

Road Trip for July 2016

Origins: Enoree River

At this time of year when the sun is blazing down, it is more than natural to think about water. One of the waterways that makes its way through part of Newberry County is the Enoree River. The name comes from an Indian word meaning "River of Muscadines." This month, we will seek out the origins of the Enoree River by following it from Newberry County where it flows into the Broad River all the way upstream to its sources in Greenville County. As the crow flies, the river only treks about seventy miles, but the Enoree is not at all straight as it twists its way through the upcountry. Since we're relying on bridges for our crossings, our trek will be even longer as we cross and re-cross our target body of water.

So, without taking time to test whether or not the egg will fry, hop in the car and begin your tour on the Square in historic downtown Newberry. Head east on Main Street until it becomes Hwy 219. After crossing I-26, turn left on Dusty Road. Down the road to the right is Enoree River Winery which takes its name from the river because of the connection with muscadines. The winery is a nice place to stop, but you may want to do the road trip first. Turn right on Hwy 34. Just beyond Keitt's Crossroads, turn left on Mt. Pleasant Road. Driving through the countryside this time of year, amid the patches of lush greenery, watch for Queen Anne's Lace as the prominent wildflower. The Crape Myrtles are blooming all through this trip and are noticeable in yards old and new. Sometimes a lone Crape Myrtle is all that reminds us that a house was once nearby. When the time comes, turn left on Maybinton Road. Cross the Enoree River. At this point the river is at its widest, making its way slowly to the Broad River. Back in the April Road trip got a little closer to the end of the river while traveling on Dogwalla Road, but it was not visible at that point. The bridge on Maybinton Road is the last crossing of the river before it joins the Broad River a little over four miles to the right (as the river flows). This section of the county, Maybinton, was known for its large fertile plantations nestled between the ends of the Tyger, Enoree and Broad Rivers. Stay on Maybinton Road as it crosses into Union County.

Like Newberry, Union was formed in 1785 from the division of Ninety Six District. It is named for the old Union Church, a multi-denominational church in the area. Turn left on Hwy 72-121. Cross the Enoree River back into Newberry County. Welcome to Whitmire, the "pearl of the piedmont." The town began as a trading post in the 18th century and was incorporated in 1891 as a depot on the Georgia, Carolina & Northern Railroad. After passing the big Methodist Church with its Doric porticoes, turn left on Glenn Street. On the left is First Baptist Church. Turn right on Main Street. On the left is St. Timothy Lutheran Church, established in 1939 (a reminder that we are still in Newberry County). Turn right on Broom Street and left on Hwy 72 (Church Street). Cross into Laurens County.

Formed from the Ninety Six District in 1785, Laurens County is named for Henry Laurens (1724-1792), a leader in the American Revolution and third president of the Continental Congress. Down the road a ways, turn right on Ridge Rd. This is a real road trip road, and it runs along the ridge between Duncan Creek and the Enoree River. Even at this time of year, the old road trace is clearly visible. Also visible in the forests is plenty of wildlife including turkey and deer. In stark contrast to the forest, Springfield Baptist Church appears on the left. The church, which was begun in 1888, has a large cemetery behind it. Turn right on Philson Road. Philson Crossroads is at the intersection of Barrel Stave Road. Turn right on Hwy 56. On the left is the entrance to Musgrove's Mill State Park. On August 18, 1780, Patriot

forces lured Maj. Ferguson's troops into a fortified ravine. Though Patriot forces were outnumbered nearly 2 to 1, the British retreated across the river. Cross the Enoree River into Union County.

Cross into Spartanburg County. Spartanburg was also formed in 1785 from the Ninety Six District. It was named for the Spartan Regiment, a SC militia unit from the Revolutionary War. Turn left on Horseshoe Falls Road (sharp). Horseshoe Falls is on Cedar Shoals Creek, a tributary of the Enoree. Cross Hwy 49 (near Cross Anchor) and then turn left on Hwy 92. This will avoid actually getting onto the interstate. Down the road on the left is Trinity Methodist Church with its large cemetery. Cross I-26. Hwy 92 becomes Parker Road as it approaches Enoree. This town once was a mill village along the river, and the houses are reminiscent of those in the mill villages of Newberry. The Church of God is on the right, and the Methodist and Baptist Churches are on the left. Turn left on Hwy 221 and cross the river back into Laurens County.

