



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 19, 1999

George Wright  
8301 Boat Club Rd #522  
Fort Worth TX 76179

Re: *James Ivison Wright*  
*Tarrant County, Job #18599*

Dear Mr. Wright:

The members of the State Marker Review Board [SMRB] have completed their evaluation of your application for an Official Texas Historical Marker for James Ivison Wright in Tarrant County. I regret to inform you that the SMRB has voted not to approve your application.

The SMRB members carefully considered the application, but in the end declined to approve the topic for a marker. While the history as submitted clearly demonstrated that James Wright was an early settler and successful businessman (who had the good fortune to purchase the land that later became very valuable in the Fort Worth area), the application failed to sufficiently establish historical significance. The SMRB members felt that James Wright was a fine citizen, but was no more historically significant than countless other early settlers in North Texas.

Although the decisions of the SMRB are final, if you wish to discuss this matter please do not hesitate to contact me. Your original application materials will be returned to you under separate cover. I have enclosed a list of private plaque manufacturers in case you want to pursue a private marker for this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia J. Beeman".

Cynthia J. Beeman  
Historical Marker Program Coordinator  
History Programs Division  
[cynthia.beeman@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:cynthia.beeman@thc.state.tx.us)

c: ✓ David Jusiewicz, Tarrant CHC Marker Chairman  
Rachel Wright



**TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Date:** April 15, 1999

**Re: James I. Wright                      Tarrant County**

Thank you for your application to the Texas Historical Commission for an Official Texas Historical Marker. It has been received in the History Programs Division office, and we look forward to working with you on this project. Please refer to your guidelines and application booklet for information on the application process, but if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call us.

In making a preliminary review of the application, we may have noticed some missing components. If a list of one or more items appears in the space below, we would ask that you submit these items as soon as possible. That will allow us to make a more thorough evaluation when your application comes up for review in approximately 90 days. In order to be fair to all the marker applicants, we review the applications in the order in which they are received.

Here is what we need to complete your application packet:

**Packet appears complete; questions may arise later**

**Comments:**

Thank you for your interest in preserving Texas' heritage. If you have questions at any point throughout the process, please do not hesitate to call our office at 512/463-5853. We look forward to working with you.

Cynthia Beeman, Director  
Local History Programs  
512/463-5854  
cynthia.beeman@thc.state.tx.us

Emily Bell  
Historian  
512/463-8769  
emily.bell@thc.state.tx.us

Egina Reyes  
Office Manager  
512/463-6063  
egina.reyes@thc.state.tx.us

HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION

APPLICATION FORM  
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

This marker is for (title or subject): JAMES I. WRIGHT

County: TARRANT

Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):  
MT. OLIVET CEMETERY - STEPHEN F. AUSTIN SECTION  
2301 N. SYLVANIA - FT. WORTH, TX 76111

Distance and direction of marker topic from marker site (if applicable):  
AT GRAVESITE



APPROVAL OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission before forwarding to the Texas Historical Commission.

Chairperson's Signature: *Amelia Stella Plummer* Date: 4/13/99

Address: 712 E. Dallas St., Mansfield, TX 76063 Phone: 817-477-3218

The CHC chair automatically will receive all copies of correspondence regarding this marker project.

PERMISSION OF OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Permission for placement of a marker must be obtained by the property owner. Please provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization, or public entity. This section need not be completed if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Name: GEORGE WRIGHT

Contact person (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: 8301 BOAT CLUB RD. #522  
FT. WORTH, TX 76179 Phone: (817) 236-6630

Owner's Signature: *George W. Wright*

Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application?  Yes  No

To whom should the request for payment be addressed?

Name: GEORGE WRIGHT

(Provide contact person if payee is an institution, organization, or public entity.)

Mailing address: SAME AS ABOVE Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Does this person wish to receive copies of all other correspondence concerning this application?  Yes  No

Is there anyone else to whom all correspondence concerning this marker application should be addressed?

(One additional name and address only, please.)

