

# Old Village Of Pennsdale Rich In Lore

## “House of Stairs” And Quaker Church Attract Historians

Pennsdale, Feb. 20.—This village, located between Hall's Station and Hughesville, has always been an interesting place to those studying the early history of Lycoming County.

Pennsdale was founded originally by members of the Society of Friends who were attracted to what was then an outpost of civilization by land transactions holding forth the prospects of home sites at low cost.

The village was originally called Pennsville, then Hicksville. About 1829, Job Packer started an industry which he called the Elizabethtown Pottery. When he died a man named Fox took over the pottery, but it failed to attract customers in sufficient number to make it profitable and was abandoned.

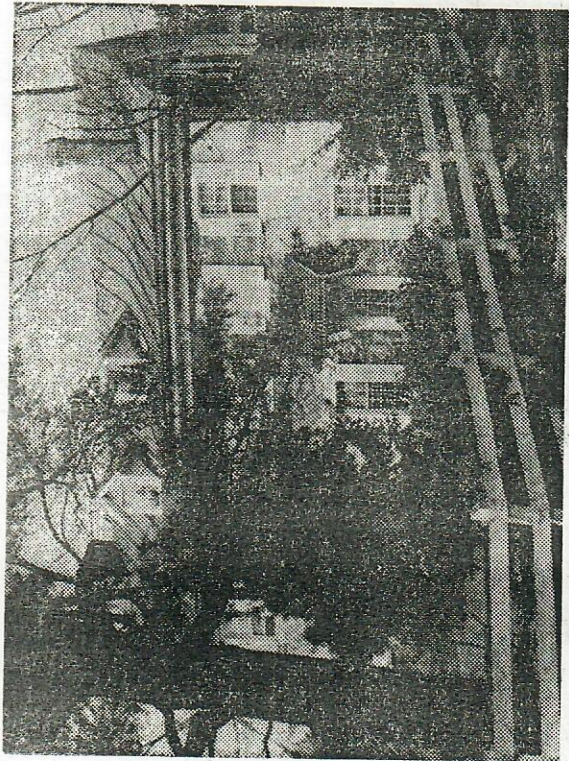
When a postoffice was established and called Penn's Dale, the community took that name and has had it ever since.

### Meeting House of Friends

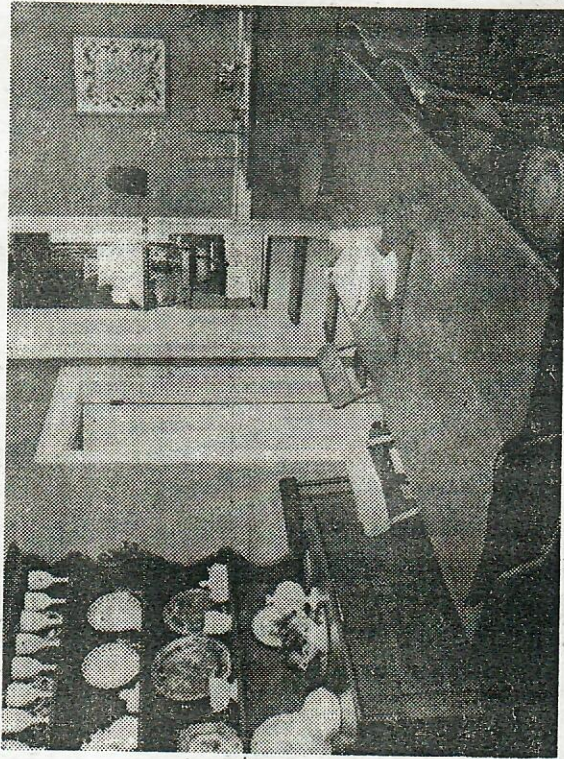
The Friends' meeting house at Pennsdale was opened in 1799 and is one of the oldest places of worship in the county. It replaced a log building which had been used several years for a church and school house and occupied nearly the same site.

The first meetings of the Friends in the township were held in the home of Samuel Wallis, and it is said that he built the log meeting house, although William Ellis was active in promoting the erection of the Pennsdale house of worship.

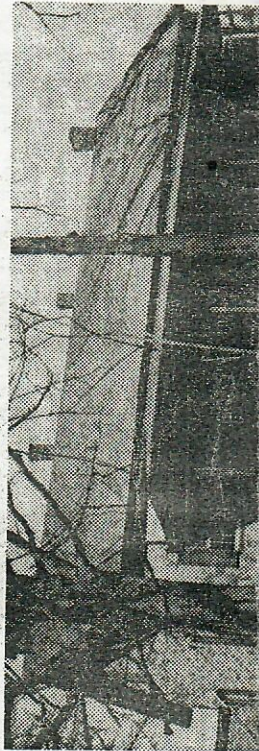
The names of some of the earliest members are still recalled.



“House of Many Stairs” Once Bull's Head Tavern



Lovely Antiques Now Fill “House of Many Stairs”



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The names of some of the earliest members are still recalled. Jesse Haines, a minister of that meeting, was frequently heard in preaching and prayer to the close of his long life, which ended when he was only six days short of being 100 years old.

