

PEARSON'S PLACES AND THINGS

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November 1998

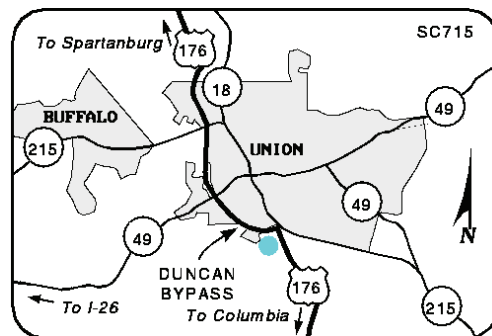
Issue 5

PEARSON FAMILY REUNION!!

This entire issue is about Union South Carolina, and to give you the most information we can for next years Pearson reunion to help in your planning. The next issue will return to our normal format. We have also pushed this issue into November, this will allow us to send one out right after the reunion in August.

Plan for August 6th, 7th and 8th, 1999!!!

We will publish the schedule of events in later issues, however, August 6th will be used for check in and getting to know the area. This issue we will be telling you as much as we can about



Union County, South Carolina. As we said in the last issue, we (Elton & Evelyn Pearson and Essie and I took a trip to Union County as a fact finding tour. Here is what we learned; First is the area hotels. There are two "new" hotels that if you can make your reservations early there should be no problem finding room to stay. The first is the **Comfort Inn** at 315 N. Duncan Bypass (US 176), Union, SC 29379 Phone (864) 427-5060, Fax: (864) 427-5045, Reservation line 1-(800) 228-5150. Check-in / Check-out times; In

2:00 PM, Out 11:00 AM **Special Information:** Whirlpool rooms, fitness center, hospitality room, king suites, kitchenettes, Blackstock Revolutionary War Battlefield, Sumter National Forest, John D. Lake all are nearby. **Directions:** From I26 W, take exit 72, Hwy 121 and 176 NW. From Spartanburg take Bus. I85, exit I585 / 176E. From I77 take exit 65 (HWY 9) to US 49S to HWY 176. Next is the **Jameson Inn**, it is comparable to the Comfort Inn. Both these hotels are very new (less than three years) indoor hallways, clean and well kept. The



The Jameson Inn

Jameson is on highway 49 right around the corner from the Comfort Inn. These hotels will run about \$42.00 per night for a single plus \$4.00 per person. Reservations can be made as soon as



January, Reservation line 1 (800) 541-3268. Next I can group together, **Palmetto Inn**, at 1235 Duncan Bypass P.O. Box 701, Union SC 29379, Tel. (864) 427-5682, Fax (864) 429-8120.

American Inn, 755 N. Duncan By-Pass, Union, SC 29379 (864) 427-5444 and, **Stardust Motel** 1041 Jonesville Highway (864) 674-5534, these are older and are built in "Motor Lodge" style, outside halls, two stories. Prices will average about \$30.00 to \$35.00 for a single and \$5.00 more per person. Again reservation can be made as soon as January. **River Chase Inn**, 481 Fairwood Blvd. (864) 427-9041, is on a golf course just out of town 3 or 4 miles.

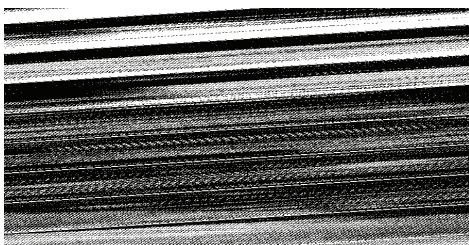
There is also an Antebellum County Inn, **The Inn at Merridun**. The Inn has 5 distinctively decorated bedrooms with private baths, from which to choose.

