

# History

## “MAGNIFICENT” MINNIE PEARSON AREA

23 churches

*Established around 1889, was named honoring Minnie Sumner Pearson, born June 6, 1869. She was a great religious educational leader who held positions of importance in State and National Connections of the AME Church. As she and Mrs. Molly Markum, wife of the founder of St. Joseph AME Church attended a missionary tour at Rich Square, North Carolina, this inspired Mrs. Pearson to consider starting a society in the St. Joseph AME Church around 1889. She traveled miles in good and bad weather to bring comfort to those on lone farms. A third person joined them in their ministry duties, Mrs. Eliza Hanks and the three persons made the greatest of willing workers.*

*Mrs. Pearson was active in the development of the Efland Home, an institution for wayward girls, and the 1st Vice President*

*of the Women’s Home and Foreign Missionary church of the AME Church. Among other offices she held were the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference Branch President of Western North Carolina Conference for forty (40) years; President of the State Federations of Colored Women’s Club; Chairperson of the Women’s Board of Lincoln Hospital; Member of the board of Warren Library; and member of the Board of management of the YWCA.*

*Mrs. Pearson was married to Mr. William Gaston Pearson on June 6, 1893. He was a Negro educator, civic leader, and philanthropist. For half a century he was principle of the old Whitted and Hillside schools. He and his devoted missionary wife were members of St. Joseph AME Church. Under their influence the value of the church and church school amounted to thousands of dollars. The W. G. Pearson School was named in his honor. The Pearson Memorial Church was bought under and completed in honor of Minnie Pearson following her death. She departed her life on September 4, 1940, at the age of 71.*

*(Sources: Late Roberta Justice-Miles, Historiographer -Statistician; Women’s History of the Women’s Missionary Society 1874 -2003 of the African Methodist Episcopal Church).*



Mrs. Minnie S. Pearson



## **Minnie Pearson Area Leaders 1869 – 2021**

Mrs. Leslie Thompson Morrow	Mrs. Phyllis G. Morrison
Mrs. Hortense Duhart	Mrs. Annette Bowden
Mrs. Willa Robinson George	Mrs. Frances H. Hope
Mrs. Marie C. Torian	Sister Linda Glover
Mrs. Vera Edwards	Mrs. Barbara Royster
Mrs. Everlena Diggs	Mrs. Carlotta Armstrong-Young

## **Minnie Pearson Area 23 Churches, Location and Society Names**

Allen Chapel	Roxboro	Esther Yancey WMS
Bailey's Chapel	Roxboro	Luna J. Drumright
Dickerson's Chapel	Hillsborough	Mary Collins WMS
Emmanuel	Durham	Rosa Horry WMS
Flat Rock	Hillsborough	Naomi B Long WMS
Gaines Chapel	Efland	Ora Shanklin WMS
Harvey's Chapel	Hillsborough	Prudence Thompson WMS
Hunter's Chapel	Mebane	Cassie B Mebane WMS
Johnson Chapel	Mebane	Vaughn-Shaw-Holt WMS
Macedonia	Milton	Garland Harris WMS
Maxwell	Graham	Stone Foust WMS
Mount Zion	Hillsborough	Cates-Hester WMS
New Harris Grove	Rougemont	Betty Eleanor Harris WMS
Oak Level	Milton	Hamlett-Hughes WMS
Payne Chapel	Hillsborough	Annie K. Strickland WMS
Pearson Chapel	Yanceyville	Herley J. Williamson WMS
Quinn Chapel	Roxboro	Gertrude Clay WMS
St. Joseph	Durham	Minnie S Pearson WMS
St. Matthews	Graham	Parrish-Atwater-Alston Morrow-Stone WMS
St. Paul	Chapel Hill	Duhart-Clark WMS
Wayman Chapel	Graham	Mabel H Poole WMS
White Cross	Efland	Betty-Fuller WMS
Wood's Chapel	Graham	Eliza Mae Mebane WMS

**2021 Area Chairperson: Sister Carlotta Young-Armstrong**