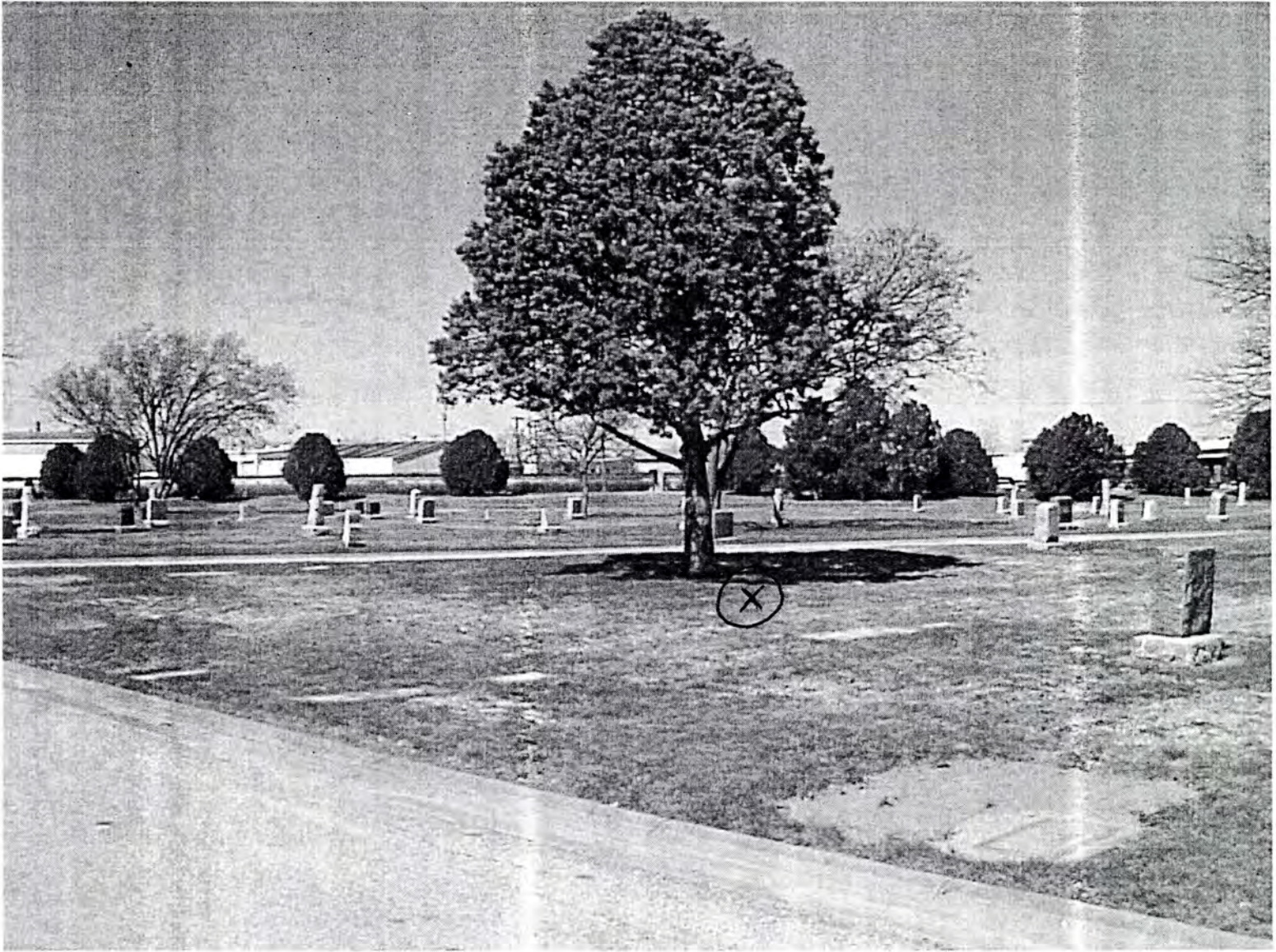
Name: RACHEL WRIGHT

Mailing address: 4319 FIELDGATE CT  
ARLINGTON, TX 76016 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

David J. Josselyn  
712 E. Dallas St.  
Mansfield, TX 76063

817-477-3218  
(over)



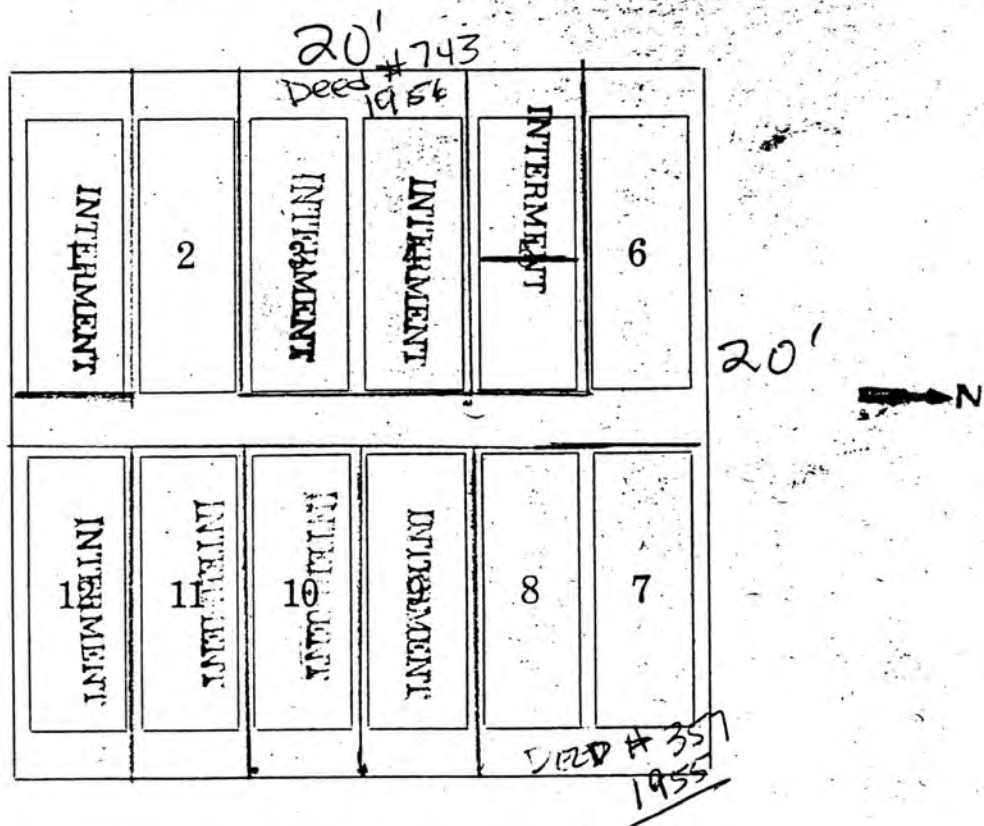


CEDAR TREE IN CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPH WAS PLANTED AT THE HEAD OF JAMES WRIGHT'S GRAVE BY FAMILY MEMBERS OVER 75 YEARS AGO. MARKER WILL BE PLACED AT FOOT OF HIS GRAVE. THIS IS A HIGHLY VISIBLE LOCATION NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF 2 STREETS IN THE CEMETERY.