The Governors' Gallery, The Sisters' Boudoir, The Senator's Chamber, Union Square and Lucy's Garden Retreat. Accommodations start at \$85.00

The Inn at Merridun

and include evening desserts and beverages, a full gourmet breakfast, use of the parlors, the library and the 9 acres of wooded grounds. Address 100 Merridun Place, Union, SC 29379, Tel (864) 427-7052, Fax (864) 429-0373, E-mail merridun@carol.net. Web site www.bbonline.com/sc/merridun. Rates \$85.00 to \$115.00.

The Inn of Fairforest, Scottish manor home built into side of a hill in rolling woodlands. Features mahogany ceilings, woodwork and hardwood floors and six fireplaces. Four rooms (three are two-room suites). Large hot springs hot tub, walking paths, rockers in arbor. Full



The Inn of Fairforest

breakfast. 2403 Cross Keys Hwy., Union SC 29379 Tel (864)429-3950 Fax (864) 427-8598.

Rates \$85.00 to \$115.00.

Juxa Plantation restored antebellum built in 1828. Enjoy elegant atmosphere in county setting. "A 19th Century retreat from a 20th Century world." Explore old kitchen, smoke house, antique shop on premises. Wooded paths on over 100 acres. Horse stable/pasture available. Magnolia Tea Room at Juxa available for tea, lunch, supper and parties. Is at 117 Wilson Rd., Union, SC 29379, Tel/ Fax (864) 427-8688. Rates \$85.00.

I will conclude this section by saying that what ever your life stile or budget you should be able to find it in Union.

Other facts about Union:

Population (1990) 30,337. Average temp (July) 78° F.

One hundred Churches, 3 shopping centers and 8 Department stores. The newspaper is the Union Daily Times, Radio Station WBCU-AM 1460. Television, channels – 5 networks, all



cable. Telephone is BellSouth and Chester Phone Company. There are 5 Elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 1 junior high schools, 3 high schools, 1 vocational school, 1 private school, 1 two year college and 4 four year colleges within 30 miles. Union also has 4 banks, 2 hos-



pitals and 23 physicians. Union County has drawn attention for its surge in economic growth which began in 1994 and which includes the development of a new 165-acre industrial park, developed with the cooperation of city and county governments and the development board. The local flavor of Union, its unique barbecue restaurants, the historical Inn at Merridun, the bed and breakfast which housed crews from national television networks and the residents of Union and Union County have all been praised by visitors from afar.



University of South Carolina

History buffs have enjoyed the tidbits of information which have been gleaned in their visits: the monument to John Pratt, who was credited with inventing the first workable typewriter in Union on April 13, 1831, the Union County Carnegie Library, built in 1905 the first Carnegie library in South Carolina, the community of Pinckneyville, which lost

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to West Point, New York by one vote in Congress to become the site of the United States Military Academy, and which once was the site of a clock shop owned by Seth Thomas.

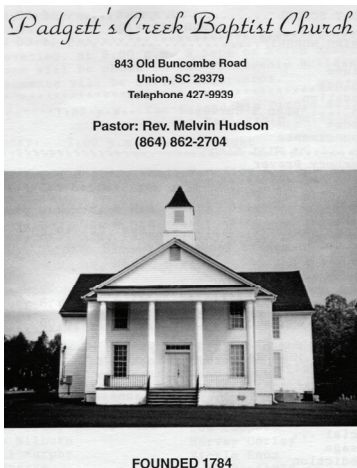
Rose Hill Plantation State Park

offers a nostalgic look at the antebellum South, while providing an array of activities for visitors. The plantation, built between 1828-1832, was the residence of William Henry Gist, the secession governor of South Carolina. Tours of the house and the rose garden are available as well as picnic areas, and walking/biking/nature trails providing both an educational and recreational experience for its guests. The outstanding feature of this 44-acre park is the former home of South Carolina's "Secession Governor" William H. Gist. This early 19th century Federal style house has been restored and contains furnishings once owned by the Gist family. An outstanding hardwood grove is located near the mansion and the spacious grounds include the rose gardens and original plantation buildings. The surrounding Sumter National Forest and nearby Tyger River offer a variety of outdoor activities. The mansion and gardens may be rented for weddings, receptions and other special occasions. Picnic shelters are available and may be reserved in advance for a nominal fee.

