

John Eugene Winstead

John Eugene Winstead was born 18 December 1854 and died on 5 December 1938. He was the son of Alexander and Nancy Winstead and according to the entry in the family Bible he was "John Lugenēs." Legal documents show him as John E. or John Eugene, but he was known as "Lou" Winstead.



John E. "Lou" Winstead — 1937

Lou grew up on a farm in Nash County. He married Viola Leigh on 14 May 1876, daughter of John H. and Ruth House Leigh. Lou and Viola began housekeeping in Nash County on a farm on the west side of the Tar River. In 1884, when the fourth child was quite young, they bought a farm on Nash Road at the Wilson County and Nash County line. That was the homeplace where most of their 10 children grew up. After listening to Lou talk about his family, his wife and children, one got the distinct impression that the relationships were loving, loyal, and close. But things were to change drastically for them in 1903. Viola died on 22 July 1903, in childbirth. That would have been the 11th child. The 10 children were: William Herbert, born 15 April 1878, died on 4 November 1961, married Addie Dew on 13 December 1900; Claud Leon, born 15 April 1880, died 13 September 1938, married Sallie Suits Williams, widow of Arthur Williams, on 15 March 1922; Wiley W., born 5 March 1882, died 3 October 1949, married first Alice Winstead on 8 December 1902, and second Nettie Alford; Frank Jefferson, born 26 April 1884, died 7 September 1974, married Nettie Moore Strickland on 30 January 1907; Edward E., born 2 March 1887, died 17 April 1957, married first Mittie Williams on 25 December 1910, and second Effie Viverette; Ruth Blanche, born 11 May 1889, died 2 August 1954, married Eugene Carlyle Williams on 12 October 1913; George T., born 2 September 1891, died 27 February 1952, married first Bessie Renfrow on 7 November 1916, and second Mattie Flowers Harrison on 28 March 1920; John Alex, born 16 March 1895, died 9 June 1966, married Gertrude Barnes on 12 February 1921; Samuel E., born 16 August 1897, died 17 June 1942, married Eula High on 26 October 1919; Olna Dempsey, born 17 April 1901, died 17 December 1962, married Lessie Williams on 3 November 1920.

There was a problem with getting a clear deed to the farm and they had to move. Lou and the children still at home farmed in Johnston County for one year, moved back to a farm on Nash Road, then to Wilson to operate a grocery store, and finally farmed for Wiley W. Farmer and moved into the old John Farmer homeplace.

As the children married and left home, it soon became clear that he could not operate the farm. He "broke-up housekeeping" about 1922 and moved to Wilson and lived with his son Frank and daughter-in-law Nettie. He called that home. He was comfortable there and was accepted as part of the family. I remember his being at home with us from the time I was about nine years old until I left home. I remember him as a part of my growing up. As long as he was able, he helped his son Frank at the restaurant; helping with barbequing the pigs and helping with other work on the farm. He was a likeable individual, kind, easygoing, pleasant, and not wanting to be any trouble for anybody. He had a keen sense of humor. The last time that I saw him was at my wedding. He died three months later. I am proud to be his grandson.

HISTORY OF WILSON COUNTY AND ITS FAMILIES



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Publishing Consultant
Susan C. McDonald
Chapel Hill, North Carolina