



(Left to right) Melissa Jackson Wilson, John Ulmer Wilson, Jenny Weinbrenner, John Edgar Wilson, Loute Moore Wilson & James Albert Wilson, Jesse Rachel Wilson Giseburt & Wilbur Giseburt, Florence Wilson Lee & Guy Lee. Paul Giseburt is in the high-laced boots; Percy and Chuck Hartman are to his right, and Vernon Lee (?) is on his left. The tallest boy is probably James Wilson, son of Albert, and the girl is probably his sister Wilmeta.

# The Children of John Ulmer Wilson

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William Ulmer Wilson (1878-1948), eldest son of John Ulmer Wilson, with wife Mary Peterson in 1900

## William Ulmer Wilson (1878-1948)

John Ulmer Wilson's first child, William Ulmer "Willie" Wilson, was born in Boone Township, Crawford County, Missouri in 1878, while John was working there in the lead mines. In 1900 he married Mary Agnes Peterson in the Lutheran church parsonage in Gilman, Illinois.

They settled on a farm near Crescent City, halfway between Gilman and Watseka in Iroquois County. Their first two children, Floyd (1901) and Golda (1902) were born there. Shortly thereafter, in 1903, they moved to rural Brewster, Minnesota (near Ormsby, about 10 miles south of St. James), where their third child, Russell, was born in 1905, and then to a farm near Darfur, Minnesota around 1906, where their fourth child, William, was born in 1907.

For a time William operated a farm adjacent to that of his father and brother John, but by 1909 had moved farther south in Watonwan County to a farm near Ormsby where their next four children were born: Ulmer Dean (1909),

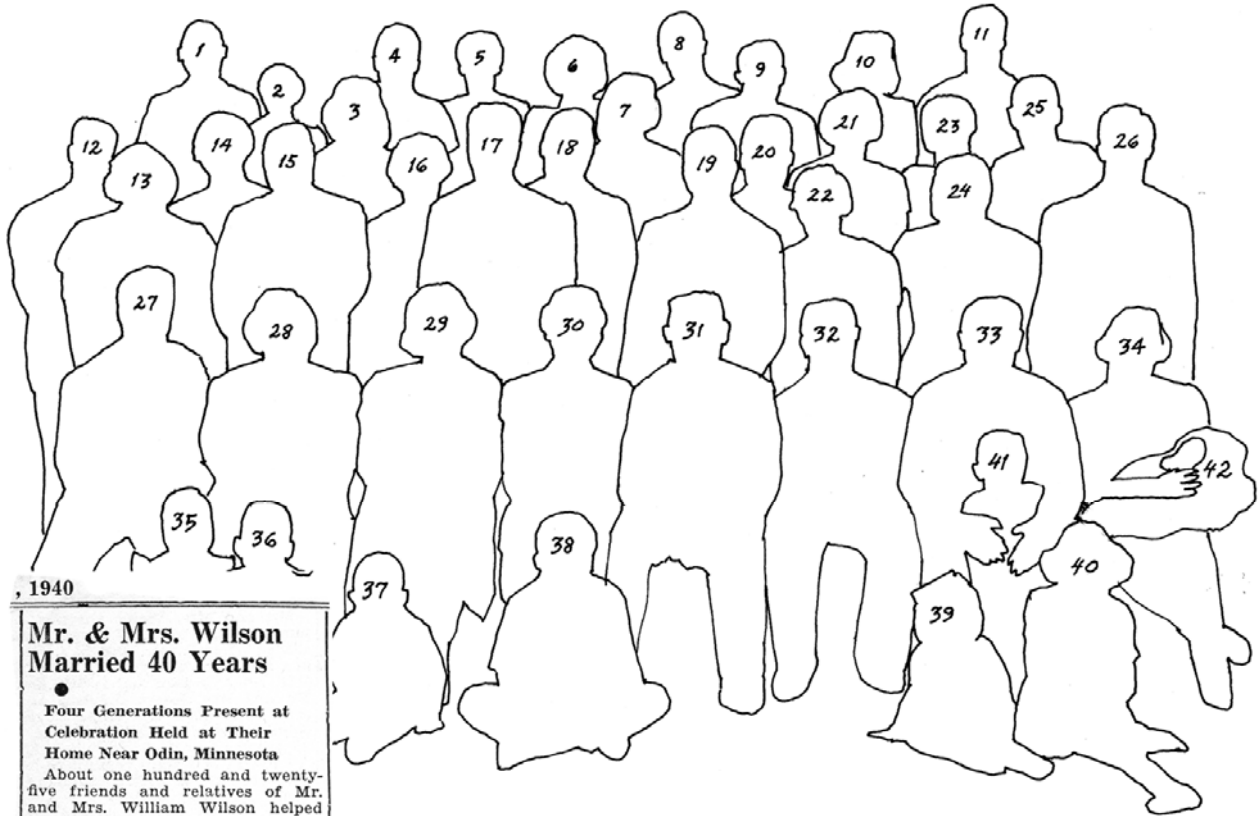
Harold (1911), Fern (1915) and Donald (1917). By 1921 they had moved a bit farther south, to Trimount, where their daughter Carol was born in that year. Daughter Golda married a neighbor, Albert Holland, in 1922. William and his wife retired from farming in 1945 and moved to a house in St. James, where William died in 1948 and Mary in 1958. Of their nine children, Floyd married but died childless in 1974, and Ulmer Dean died of a ruptured appendix at the age of 19, leaving no children. The others all married and raised families, primarily in the St. James area, and have many present-day descendants.