Another other point of interest

to us as the Pearson family is the Padgett's Creek Baptist Church. Organized in 1784, Padgett's Creek Baptist Church was first called the Church of Christ on Tyger River. It was added to the national register in 1971 and is located in the Cross Keys section of Union County.

A PARTIAL HISTORY OF THE



PADGETT'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH OF UNION COUNTY, SC

Reflecting on the Pearson Families by Elton E. Pearson Sr.

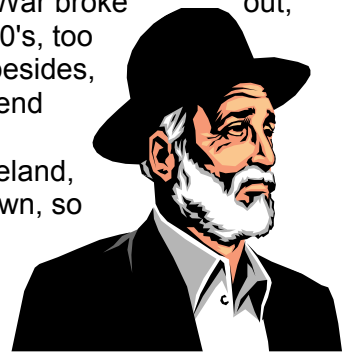
About 1784 when the Padgett's Creek Baptist Church was first getting established, many of the Quakers in the area were being excommunicated from the



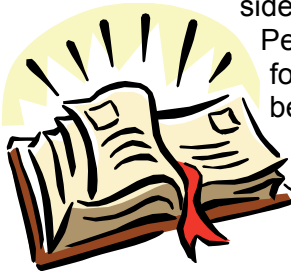
Friends Churches at Bush River, Raburns Creek, Cane Creek, Tiger River, Mud lick, Allwoods, White lick, Edisto, Rocky Springs, Charleston, and Padgetts Creek. Mostly in the years 1776 through 1782. With

out a church to attend, when they returned from the Revolutionary War, many joined the Baptist Churches in the general area.

The Pearsons were no exceptions. Enoch Pearson of 1718-May-25 (He liked to spell his name Enock) and his wife Tabitha (Jacocks), Pearson of 1734-Dec-7, Joined the Padgett's Creek Baptist Church, as they lived in the area near Rte 18 & Rte 16. They were members prior to 1784, because Enock died in 1780 from wounds suffered in the war. He had learned surveying from George Washington and became good friends, even Tabitha had been introduced to Enock by George himself. When the War broke out, Enock was already in his late 50's, too old to fight and was a Quaker besides, believing in pacifism; but his friend George, was now a General in charge of defense of their homeland, and Enock could not let him down, so joined in the fight and was wounded at the Battle of Charleston. Enock's son William Pearson of 1761-Apr-10



(who married in 1777 to Sarah Jones, Jacques of 1758-May-20, widow of Edmund Jacques, who was killed by the Tories), was banished from the Quaker Church in 1778-Mar-23 for going after a horse thief with a gun. He also joined the Revolutionary fight, some records indicate that he had fought on both sides. Enock's oldest son, Thomas Pearson of 1754-Oct-8 also fought on the other side, already being a Colonel in the British Army, he ended up going to Nova Scotia, Canada, after the War and raised family there.



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But, back to William Pearson of 1761. In 1791-Aug-7 was reprimanded by the Padgett's Creek Baptist Church and excommunicated for making whiskey (from a formula, which he improved on, from his maternal grandmother's family the Stouts), "The church meeting labored with him about the principle of falling from Grace, but he held to his principle and refused to go with the church in their standing, and was Ex-communicated for the same and his hard Spirit with the church."

