

Happy Thanksgiving
John & Annabelle

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WILSON CENTENNIAL REUNION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 2009

Just think, nearly 100 years ago the "House Of Jesse" set in motion a family clan getting together to fellowship. Celebrating family and loved ones with a meal. This tradition has been continued each year, bucking the trends of many family's in recent years. It all started in August of 1910 when Rachel Corina Sofia Wilson {the last child of Jesse and Miriam}, had married Ula Hart, and they were leaving Iowa to homestead in Wyoming. The Wilson Clan, gathered at the family home for a farewell dinner, dressed in their Sunday best. A group picture was taken in front of the "House of Jesse", and thankfully, all have been identified. Jesse had already passed away in 1900 and Miriam lived until Feb. 7, 1920. The family continued to assemble at the same location, and then at various family members homes. After Miriam died, she was honored by having the reunion date set on the Sunday closest to her birth date of August 16th. Sometime later, the family dinner was moved to the Moravia Park, which has since been the location of the Reunion, the most recent being the 98th year. The tradition and the dedication of all our deceased family members, who fostered and encouraged attendance to this annual tradition has become "our" mutual inheritance. The responsibility of those of us still living, is to continue this Annual Reunion and, instill in our offspring the importance of this legacy. In today's world, it may be that the safest, and most honored place is still "the family". Our responsibility then is to honor our departed loved one's, by perpetuating this worthy heritage.

A Steering Committee has been named to manage the details of this event. Plans now in progress are to make possible arrangements for Wilson's to travel from afar and enjoy a week or weekend in Iowa in August of 2009. A new Destination State Park is being constructed at Lake Rathbun, very near Moravia, Iowa. We want the Lodge there, to be our headquarters for "WILSON WEEK". The Conclusion of which, on Sunday August 16, 2009 we will celebrate our 100th annual Reunion.

It is the Committee's hope that as families meet for the Holiday Season this year, that vacation plans for the summer of 2009, can include attendance at the 100th Wilson Reunion. This new Honey Creek Resort on beautiful scenic Lake Rathbun, would make a wonderful family vacation destination. Golf, boating, and an array of fun activities are sure to please and relax the entire family.

Some suggestions being considered by the committee include: meet & greet sessions, golf outing, anniversary lunch, pig roast, an auction, bon fire, photo ops, a memorial service, displays of family heirlooms/pictures, child care and youth activities. And of course the big Sunday Dinner in the Moravia Park, near the Wilson Family Blue Spruce tree, planted in August 1988. A specific schedule of events is yet to be completed, but will probably center around Friday, Saturday and Sunday August 14, 15 & 16, 2009.