



**THE STATELY ASHE HOME** at McConnellsville is one of the many fine old houses still preserved in York county. — (Herald Staff Photo).

# Neighborhood Spirit Helped Build Old Ashe Home, At McConnellsville

*Herald Staff Photo*  
By Elizabeth Reed

Some people may wonder why a house as fine as the old Ashe house in McConnellsville could have been built in such troubled times as 1873. That was when carpetbag rule and radical government had full control of things in York county.

The explanation is that neighbors really helped each other in those days. They chose a day for a log cutting and got together the timbers, they met again when the lumber had been sawed in a primitive saw mill, and pegged each of the smooth boards and heavy timbers in place to form the sturdy dwelling.

John J. Ashe built his home on the site of an older house.

Today the old house has all the modern conveniences that go to make life more comfortable, but the house itself is little changed.

The two story structure with full second story was built with inside chimneys rather than the end chimneys so prevalent at the time. It has full size rooms.

The stair rises to the second floor with a graceful curve and ceilings downstairs are a full 12 feet in height. Plaster put in place in 1873 is found in some of the rooms; in others the wide smooth pine boards easily found in those days in abundant timber supply, form the walls, ceilings and the floors.

Remarkably little wear and tear is evident in the home.

### The Ashe Family

John J. Ashe and his wife, Sarah Rainey Ashe of Sharon, had six children: James Calvin, who died in 1896; Maggie Ashe Anderson, who married Will Anderson of Lowrys; John R. Ashe, who became president of the York Mill; Addie Ashe, who married

January; and W. N. Ashe, who owned and operated the Ashe brick works at Van Wyck until his death. His sister Elizabeth Ashe Moore and her son still operate the large plant.

John J. Ashe died in 1878 when a tree fell on him as he was lumbering. Mrs. Ashe died in 1890. Their son James Calvin was a candidate for county commissioner. He became overheated at a speaking at Tirzah and died a few days later.

At the death of Mrs. Sarah Rainey Ashe in 1890 her son J. C. Ashe and his wife, Mrs. Eliza Inman bought the house and land and moved into the house with their children.

They were J. Luther Ashe of Saluda street in Rock Hill; Mrs. Massey Ashe Harshaw, now dead; Miss Ina Inman Ashe; William Elias Ashe who died about seven years ago; Mrs. Estelle Ashe Wilson who lives in Lowrys; and Mrs. Ruth Ashe Lever, wife of M. D. Lever.

Mr. and Mrs. Lever and their children and Miss Ina Ashe live in the house today. The children are Ina Elizabeth, who teaches in York; Marion Davis Lever and Herbert James Lever, senior and freshman student respectively at Clemson College; and Ruth Ashe who is a high school student at York.

This is one of a series