

Mrs. Melvin Gibbs to Chet Parsons

August 1, 1918

Danville, Ind.,  
Aug. 1, 1918

My Dear Cousin: –

You will be surprised I am sure when you receive this letter, but I have thought of you so much, away across the pond. I hope you are well and hearty, as this leave us all able to eat I guess we can't complain.

Was talking to Maud a few days ago, and she said they were all well. She also said Lester's and Norman's boys were about to join the colors.

(I am going to write on both sides of the paper so I can write more.)

How do you like France and your work. I just can't imagine how it would be to take a trip in the air, is it nicer than an auto, of course there would be no dust. but I should think it would be cold so high. write and tell me all about it.

Teddy's boy sure was brave, poor fellow it cost him his life.

We take "The Star" and every day is more & more about how hot you boys are making it for the "Huns" and I say give it to them & I don't care how soon you get the "Kaiser" we people at home are all with you. Mama and I go to the Red Cross room at Plainfield and sew and make S. Dressings. I only wish we could do more for you boys.

Do you like to read and if so, do you have enough to read, and do they allow us to send you magazines? If so would you like for me to send you some papers? We thrashed last evening late. They did not get here until 5 o'clock and thrashed ours and moved the machine before sundown. Out wheat made 25 bu. per acre and at Plainfield the miller said it was the best wheat that had come in so far, it graded 61½ & 62½ and we got the top \$2.10 a bu. We had 350 bu.

Talking about wheat makes me think to ask you what do you have to eat at camp and oh! I do hope you have plenty to eat. We have a bumper wheat crop here this year in U.S. and we still get 50 – 50 flour and you see there ought to be enough for all.

I forgot to tell you how many boys from Hendricks Co., have gone, there are almost 600 Joe Pruitt's boy goes the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month they had bought and owned both garages and since the boy has to go they are trying to sell both of them.

I am send you a photo taking at Uncle Mack's I thot maybe you would like your father & mother's picture. you may have one like it, but will send it any way. I am also sending "Rodger clipped from our two last Stars which I think pretty good.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

I am your cousin  
Mrs. Melvin Gibbs  
Danville,  
Indiana  
Route A.  
Box 219.

Historical Notes:

Chester "Chet" Adrian Parsons (1887 – 1977), son of Adrian Alkanah (1846 – 1929) and Mary Mariah (Fox) Parsons (1850 – 1922), served during WWI in the American Expeditionary Force in France from April 1918 – April 1919.

Maud is Chet's sister-in-law Laura Maude (Symmonds) Parsons (1885 – 1965) married to Gilbert "Bert" Roland Parsons (1883 – 1959) who had been farming with Chet's father.

Lester is Chet's brother Lester Wharton Parsons (1871 – 1958) who lived with his family in Decatur Twp. in Marion County. "His boy" is Harry E. Parsons (1898 – 1990).

Norman is Chet's brother Norman Edgar Parsons (1873 – 1939) who lived with his family in Guilford Twp. "His boy" is Horace Stanley Parsons (1898 – 1984).

"Teddy's boy" is Quentin Roosevelt (1897 – 1918), the youngest son of President Theodore Roosevelt. Inspired by his father and siblings, he joined the United States Army Air Service where he became a pursuit pilot during World War I. He was killed in aerial combat over France on Bastille Day, 1918.

"The Star" is the Indianapolis Star Newspaper that began publication in 1903.

Joe Pruitt may be Joseph E Prewitt (1864 – 1928) who had at least one garage in Plainfield in 1918, although he listed "lumber" as his occupation on census records. His only son, Lowell M Prewitt (1894 – 1934) was drafted in July, 1918.

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

Mrs. Melvin Gibbs is Florence Estelle (Hanthorn) Gibbs (1884 – 1973). Her mother Rebecca Viola (Fox) Hanthorn (1862 – 1932) was sister to Chet's mother Mary Mariah (Fox) Parsons (1850 – 1922), making Florence Chet's cousin.