

WHAT IF THAT OLD HOUSE COULD TALK

I like so many of you, have driven the country "back roads" and have seen many an "old" house. Oftentimes the old house is deserted and located off to the side, so to speak. The architecture is, as I say it, of the "early times," the early nineteen hundreds or maybe some few houses before 1900. Often you will see some of these old houses still in good repair and being lived in. The larger ones are, to my eye, magnificent. My curious mind, after enjoying the structural and design beauty, causes me to ask the question, "Wonder what stories that old house could tell if it could talk?"

Because of the aforementioned my inspiration for the following:

I wish you could talk, Old House. If you could, what would you say? What is different from back then, than it is today? How many families have lived and loved and now are gone, what interesting events during your time came along?

How many tears have been shed within your walls? If you could talk Old House, would you reveal to us all? If you will, tell us about all children you have helped to grow up. How love was shared by parents to the children's praise.

Speak, Old House, and tell us if you will the many times events back then brought to all joys and thrills. Talk, 'Old House', and tell us, not to make us sad, but make known to us, not only the good but also of the bad.

Tell us, also, Old House, how adversity was overcome, how many victories, with God's help were won? Talk to us about the joys brought to you Old House, when a baby was born, the cause of celebration throughout.

Tell us about the babies as they grew-up to be young adults and pillars of strength to the community. Tell us about the generations and times, which are now history, about people and events, which will be parts of eternity.

Talk, Old House, and make known to us what has been and should be. Talk, Old House, and tell us about your history; Talk Old House and let it be known throughout all the land, the strength we all need **if** for good we will always stand.

William T. (Bill) Richardson, Jr.