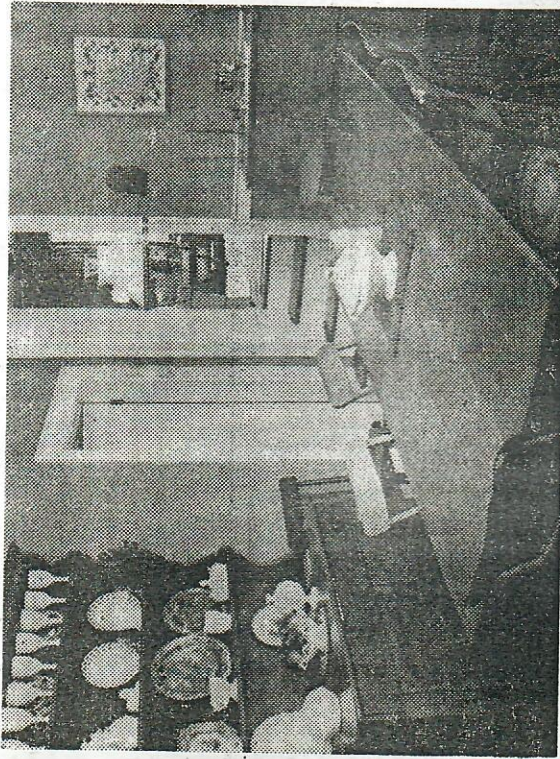
Mercy Ellis, who could preach because Friends believe that women as well as men are commissioned to preach the Gospel, was also a minister and continued in that capacity until she was 87 years old.

Descendants of couples married in the Friends' meeting house more than a century and a half ago still continue to live in this vicinity.

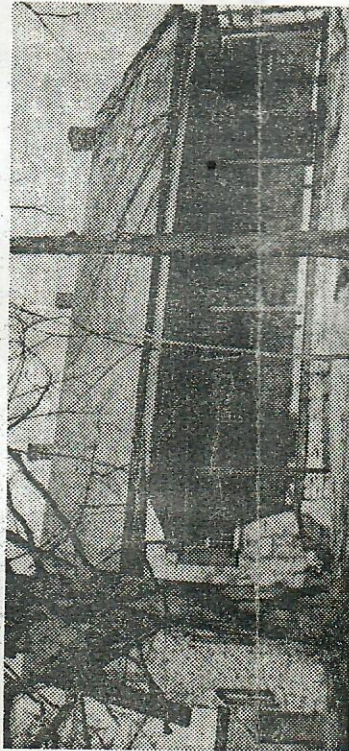
#### Knew Prominent Quakers

Many eminent Quakers visited the settlement in its early days. Among them was James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a judge of the supreme court. He was heavily interested with Samuel Wallis in land transactions.

Back of the well preserved meeting house is a burial ground still used as such. Its modest



Lovely Antiques Now Fill "House of Many Stairs"



Old Friends Meeting House in Good State of Preservation

headstones bear the names of many Quakers once prominent in the affairs of the community and its meeting house.

The quiet little village of about 200 residents is in Muncy Township, most of it stretching along the macadam highway leading from Hall's Station to Hughesville.

Surrounding the village are fertile farms on a few of which the original stone dwellings of the pioneers still stand. One of these is the old Haines home now owned by William Rothfuss. Another is the Kirk place, in which Mrs. Kirl continues to live.

The old Bull's Head Tavern at Pennsdale is still in a remarkable state of preservation. It is called the "House of Many Stairs" because of the fact it has 11 rooms

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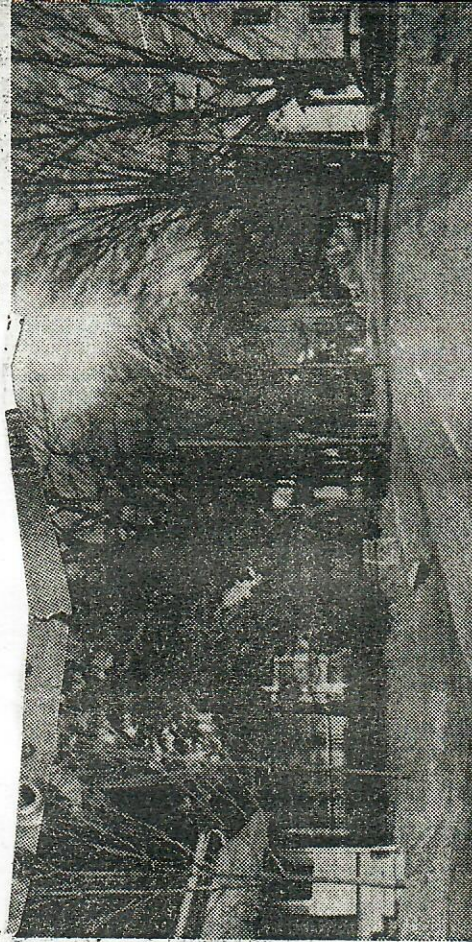
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**Old Stone Haines Home Now Owned by William Rothfuss**



**Tree-Lined Main Street of Quiet Village of Pennsdale**