RECORD OF BURIALS

BURIAL NO.	GRAVE NO.	NAME	DATE	DATA
	1	J. I. Wright	6-8-1914	See jacket file
	2			
W.I. Wright	3	Cornelius Wright, Sr.	11-20-1923	See jacket file
Lot:		Emma Lena Wright	5-3-1956	
	5	Cornelius D. Wright, Jr. (E $\frac{1}{2}$ )	6-8-1914	See jacket file
	5	Archie Wright (W $\frac{1}{2}$ )	6-8-1914	See jacket file
	6			
L.R. Wright	7			
Lot:	8			
	9	Edward Drysdale	6-8-1914	See jacket file
	10	S. A. Drysdale	6-8-1914	See jacket file
	11	Infant of Ada Wright	6-8-1914	See jacket file
	12	Ada Wright	6-8-1914	See jacket file



LOT NO. 11 STEPHEN AUSTIN(18)



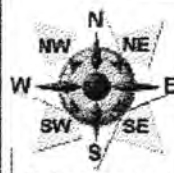




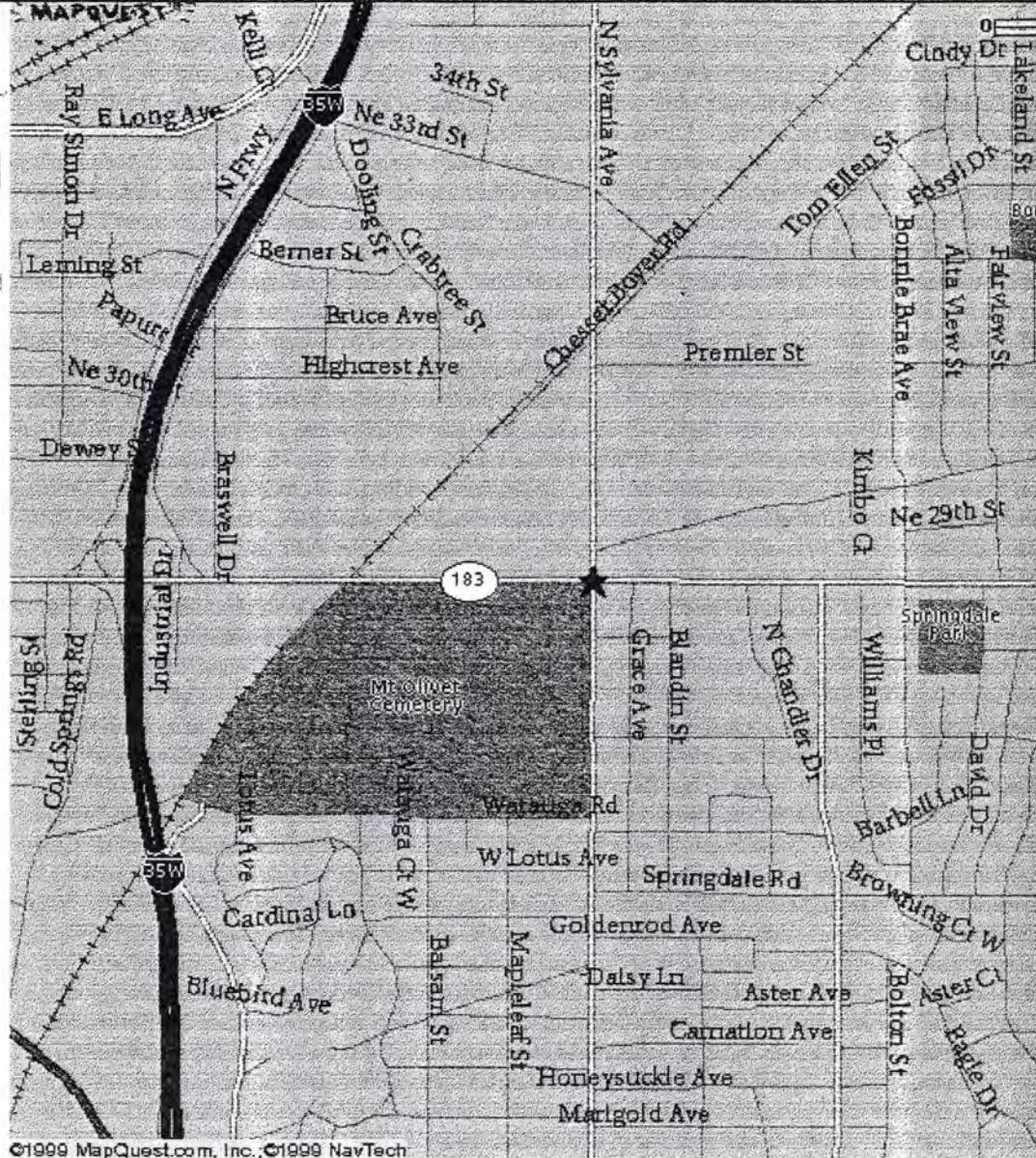
### Map Results

use subject to license/copyright

Your search origin is : 28th at Sylvania, Fort Worth, tx, usa



Click on compass points to move map  
Select option and click on map  
Recenter Map  
Identify Icon  
Recenter Map and Zoom In



©1999 MapQuest.com, Inc. ©1999 NavTech

Tip: You must have the zoom level set at City level or lower in order to view any Places Of Interest (POIs) on the Map.

#### Quick Places of Interest

Click on buttons to show / remove the location(s) on the map.

