

Edith White to A. A. Parsons

October 24, 1918

Clinton, Ind.

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Dear Home Folks.

Twelve years ago today instead of being in such deep sorrow as we are today I became a happy bride. Time can certainly make many changes.

Telephone connections have been very unsatisfactory because we could no understand plainly, no doubt caused by eave droppers on your line & ours. I told Harry I believed Will was on a private line so last night we called him and understood real well.

How we hope you & mamma and all will escape influenza, it is very disasterous out around here, no near enough Doctors to care for the sick, hence many are dying, one undertaker had 7 funerals yesterday fore noon, all private. so many mothers have gone and left children on woman not far from here left 9 the oldest 14. years.

We began monday morning getting things in readiness for your coming with Frank when he came home, I believe I had the message almost as soon as you for I was working in an awful strain caused by some thing unknown to me and when the telephone rang I was all in a tremble. 'tis so hard for us all.

Nick Overpeck (a good friend of Chets also he had met Frank) said he would bring us overland, so we consulted White & Ragan and they dont want us to come, they are trying to quarentine Vermillion as much as possible, I feel I must come but they are afraid. Harry says if I want to go we will go, they are all free from colds except me and I have a heavy cold on lungs but am making a great fight to break it up. What do you think we had better do? you tell Will if this reaches you before he calls us for I told him to call & lets us know about you all at our expense.

We had a card from Chet a week ago. all was well with him.

Take good care of your selves, Chester Franklin is a very good baby now.

I can't write longer have a dull headache and feel to sad to write letters, want to drop a word to May & Ethel.

With Love,
Edith & family.

Historical Notes:

Edith Hannah (Parsons) White (1880 – 1971), daughter of Adrian Alkanah (1846 – 1929) and Mary Mariah (Fox) Parsons (1850 – 1922) lived with her husband Harry Taylor White (1878 – 1950) and her 3 children in rural Vermillion County, IN.

The family received word that Edith's brother Frank Harrison Parsons (1889 – 1918) died of pneumonia October 22 while serving in the Marine Corps guarding an Ordnance Plant in Charleston WV.

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

Nick Overpeck is Knic Overpeck (1890 – 1937), a farmer who lived his entire life in Vermillion County, Indiana near Edith.

White & Ragan is unknown.

Chester Franklin is Edith's infant son that was born August 6, 1918 after a difficult pregnancy.