

**WILSON CEMETERY**  
**GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK**  
**Site Medallion No. 11**  
**Lynn Creek Park, Joe Pool Lake**

In 1872, four years before the railroad lines reached Tarrant County, a wagon train on the way to California passed through southeastern Tarrant County. Traveling in the wagon train were Charles N. Wilson and his wife, Ophelia E. West Wilson, who went into labor as they passed through this area. Ophelia (1853-1872) and her newborn daughter died as a result of complications during the childbirth. According to local legend, Charles went to a nearby creek and dug up four oak saplings and planted them at each end of the graves to mark the site until he could return. Charles notified a local farmer, William Lynn, of the graves and his plans to return with gravestones.

Around 1893, a third burial took place when the firstborn son of James W. Bowlin and Mattie Curry Bowlin was buried as an infant. No marker or headstone was ever erected for the Bowlin child.

In the early 1930's, a woman from Houston, identifying herself as Charles Wilson's daughter, visited the site. She erected an iron fence around the plot and set two headstones, with the help of a local resident, Otis Skinner.

The Wilson Cemetery is located in Lynn Creek Park at Joe Pool Lake. It was approximately two hundred feet east of Ragland Road, which has been abandoned and absorbed into the park. It is in a remote area in the western part of Lynn Creek Park, at an elevation of 537.9 mean sea level, or approximately two feet above the flood control pool.

State marker granted 1986.

Research by Duane Gage, Tarrant County Historical Commission