- BORDERS
- kinko's
- AVIS

#### Places of Interest (US/E)

Select a category and click on U

- Attractions
- Banks & ATMs
- Dining
- Education
- Lodging
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Personal



### SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. If the marker is to be placed on the highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: MT. OLIVET CEMETERY - ATTN: JOHN GOODBECK  
Street address: 2301 N. SYLVANIA - FT. WORTH, TX 76111  
Phone: (817) 831-0511

TYPE AND SIZE OF MARKER DESIRED (please check one only)

#### Subject Markers

This type of marker is solely educational in nature and conveys no legal restrictions to the property. Subject markers are appropriate for topics such as cemeteries, church congregations, businesses, persons, events, and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings. If the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) | \$223            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" marker with post            | \$750 <i>850</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" marker without post (see below)        | \$700            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker with post                       | \$450            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker without post (see below)        | \$400            |

If not on post, to what (block of granite, gatepost, etc.) will the marker be attached? \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Markers

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation does carry a measure of legal protection for the structure (see Marker Policies 13 through 18) and for that reason we must have a legal description (lot and block numbers) for the property to be designated. The most commonly used marker for conveying this designation is the medallion and plate (also referred to as a building marker); however, the 18" x 28" or 27" x 42" size marker may be ordered for those who wish a greater amount of historical information to appear in the marker text. Careful attention should be paid so as not to damage historic building material if the marker is to be mounted directly onto the structure. The THC staff can provide alternate ideas for mounting upon request.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medallion and 16" x 12" plate with post                | \$350 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medallion and 16" x 12" plate without post (see below) | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" marker with post                             | \$750 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" marker without post (see below)              | \$700 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker with post                             | \$450 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker without post (see below)              | \$400 |

If not on post, to what (building, gate, etc.) will the marker be attached? \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (lot and block number, metes and bounds):

GRAVE NO. 1, LOT NO. 11, SECTION NO. 18, STEPHEN AUSTIN LAWN  
MT. OLIVET CEMETERY, 2301 N. SYLVANIA - FT. WORTH, TX 76111

Before forwarding your material to the Texas Historical Commission, please check to make sure you've included the following items. Incomplete applications cannot be considered and may be returned to the applicant.

- ✓ completed application form signed by the county historical commission
- ✓ narrative history with footnotes and bibliography
- ✓ photograph of the proposed marker location
- ✓ map indicating marker location and other sites related to the marker topic
- ✓ historic photo of property and current photographs of all elevations (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ legal description of property (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ floor plans (RTHL markers only)

Mail completed applications to:  
Local History Programs, Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276  
512/463-6100

Additional items, including paperweights, directional signs, and replacement parts for 1936 markers, are available. Please contact the Local History Programs office for a separate order form.



# JAMES I. WRIGHT

a biographical history





## JAMES I. WRIGHT

James Ivison Wright was a colorful Tarrant County pioneer who became a prominent citizen of his day and contributed much to the development of the area until his death in 1908.<sup>1, 21</sup> A successful cattleman, planter, and builder, he participated in a number of significant historic events in the county, from the coming of the railroad to the construction of present-day Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.<sup>2, 3, 21</sup>

Wright was born in Owen County, Kentucky on August 14, 1836<sup>1</sup>, the eldest son of Cornelius and Sarah Wright<sup>4</sup> and was named after both his grandfathers, James Wright of Virginia and Ivison Southard of Kentucky.<sup>2</sup> A lathe man/plasterer by trade, he continued to work on his father's farm until he was twenty-two years old. In 1858 he married Evaline Sebra and began farming on his own. But tragedy struck the young family in 1861 as the nation was becoming embroiled in civil war. Wright's wife and children died from disease. The next year, as requested by his first wife, he married Melvina Giles, the daughter of William Giles, a neighboring farmer.<sup>5</sup>

In 1862, along with his father and brothers, Wright entered the Confederate Army, Company F, Sixth Regiment of Mounted Infantry. He was consigned to the Army of Tennessee and participated in several battles under the command of General Morgan. During the Battle of Cynthiana, Kentucky, he was cut off from the command, captured and taken to Indianapolis, Indiana and held until the close of the war.<sup>5</sup>

Melvina Wright, pregnant with the couple's second child, journeyed to Indiana to await her husband's release. The couple's first son, James, had been born in May of 1863.<sup>6</sup> Then in March, 1865, as the war drew to a close, a second son, Cornelius, whom they called Neely, was born.<sup>2, 6</sup> Finding abundant fertile land available in the area after the war, the Wrights remained in Indiana

and attempted to start a new life on a farm near Greenfield. But the new life they sought ended tragically in 1869 when Melvina died. That same year Wright married Lulu Mitchell, but she, too, soon died.<sup>5</sup>

Heartbroken, Wright gathered his two small sons and their few possessions and moved to Harrison County, Missouri to ply his trade and again engage in farming. There, he met and found solace in the arms of a woman who would almost kill him. Lucinda Wright seemed like an angel of mercy when James married her in February, 1870, but the ink on their marriage license was barely dry when the real Lucinda emerged: a woman of violent, often unprovoked temper. By summer of 1871, she had made Wright's life a living hell. She abused the two boys, constantly berated her husband and threatened and abused the hired help on the farm. Her outbursts were often in public, much to everyone's distress. But it was her abusive treatment of the two boys and violent assaults on him that drove Wright to court to have their marriage dissolved.<sup>7</sup>

On July 1, 1871, according to court records, Lucinda cruelly beat six-year-old Cornelius with a club "in such a manner as to endanger the life of such child for which she was afterwards arrested and convicted in a court of competent jurisdiction." The episode failed to bring her to her senses. Indeed, her behavior became more abusive and bazaar. She accused Wright and their friends of conspiring against her. She constantly tried to provoke arguments and threatened everyone around her. She continued to beat the children and would drive them out into inclement weather without sufficient clothing. Once, when Wright intervened to protect the children from another violent outburst, Lucinda attacked him and beat him with a club. A few days later, she attacked him and beat him with a chair. In August, 1872, a tired and distraught James Wright filed for divorce in a Harrison County court. Lucinda challenged the petition, but her reputation was too well established. The divorce was soon granted.<sup>7</sup> In a state of quiet desperation, Wright once



again gathered his sons and their possessions and did what thousands of desperate men had done before him: he cast his eyes on Texas.

