

WRIGHT, FRED HIRAM. INTERVIEW 10086

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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Nora L. Lorrin

This report made on (date) February 21 1938

1. Name Fred Hiram Wright

2. Post Office Address El Reno, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 4 Year 1860

5. Place of birth Whitewater, Wisconsin.

6. Name of Father Simon D. Wright. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Amanda Hayward Wright. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3

Nora Lorrin  
Investigator  
February 21, 1938.

Interview with Fred Hiram Wright  
El Reno, Oklahoma.

I was born at Whitewater, Wisconsin, August 4, 1860, the son of Simon Davis Wright and Amanda Hayward Wright. I lived on Prince Street at the head of Peck Street in a two story brick house, during my boyhood days up to the age of sixteen years.

In 1876 my father died. I remained in Wisconsin about two months after my father's death, then left and went to Lanark Illinois, and worked in the store of John L. Reynolds, a second cousin. From Lanark the following year, 1878, I went to Davenport, Iowa, and remained there with my cousin, Eugene L. Hayward, for about a year, going to school and taking a business course.

From there I went to Greene, Iowa, where at that time my sister, Lou A. Pratt, was living. Here I learned the harness making business or trade. I stayed there about one year and went to Marble Rock, Iowa, and worked for one Ralph Wilkes and remained there until 1879 and then went to Mason City, Iowa, and went to work for my brother, William S. Wright, and his partner under the firm name of "Tiffany and Wright", in a dry goods store, in what is now known as "The Old Opera House Store". I remained there until about 1881, when I left Mason City, Iowa, and went

to Chicago, Illinois, and worked for Marshal Field Company for about two years, being in the black goods department. Leaving Chicago, I went to Mount Ayr, Iowa, to which point Lou A. Pratt and her husband J. A. Pratt had moved, and took charge of the clothing store there for my brother-in-law J. A. Pratt.

I remained there until about 1884, when I returned to Mason City, Iowa, and worked again for my brother, William S. Wright, in the dry goods store until 1885, in the early spring. Kansas at that time being on the boom I left Mason City to go to Kansas to go into business. In the meantime, I had made a trip down through Old Mexico and returned to Stockton, Kansas, in the fall of 1885, where I went into the State Bank at Stockton. The following spring, 1886 in partnership with my brother, William S. Wright, who still lived and remained in Mason City, Iowa, I went into the dry goods, boots and shoe and clothing business, in Stockton and the Mortgage and Loan business with my brother, William S. Wright, having jointly bought a large ranch there, known as the "Elm Stock Farm". There was continuous failure of crops in Kansas during the years 1889, 1890 and 1891. I closed out the business and came to Oklahoma which had been opened for settlement in 1889. I settled at El Reno and organized

and opened the Canadian County Bank with William S. Wright as president and me as cashier. In 1892 my brother, William S. Wright, died. After his death I associated with me in business in the Canadian County Bank, J. J. O'Rourke, who married my sister, Date Florence. In 1893 I sold the Canadian County Bank to the Stock Exchange Bank and began loaning money and handling stock.

In 1901 I organized the El Reno State Bank and opened it but it was operated by other parties and I remained in the loan and stock business. June 10, 1907, I was still in the loan business and also owned the El Reno <sup>Horse</sup> and Mule Company and the Chattanooga State Bank at Chattanooga.

In 1886 while at Stockton, Kansas, I met Rachel Wilson Cuddy who was there at that time visiting her sister, Mary Stoeffler. In September 1886, we were married and and Fred Hiram Wright Jr. was born in 1906.

NOTE: The above manuscript was written by Fred Hiram Wright June 11, 1907, for his son. Mr. Wright has since died.---- Investigator.