William's son, Samuel Pearson of 1788--Apr-30 is buried in the church cemetery, his stone reads simply "SAM". He died on 1823-Oct-4. Fran S. Pearson is buried there close by, Samuel's infant brother of C-1795 is also buried there as L.J.P., and Samuel's own son, William B. Pearson of 1821 died 1854-Feb-26 (Prov. 22:1) is also buried in the cemetery. William's mother (Samuel's wife) was Anna Beard who was born in 1788 and first married in 1816 Nov-16 to Samuel Pearson and had four children, two of which married Joel Betsill of 1811-Dec-16. Sarah Ann F. Pearson of 1819-Feb-12 (widow of M. F. Martin of 1819) and Lucretia Maria Pearson of 1823-Mar-9, they had ten children between them. When Samuel died, Anna Eventually married secondly to Thomas Hollis of 1792-Apr-4 in the year 1829-Nov-11. Anna was buried as Anna Hollis in 1856-Feb-17 and Thomas was buried in 1858-Apr-22 next to his first wife Rachel Bobo, Hollis of 1790 who died 1829-Mar-17.

Isaac Pearson of 1771-Jun-29, a son of Enock & Tabitha married Elizabeth Murphy of 1769-May-10, who's brothers Sion Murphy (1765-Jan-31) & Bird Murphy (1772-Oct-13) were both members of the Padgett's Creek Baptist Church.

Other relation to the Pearson Family were:

JEREMIAH Burns of 1782 (A Grandson of Enock & Tabitha through their daughter Margaret Pearson of 1756-Oct-17, who married in 1774 to Robert Burns of 1758.) Jeremiah was ordained to preach in 1805-Aug-16 by the Padgett's Creek Baptist Church and was married in C-1801 to church member Levina Jackson of C-1782, daughter of Ralph Jackson Jr. & Delilah Murphy.

DAVID Floyd Jr. of 1786-Jun-19 an elected deacon in 1803-Jan- and an early member of the church, was ordained as deacon in 1803-Sep-17. Rev.

JOHN Gibbs of C-1810-5-16, elder & secretary of the Padgett's Creek Baptist Church, ordained sometime before 1870 as a minister of the New Prospect Baptist Church.



AILSEY Garrett of C-1790 married 1804-Dec-6 to Thomas Green Pearson of 1786, son of William Pearson of 1761. Their only son, John William Pearson of 1808-Jan-19 established a Community Church in Orange Springs, Florida, about 1852, as well as a cemetery, and the town itself.

ANNE Dillard of 1805, a daughter of John Dillard of C-1780 & Elizabeth Pearson of 1784-Feb-16 (daughter of William Pearson of 1761)

Several GORE'S are related, as are the LAWSON'S, the BOBO'S, the SPARK'S, and the TOWNSEND'S, and many others.

Reference:

A History of Padgett's Creek Baptist Church, (By Claude Ezell Sparks). 1973.

Union County SC Cemeteries (By Mrs., E.D. Whaley Sr.) 1976

Union County Heritage (By Mannie lee Mabry). 1981

The encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy (By W.W. Hinshaw). 1969

The Genealogy of the Pearson Family (By Elton E. Pearson, Sr.) Not Yet Published.

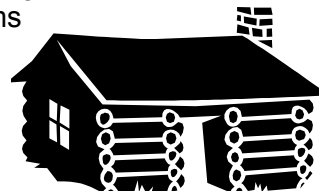
Union County History

Before white settlers came to the what is now Union County, the area was part of the vast territory claimed by the Cherokee Indian nation as hunting grounds. There is some evidence the Cherokee may have inhabited parts of Union County, as some early land grants in the county are described as containing Indian cabins.

The first white settlers came to Union from Virginia in 1749 and settled on the Pacolet and Tyger rivers and at Fairforest Creek. In the next few years, other families came from Virginia and Pennsylvania and settled around Brown's Creek and Cane Creek.

According to local historian Jeannette M. Christopher, the years between 1763 and the beginning of the Revolutionary War saw the greatest migration into Union County. People built log cabins, cleared the fertile river and creek bottoms and planted tobacco, flax, corn, wheat and other grains, and grazed their animals. There were few slave owners in the early days of the county.

The city and county of Union got its name from the old Union Church that stood not far from Monarch



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Mill. For a long time the town of Union was known as Unionville, with the name later being shortened. The church was a place for people of the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian faiths to worship.

