

#262Y  
YC

## S.C. - Homes, Historic - York County



THIS STATELY ANTE-BELLUM HOUSE near Sharon is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hord. Dr. Robert Armstrong Ross built the house. For years the late Dr. J. H. Saye had his medical office in an upstairs room. (Herald Staff Photo)

# Ante-Bellum House Near Sharon Built By Dr. Ross

By Elizabeth Reed

*Evening Herald - Oct. 20, 1949*

Interwoven with the story of the historic Ross house near Sharon are the stories of one of the county's best loved A.R.P. ministers and most respected physicians.

Dr. Robert Alexander Ross, D.D. came to serve as pastor of the Sharon A.R.P. church in his early manhood. He met and married Miss Nancy Kennedy in 1846 and is believed to have built the stately house in that year or perhaps a year or so earlier. The Sharon A.R.P. church had no parsonage and so it was necessary to construct a home for the new minister.

He was unusually lucky in his choice of a builder. Andy Hafner seems to have been a general contractor in the days when contractors were few. Perhaps it is due to Hafner that so many well preserved homes are found today in the Sharon area.

Hafner built the two story house in the prevailing style of the day with two stories and chimneys at either end.

He apparently used the best materials and today after more than 100 years the house is still strong and firm. For the past few years the home has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond F. Hord. The farm is now used as a pure bred Hampshire Red poultry farm for the sale of eggs to a Spartanburg hatchery.

When Mr. Hord bought the place and wanted to bring it up to date,

he found that the original floors had been hand dressed, that the sills were hand hewn and put together with pegs. He found traces of the old kitchen that once stood in the yard.

Without touching the original floor plan or destroying the original plaster or body of the home, he painted, underpinned, re-roofed the home and wrought some extensive interior changes.

The walls were papered and hardwood floors were put down in the downstairs rooms. The kitchen that was in an ell of the home was discarded and a new and modern kitchen was put in place.

The original hardware, the old floors upstairs, the walls and the original plan were left the same.

### Ross Family History

Dr. Ross and his first wife Nancy Kennedy Ross had three children, Naomi, who married a McGill of Smyrna, and died there; Jane, who married J. M. Caldwell and died in 1942; and Samuel Ross, who went to North Carolina to live and die.

After the death of Nancy Kennedy Ross, Dr. Ross married Miss Naomi Caldwell. To this union a number of children were born: Robert, William, Alice, Mary, John, James and McElwee. McElwee, now lives in McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ross was born in 1817 in Cabarrus county, North Carolina and died in the lovely old home in

1903. He served for half a century as the pastor of the Sharon A.R.P. church.

The only living descendants of Dr. Ross still living in York county are Miss Ethel Caldwell, R. C. and J. G. Caldwell (daughter and sons of Mary Ross who married R. H. G. Caldwell), and Pinckney and Sam Caldwell of Smyrna (the sons of Jane Ross and J. M. Caldwell).

After the death of Dr. Ross the property passed to his son William who sold the house and land to Hafner Stephenson.

### Dr. Saye

It was in 1885 that Dr. J. H. Saye, as a young physician came from Rodman to Sharon and established his office in the home of Dr. Ross. He used the room upstairs facing west. He had one of the blinds cut in two so he could consult with patients on the outside.

In 1893 Dr. Saye set up his office in the First National Bank in Sharon where he practiced until his death in 1947. In his 61 years as a physician the beloved doctor figured that he delivered approximately 3,000 babies.

In 1933 A. G. White of Cleveland county, North Carolina bought the old home and 150 acres of land from the Federal Land Bank. To tell the truth, the old home had fallen in

bad repair by that time. Mr. White lived in the old home from 1933 to 1942. He then built a little house near Sharon and moved to it. He died last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Hord have two children, Eugene, who is a student at Clemson college and Dorothy, 14 year old Sharon High School student. Mrs. Hord is in charge of the store operated by the family on the highway. The Hord family has played a large part in the organization of the First Baptist Church in Sharon. Organized in 1938, the church now has 50 members and is a credit to the community.