In 1873, Wright settled in Dallas and began a grocery business. He earned additional income using his wagon and team of mules to haul sand and gravel in and around the growing city.<sup>8</sup> Suddenly in Texas his life was turning around. In dire need of spiritual renewal, he had found it in Texas and in the young daughter of a Scottish immigrant named Julia A. McCasson. On November 19, 1873, following a brief courtship, they were wed<sup>9</sup> -- he for the fifth time.

Wright began to prosper in Dallas. With earnings from his business, his trade and gravel hauling, he purchased the Lone Star Hotel on Main Street in February, 1874 for \$700.<sup>8</sup> Still, a yearning within him beckoned. He wanted to be more than a merchant. He knew that land was wealth, and he wanted his share. He wanted a place to settle and to grow things, including a family. In the fall of 1874, he found it in neighboring Tarrant County.

On December 31, 1874, Wright traded the Lone Star Hotel and some cash for 320 acres of unimproved land five miles south of the town of Fort Worth known as the Thomas McCanne Survey.<sup>8</sup> The cost was less than \$3 per acre. The property was beautifully situated and ripe for cultivation and development. Located near the Clear Fork of the Trinity River about 10 miles Southwest of the old county seat of Birdville, the McCanne Survey had been part of the old Peters Colony until April, 1854 when it was patented by McCanne. McCanne transferred the property to James Patterson later that year, and it was Patterson and his wife Sarah who sold it to Wright. The property was configured in a square: "Beginning at the Southeast corner of Elijah Southerland's Survey a stake in Prairie; Thence West 1344 varas to a Mound of Rocks; Thence South 1344 varas to a Rock in Prairie; Thence East 1344 varas to a Rock in Prairie; Thence North 1344 varas to the beginning. Containing Three Hundred and Twenty Acres."<sup>10</sup>

In 1875, Wright built a small two-room cabin on the property, moved his family from Dallas, and began the process of clearing and planting. A herd of stock cattle was started. Over time, the tiny two room cabin became a disjointed seven room house, growing as the family grew. It and the nearby pool formed from the artesian spring on the property were familiar landmarks for cattlemen from as far south as the Rio Grande. The Chisolm Trail crossed the Wright ranch, and the spring was one of the largest watering places along the entire route. For many it was the last water from Fort Worth to Deer Creek 15 miles away.<sup>11</sup> A news article in the *Fort Worth Record* ten years after Wright's death underscored its importance:

“Every herd of cattle driven during nearly twenty years from the ranges of Texas to the markets of Kansas was corralled over night near Wright's property, and every gang of cowpunchers pitched its tents there from sundown to sunup. Also, every wagon train of settlers pushing further south or west sought to reach by nightfall the haven of rest and security afforded by the Wright ranch.”<sup>11</sup>

Julia Wright died in 1884 at the age of 31 after bearing six children: Janette, Lee, Gilbert, George, John, and Harvey<sup>5</sup> who would serve as Tarrant County Commissioner from 1922 to 1932. She was buried on a hillside overlooking the spring. By 1914 when the bodies were exhumed from the family burial ground and reinterred in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth, 13 more family members had joined her there.<sup>12</sup>

On December 5, 1885,<sup>13</sup> Wright married Ada Drysdale, the daughter of John Drysdale, a local farmer. To this union three children were born, but only two survived: Roy in 1886 and Ruby in 1889 when James Wright was 53 years old.<sup>5, 14</sup> But happiness would never dwell for long in Wright's life. Ada died in 1894<sup>12</sup> and was buried next to Julia in the family cemetery.

In 1903, Wright began courting Mrs. M.L. Cole, a widow in Azle -- a small community 16



miles Northwest of Fort Worth. Still erect and handsome at 67, with penetrating blue eyes and a large mustache that draped over much of his face, he had a commanding presence.<sup>15</sup> His grandson, William Ivison Wright of Fort Worth, would later remember that Wright resembled the distinguished Civil War generals one often sees in history books.<sup>2</sup> On May 28, 1903, Wright and M.L. Cole were married.<sup>16</sup> She would be his seventh wife and the only one to survive him.

Wright purchased a large home at 2264 Washington Avenue in South Fort Worth in 1906. He lived there with his wife and daughter Ruby until his death from pneumonia on December 16, 1908 at the age of 72.<sup>1, 18</sup>

Both major newspapers of the day published articles lamenting the loss. The headline in the *Fort Worth Record* read, "Another Pioneer of the County Dies",<sup>17</sup> and the *Fort Worth Telegram* reported, "Mr. Wright was one of Fort Worth's pioneer citizens, having moved here 33 years ago..."<sup>18</sup> A subsequent article reported, "A large audience paid their respects to the life he had lived by their attendance at the church, and many followed the body out to the old home place, where in the family burial ground he was laid to rest with other loved ones." The article also noted his pioneer status and reported that Wright had taken an interest in "many of the important enterprises" both public and private for the past thirty-two years.<sup>1</sup>

Important enterprises, indeed. Wright began participating in important enterprises almost from the moment he stepped foot in Tarrant County. The enterprises were important to Wright because progress was important and his community was important -- even if his community in the beginning was five miles away. Consider:

1. Wright laid out the welcome mat for drovers, cattlemen and settlers using the famed Chisolm Trail and allowed them access to the flow of water on his property. Before the end of the century, Wright himself was a prominent rancher and dairyman in Tarrant County.<sup>11, 21</sup>

2. He helped bring the railroad into Fort Worth. When the railroad came to North Texas in 1876 but stopped short of Fort Worth, residents in the area were asked to pitch in and finish building the railroad into town. Although five miles from town and new to the area, Wright answered the call and used his mule teams to help build the rails into town.<sup>2, 19, 20</sup>

