

Feb 16, 1935  
"The House Of Many Stairs"

Editor's Note—(We have had several requests lately for information on the "House of Many Stairs", located at Pennsdale and how it got its title. The title was given it by a member of the editorial staff of this paper, who discovered it on one of his rambles about the country a number of years ago. We herewith re-publish a part of the article that appeared in our columns at the time, especially the part dealing with the "House of Many Stairs".) **For House**

"Have you ever noticed that old log house, with the roof fallen in and the doors and the windows gone, about the last house on the left-hand side going up through the village? Well, if you haven't, take a good look at it the next time you pass, because that's the oldest house in Lycoming County. Next to this is an old stone house with two front doors. Well, this is the second oldest house in Lycoming County, and probably there is no other house in all the world like it. This house I would call the "house of many stairs". The man who built it must have had a spite against his wife and wanted to kill her climbing stairs. This old stone house was originally a hotel, "The Bull's Head", owned by the Jones brothers, who sold it and "went west" over 75 years ago. In front of this hotel of many years ago stood a tall pole with a big sign of a bull's head, where men tied their horses while they went inside and filled up on liquor. Just in front of the door was a big pump with a long iron handle. The pump is gone, the horse shed is gone, but several of the big trees and the old building are still here. Through the courtesy of Charles E. Mendenhall we were shown through the old building last Sunday. Stepping up one step we entered the old kitchen; we saw the old fireplace with its old oven mouth, and the old irons to the crane are still here. The kitchen is unchanged—just like it was 150 or more years ago. Going down cellar, you go down just one step, and you are in a cave in the side of a hill. It was cool in here—but even in the coldest Winter nothing freezes. From the kitchen we entered the sitting room, up four steps. Originally this was the old bar-room. The big cupboard along the entire wall where they kept the liquors is still here; so is the side bar under the cupboard. The walls are plain, whitewashed; the window glass small and the window casements deep. There is no room in the entire building on a level; each room is either higher or lower than the other. Four more steps take you from the sitting room to the parlor; 11 more steps take you up into a bedroom. In this room you will find some very odd closets and cupboards. Seven steps more up you enter into another odd-shaped bedroom. Ten steps more up takes you to a little window where you can look out near the roof; seven steps down to the left take you into another small bedroom and still back of this, up two steps, is another bedroom. From here you can walk out a back door into the garden, which is on a hill. Think of going into your garden out of a second-story door! And from a little hall here you will find another door leading to a straight stairway that takes you down into the cellar from the top floor. In one of the upper rooms Mr. Mendenhall took from

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"Throughout this old building you can see the old wood stove of long ago—odd chairs, odd bookcase, odd picture frames. And in the sitting room—that was once used as a bar-room you will now find the Bible on the table surrounded with good clean books, and a motto on the wall, 'God bless our home!'"