

**ADDRESS DELIVERED AT A LAWN PARTY
GIVEN BY THE SURVIVING PUPILS, AIDED
BY THE CITY OF NEWTON, TO MR. SETH
DAVIS, ON HIS ONE HUNDREDTH
BIRTHDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1887**

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Address Delivered at a Lawn Party Given by the Surviving Pupils, Aided by the City of Newton, to Mr. Seth Davis, on his one hundredth birthday, September 3, 1887 by Alexander H. Rice

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ALEXANDER H. RICE

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ADDRESS
ON
THE ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY
OF
MR. SETH DAVIS.

ALEXANDER H. RICE.

Number

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DELIVERED AT A LAWN PARTY

Given by the Subscribing Pupils,

AIDED BY THE CITY OF NEWTON,

TO

MR. SETH DAVIS,

ON HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY,

SEPTEMBER 3, 1887.

BY

ALEXANDER H. RICE.

CAMBRIDGE:

JOHN WILSON AND SON,

University Press.

1887.

[From the Boston Saturday Evening Gazette.]

THE city of Newton has a very notable citizen in the person of the venerable SETH DAVIS, known for seventy years or more as Squire Davis. Mr. Davis came to Newton as a lad some eighty-four years ago, and has ever since been influential in everything pertaining to its prosperity and reputation. He has been among the foremost of its citizens in planting trees, cultivating flowers, improving its roads, educating its children and its people, and leading the van in all religious and philanthropic enterprises. He was for many years principal of a famous academy for the training of boys and girls, and of late years has been active in the business of real estate in that now thriving and beautiful city. Mr. Davis attained his one hundredth birthday on Saturday last, and the City Council of Newton joined with such of his former pupils as still survive in a public com-

memoration of that event. The exercises took place on the lawn in front of Mr. Davis's residence, and, as the weather was very fine, attracted a large gathering, some two thousand persons being present. The grounds were beautifully decorated with flowers and flags. The grass was of velvet softness, and flecked with sunshine and the shadows of the fine trees, most of which were planted by his own hands; and the venerable recipient of the honors sat upon an elevated platform, accompanied by his estimable wife, and surrounded by those who were to participate in the ceremonies of the occasion, while near by were his old pupils and neighbors, and many prominent citizens. His Honor MAYOR KIMBALL presided, and made a graceful introductory address. There were several excellent addresses by eminent speakers and ardent friends of Mr. Davis, and an original poem by Dr. SMITH, author of the hymn "America;" also a spicy and piquant poem by Mr. THOMAS DREW, who is a neighbor of Mr. Davis, and singing by the children of the Davis School, one of the public schools of the city. The Rev. Dr. HOVEY, President

of the Theological Seminary in Newton, officiated as chaplain.

By request of the committee of arrangements, Ex-Governor ALEXANDER H. RICE was invited to make the principal address. He was followed by Dr. D. B. HAGAR, Principal of the State Normal School at Salem, by the Hon. J. F. C. HYDE, and by Messrs. N. T. ALLEN and L. ALLEN KINGSBURY. A collation followed the interesting exercises, throughout all of which Mr. Davis manifested a hearty appreciation of the honors that were paid him, and was apparently not at all fatigued.

ADDRESS.

I AM very grateful to you, Mr. Mayor, and to all concerned in preparing this commemorative festival, for the privilege of being here, and for the opportunity of giving expression to some thoughts in sympathy with the occasion.

Any event or circumstance which requires a century of time for its development, or which involves a century of duration, is, to say the least, extraordinary; for the centuries are the longer spaces by which we measure the progress of history, into which we classify the incidents and vicissitudes of