

WILSON CENTENNIAL REUNION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 2009

We hope that by now you have talked to your family members about attending the Centennial Reunion. While responses to our first newsletter have been less than expected, most have been favorable.

We are including a promo on the new Resort Lodge for those who will travel to attend. A new web site for the Resort is www.iowadnr.com/parks/honeycreek. Construction is on schedule with a grand opening scheduled for August of 2008. This beautiful new Lodge would give us a place for family housing & entertainment, meeting space, eating facilities, inside display area's and other amenities.

We still need family addresses, e-mails and updates. If you have not done this, try to get this information passed along to me as soon as possible. At this years reunion we will need to get some reaction to our proposed activities. While I have been in contact with the Lodge people, more complete plans will have to be implemented. This would include commitments for housing and other facilities.

Please give this important family heritage some serious thought. Your parents and mine would have us do this in spite of all the reasons for not doing it. The traditions and the legacy of the Wilson family are at stake. If we do not have a successful Centennial Reunion, then I dare say the longevity of having an annual reunion are numbered. If we as parents do not encourage our offspring, yes even insist that this is very important, then attendance will surely continue to diminish, and with it the efforts of generations of a loving and caring family. At this stage the descendants of Jesse and Miriam Wilson surely number in the thousands. To envision the end of an annual family reunion seems to me to be inconceivable. We all know we're living with enormous changes in family lifestyles, mores, and self-satisfying pleasures. Perhaps its time to set some new family priorities. Especially as we remember those who have held this family tradition so closely, for so many years. Getting to know your cousins, renewing family ties and reminiscing, may just be of more real value, than many of the other things we do.

Now, if you are favorable to expanding this 2009 reunion, then your early commitment will be vital. First I need to hear from you, one way or the other. " If and when we make the next move, i.e.: reservations, plans for a lodging, memorial service, pig roast, golf outing, breakfasts, Sunday dinner arrangements, some of which may require up front money, and have specific order deadlines, then everyone will have to be on board. While the Wilson Centennial Fund now has a balance of over \$1,500, it most likely will be necessary to request advance reservations and front money for some of these activities. So, it's in your hands. We either go forward at this point as a proud and sustaining family, or we surrender to a life with different values and responses.

Respectfully, John A Wilson- son of Frank and Ruth Wilson, grandson of Nathan Gregory Wilson and great-grandson of Jesse and Miriam Wilson.

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