

June 18, 1942

# GRANDPA JIM FRY DIES AT AGE OF 102 YEARS

**COLORFUL CIVIL WAR VETERAN  
OF THE CLAREMONT AREA  
MUSTERS OUT**

Grandpa Jim Fry, the colorful Claremont civil war veteran, is dead at the age of 102. Father Time sounded taps for him early Monday, June 15th, at the hospital in Aberdeen, where he had been ill for only about a week. Previous to that time he had been surprisingly active for a man who had begun his second century of life.

Only last December, shortly after Pearl Harbor, Grandpa Jim made his way to the army recruiting office in Aberdeen and told the officer in charge he was ready "to jine up," adding that he could still shoot pretty well. With him he had his original discharge from the U. S. army, dated Sept. 11, 1865, at Knoxville, Tenn., which certified his age as twenty-five and stated that there was no reason why he should not be accepted for reenlistment. He was a member of the 8th Tennessee cavalry. The recruiting officer told him, however, that he would have to wait until men of his age group were eligible for enlistment.

Now Grandpa Jim Fry has joined the last bivouack of the comrades that have gone before him almost to a man as he was the last of the Civil War veterans in this county.

James Fry was a native of West Virginia, born there March 9th, 1840, and made his home in that state until about 1870 when he moved to Hancock county, Illinois. He was married to Miss Mary Markham, a native of Tennessee in 1872. They and their family removed from Illinois to north-eastern Montana in 1909 and came to the Putney vicinity in 1922, where the

sturdy man of 72 was active in farming for many years.

As he passed his 90th year, note was taken of his vigorous physical powers and asked to what he attributed his longevity, he continued, past the 100 mark, to insist that it was plenty of salt pork in his diet and a judicious amount of good liquor that maintained his bodily vigor far past the time when most men are decrepit and feeble.

For some years past he was an honor guest in patriotic parades on Memorial Day as one of the two surviving Civil War veterans in Brown county. A cavalryman in the army, he never took much interest in any demonstration or the Civil War veterans that required marching. He attended a reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic at Gettysburg, Pa., a few years ago and came back quite disgusted with many of the "boys" who required nurses and were mostly too feeble to walk. As for himself he was quite able to take care of himself and walk distances that would tire his younger comrades in arms.

Surviving Grandpa Fry are six sons, C. C. Fry, Mendon, Ill.; George, James and John of Claremont; William of Aberdeen; Joe of Sutton, Ill.; two daughters, Mrs. Florence McMahon, Warsaw, Ill., and Mrs. Nell Hosfield, Bainville, Mont. His wife preceded him in death six years ago.

Funeral services will be held in the Claremont Methodist church, Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock with the Rev. L. C. Benson of this city officiating. The body will lie in state at the Paetznick funeral home until time for the funeral.

Burial will be made in the family lot in the Groton union cemetery with military honors in charge of the Groton post of the American Legion.