John Edgar Wilson (left), James Albert Wilson (center)  
and William U. Wilson (right)



Fortieth Wedding Anniversary of William U. Wilson (1878-1948) and Agnes Peterson (1878-1958), 23 June 1940



, 1940

### Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Married 40 Years

#### Four Generations Present at Celebration Held at Their Home Near Odin, Minnesota

About one hundred and twenty-five friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson helped them celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary Sunday, June 23, at their home near Odin. Four generations of the Wilson family were present including John U. Wilson of St. James, who is 87 years old. A short program of reading and singing was enjoyed. Among the numbers was a vocal selection, "O Promise Me," by Miss Dorothy Jungas of Mt. Lake.

A telegram was received from Floyd Wilson, a son, now of Richmond, Cal., who was unable to be present. Greetings were also received from C. E. Wilson of Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson received many lovely gifts and the best wishes from their many friends.

A buffet lunch was served at the close of the program.

Friends and relatives from a distance who were present were: John U. Wilson of St. James; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wilson of Chicago Heights, Ill.; Mrs. Herbert Schmitt and daughters, Connie and Colleen, of Chicago Heights, Ill.; Mrs. Ray Packard and son, Merrill, of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Sampson, Dale and Mabel of Minneapolis; Mrs. Arlene Schneider of Garner, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Peterson, Heron Lake; Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wilson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Wilson and son, Billy, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Wilson and son, Frank, Mrs. Mary Deward and Miss Irene Fladmo of St. James.

