

# HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

G. L. CHAPMAN SURPRISED BY  
FRIENDS ON THAT  
OCCASION

July 29, 1912

Seventy-five years is a ripe old age and when one reaches it in serenity of mind, its surrounded with needful creature comforts, and is made to feel that his friends are steadfast and true, one must conclude that he who enjoys such favors has attained to all the success that life holds for any man.

Such is the fortune of our esteemed and venerable fellow-townsmen, G. Lyman Chapman, who reached his seventy-fifth birthday last Monday, on which occasion he was surprised by about sixty friends and neighbors, who gathered at his home during his absence on a preconcented automobile ride.

Mr. Chapman's family is entitled to the distinction of having been among the very first settlers in Chesaning and Mr. Chapman, who at that time was five years of age, recalls vividly the circumstance of his father taking him by the hand and leading him through an Indian encampment in the woods on the east side of the river, opposite the grist

mill.

When he was ten years of age, Mr. Chapman's family returned to their old home in the east, where they remained some years, coming back to Chesaning in 1859, where they have since made their home. During these years of absence from Chesaning, Mr. Chapman, together with his father, was engaged in railroad construction contracting and carried on a very large business. Some of their work at this time was in the border states and they were hampered greatly by the operations incident to the Civil war.

In 1866 Mr. Chapman was married to Serena Vincent, who for nearly half a century has shared with him life's trials and triumphs. They have ever been good citizens, helpful and sympathetic neighbors, always ready to enlist in whatever went for the upbuilding of the community, so that in the autumn of life it is entirely fitting and proper that they should receive such an expression of esteem and good will as was evidenced in this celebration of Mr. Chapman's birthday.

Mr. Chapman was one of the first men to embark in the merchantile business in Chesaning and for more than forty years he enjoyed a reputation for enterprise, business ability and untarnished honor. He retired about two years ago.

The surprise, which was planned by Drs. Bailey and Eldred, was entirely successful and equally delightful. Reminiscences such as are possible only to those who knew the strange, wild world of fifty years and more ago were indulged in, and a charming time of social intercourse was rendered complete by a bountiful supper spread on tables on the spacious porch of the family residence.

Dr. L. B. Stewart, on behalf of the guests, presented their honored host with a birthday book, in which each one present subscribed their name and date of birth. It was a very pleasant occasion and those present will be joined by the entire citizenship of Chesaning in the hope that Mr. Chapman and his faithful wife may be spared for many more years to enjoy the well earned fruits of their labors.

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