

WRIGHT, GEORGE TRAVIS

INTERVIEW

#12392

353

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

WRIGHT, GEORGE TRAVIS. INTERVIEW. 12392.

Field Worker's name Hazel B. Greene.

This report made on (date) December 13, 1937.

1. Name George Travis Wright.

2. Post office Address 190 Bonham Street

3. Residence address (or location) Paris, Texas.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 10 Year 1885.

5. Place of birth Kiamichi, Texas.

6. Name of Father Samuel Johnston Wright. Place of birth Kiamichi, Texas..
Other information about father _____

7. Name of mother Lone Tanner-Wright. Place of birth Leavenworth, Kansas.
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 4.

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Hazel B. Greene,
Journalist,
December 13, 1937.

An Interview With George Travis
Wright, Paris, Texas.

Kiamichi is the name of the Post Office on the Wright plantation which is mostly on the south side of Red River, where the Kiamichi River empties into the Red. There are a good many acres on the north side of the river too, but the plantation proper is on the south side. The home was built there in the early 1830's. The original house is still standing, but it has had so much built over it and added to it that one cannot see the old logs, and it doesn't look like the original one of course. It was built by my grandfather, Travis Wright. Then a few years later he built the home in Paris, Texas, which I now occupy, but he continued to manage the plantation at Kiamichi, as my father and I have done unto this good day. My family and I spend all of our summers down there, and a lot of the winter months also. My father and I were born there.

The years of my childhood spent on our plantation were very happy ones. We had many friends over in the Indian Territory, whom we frequently visited; also a lot

of business carried us over there. We were so much nearer to Doaksville than we were to any other place that it was more convenient to go over there on a lot of business and pleasure.

Going over into the Indian Territory was like going into another world to me. I can never forget the sea of waving grass on the prairies between Red River and Doaksville. Grass as high as the ponies we rode along the trail on our way over to visit friends, which we did frequently. Especially do I remember visiting the Wilson Brothers. John, Ed, Rafe and Willie. My father was a Captain in the Confederate Army, and the "Wilson boys" always called him "Captain Wright", as long as he lived.

The eight or nine miles from Kiamichi to Doaksville were just a pleasure jaunt for after supper, though we nearly always spent the night when we went to Doaksville, and visited.

After Fort Towson was built and Miss Myrta Laughlin was teaching there in the High School, I went up there very often to see her until we got married. I got to where I could walk that eight miles or so in an hour and

WRIGHT, GEORGE TRAVIS.

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12392.

-3-

and a quarter flat. We used to ford the river when I was a boy, but about 1898, I guess, an inter-married citizen, William Meigs, put a ferry at Kiamichi, and it was known as Meigs' ferry.

There were several old indian burial grounds on both sides of the river on our places. Every once in a while we would accidentally dig into graves, out of which, altogether, we got quite a collection of pottery, (which was very fragile), stone implements, and tomahawks, and stone pipes; all of which are in the Culberson Library in Paris, Texas, on exhibition. One skeleton which we dug up was identified as that of a Caddo Indian.

When my father died he left a trunk full of old papers to which we paid very little attention until Mr. A. W. Neville and daughter, Miss Maude, of the Paris News, began the history of Lamar County. Then, as my family were some of the very first settlers of Lamar County, their history was desired, so we examined the contents of that trunk and found many interesting documents there, one of which was an old Probate of Will, dated 1829. Miss Neville has the collection that I loaned her for

WRIGHT, GEORGE TRAVIS.

INTERVIEW.

12392.

358

-4-

perusal and which I will gladly submit for perusal and copy to any representative of the Historical Society of Oklahoma, if desired.

(Kiamichi is also spelled Kiamatic and Kiamitia. Field Worker.)