1. Albert George Wilson (1856-1943)[bro of JUW]
2. Martha "Molly" Ellen Jackson (1857-1941)[w.of #1]
3. Colleen Schmitt Anderson (b.1924)[dau of #5]
4. Conway Schmitt (b.1926)[son of #5]
5. Wilmeta Wilson Schmitt (1904-?)[dau of #25]
6. Blendene Wilson Packard (1900-1968)[dau of #25]
7. Mabel Marian Simpson (1909-1995)[dau of #16/18]
8. Wendell E. Wilson (b.1922)[son of #9]
9. John Edgar Wilson (1892-1977)[son of JUW]
10. Doris Wilson (b.1926)[dau of #9]
11. Clinton Wilson (1917-1973)[son of #9]
12. Carl Francis Peterson (1880-1956)[bro of #30]
13. Velma Stoebe Wilson (1907-1986)[wife of #27]
14. Emma Eidhammer Peterson (1885-1972)[wif.of 12]
15. Albert James Holland (1901-1969)[husb. of #28]
16. Bertha Peterson Sampson (1884-1961)[sis. of #30]
17. Donald Edwin Wilson (1917-2000)[son of WUW]
18. Edward Sampson [husb. of #16]
19. Harold Lester Wilson (1911-1992)[son of WUW]
20. Dale Sampson (b.1915)[son of #16/18]
21. Eugenia Wilson (1895-1980)[wife of #9]
22. Florence Wilson Lee (1890-1968)[dau of JUW]
23. Loute Moore Wilson (1880-1953)[wife of #25]
24. Ida DeWeerd Wilson (1907-1993)[wife of #33]
25. James Albert Wilson { 1880-1964}[son of JUW]
26. David Emil Olson (1899-1977)[husb. of #34]
27. William Lee Wilson (1907-1963)[son of WUW]
28. Golda Wilson Holland (1902-1997)[dau of WUW]
29. Carol Wilson (b. 1921)[dau of WUW]
30. Agnes Peterson Wilson(1878-1958)[w of WUW]
31. **William Ulmer Wilson** (1878-1948)[son of JUW]
32. **John Ulmer Wilson** (1853-1947)
33. Russell Wilson (1905-1992)[son of WUW]
34. Fem Wilson Olson (1915-2001)[dau of WUW]
35. Maybelle Louise Wilson (b. 1932)[dau of #13/27]
36. Roger Lee Wilson (b. 1935)[son of #13/27]
37. Ray Franklin Wilson (b. 1937)[son of #13/27]
38. Merrill "Sandy" Packard (b.1928)[son of #6]
39. Alice Wilson (b.1937)[dau of #9]
40. Ardis Wilson (b.1932)[dau of #9]
41. William Lyle Wilson (b.1939)[son of #33]
42. Carmen Adele Olson (b.1940)[dau of #34]



**James Albert Wilson (1880-1964) in the piano factory in Steger, Illinois. It was at the piano factory that he met Jenny Weinbrenner's uncle Wilhelm Muth, a cabinet-maker, and the Wilsons learned that Jenny was available as a domestic helper.**

**James Albert Wilson (1880-1964)**

John Ulmer Wilson's second child, James Albert Wilson, was born in Sullivan, Missouri in 1880 when his family was living in nearby Boone County. By 1883 they had moved back to Illinois, where he grew up and married Loute "Lulu" Moore in 1899. Albert, as he was known, moved to Steger, Illinois, south of Chicago near Chicago Heights, where he worked as woodworker for a piano company. James, like his brothers William and John, was an accomplished musician. He favored the cello; William played the bass viol and John played the violin...a string trio of sorts.



**James Albert Wilson (1880-1964)**

It was Albert who recommended the young Jenny Weinbrenner as a domestic servant to John Ulmer Wilson and Melissa Jackson; Jenny was hired, and later married Albert's younger brother, John Edgar Wilson (see below). Albert and Lulu had seven children: Blendene "Dean" Lavon (1900), James Glenmore (1902), Wilmeta "Meta" Ellen (1904), Olive Elizabeth (1905),

Merrill Hathaway (1907), Woodrow Winfield (1917) and Jacqueline "Jackie" Arvella (1920). Olive married twice but had no children; all the rest raised families, and are represented today by many living descendants.



Jesse Rachel Wilson (1886-1920) and Ada May Wilson (1883-1911)

Daughters of John Ulmer Wilson

### **Adda May Wilson** (1883-1911)

John Ulmer Wilson's third child was Adda May Wilson [sometimes also called Edith May], born in 1883 at the family farm near LaHogue. She married John Hartman in 1904, and bore him three children: Percy Eugene (born eight months later in 1905), Charles "Chuck" (1907) and Florence Melissa (1910). The family was pursued by tragedy. Florence died three days after being born in 1910. Ada died of an illness in 1911, at the young age of 28. Ada's husband John went off to war in Europe in 1918 and was a victim of poison gas, existing for



some years as an invalid and then finally dying. Percy accidentally shot and killed himself in 1919, at the age of 13.



