Little River Wilson Valley Cemetery, Wilson Valley Loop, Bell Co., TX, 7 Oct 2001
Photos by R. Steven Rainwater & Susan Chance-Rainwater
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From I-35, exit south of Troy, TX onto Hwy 436. Drive east to Wilson Valley Road. Turn south and drive to Wilson Valley Loop. Follow the loop until you reach the cemetery.
LITTLE RIVER-WILSON VALLEY CEMETERY

WILSON VALLEY COMMUNITY ORIGINALLY CONSISTED OF THE SEVEN WILSON BROTHERS, THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN, AND THE HUCKABEE AND THORNTON FAMILIES. THEY CAME FROM MISSISSIPPI IN 1867 TO ESCAPE CIVIL WAR DEVASTATION.

ACCORDING TO FAMILY TRADITION, EASTER COBB WILSON, FAMILY MatriARCH, EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO BE BURIED ON A CERTAIN HILLSIDE. HER SON CALVIN WILSON DESIGNATED A PLOT ON THAT HILL TO BE A FAMILY CEMETERY. IN 1869, WILLIAM J. R. WILSON, 3-YEAR-OLD SON OF BEN AND EDNA WILSON, BECAME THE FIRST TO BE INTERRED AT THIS SITE. SEVERAL OTHERS HAD BEEN BURIED BY 1877 WHEN EASTER COBB WILSON DIED AT AGE 81.

IN 1893, BARTLETT AND AVIE McGREGOR MARKS HUCKABEE DEEDED 3.27 ACRES OF LAND, INCLUDING THE FAMILY PLOT, TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE WILSON VALLEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION. WILSON VALLEY, WHICH HAD BECOME A THRIVING AREA, DECLINED WHEN THE RAILROAD WENT THROUGH LITTLE RIVER, AND GRADUALLY THE TWO COMMUNITIES MERGED.

GRAVES IN THE CEMETERY REFLECT A HIGH INFANT-CHILD MORTALITY RATE IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY AND DEATHS DUE TO AN INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC IN 1917 AND 1918. A 19TH CENTURY TABERNACLE IS USED FOR MEETINGS AND CEREMONIES. IN 1997, OVER 1,300 GRAVES WERE COUNTED IN THE CEMETERY.
Jessie Rainwater, daughter of Hosea M. & Mattie Sawyers Rainwater
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Photo by R. Steven Rainwater & Susan Chance-Rainwater
Mattie Lemon Sawyers Rainwater, wife of Hosea M. Rainwater
Little River Wilson Valley Cemetery, Bell Co., TX, 7 Oct 2001
photo by R. Steven Rainwater & Susan Chance-Rainwater
Hosea Milton Rainwater, son of Benjamin F. & Amanda Adeline Wood Rainwater
Little River Wilson Valley Cemetery, Bell Co., TX, 7 Oct 2001
Photo by R. Steven Rainwater & Susan Chance-Rainwater
H. B. RAINWATER
1895  ➸  1941

Homer Brown Rainwater, son of Hosea M. & Mattie Sawyers Rainwater
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