During the Revolutionary War, the Battle of Musgrove Mill took place on the Enoree River on Aug. 18, 1780, at the junction of what is now Union, Spartanburg and Laurens counties. Other battle sites in Union County include Fish Dam Ford and Blackstock.

A district court was formed by the General Assembly in the late 1700s in the upper part of the county at a new town named Pinckneyville, located near the junction of the Broad and Pacolet Rivers. Pinckneyville was to be "the Charleston of the Upstate" and its streets were named after streets in that city. Despite settlers, a post office, hotels and a jail, the town never caught on, and the court was moved to Union. Interested persons can visit the deserted town and see the remains of the courthouse.

Thomas Cary Duncan, who founded Union and Buffalo mills, was known as Union's pioneer capitalist and industrialist. He began his own railroad company to connect Union and Buffalo. Hundreds of families moved to Union from North Carolina and



Tennessee and spent their lives working in cotton mills. In the early days of World War I, Union County became famous for being the only county in the nation that did not have a draft because its draft quotas were filled by volun-

teer.

Although Union County has no interstate highway, a new four-lane highway was completed in 1991 to Spartanburg. County officials hope this will attract new industry and housing developments. Spartanburg County provides water along the highway from the intersection of the Jonesville-West Springs Highway to just above the Spartanburg County line. Union County's industrial base is a diverse one including the manufacture of ball bearings, felt products, bath products, cordage, metal forging, textile fiber, woven goods, finished textile products, and paper

pulp. There are also machine shops and metal fabrication facilities. In August 1997, The Walt Disney Co. announced plans to build a 500,000-square-foot distribution center to be located north of Jonesville on Highway 176.



More Historical Sites

From Revolutionary War battle fields to the Buffalo Mill Village, Union has numerous listings on the National Register of Historic Places. Pinckneyville, which was supposed to become the "Charleston of the Upstate" and is now a ghost town, was Union's first addition to the list in December 1969. Visitors may see the remains of the courthouse there. It is located in the northeastern portion of the county, 13 miles from Union and one-half mile from the confluence of Pacolet and Broad Rivers.

The Means House, located off the Jonesville-West Springs Highway in Jonesville, was donated to the Union County Historical Foundation in the 1960s. The two-story brick house was built around 1821 by the Gen. Hugh Means family.

Located on 320 S. Church St. in Union, the first recorded services at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity were held in 1844. A Northern soldier who died in Union during the Civil War is buried in the northern section of the graveyard with his feet symbolically in the South, while the rest of those buried are laid to rest in the opposite direction.

Central School, which now is a part of the USC-Union campus, is located on Academy Street. The first class graduated from Central School in 1896. Hillside is the ancestral home of the James Hill Family, a private residence located near Carlisle, it was completed in the 1820s. It is owned and occupied by Jeannette May Christopher, great-granddaughter of James and Susannah Hill.

Fish Dam Ford was named for the fish dam which was built by Indians and can still be seen just upstream from the bridge on S.C. Highway 72 between Carlisle and Chester. The dam is a fine example of the Indians' engineering skill, having withstood high floods for well over 250 years. The Battle of Fish Dam Ford was fought during the Revolutionary War between Gen. Thomas Sumter and Major Wemyss on Nov. 9, 1780, and



was a victory for the Americans. A marker on the east side of the stream designates the battle site. The anchor and landmark of the **Buffalo Mill Village** is the mill, built in 1902 four miles west of Union. The

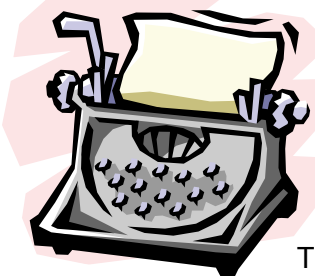
mill and its surrounding village have been described as "one of the state's most distinctive" by Andy Chandler, National Register manager with the State Historic Preservation office. The plant with its own power source was a signature of the work of W.B. Smith Whaley, well-known for his structures in both South Carolina and New England. The mill and its surrounding area were added to the list in 1991. In January, Bob Caidwell Sr., announced that he had purchased the mill and would rename it "Buffalo Mill Company LLC." The mill will manufacture several product categories to include bath and body products and candles. The company hopes to begin operations in late spring.

