



Political

Exhibits showcase prominent national figures such as Senator Sam Nunn but also include others who have served as local and state politicians. From 1821 to present day, there have been 17 Georgia Senators and 97 Georgia Representatives from Perry.

Social

Exhibits feature family life from the early 1800s and showcase Miss Georgia 1987 and Miss Georgia

Peach in 1994. Toys, letters, pictures, and other memorabilia enlighten the visitor to social life in a small rural town.

Education

Records and artifacts from 1854 in the Gooden/Estes Room invite visitors to explore the early educational practices of Perry. High school annuals, pictures, records, and memorabilia offer more recent memories of Perry's past.

Agricultural

Early 1800 tools and products from Perry families are featured for use in educational presentations. An early lawn mower from the mid 1800s is a rare piece of equipment on display.

Military

Exhibits include memorabilia from the 1860s, WWI, Korean War, WWII, and the War in Vietnam. Famous Perrys include Major Joseph Palmer, Admiral James Oliver, General Courtney Hodges, Col. Houston Parks Houser and many others.

Fashion

Clothing from the late 1800s to 1950s illustrate family life and social life in the community. Jewelry, graduation dresses, and accessories are well preserved and associated with stories of individuals who have helped shape the cultural history of Perry.

Heritage

Family records, church and cemetery records, scrapbooks, diaries, and newspaper clippings are a delight for genealogical research on residents of Houston County.

Sports

Professional players in football, baseball, and basketball are pictured and Coach Eric Staples, known nationally as "the winningest basketball coach" until the mid 1980s, and his players are given a prominent display.

Business

Ellis Grocery and its Rolling Store in Grovania, the first Bluebird bus, and the second motor court in the United States are all exhibits which show progressive business practices. Advertising products from many other businesses from the local area are also displayed.

Spiritual

Displayed are church directories, communion services, and histories of the churches of the area from 1819 to present day. Records of missionaries, pastors and other church leaders are available for research.

Medical

SSS tonic formulated in Perry in the 1850s can still be purchased today and is exhibited in the museum. Biographies and medical equipment of the late 1800s and early 1900s is available for viewing.





PERRY AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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HOURS

Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00
2:00 - 4:00
Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00
2:00 - 4:00
Thursday 10:00 - 12:00
2:00 - 4:00
Saturday 9:00 - 12:00



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If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday.

- Pearl Buck

The Crossroads of Georgia

In the beginning, when Indian lands were ceded to the state of Georgia in 1821, this little village was chosen as the county seat of Houston County. At that time, twenty families were living in log cabins and calling their little settlement Wattsville. They made paths and roads that crossed at right angles through thickets of tall pines, red oaks, waving saplings and rich undergrowth to connect with each other and civilization. Land was rich, and soon purchasers came from surrounding counties and the neighboring states of Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina to buy land, build homes, farm and start businesses. By 1824, most of the lots in this popular new settlement had been sold, businesses and farming were thriving and the county seat was growing fast.

About this time, the little village of Wattsville was renamed and officially became the City of Perry. The corporate limits of the town extended one-half mile in each direction from the center of the public square, except where Big Indian Creek formed a natural boundary. The stage coach and passenger train brought more people to the area and soon, Perry's political legacy began to emerge. Over the

years, this small city has produced 17 state senators, 97 state representatives, one U.S. representative, one U.S. senator and a former governor of Georgia. Over time, the leadership of such national and state representatives as well as many dedicated local leaders helped Perry to grow and to avoid pitfalls experienced by many small communities across the state.

Whether you have roots in Perry or not, we hope you will take the time to enjoy the museum and slip back into history and uncover some of your own personal memories of the past. The collections and operations of this museum are made possible from countless volunteers and their love for this community.

Services offered by the museum include: A heritage library of local and regional publications, records, documents, family histories, and other research material.

Programs offered include: Guided tours, special events, kids programs, and activities. Please call for a reservation or to schedule a program for your club or organization today.

Uncover the History...