

Adrian A. Parsons to Chet Parsons

October 31, 1918

Plainfield 10 – 31 – 18

Dear Chip.

Your letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. just came in and we surely were rejoiced to have one within the current month we had three last week all over a month old. but they were from you all the same and the Devas had planned it for a partial diversion, for the sudden transferring of Franks activities to an other sphere was a great shock especially to Mother, had we known of his sickness it would not have been quite as bad, but we were expecting him home next week. and put most of our time in planning our trips. and another disappointment to us is we have no photo. have never seen him in his uniform

I am going to write the boys of his detachment soon and will tell you about it. 19 of them and a seargent sent me \$20 for flowers and the florist surely did arrange them in a way that soothed the aching heart.

The influenza is raging yet here two deaths yesterday up on the rockville road, near Griswold. and Harry Hollingsworths wife all of Frank Gibbs family are down with it. but not so many cases as was on a week ago. All our folks are about over it I feared for Bert, but hes is going to pull out all right and the rest of them were not very bad. None of L.W. or N.E. have had it and Wills not any bad case. Ben had it first and then the rest of them, we went up yesterday to see them and found May better the children also. Ethel wrote us last week. Alden had it and had been very bad Even was at the Shipyards and the girls was running the business at home. Neither of the girls could get home, on acc- of sickness.

You spoke about your bonds one has been sent me some time ago. \$100.<sup>00</sup> but that is all I also got notice of your government insurance. I also got notice of your Iowa insurance and will pay the premium soon. I got word today that my pension had been increased I expect to 38 per but they didnt say my chum J. Hollett missed that amount of increase because he lacked one day of being in long enough I devote a part of my pension to Savings Stamps and have bought all the bonds I could pay for. the people sure have come across with the money we were very thoroughly convinced that the war had to be won in spite of a rebble president and a solid south. in the 4<sup>th</sup> Liberty loan Marion Co. assessment was twenty six millions and the State of N.C. was 17 millions we have paid to support this war & to reimburse the South for Civil war. next week is election week & the President has ordered every true American to vote the

Democratic ticket. the Devas were on his side before and I am very anxious to know for how much longer.

Soon again

Dad

[in margin] I see your A.P.O. has changed 774. I have been giving out the old number 758.

[envelope:] Sergt C. A. Parsons/482 Aero Squadron/American Ex. Forces A.P.O. 774  
From A. A. Parsons/Plainfield/Ind.

[postmark:] Plainfield/Nov/1/4pm/18 /IND

#### Historical Notes:

Chester "Chet" "Chip" 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 – 1928), a disabled Civil War veteran whose letters provide insight into life on the home front and his political views.

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

"Frank" is Chet's brother Frank Harrison Parsons (1889 – 1918) entered the Marine Corp Mar. 28, 1918, was sent to Parris Island SC; assigned to 19th Company. He transferred to Washington DC for special duty. Won honors as a marksman. Transferred to Ordnance Plant, Charleston WV where he died of pneumonia after contracting influenza seven days before.

"Griswold" is Algernon Sidney Griswold (1869 – 1936) who owned property along the corner of what is now US Hwy 36 and Co. Rd. 900 E.

"Harry Hollingsworth's wife" is Mary Elizabeth "Bessie" (Massengale) Hollingsworth (1892 – 1952) who lived on Cartersburg Spring Road in Guilford Township, Hendricks County.

"Frank Gibbs" is probably George Franklin "Frank" Gibbs (1885 – 1967) who lived with his wife and four children on Cartersburg Road in Center Township, Hendricks County.

"Bert" is Chet's brother Gilbert "Bert" Roland Parsons (1883 – 1959) 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.

"N. E." is Chet's brother Norman Edgar Parsons (1873 – 1939) who lived with his family in Guilford Twp.

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

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

"Ethel" is Chet's sister Ethel C. (Parsons) Davis (1875 – 1953) who lived with her family in Mobile, Alabama.

Alden is Chet's nephew, Alden Evan Davis (1899 – 1951), Ethel's son.

"Even" is Chet's brother-in-law Evan Bennett Davis (1876 – 1963), Ethel's husband.

"the girls" are Chet's nieces Imogene (1905 – 1994) and Elizabeth (1909 – 2000) who were running the hotel business the family owned.

"J Hollett" is James Thomas Bennett Hollett (1847 – 1922) ) who, according to census records, lived in Brownsburg his entire life working as an engineer in flour mills and saw mills. He served with Adrian during the Civil War in Co. I, 9th Indiana Calvary.

Savings Stamps refers to 25-cent stamps issued by the Treasury Dept. to finance the war effort. Stamps were collected in books and exchanged for \$5 savings certificates.

"4<sup>th</sup> Liberty Loan" The Treasury Dept. offered War Savings Certificates and Savings Stamps for children and low-income Americans to invest in the war effort. Bonds were issued five times: Apr 1917, Oct 1917, Apr 1918, Sept 1918 and the Victory Bond Apr 1919. Interest rates ranged from 3.5% to 4.75%.

"vote Democratic ticket" 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."

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