

Centennial Newsletter #3

September 2008



*It's coming,
And you won't want to miss it!*

The Wilson Centennial Reunion

August 14, 15, and 16, 2009

Mark your calendar now.

Look forward to the registration form which

will be sent in February

But make your lodging reservations soon.

CENTENNIAL REUNION HEADQUARTERS

Honey Creek Resort

10485 185th Avenue, Moravia, Iowa 52571

www.honeycreekresort.com

Reservations: 877-677-3344

(Be sure to mention that you are with The Wilson Centennial Reunion for our reunion discount.)

This resort has 105 rooms, an RV Park, cabins, an indoor water park, 50 boat slips, launch, fishing pier, beach, full service restaurant and lounge, and an 18 hole golf course. The cost of \$99 per night will reserve a room with two queens or one king and 4 passes for the indoor waterpark.

Additional motels will appear in a later newsletter.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

Listed below you will find only general outlines and some general time lines. These are not carved in stone. **Later newsletters will state specific activities and times.**

FRIDAY

Registration: 3:30—5:30 p.m. Honey Creek

Golf, boating, swimming, and probably tours will be available during the afternoon.

6:30 p.m. Kick off Barbeque

8:00 p.m. Ancestral Memorial Service

8:30 p.m. Sharing family stories around the campfire

SATURDAY

Registration: 8:00 —10:00 a.m. Honey Creek

3:30 —5:00 p.m. Honey Creek

7:00—9:00 a.m. Join us for breakfast and conversation in Honey Creek Lodge.

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. The Heritage Room will be open all day Saturday. Contests and activities for kids, tours to cemeteries and home sites, genealogy discussions, and photo sessions will be part of the plans for Saturday as well as naturalist talks sponsored by the Lodge.

11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Lunch at Honey Creek Lodge.

6:30—8:00 Banquet at Honey Creek Lodge

8:00 Entertainment featuring Andrew Moritz

SUNDAY

Registration: 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Moravia City Park

7:00—8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Honey Creek

9:30 a.m. You may want to attend church at Grace Methodist in Moravia where many of Jesse and Miriam's children attended church.

St. Mary's Catholic in Centerville meets at 5:10 p.m. on Saturday and at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Many other churches are available and will be listed in later newsletters.

12:00 noon The traditional "carry-in-dinner" in the Moravia City Park will be held Sunday noon. The business meeting for the reunion will be held after

the noon meal, and of course, ice cream will be served in the afternoon.

Out-of-town guests may order food to take to the carry-in dinner. A menu will be available later.



POSTING YOUR COLORS

Each branch of Jesse's family has been assigned a color as listed below. The name tag you receive will be the color of your branch. If your family decides to wear some sort of designation such as ribbons, hats, T-shirts, etc., please use the color (or a shade of the color) listed below.

Abel Preston McBride.....Yellow
Mary Jane Aseneth.....Blue
Nathan Gregory Lane.....Green
Martha Anna Belle.....Violet/Purple
John Gilmore.....Turquoise
Ephriam Franklin.....Red
Rachel Corina Sofia.....Orange
James & Abigail Wilson.....White

THE HERITAGE ROOM

The Heritage Room will be a place where you can display family heirlooms, scrapbooks, pictures, Bibles, and genealogy. For instance, the hurricane lantern to the right will be on display. It was made by Miriam's father, Abel Garner, and carried by covered wagon from North Carolina to Indiana and finally to Iowa.



You may want to make several copies of old pictures to trade with other branches of the family. You may want to bring pictures that you want identified. There will be some older members of the family that can help with identification.

I am planning to make a poster showing pictures of my mom and dad, Bidy and Fern Wright, and my family. Perhaps you would like to show pictures also. Remember to label everything carefully and to type up the stories. If you need something typed, send me the information.
Dana Moritz, 511 W Grand St, Centerville, IA 52544
dmoritz@mchsi.com

CONTACTS AND DONATIONS

If you would like to make a donation to the Wilson Centennial Reunion, send it to John Wilson, 509 Lincolnshire Dr, Sycamore, IL 60178-2314. New addresses and changes in addresses can be sent to Kerry Wilson, 4142 Tawannah Cir. East, Hokes Bluff, AL 35903-9802 (kwilson@kerrywilson.com) or to John Wilson at the address above or e-mail jonabel51@aol.com.

ORIGINS

So where do the Wilsons originate? We know that Jesse came from North Carolina and that his forbears immigrated from Ireland. So were they Irish? Or were they Scots who stayed in Ireland after they had been sent to Ireland to quell riots in the 1600's? Before that, were they Scottish? Or were they Norse or Vikings who had raided Scotland and then decided to stay there?

The heritage is rich and perhaps all of the above is true. But even this is only a small part of the Wilson story. We are the true representatives of the "melting pot" of America. Numerous nationalities and ethnic groups have contributed to the family line constantly reinforcing its strength and vitality.

THE AMERICAN FAMILY

American families have always shown remarkable resiliency, or flexible adjustment to natural, economic, and social challenges. Their strengths resemble the elasticity of a spider web, a gull's skillful flow with the wind, the regenerating power of perennial grasses, the cooperation of an ant colony, and the persistence of a stream carving canyon rocks. These are not the strengths of fixed monuments but living organisms. This resilience is not measured by wealth, muscle or efficiency but by creativity, unity, and hope. Cultivating these family strengths is critical to a thriving human community.

—Ben Silliman

REUNION READY

My family was always ready to go the Wilson Reunion. In fact, my mother, Vivien "Biddy" Wilson Wright never missed a Reunion in her ninety years of life. At the first reunion, she told me she was "a babe in my mother's arms." After turning 90 in June of 1999, she attended the August reunion and then died in October. "Biddy" cherished the members of her extended family. She kept track of 2nd and 3rd cousins much as you or I might keep track of our children or our sisters and brothers.

As the Wilson family, we miss her enthusiasm and her knowledge, and I, as her daughter miss her love and her calm "can do." But I have absorbed her love of family. The Reunion for

me represents stability in a fractured world and caring love in a world of casual relationships. I am Reunion ready.

—Dana Moritz