3. He helped build the majestic Tarrant County Courthouse. Wright put his mule teams to use again from 1893 to 1895 when the county contracted with him to haul the building materials for the new county courthouse to the jobsite on the bluff.<sup>2, 20, 21</sup>

4. He and his sons helped clear and develop land for a community park that one day would become Fort Worth's Forest Park.<sup>2, 20, 21</sup>

5. He was a charter member of and a deacon in what is now Southside Church of Christ at 2101 Hemphill St. in Fort Worth. Along with ministers W.T. Kidwell and C.E. Wooldridge, he helped start and build the church.<sup>1</sup>

6. In 1908 he joined other nearby landowners and donated 20 acres in the southwest part of his property as a building site for the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He would not live to see the actual construction of the first seminary building in 1910,<sup>19</sup> but the promise would be honored and the property transferred to the seminary by his heirs.<sup>2, 3</sup>

Arguably, his greatest contribution was the contribution of all pioneers, although sometimes done unwittingly: bringing civilization to the wilderness and forging something uniquely American from the raw elements discovered in the process. One newspaper called him "one of the most picturesque characters that Texas ever knew."<sup>11</sup> Perhaps, but it is what he left behind that matters most. Certainly, Tarrant County and Texas are the better because James Wright was here.

The April 21, 1918 edition of the *Fort Worth Record* newspaper perhaps summed up his life best: "James I. Wright was more than merely an early settler. He was a builder. He was a pioneer

who made the waste places bloom. Before he had resided on the old homestead half a decade, he was famous for his eccentricities, but he was even more noted for his stalwart character and square dealings. His word was his bond. He enforced the same code of honor from others when Texas was the borderland of civilization in the Southwest, and he who could draw first, shoot fastest and straightest, survived. Captain B.B. Paddock, W. A. Darter, and Major Van Zandt knew him well.”<sup>11</sup>

#### EPILOGUE:

Wright would make news again in 1918 when his heirs sold his ranch (by then a large dairy) for \$270 per acre -- 100 times the price Wright paid for it in 1874.<sup>11, 22</sup> The property was sold after lengthy litigation between Wright’s offspring. The children of Julia sued the children of Melvina and Ada claiming that their father made his fortune while married to their mother. The suit titled L.A. Wright, et.al. VS Cornelius Wright, et.al. was finally settled when the two older brothers proved that the money used to purchase the Lone Star Hotel in Dallas which in turn was used to help purchase the Thomas McCanne Survey was money made before his marriage to Julia McCasson. The newspaper headline stated, “Seven Wives The Cause Of Suit To Clear Title”. Actually, only three wives were relevant to the case.<sup>8, 22</sup>

Most of the land was sold to the Standard Land & Investment Co. to develop the property. A portion was eventually purchased by the Bridges Motor Car and Rubber Co. as a site for an automobile manufacturing plant.<sup>8, 11, 22</sup> Wright built a road along his section line that later became part of the Cleburne Cardinal Road, a small portion of which is present-day Cleburne Road. The old Wright homestead was located where B.H. Carroll Elementary School is now situated near McCart and Pafford streets in South Fort Worth.<sup>21</sup>

###



REFERENCES  
James I. Wright History

1. James I. Wright, In Memoriam -- 1908
2. William Ivison Wright Interview, 1988
3. A Modern School of the Prophets, A History of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
By L. R. Scarborough, Texas Baptist Historical Collection
4. 1850 Census, Owen County, Kentucky
5. History of Texas with Biographical History of Tarrant and Parker Counties  
Lewis Publishing Co., 1895
6. 1880 Census, Tarrant County, Texas
7. James I. Wright VS Lucinda E. Wright  
Circuit Court of Harrison County, Missouri, September Term, 1872
8. Cause No. 28337, L.A. Wright VS Cornelius Wright  
Tarrant County District Clerk -- May, 1911
9. James I. Wright/Julia McCasson Marriage Certificate
10. Thomas McCanne Survey, Land Deed from Patterson to J.I. Wright  
Tarrant County Clerk -- Dec. 31, 1874
11. "Celebrated Landmark of Border Days..."  
Fort Worth Record Newspaper, April 21, 1918
12. Mount Olivet Cemetery Records  
Mount Olivet Cemetery, 2301 N. Sylvania, Fort Worth
13. James I. Wright/Ada Drysdale Marriage Certificate
14. 1900 Census, Tarrant County, Texas
15. James I. Wright Photograph, 1900
16. James I. Wright/M.L. Cole Marriage Certificate
17. Fort Worth Record -- Dec. 17, 1908

References, James I. Wright History, Page 2

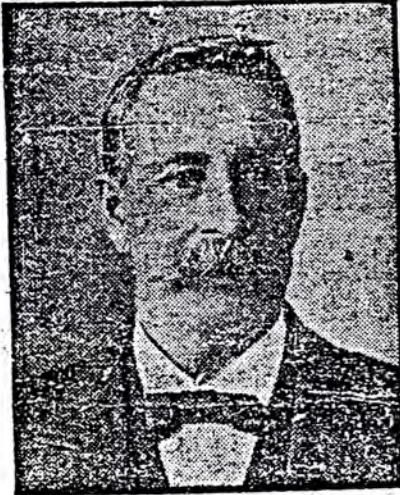
18. Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dec. 16. 1908
19. Fort Worth, The Civilized West, by Caleb Pirtle
20. W.I. Wright Obituary, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 8, 1995
21. G.A. Wright Obituary, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Oct. 29, 1949
22. "Makes \$270 Acre On Sale Of Land", April, 1918, unnamed newspaper

Note: Misspellings and other errors with people's names were and are common. Documents associated with James Wright are no exception. In one newspaper article, he is referred to as John, the name of one of his sons. However, most of the mistakes occur with his initials, which are listed in different places as J.J., J.L., or J.T. Only rarely is he listed correctly as J.I. Wright. But in every case, the true identity of the subject is unmistakable and collaborated separately.

