

# *The* *Charm* *of* *Years*

BY  
NANCY  
WOODWORTH

SOME people yearn for an *old* house, a rambling structure where space is not at a premium. Where they can invite their friends for week-ends without throwing each member of the family out of his accustomed sleeping quarters and where, no matter how many guests might be housed, there would still be room for those who wish to be

quiet and alone to follow the dictates of their moods.

In central New York State, as well as other outlying sections, there often can be found abandoned but lovely old houses which can be bought for a very nominal sum. Houses built in the late eighteenth century and the early nineteenth possess not only good architectural character but they are usually sturdily built

and can be rehabilitated at a surprisingly low figure. Of course, the only safe and sensible thing to do after spying a house you may admire and covet is to call in an architect who has the experience necessary to judge the value and the cost of renovating the place and the skill required to plan the remodeling without spoiling the original beauty.

A striking example of what can be done is amply illustrated in the Clark T. Cutting house near beautiful Canandaigua Lake, New York. There a most enviable job of remodeling has been completed. The Revolutionary War had been over just eighteen years and the War of 1812 was but a threat when this house was started. W. H. Jameson, a canny Scotch settler bought his broad acres in the Finger Lake region and announced that he would build a manor house. That was in 1794. Operations began at once. Rocks were hauled through the wilderness from Lake Ontario, twenty miles away. Great timbers of oak were hewn from the trees on the farm

and by hard and diligent care, planking was made smooth with hand adze, that the finest house in the county might be properly floored.

How proud Mr. Jameson must have been when his house was finished, his barns were built and he was ready for his "open house!" Huge fireplaces which would take whole logs promised warmth and cheer; the windows shone with glass that had come all the way from Pennsylvania; the hardware had been brought from New York City and the shiny new furniture—the chairs, the tables and the poster-beds bright with calicoes and patch-work quilts—made a picture befitting the home of a man of means.

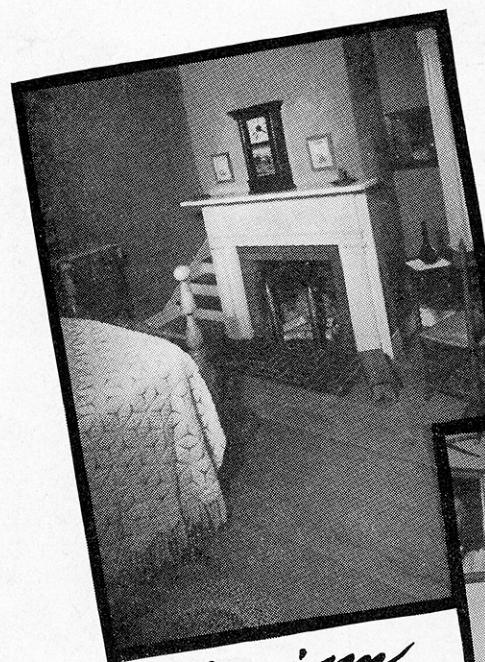
Years sped on and finally the "homeplace" passed into the hands of the oldest son who found the quarters which his father had thought so roomy, too small, so wings were added until the house assumed the rambling proportions which it has today. Gradually death, ambition or the desire for the city

brought changes until at last the house was abandoned. One day the Cuttings were riding in the country admiring the old houses which are legion in this land of ours when they came upon the old place. They looked at the honestly built stone house and saw the opportunity for enjoyment in developing and modernizing this delightful landmark. Thus furnaces, baths and electricity have brought modern comfort. Standard kitchen equipment has been installed so cleverly and efficiently that none of the old-fashioned charm has been lost. The furnishings so unmistakably flavor of the past that even the most untutored sense can feel the perfection of it all.

The large yard, neglected these many years has been sown to blue grass and groomed. The trees have been pruned and made healthy again and the barn has given way to modern garages. From the street the place offers an almost irresistible allurement to the passers-by. The hospitable "welcoming arms" remind one

of Stratford, the home of the Lees in Virginia, as they lead up to the second floor of the main stone upright. The "arms" are, indeed, so very welcoming that even the best of stern good manners give way and one finds himself walking toward the house with firm, determined steps.

To enter is to reenter a daydream of other days and no moment of disillusionment comes. Delight follows delight as an occasional rise of a step or two or five takes the visitor from room to room, where each moment there is rejoicing that the present owners had vision and foresight to carry out the restoration in a manner suitable to the dignity and charm of years. The character of the house has been kept throughout and were the ghost of the first Jameson to return to the home which he built and where he lived his days, he would not be disturbed in any way, for he would see a finer and more beautiful home than it was the day he so carefully planned for his house-warming these 145 years ago.



*Early American gun shells fashion the Andirons*

*The Charmed years reflected in quaint comfort of Antiques*



*Early American Furniture is used throughout to preserve the charm of years*



*Historic Pieces serve again in Pleasant Duty-*

*All Photographs by THOMAS BLANDINO*

