



Pearl Lorraine Wilson Spurlin and her husband Lonnie Jackson Spurlin

## **PEARLIE LORRAINE WILSON**

**Jan. 11, 1909 - Oct. 11, 1984**

On the 11th day of January 1909, Elizabeth Bessie Cooper Wilson and Matthew Cornelius Wilson announced the birth of their first child Pearl Lorraine. Pearl said that as a child she would help her mother with the other children and that she and Ira enjoyed playing together.

As Pearl grew older and was attracted to boys, Elizabeth would only allow her to attend church services and any church socials. This was where she met Lonnie Jackson Spurlin, she had eyes for a man named Trilby but her mother and Lonnie had decided that he was the one for her. They were married on November 17, 1925.

Lonnie Jackson Spurlin was born in Opp, Alabama and his family moved to Holt. When he was in the 4th grade his dad died suddenly with a massive heart attack. This left his mother with 6 children, as the oldest Lonnie had no choice but to quit school and continue the farming to provide food for the family. His school days ended in the 4th grade.

Pearl and Lonnie were blessed with their first child on October 15, 1926. They named her Jewel Jeanette. They had one child that was still born and a son they named Finley, he died of crib death, along came Edna Earl, Charles, Willene, Margaret and Wanda.

There was a time that Lonnie worked in a sawmill and had various jobs. But he always returned to farming. He raised all the beef, pork and poultry that the family needed along with all the vegetables. When they needed corn meal he would take corn to the gristmill in Milligan and would barter to have the corn ground. Pearl worked at the Holt School with her mother for a while and later she worked at the Laundry in Crestview. They were both very hard workers. Pearl and the children helped Lonnie in the fields.

Four days prior to their forty-seventh Wedding Anniversary on November 13, 1972 Lonnie had a massive heart attack which took his life. This left Pearl

alone five miles in the back woods of Holt on the farm that they purchased for twenty-five dollars an acre. Lonnie built their home and the barn by himself. Pearl drove some in her earlier years but never obtained a driver's license. She stayed on the farm a year then moved to Holt to be near her sisters Ira and Noma Lee.

Pearl loved to work in the yards. She also made several trips with her granddaughter Shirley Jean Parker. Shirley took her to San Francisco, Arkansas, Washington D.C. Carolina's, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland and south Florida. Shirley traveled a lot with her job and Pearl loved going with her. She developed diabetes and Congestive Heart Failure and had to remain close to her doctors. On October 11th 1984 Pearl died with Congestive Heart Failure.

*Written by: Shirley Jean Parker, first cousin once removed and granddaughter of Pearl Lorraine Wilson.  
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