References 1 and 22 are attached since both are undated news articles.



IN MEMORIAM



James I. Wright was born in Owen county, Kentucky, Aug. 14, 1836, and departed this life Dec. 16, 1908, at his late residence, 2264 Washington avenue, after a month's illness.

Mr. Wright was educated in Kentucky and resided in the state until 22 years old. In 1863 he entered the Confederate army, company F, Sixth regiment; was consigned to the armies of Tennessee and Virginia and served to the close of the war. At the time of his death he was a member of Robert E. Lee camp, United Confederate Veterans, at Fort Worth, Texas. After the war he was in business in Indianapolis, Ind., for four years, and in 1873 came to Dallas, Texas, where he engaged in the grocery business for two years. In 1875 he purchased the large farm home just south of Fort Worth, where he has engaged extensively in dairying, hay and stock farming. Besides valuable property in Tarrant county and Fort Worth he owned valuable property in Tennessee.

Being one of the pioneers of Fort Worth and Tarrant county, Mr. Wright has taken an interest in many of the important enterprises both public and private for the past thirty-two years.

A wife and nine children, all living in and near Fort Worth, mourn the loss of a father and companion in his death.

James I. Wright was a Christian. He was a charter member of and deacon in the South Side Church of Christ. The funeral was conducted at the church by Ministers W. T. Kildwill and C. E. Woodriddle, who have labored much with him in the cause he loved above all others.

A large audience paid their respect to the life he had lived by their attendance at the church, and many followed the body out to the old home place, where in the family burial ground he was laid to rest with other loved ones.

Why lament the Christian dying?  
Why indulge in tears or gloom?  
Calmly on the Lord relying,  
He can greet the opening tomb.

Scenes seraphic, high and glorious,  
Now forbid his longer stay;  
See him rise, o'er death victorious!  
Angels beckon him away.

Hark! the golden harps are ringing!  
Sounds unearthly fill his ear;  
Millions now in heaven singing,  
Greet his joyful entrance there.

Not ours, but Thy will be done,  
Lord!

MAKES \$270 ACRE  
ON SALE OF LAND

Heirs of J. L. Wright Sell  
Tract Owned for Thirty Years  
to Fort Worth Concern for  
\$81,675.

SEVEN WIVES THE CAUSE  
OF SUIT TO CLEAR TITLE

The Standard Land & Investment Company, Chartered Tuesday, Is the Purchaser of McCann Survey.

Thirty-two years ago a tract of land containing 267 acres, lying four and one-fourth miles from the site of the present Tarrant county courthouse, was bought by J. L. Wright for \$5 per acre, and Tuesday was sold to the Standard Land & Investment company for \$81,675, or approximately \$275 per acre.

Negotiations were made through M. H. Dirks & Co.

The Standard Land & Investment company is composed of Fort Worth men, and was chartered at Austin Tuesday for \$50,000. M. H. Dirks of M. H. Dirks & Co., is president; A. L. Camp, president of the Cattleman's Trust company, is vice president, and A. H. Kirby, vice president of that company, is secretary-treasurer.

Because J. L. Wright, who bought the land more than thirty years ago, during his lifetime had seven wives, there was litigation in connection with clearing the title.

The heirs claimed the tract of land which is known as the Thomas McCann survey, was purchased after Wright's marriage to his second wife, Cornelius and J. W. Wright, sons of the elder Wright, now dead, claimed, and proved to the court, that the land was purchased with money saved during the life of Wright's first wife, and a settlement was made last July.

Interested heirs are J. W. Wright, G. A. Wright, H. E. Wright, L. R. Wright, J. J. Wright and Mrs. Jeanette Earl of Fort Worth; Mrs. Ruby Lewis of Waco and Cornelius Wright of Mingus.

Lee Wright sold his claim on the estate last July, as did the seventh wife of the elder Wright, who now lives in Chicago.

The property now is occupied by the Wright dairy, which holds a lease for the remainder of this year, but an agreement has been reached by which the purchasers will be given possession of any portion they wish for immediate development.

The Standard Land & Investment company proposes to employ an expert landscape gardener to lay out and plot the tract, and sell it both as lots or acre tracts for truck farming.

Truck farmers will be furnished water for irrigation purposes from an artesian well now on the place.

The Fort Worth & Rio Grande railroad, a Frisco property, touches the tract, and President Dirks said the company has agreed to establish a station for the accommodation of

Mr. Dirks says the work of development will be commenced as soon as it can be gotten to, which will be in the near future.

The tract joins the property of the Southwestern Baptist Theological seminary, and is on the Oleburne branch of the road to be improved by Tarrant county, and is just outside the city limits.

RESIDENT OF FORT WORTH FOR 48 1

C. Wright 68, a native of Indiana, but a resident of Fort Worth for 48 years, died Monday morning at his home, 830 Josephine Street. He is survived by his wife, seven children, W. J. George, Cornelius, J. H. Miss Ruby Wright and Miss J. Huddle and H. A. Langford all of Fort Worth; six brothers, G. A.

John J. D. W. and H. E. Wright, all of Fort Worth; L. R. and L. A. Wright, of California; two sisters, Mrs. Leroy Earl of Fort Worth and Mrs. James Lewis of California. One brother, H. E. Wright, is a county commissioner of Tarrant County. Funeral services will be held at



# Funeral Notices

Death Notices are provided to the Classified Advertising Department by funeral homes. Please call the funeral home for additional information.