At Lanford, (you'll know you're there because of Lanford Baptist Church on the left) turn right on Hwy 92. Turn right on Brammlett Church Road. Shortly after passing an old farm house, you'll see the Martin Family Cemetery on the left. Near the end of the road, Brammlett Methodist Church is on the left. Turn right on Hwy 101 at Youngs. Cross the Enoree River into Spartanburg. The road becomes W Georgia Rd as we approach Woodruff. What became the town of Woodruff in 1874 started in the 1820's as a tavern and a post office at the intersection of the Old Buncombe Road and the Georgia Highway which led to Augusta. Coming into town on the right is the granite façade of Emma Gray Memorial Methodist Church with a large cemetery behind it. The downtown is picturesque with its mostly one-story storefronts. Turn left on S Main Street.

Turn left on Hwy 101. Turn left on Hwy 146, but stay on Hwy 101 when Hwy 146 veers off. Turn left on Hwy 417. On the right is Antioch Presbyterian Church. Founded in 1849, the present church was built in 1929. Cross the Enoree River into Greenville County. Greenville County, like Newberry, was once part of the Ninety Six District. In 1786, it was formed from parts of Laurens and Spartanburg Counties. The road name magically changes to Woodruff Road. Make a sharp right on Anderson Ridge Road. (This is the first right turn after the river.) After crossing Hwy 296, you will pass Crossroads Baptist Church. Farther down the road, Ebenezer Methodist (founded in 1820) will loom over the road to the left as its cemetery stretches off to the right. Turn right on Batesville Road. At Batesville, turn right on Hwy 14. Cross the river into Spartanburg and (immediately) turn left on E Phillips Road to get back into Greenville.

Turn left into the drive of Pelham Mill Park (2770 E Phillips Road) which was the site of Buena Vista Mill (1820-1870) and Pelham Mills (1870-1935). Buena Vista was the first mill in Greenville County. The park offers trails with views of the river, dam and mill ruins. Pelham Mills burned in 1946. Only the mill office (later the Post Office for Pelham) is still standing. Continue along E Phillips Road. The county line has left the river and we'll be crossing back and forth a few times, but we'll end up in Greenville. Turn left on Hwy 14. Cross I-85. Turn left on Johns Road and right on W Phillips Road. Turn left on Gibbs Shoals Road. Cross the river. Turn right on Dry Pocket Road and then right on Batesville Road. Turn right on Hammett Bridge Road. Cross the river again. Turn left on S Suber Road. Turn left on Brushy Creek Road. Once again, cross the river.

Turn right on Taylors Road. At Taylors, First Baptist Church is straight ahead. Founded in 1864, the oldest church structure on the present campus was built in 1922. Turn right on E Main Street. Cross the Enoree River. Turn left on St. Mark Road (you will cross Wade Hampton Boulevard on this road). At the end of the road, turn left on Locust Hill Road. Turn left on Langley Road (not far from the intersection of Hwy 253). Cross the river (creek) again. Not too far from here on the right, the river splits into Enoree and North Enoree. Turn right on Tigerville Road to cross both branches of the river. (You have to look for them – they're not labeled and cross under the road in drain pipes.) Turn left on Locust-Hill Road. Turn left on Mush Creek Road. Cross North Enoree River (if you can find it). The river begins in a pond not far to the right. Turn left on Moki Road to cross Hwy 25 onto McCauley Road. At the end, turn left on White Horse Road-ext. Turn left on Lindsay-Lake Road (if you get to Greer Hwy, you passed it). Turn right on Duncan Road. Cross the river for the final time. The source of the river is in the woods to the right. Turn right on Bridwell Road. At Renfrew, turn left on Greer Hwy. The next town is Traveler's Rest, which means it's time to follow the signs through Greenville to I-385. Merge into I-26 and return to historic downtown Newberry.