

# AUNT PATTY'S BIRTHDAY.

MRS. MARTHA SQUIRE 101 YEARS OLD YESTERDAY.

Bright and Lively, She Holds a Family Reception on Her Birthday—She Has Seven Children Living, Seventeen Grandchildren, Twenty-one Great-grandchildren, and Four Great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Martha Squire, better known to the residents of Cold Spring, N. Y., as "Aunt Patty" Squire, celebrated the one hundred and first anniversary of her birthday yesterday, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Harriet Terwilliger.

The house, in which Mrs. Squire has lived for the past sixty-eight years, is a cozy, old-fashioned, two-story building, which stands about a mile back of Cold Spring, in a little hamlet called Nelsonville.



MRS. MARTHA SQUIRE.

Twenty-one years ago Mrs. Squire began keeping her birthday as an annual reunion time for her family. Since then she has not missed a single year. All the towns people drop in to offer "Aunt Patty" their congratulations and, incidentally, to partake of a cup of tea and a slice of home-made cake, which she serves to all of her callers.

Mrs. Squire, whose maiden name was Holmes, was born in Pond Ridge, Westchester county, on Oct. 11, 1794. In 1811 she was married to Lewis Squire, who served as a corporal in the war of 1812. Mrs. Squire draws a pension of \$30 per month.

She had ten children, seven of whom are now living. Mrs. Terwilliger, who is her youngest child, is 64 years old, and is a grandmother. The "big boy" of the family is Amos Squire, a spry fellow of 84.

Mrs. Squire has now living seventeen grandchildren, the youngest of them 23 years old, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Squire's senses are all unimpaired, except her hearing. She rises every morning at 6 o'clock, dressing herself without assistance. She seldom retires before 9 in the evening. She goes about the house at will, although she has not found it possible to go up and down stairs unaided for the past six years.

Her daughter says that she is always on hand at meal times, and is one of the heartiest eaters in the family.

A caller found her yesterday afternoon sitting in a big rocking chair surrounded by a score of her descendants. She was contentedly eating a piece of molasses candy. She takes a lively interest in politics just at present and thinks that New York has got the right kind of a Governor. She said that she did not put much faith in Cleveland. She knew that he was trying for a third term, but she added, "He won't get it." "When politics change there will be better times," she said.

On her one hundredth birthday she was able to call all of her descendants by name, and could remember the dates of all their marriages and births. She is still able to repeat hymns which she learned when a young girl, verse after verse, without a hitch or slip.

It has been a constant dread to her that she might become bent as she grew old, and she has systematically avoided becoming so. Every now and then she will arise, and, placing her hands on her hips, throw back her shoulders and straighten out. Even after retiring she will grasp the bedposts over her head and stretch herself "just to get the kinks out," she says.

It is said that she remembers, at the time of George Washington's death, the men going about with the emblems of mourning on their arms.

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