Merridun, which is located at 100 Merridun Place off Rice Avenue in the City of Union, was built in 1855 by William Keenan. The home has been converted into a bed and breakfast inn by owner Jim and Peggy Waller. Constructed around 1845, The Shrubs or The Dawkins House was the home of Judge Thomas M. Dawkins. Gov. McGrath moved the state capital with the officials and archives there just before Gen. William T. Sherman reached Columbia during the Civil War. The home, located on 109 N. Church St., has been converted into an apartment complex.

The Meng House, a private residence located on 117 E. Academy Street and the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Lipford, was built in 1832. The lumber for the home was brought from Columbia and Charleston. Identical columned facades on two sides of the house were designed by W.W. James for Zachariah Herndon. Four generations of the Clough-Meng family occupied the house.

The private residence of Dr. Lloyd Gibbs, the Hames House or Culp House was constructed in 1857 and is located on 300 N. Mountain Street. The house features expansive double tiers of six fluted columns.

Herndon Terrace, which was built around 1848, was the home of John Pratt, the inventor or the type-writer. Having perfected his invention during the Confederate War, it was necessary for him to go to England to protect his patent. He designed Herndon Terrace for Zachariah Herndon of the lawyer-



planter family of Herndon. The home, now a private residence, is located off the road in the corner of Wilson and N. Pinckney Streets in Union. The Governor Thomas B. Jeter home, located on 203 Thomson Boulevard, is the pri-

ate resi-
dence of Col. and Mrs. William Whitener and was completed in 1859. The house has prized heart-of-pine floor boards.

The **Cross Keys House**, located in the Cross Keys

section of Union County, was built by Barham Bobo in 1814. Jefferson Davis dined here in 1865. This house is also a private residence, owned by Robert and Jean Spicer. The Spicers hope to operate one room of the home as a bed and breakfast.

The Union County Jail, located next door to the Union County Court-house on Main Street, was constructed of stone in 1823 after a Mills design. It is no longer used to house prisoners.

Cedar Bluff, the Byrd Murphy House, located 7 1/2 miles from Union on the north side of Highway 49 was built by Byrd Murphy in 1794. The home is owned by Gerald Wil-

son. The **Battle of Musgrove Mill** was fought 15 miles southwest of Union on the west side of state highway 56 on the north side of the Enoree River. The battle was fought Aug. 18, 1780. The American forces under colonels Williams, Shelby and Clark defeated the British force under Col. Innis. Capt. Shadrick Inman was the hero in the battle. A marker in his honor is located at the battlefield. Eleven miles west of Union on the south side of the Tyger River is the Blackstock Battlefield. On Nov. 25, 1780, Gen. Thomas Sumter defeated Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. In this battle Gen. Sumter was wounded.

The South Street Historic District, which was added to the national register on May 19, 1983, features a neighborhood of distinctive homes in a wide range of architecture from Princess Annes to stately Victorians.

East Main Street, Union, is also listed as an historic district on the national register. Among the beautiful homes on the street is the Jordan House, located on 418 E. Main, which was built in 1823 of Robert Mills design. The Judge William Wallace Home, which was built around 1850, is located on 430 E. Main. Jefferson Davis spent the night here in 1865. The Wallace House is the home of Mr. and Mrs. John shields.

Juxa Plantation, in Santuc off Highway 215, operates as a bed and breakfast and is the residence of Nola Breese, who opened the home to public tours in November 1994. The plantation house dates from 1828 and was built by the Gregory family. The house is furnished with antiques from the Victorian, Empire and other eras. The plantation also features a Moon Garden and a pond, restored smokehouse and antique shop. Union Community Hospital is located on West Main

Street across from the Union County Courthouse. It is one of 21 South Carolina historic sites recently approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Lawrence W.

