Evan Hughes, Sr. (1862 – 1948) the 1916 Republican presidential candidate who ran against Woodrow Wilson.

"Bert & M" is Chet's brother Gilbert "Bert" Roland Parsons (1883 – 1959) and his wife Laura Maude "Maude" (Symmonds) Parsons (1885 – 1965), 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.

"Martha" is Martha Parsons (1907 – 1973), Lester's daughter. Martha's mother died in 1914 and she is the only girl in a family of 7 children.

"Ben, Harry and Bill" may be Mary Parson's youngest sons (see Mary below) Benton "Ben" Parsons (1895 – 1956), Franklin Harrison "Harry" Parsons (1892 – 1943) and Robert Chester Parsons (1890 – 1945)

"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).

"Olie" may be Adrian's brother Oliver E Parsons (1854 – 1926) who was living in Brownsburg in 1918.

"Eli & Carie" are Eli H. Ross (1848 – 1926) and Linnie Caroline "Carrie" (Barker) Ross (1852 – 1929). Carrie's mother, Dorcas Gossett, was Etta Smith and Mary Parsons' sister, Hannah Gossett.

"Mary" is Mary (Fox) Parsons (1855 – 1928) who married Alonzo Franklin Parsons (1851 -1901). They had 7 children.

"Hank" may be Henry Herbert Smith (1869 – 1950), McKendree's eldest son.

"Everett" may be Harry Everett Smith (1893 – 1938), McKendree's youngest son.

"Ettie" is McKendree Smith's wife, Etta Ellen (Fox) Smith (1845 – 1924), 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.

"post meeting" is a meeting of Joseph C Miller Post 498 of the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army and Union Navy. Adrian was an active member.

Adrian Parsons served in the 9th regiment of the Indiana Calvary during the Civil War.

"Marsh Hess" is William Marshall Hess (1844 – 1926) who served in the 7<sup>th</sup> regiment of the Indiana Infantry during the Civil War.

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

"Sir Wm. Wallace" is Sir William Wallace (1270 - 1305), one of Scotland's greatest national heroes, leader of the Scottish resistance forces during the first years of the long and ultimately successful struggle to free Scotland from English rule.

Adrian's great grandfather's brother, John Parsons Jr. fought in the Maryland 3rd Regiment 1778 during Revolutionary War.

"Mexico in the forties" refers to the Mexican-American War 1846 – 1848.

"the fourteens" and "leader not too proud to fight" refers to the War of 1812 where William Hull, first Governor of the Michigan territory surrendered Fort Detroit to the British in 1812 without a single shot fired.

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"Messenger" is the *Plainfield Messenger* newspaper, in publication from 1915 – 1964.