



RESTORATION OF THE PIERSON-ELLIOTT HOUSE

Rebuilding A Heritage

By Bob Inman

—All photos by Brad Stafford

Never you mind, Daniel Elliott. All that ruckus up at the old homestead isn't the Tories, back to plunder and kill. It's only great-great-great-grandson Clyde Pierson, down from Ohio to fix up the place.

Clyde is a pilgrim into the past, a man who has found his roots and wants them preserved. And you'll have to forgive him if he sometimes talks to folks who have been dead for nearly 200 years.

Perhaps this story shouldn't start with Clyde at all, but with Daniel Elliott, patriot of the American Revolution. Back in 1769, he moved his family from Pennsylvania to what is now the eastern end of Chester County. There Daniel

carved a new life from the woods along Fishing Creek, clearing the land, fashioning a sturdy two-story log cabin and stocking the place with horses, cows, geese and chickens. His family and farm grew and prospered. Wife Elizabeth gave birth to seven healthy children. The land and the living were good. And then the Revolution interrupted the dream. It all came to a tragic end.

Now, 200 years later, Clyde Pierson has picked up the thread of the story. After 77 years as an Ohioan, he has come to South Carolina, finding the ancestral home built by Daniel Elliott still standing. And Clyde has a notion of restoring it as an historical site, with the

help of friends, neighbors and kinfolks in Chester County.

Clyde Pierson's pilgrimage began in 1966 when a cousin showed him some research on the family history done by a Nebraska relative. A widower, retired as a high school vocational teacher, Pierson had time on his hands and began digging into the past. In March 1967 the search led him to Chester County. After two days of investigation, he found to his amazement that the 200-year-old log cabin built by Daniel Elliott was still there and in good condition.

What has happened since has been a romance between a man and another era. Pierson asked permission to study the old