**Charles "Chuck" Hartman (1907-1993)  
son of Ada May Wilson Hartman**

The only survivor of the family was Chuck, who was taken in by Ada's father John Ulmer Wilson and raised as one of the family by John and his son John Edgar Wilson. Chuck eventually left the family to become a grayhound bus driver; he married Clara Johnson in 1941. They have two daughters, Marilyn (no children) and Linda (no biological children). Clara died in 1979, and Chuck in 1993. This family will have no descendants after the current generation.



Jesse Rachel Wilson (1886-1920),  
daughter of John Ulmer Wilson



Jesse Rachel Wilson (1886-1920)  
and husband Wilbur Giseburt (1882-1936)

**Jesse Rachel Wilson (1886-1920)**

John Ulmer Wilson's fourth child, Jesse Rachel "Ray" Wilson, was born in Iroquois County in 1886. She married Wilbur Giseburt in Gilman in Watonwan County, Minnesota in 1904, and they moved back to Gilman, Illinois where they lived the rest of their lives. Wilbur's parents were George and Jayne Giseburt; they lived across the county line to the west in Ford County, Pella Township (on 1880 census).

Wilbur and Jesse Ray had three children: Fay Lester (born 1904, died 1908), Paul (1905), and George (1918). Paul Giseburt changed his name at some point to Peter Gilbert. He married twice and had at least one son, Larry Gilbert, who has two daughters and died in Carson City, Nevada in 1971. George married Helen Murphy and had two children: Barbara (1941; married Sam Vukanovich and had three children), and Gregory (1946; married Janet Ingle and had two daughters). Jesse died in Gilman in 1920, and Wilbur Giseburt died in Gilman in 1936).

All of the Giseburts in America are probably related to a single immigrant ancestor. Wilbur was the son of George Giseburt (b. 1842), who was the son of Daniel Giseburt, the immigrant ancestor. Daniel's other son, Ambrose Giseburt, has many American descendants.

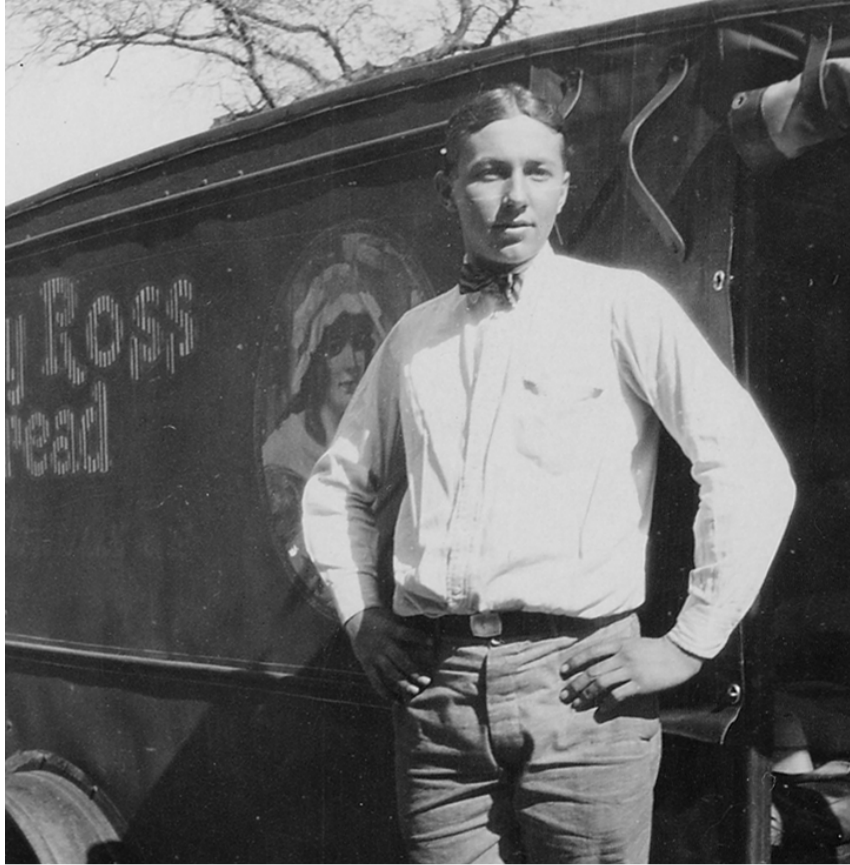


Florence Olive Wilson (1890-1968)  
and husband Guy Wilson Lee (b. 1882)