*Bio  
Wright*

## GILL

**JAMES EDWARD GILL**, age 75 of Bogata died suddenly Friday morning, May 5 at his residence. Mr. Gill was born March 31, 1920 in Red River County, the son of Ernest and Ollie Parchman Gill. He married the former Dorothy Smith, February 14, 1943 in Paris. He retired in 1983 from Fort Worth Star Telegram Newspaper, where he was an assistant to the circulation manager. He was a 32 Degree Mason being a member of Arlington Lodge 438 A.F. and A.M., a member of Arlington Commandery No. 107, Arlington Chapter 376 R.A.M., Arlington Chapter No. 314 R. & S.M., and was a Shriner and member of Moslah Shrine Temple of Fort Worth. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Gill of Bogata; one brother, Johnny Gill of Bogata; one sister, Betty Ramsey of Bogata; a niece, Betty Marie Castleman of Houston; an uncle, Russell Gill of Bogata and several cousins. Funeral services will be 4 p.m. Sunday, May 7, in Bogata Church of Christ with Mr. Benny Cogburn officiating. Burial will be in Bogata Cemetery under the direction of Wood Funeral Home of Bogata. Masonic Graveside Services under the auspices of Rosalie Lodge No. 527 A.F. & A.M. will be conducted. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the circulation department of Fort Worth Star Telegram. Arrangements: Wood Funeral Home 414 North Main Street Bogata, TX 75417 (903) 632-5614

## THOMAS



**THOMAS FRANKLIN THOMAS**, in his 90th year, passed away Thursday, May 4, 1995. Mr. Thomas was a rancher, builder, aviator and investor. Born in Wilmington, NC, June 10, 1905. Mr. Thomas lived in Fort Worth for 38 years. During his colorful life, Mr. Thomas discovered the first Uranium mine in New Mexico in 1949. He built and operated Rancho de Abique from 1940-1957. While in New Mexico he built the first housing of the Los Alamos Laboratories. Mr. Thomas was a well known builder in Santa Fe during the 1940's. He is survived by sons, Robert L. Thomas and Thomas Dent Thomas, of Fort Worth; grandchildren, Robert E. Thomas and Bridget

## WRIGHT

**WILLIAM I. WRIGHT**, a lifelong resident of the Fort Worth area, departed this life at noon on Saturday in North Hill Hospital following a brief illness. Mr. Wright's grandfather, James I. Wright, a Fort Worth cattleman, and his father, Cornellus A. Wright, a boilermaker for the T & P Railroad, came here in 1873, the year Fort Worth received its Charter. In 1874, the family settled on land south of town near the present day Southwestern Baptist Seminary. The elder Wright, a native of Kentucky and a Confederate veteran, became a prominent citizen of his day and contributed much to the development of the area until his death in 1908. He joined other citizens to help build the railroad in Fort Worth in 1876. He helped build the majestic Tarrant County Courthouse in 1894, using his mule team and wagons to haul the huge granite blocks from the rail station to the construction site overlooking the Trinity River. When the growing town needed additional recreation areas, he and his family donated time and equipment to help clear the acreage southwest of town which became Forrest Park. When construction of the Southwestern Baptist Seminary was being planned, he donated 20 acres of rich farmland for a permanent site. He was born in Fort Worth at the dawn of this century when William McKinley was President of the United States, the city was a thriving cow-town and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid patronized the saloons of the Hells Half Acre section of town like many young men born at the advent of the horseless carriage. He became a devoted enthusiast of the new machine and became a lifelong mechanic, repairing and rebuilding almost every type of automobile. Later, he was a master mechanic and shop supervisor for Lone Star Gas Co. until his retirement. Mr. Wright was honored by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court on his 90th Birthday proclaiming June 2, 1990 as William I. Wright Day in Tarrant County, because of his family's contributions to the county's development. He was a member of the Oak Knoll Baptist Church and served as a deacon there for many years. His wife, Clara, to whom he was married for 63 years, preceded him in death in 1985; as did a son, Jack, in 1987. He is survived by 2 sons: Bill Wright of Houston and George Wright of Haltom City; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Services will be 10 a.m. Monday at Shannon North Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements by:

SHANNON NORTH  
111 W. Northside Dr.  
(817) 624-2191

## WILLIAMS

**CARROLL E. WILLIAMS**, passed away Thursday evening. Survived by his wife, Ernestine Williams; daughters, Kara Lynne Burleson of Kemah, TX and Sonia Williams of Dallas; brothers, Samuel D. Williams of Austin and Finis F. Williams of Gold River, CA. and sister, Flora Nell Brimer of San Diego, CA. Services: 3 p.m. Monday at the First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth. Dr. William Longworth and Reverend Weldon Haynes officiating. Interment will follow in Greenwood Memorial Park. Pallbearers: Henry Peck, C.C. Havens, Bob Mosley, J.W. Renfro, Jimmy Williams, Brian Haney. The family will receive friends at Shannon North 2-4 p.m. Sunday. They ask that memorials be directed to the First United Methodist Church Outreach Program. Arrangements by:

SHANNON NORTH  
111 W. Northside Dr.  
(817) 624-2191



Card of Thanks .....M843  
Cemetery Lots .....M844  
Death Notices .....M840  
Florists .....M841

## M841 Florists

**Bice's FLORIST**  
800-255-2423  
OPEN 8 to 6 Mon-Sat  
Phones Answered  
24 Hours 7 Days  
817-282-2311

*Gordon*  
**Boswell  
Flowers**  
332-2265  
Metro 429-9116

## M842 In Memory

**IN MEMORY**  
In Memory Advertisements are paid announcements and are accepted only from members of the immediate family

390-7925 for info.

Remember your loved ones who are always near in thought with an **IN MEMORY** Tribute in the Fort Worth Star Telegram. We will be glad to assist you in writing your tribute. Photos may also be included; however, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram will not be liable or responsible for photos which are lost or damaged, either in the mail or while in the possession of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Deadline is 2 p.m. the