

built Temperance House



Press Enterprise/Bill Hughes

corner of Old Berwick Road and Lowe Road in Lime Ridge was once a hotel called Temperance House.

Although it was not quite finished, the Jamisons moved into the new house on January 1, 1843. Three carpenters continued work on the second and third floors of what was to later become the Vincent and Elizabeth Low home.

Then another protracted meeting was held at Mifflinville, and Jamison was in attendance. He wrote, "Now old John Freas, about 64 years old, had never had religion before going to that meeting, but he went to the mourners' bench and was happily converted. He shouted and rejoiced and fell on the floor and was stiff as a dead man or in a trance. After the meeting was over, the Christian people carried him to a house nearby, and the old man was still in a trance for another half hour when he came to and again praised God."

He 'got religion'

About a week after the incident, Jamison talked with Freas, and the latter

told him about his conversion and urged him to also go to the Mifflinville services.

He did so, and wrote that his "second conversion" resulted. He went to still another of the sessions, and he wrote, "Just as I came to the church the whole congregation was kneeling and I kneeled at the door at the first seat. But the altar and mourners' bench were at the other end of the church."

In any event he "got religion" and the next day, March 17, 1843, according to his writing, "I told my wife that we would have family worship before we would eat and that she should get the children, five in number, to kneel while I would pray. My wife done so. When breakfast was ready I also told my carpenters, one teamster and one lime burner to also eat and I talked to them and told them I got religion last night and said that I will have different rules in my house and family."

One didn't kneel

He told them to kneel while he prayed and read the Bible "and they all done so excepting one who did not kneel."

The next morning, when all were at breakfast again he said, "I pointed my finger at the one that did not kneel the first morning and told him I will pay you off (if he didn't kneel). I cannot make you come to my rules; one thing I can do is discharge you and send you away." That did it.

After that, they all were on their knees while he prayed.

In the latter part of his writing, he commented, in part, "Now in the year of 1866 in the month of August there was a camp meeting held and old Father Kohlman from Williamsport, an M.E. (Methodist Episcopal) preacher, preached." After that Jamison said he walked and prayed for 14 days and then felt "sanctified."

There is no question whatever that he was sincere.