

MR. AND MRS. JAMES A. WILSON

A Pioneer Family of Cleveland County

*Lucien Wilson*

In the spring of 1891 the Wilson family arrived in Cleveland County, Oklahoma Territory. The family consisted of James A. Wilson (called Uncle Jim by all who knew him), his wife Susan (Aunt Susan) and their teenage and pre-teenage children, four boys and one daughter.

Uncle Jim Wilson homesteaded in the extreme northeast corner of Cleveland County (S. W. 1/2 Section 15-10-1 E) near a community later designated as Stella, Oklahoma. Uncle Jim and Aunt Susan remained on this homestead until their deaths some forty years after they settled on the homestead.

The sons of Jim and Susan Wilson married girls in the Stella area: George married Viola Morris, Harve married Luda Bingham; Carl married Georgia Kidney; Roy married Hanna Sprouls. The daughter, Ova, married John Harder of the Newalla community.

Uncle Jim and his four sons cleared timber from the land in order to build a log house part of which was a half dugout. Later they built a permanent house which is still standing on the homestead.

Uncle Jim Wilson supervised and with his sons assisted in clearing out the timber and building roads throughout the Stella area. They also helped build the Stella School house and the Post Office building in Stella. George Wilson was a "Star Route" mail carrier between Oklahoma City and Tecumseh via Stella. Uncle Jim was active in organizing the Stella Baptist Church, the Masonic Lodge and the Odd Fellow Lodge.

Aunt Susan Wilson was very active in the Stella church, the quilting bees, drying fruits and canning fruits and vegetables. For some ten or twenty years after the Wilsons came to Cleveland County Aunt Susan kept her spinning wheel busy making clothes for the family of seven.

Uncle Jim Wilson was census enumerator 1900-1910, and was tax assessor for the township. Often he and his son, Carl, cut and hauled wood to Norman to exchange for supplies.

Three of Jim and Susan Wilson's grandchildren still reside in Norman: Tony Wayne Wilson, son of Roy Wilson, and Clarence O. Wilson and Ina Wilson (Mrs. Frank Niedermaier) the son and daughter of Carl Wilson.