

Aged Resident Of Licking Township Quietly Observes Anniversary Tuesday

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Derritt Chapman, one of the two living Civil War veterans of this county, on Tuesday quietly observed his 93rd birthday anniversary at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Clara Bonham of west of Annapolis. The aged veteran was in his usual good health and excellent spirits.

Last Sunday afternoon Mrs. Bonham held open house for relatives and friends who cared to call on her aged father. Several persons, including a representative of the Argus, called to pay respects.

The aged gentleman apparently has excellent health for one of his years and his mental faculties are as keen as would be expected of a man twenty-five years younger. His memory is really remarkable.

Although Mr. Chapman is well informed on current affairs his listeners enjoy him most when he talks about his experiences in the Civil War. He enlisted in the Union army when only 16 years of age at Melrose, Clark County on December 10, 1861 and was honorably discharged from service on February 17, 1865. He served with Co. K, 54th Ill. Vol. Inf.

During his service he was in the thick of the worst fighting but the siege of Vicksburg and the taking of Little Rock, Ark. seem to stand out best in his memory. Though a small man he served without any illness from any cause and without any injury.

Last summer Mr. Chapman attended the encampment of Civil War veterans at Gettysburg on the 75th anniversary of that sanguinary battle. He related to guests Sunday afternoon how well the government provided for the old soldiers who attended.

The camp was laid out in an orderly manner with tents and all conveniences provided. The veterans were taken on tours over the battlegrounds and were accorded every honor and privilege possible.

Both the veterans of the Union army and the veterans of the Confederate forces were guests of the government in this encampment and Mr. Chapman was both somewhat surprised and deeply gratified at the attitude of the aged Confederate veterans with whom he talked. He found no bitterness among them.

One white haired Confederate veteran seemed to express the feeling of the majority when he told Chapman it was right and just that the Union forces won the war and that the preservation of the Union was a wonderful thing. He said that if the South had won out in the war this country would be divided into two nations and there would not be the sense of security and peace that now exists in the nation.

Mr. Chapman said that being again
the battlegrounds of Gettysburg re-
vividly to his mind the actions that trans-
pired in that great battle. Sweeping
pictures were brought to his mind's eye
moving columns of blue and gray
men falling as wheat to the sickles.

Though the exertion and excitement
the Gettysburg reunion was very trying
many aged veterans, Mr. Chapman said
the experience well and he said he would
have bet ten dollars he could have beaten
any veteran present in a foot race.

A family dinner was served Sun-
noon in his honor. Those present
Mr. Chapman, Mrs. Clara Bonham,
and Mrs. Denzil Harris of Oblong, H.
Wesner, Madge Bonham and Susan
baker, Elmer Wall, Ethel Bonham, A.
Robinson, and Miss Berniece Bonham
Indianapolis.