

The Abandoned House

By J. W. Henson

One lovely fall night as John Allen was returning home under a bright harvest moon, he caught a glimpse of moonlight in the window of a vacant house that stood in a field not far from their house. Huse used the old structure to store hay in, and fed the cattle from it, so they congregated around that spot awaiting a handout.

John proceeded home and awoke his father, who had gone to bed early after a hard day's work on the farm. "Pa", John said, "I was just passing the old house in the pasture and saw lights in the window."

In a shot Huse was on his feet, dressing, and reached for his favorite rifle. "They will lay around there smoking and burn the building down," he replied to John, "Lets go put an end to it."

John took his dad to the spot where the moon reflected its lights from the lone window in the old board and batten building. Then moving to one side he said, "Look Pa, they have put out the light. They must have heard us coming!"

Huse called out in a deep, loud voice, "Come out of there, and right now, or I will start shooting!" No one came out and as promised Huse shot a warning into the air and again called for the trespassers to come out at once. There was no response, so Huse emptied the rifle's magazine into the old building.

Back at home and in bed, John entered Huse's bedchamber and said, "Pa, I bet you shot some of the cows up there in the pasture!" and then returned to his bed. He later heard the old man get up, dress, and taking a lantern head off across the meadow to the old shack to be sure his animals were alright.