**Florence Olive Wilson** (1890-1968)

John Ulmer Wilson's fifth child was Florence Olive "Floss" Wilson, born in Iroquois County, Illinois in 1890. In 1906 she married Guy Wilson Lee, son of Charles F. Lee and Marie Antoinette Wilson. Flo and Guy had three children: Jean Wendell (born 1921 but lived only

three days), Vernon Wilson Lee (born 1907; died childless in 1971), and Alice Melissa Lee (1909-2003).



Vernon Wilson Lee (1907-1971)  
son of Florence Wilson and Guy Wilson Lee

Vernon Wilson Lee was an interesting character; his nephew, Lynn Terry, had this to say about him:

"To put it mildly my uncle was really a piece of work. I can probably best describe him as a cross between Peck's bad boy and a character out of a Damon Runyon short story. The truth is that every family needs an Uncle Vern to spice things up a bit, and most families seem to have one hidden somewhere. He used to drive his sister crazy, but of course my brother and I thought he was the greatest.

"My mother's got a million stories about her brother and my grandmother had even more, but I've got a few of my own as well. The first thing you need to

know about Uncle Vern is that it was impossible not to like him. I think my father said it best, "Vernon would give you the shirt off his back, but it would probably be your shirt that he was giving you." One of Unc's biggest problems was that women loved him and he loved them, all of them. He was married three times according to Mom, but I only knew his last wife, Lorraine. Lorraine's maiden name was Rahoi, and she was the daughter of our landlord back during World War II. The story on that one, according to Mom, is that during the war it was hard to find places to live, and we were about to be evicted from our rented house on the north side of Chicago when a guy, Mr. Rahoi, who Unc worked with, said he lived in a two-flat that he owned and his tenant was going to be moving out. To make a long story short we got the flat, became life-long friends with the whole Rahoi clan (Mom still talks regularly with Frieda, Lorraine's half-sister) and Unc ended up marrying Lorraine. After, that is, my mother had tried to warn Mrs. Rahoi that her brother was not someone her daughter should consider marrying. Nevertheless, they did get married and then after the war they moved first to Portland and then eventually to Seattle. They were divorced sometime in the 1950's without having had any children. And as far as we know Unc never had any with anyone else either, certainly not with his other two wives anyway!

"As I said, there are a million stories about my uncle, some of which have only been told to me, and others that I experienced first hand. There was the time back in the 1920's when he got himself into some trouble down in Florida and my grandmother had to go down there and bail him out. But the one I always liked from the 1930's was when my mother, father, grandmother and Uncle Vern all lived in the same apartment and grams and he were home during the day when the Purple Gang from Detroit wiped some guy out with a machine gun in the apartment above them.

"Much later of course there was the time he came to visit from Seattle for Christmas, went out for a newspaper and didn't come back for three days. And then there was the summer I spent with him after graduating (1962) from the University of Colorado. (He gave me a round-trip plane ticket for my graduation present.) It was the summer of the Seattle's World's Fair and it was my last big bash before I went into Marine Corps officer training. Some of my frat brothers drove out from Boulder to join me and none of them has ever forgotten Uncle Vernon. By that time he was selling used cars (right up his alley), playing the horses regularly (he was always easy-come-easy-go with money, and generous) and dating a number of women, several of whom that I met were less than half his age. What all went on that summer I'll leave to your imagination, except to say that my mother, fortunately, never found out about half of it.