Long, a pioneer in providing medical services to the African-American population in upstate South Carolina, founded the hospital in 1933. The hospital's nomination will be evaluated by a federal review board before it is listed on the National Register.

Union County history recorded at museum

A tour of the Union County Museum chronicles much of Union's background.

Among the featured attractions of the museum, located over the American Federal Bank Building on East Main Street, are the famous Secession table used by Gov. William H. Gist (who lived in Union County on Rose Hill Plantation at one time) as he signed South Carolina's Ordinance of Secession from the Union during the Civil War. Following the signing of the document, the table was brought to Union by wagon.

Other notable items displayed in the museum include one of the first typewriters of John Pratt (inventor of the typewriter in 1866, who once lived in Union); the hanging hook from the Union County Jail; an old U.S. mail bike used for Union's deliveries around the 1920s; a Confederate veteran's uniform, the Union County Jail death cell door and a Union kerosene street lamp from the 1880s. Albertus Adair "Buck" Arthur is recognized as founder and first curator of the museum. His enthusiasm served as a catalyst for the museum, and the Union County Historical Foundation was formed its members began collecting items and storing them. The museum was opened on Sept. 26, 1976. In 1977 Arthur donated over 140 items that he and his wife had collected and in May of 1978 he was honored during the museum's open house. His portrait, unveiled during the ceremony, is now displayed as part of the museum's history -- a tribute to its founder. In addition to the work at the museum, the Union County Historical

Foundation is involved in many projects that help preserve and restore the history of the area. The foundation publishes a newsletter periodically to update its activities as well as enlighten the public on new historical discoveries. Other activities the foundation has been a part of include the placing and unveiling of markers at Blackstock Battle Field on Highway 49, as well as markers at Musgrove Mill, Fish Dam, Grindal Shoals and Pinckneyville, which was deeded to the group in 1960 by Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. May.

The Union County Museum is open the Thursday after the fourth Tuesday from 3-5 p.m. in the months January-May and September, October and November. Members of the Union County Historical Foundation welcome visitors and are happy to arrange special tours. For an appointment, call Scott Strange who is curator at 427-9235 or Edith Butler at 427-2029.

I would also like to cover Camping, Rose Hill Plantation, 2677 Sardis Road, Union 29379, (864) 427-5966. There is 44 Acres, State Historic Site, Picnic area and shelter, nature trail, gift shop and 9 miles to Union. Sedalia Lake, Tyger Ranger District, (864) 427-9858, from Union, drive southwest on SC Hwy 49 for 11 miles to SC 18. Turn left (east) onto SC Hwy 18. Drive 1.5 miles to FS Road 347, the entrance to Johns Creek Lake. Drive about 1/4 mile past Johns Creek to Sedalia Lake. Facilities are camping, water, restrooms, and showers. Both these camps are primitive.

In closing, I think that whatever interest you have in history and the Pearson family tree, you will find something in Union South Carolina that will interest you and your branch of the family. I focused this issue around Union, in the following issues I will write some about Newberry, South Carolina as the family did branch off into that area, and there are some points of interest in that area and it is only a few minutes drive. Until then I hope you enjoy the information and look forward to seeing you in August! Tim

Pearson's Places and Things

The following is a list of officers:

President:	Timothy T. Pearson Orange Park, FL
Vice-President:	Willard Pearson Attica, IN
Treasurer:	Essie O. Pearson Orange Park, FL
Recording Secretary:	Mary Pearson Ogema, WI
Correspondence Secretary:	Elton E. Pearson Sr. Toluca, IL
Chaplain:	John J. Pearson Prentice, WI

Virtual



Office

This is a Pearson Family genealogy newsletter. We continue to strive to publish the most correct information we can but, cannot guarantee it. Please send in corrections for known errors.

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Pearson's Places and Things

