

# ns Plans Presidency

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## Four Family Generations



Shown above are four generations of the Pettit family, originally of the Friendship church section near Pauline. Seated is L. E. Pettit, who recently celebrated his 81st birthday, and in his lap is his great-grandson, Marvin Rudolf Pettit, Jr. Standing are his son, H. F. Pettit (left), and a grandson, Marvin Rudolf Pettit, Sr.

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TUESDAY

RIES

Sptg Herald  
P. 2, Col. 7

19<sup>c</sup>

49<sup>c</sup>

15<sup>c</sup>

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AM



# L. E. Pettit Celebrates 81 Years at Friendship

Eighty-one years spent almost continuously in one small community of Spartanburg county has meant a life enjoyed to the fullest by Lewis Earl Pettit—and a life which has meant much to the Friendship church section of which he has been a resident for so many years.

Born March 9, 1859, in a house not so far removed from the one in which he now makes his home, Mr. Pettit's life stands as a remarkable example of a true cross-section of the real America.

### Son of Veteran

He is the son of the late Benjamin Franklin and Permelia Johnson Pettit. His father was one of the first men to volunteer as a Confederate soldier from the Friendship church section. Leaving at home three small children, the elder Pettit served through four years of warfare without a wound—but once a bullet was shot through the brim of his hat!

Six years after the war, the family removed to Mississippi and remained there until January, 1877, when Mr. Pettit's father died and the family returned to Spartanburg—and the Friendship community again!

Mr. Pettit's mother died in 1926 at the age of 91 years. The family included three sons and two daughters—all of them now dead except Mr. Pettit and one brother, Benjamin F. Pettit, Jr.

He was married in February, 1889, to Miss Ruth Gwinn, who died in March, 1916.

### Has Vivid Memory

Despite his advanced age, Mr. Pettit has a very vivid memory of early events in the history of Spartanburg. He recalls his first trip to Spartanburg, in the fall of 1868, when he accompanied his father to the "town" in a wagon. A courthouse at the corner of West Main and Magnolia streets, a rock jail near the present site of the city hall on Broad street, and a few scattered stores was the Spartanburg of that day.

During much of his life, Mr. Pettit has been actively engaged in farming. His especial interest lay in the maintenance of an apiary

from which he annually marketed hundreds of pounds of honey.

Perhaps his greatest interest in life, however, is his church, the Friendship Baptist church. He has been a member of that institution since he was a youth of 17 years, and it was from plans drawn by him as a young man that the present structure was constructed. He also built the seats used in the church auditorium.

No longer able to engage in active farming or other work, he is enjoying good health, can hear remarkably well, reads with the aid of glasses, and can recognize persons without the aid of glasses.

He is the father of eight children, Mrs. W. O. Ezell, Mrs. R. V. Littlefield, Mrs. Russell Tinsley and Earl Dean Pettit, all of Spartanburg; John L. Pettit, Henry Franklin Pettit and Herbert H. Pettit, all of Pauline, route 1; and Leland E. Pettit of Greenville. Other descendants include 32 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Did you know Forest Hills is covered with some of the most beautiful trees in or near Spartanburg?



# Announcement