

J. Madison Wright



J. Madison Wright was born 12 Nov 1866 near Cookeville, Tennessee and died 5 Jul 1945

Married Lavinia White, daughter of Richard and Ruth White 14 Jul 1896 Meaford Ontario.

She was born about Mar 1867 and died in Ohio 1947.

Attended the Nashville Bible School 1893-94, 1894-95 and 1895-96. He was listed as from Wheelwright, Texas and in 1898-99 catalogue as from St. Catharines, Ontario

She attended the Beamsville Bible School

See references in *The Bible Student* by and about J. Madison Wright

Canada Notes

Brother S. M. Jones, lately of the Nashville (Tenn.) Bible School, has been laboring successfully in Canada since January last and has just closed a fine meeting at Beamsville that resulted in twenty-eight being added to the one body. A full report is expected shortly. From Beamsville he went to Smithville, where he is now engaged in a good meeting. When he is through there, his next meeting will be held in the city of St. Catharines, where Brother Madison Wright has been carrying on a good work during the past year. . . , *Gospel Advocate*, November 10, 1898, p. 723.

The Beamsville Church at the Beginning of the 20th Century: a Study of one Congregation's Response to Division [by] Edwin L. Broadus

...

It is also significant that a year earlier, in 1897, while Samuel Keffer preached for the Beamsville church, Madison Wright, another of Harding's students, made a preaching tour in Ontario which included a stop in Beamsville. It is likely that another young Canadian, Samuel Whitfield, went to Nashville Bible School through Wright's influence. At any rate, Harding's influence in Meaford and on Samuel Keffer, as well as the subsequent influence of young preachers like Jones and Wright, led to a succession of Nashville Bible School products in Beamsville.

The Campbell-Stone movement in Ontario: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Churches of Christ, Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ. Edited by Claude E. Cox. Lewiston/Queenston: Edwin Mellen Press, c1995, p. 282-283

These Nashville trained preachers were also intensely evangelistic, and these were years of long and successful gospel meetings. S. M. Jones baptized 28 in a five-week meeting in Beamsville in 1898, after Madison Wright, another Nashville product, had baptized 20 in a meeting of the same length the previous year.

Prospects for the church looked very bright as the 20th century began. Membership was about 200. In 1902, with the backing of Evans and others, S. M. Jones began Beamsville Bible School in the lower level of the church building. Evans described it as "the only school in Ontario where Christian fathers and mothers can send their sons and daughters with the assurance that they will be looked after and cared for in Christian homes and where they

will be free from the evil influence of sectarianism and digressionism". About 20 enrolled that fall. Madison Wright joined Jones on the teaching staff.

...
A Church upon the New Testament Alone: the History of the Beamsville Church of Christ, 1832-1982. Beamsville, Ont.: Beamsville Church of Christ, 1982, p. 9-11.

Oti Amy-bel Wright

The subject of this little sketch was born at Maderia, Calif., January 31, 1900, and died at Beamsville, Ont., Dec. 3, 1904. She was named after the bible style, "Oti," meaning delightful; "Amy," beloved; and "Bel," of God. Her name therefore meant "Delightful, one beloved of God," and several characteristics in her sweet little life leads us to believe that she was not misnamed.

Upon one occasion she wanted a "shut eye" doll. A dollar being given her by a friend, her father suggested that she take it to buy her doll. She at once said that she must give some of it to the Lord. Her father then told her to take out what she wanted for the Lord, so she took out 30 cents and purchased a doll with the balance. Older ones might profit by this lesson.

Again, she had been taught to take part as far as she could in devotional exercises. She wondered why she could not partake of the Lord's supper. Her mother told her that she had not yet become a sinner, and had therefore no need of obeying the gospel and becoming a Christian. She immediately asked, "What am I then?" if not a Christian. Her mother told her she was "just Jesus' little girl." This seemed to satisfy her, and she was often afterwards heard saying, "I am Jesus' little girl."

She was ill three or four days and seemed to understand from the start that she could not get well. Everyone who knew her loved her. Jesus, perhaps wanted her and he

took her. Jesus says, "of such is the kingdom of heaven."—Editor
The Bible Student, Jan 1905, p. 3

Bro. Madison Wright and family left last week, for Vancouver, B.C. He has gone out there as a missionary. There is, to the best of our knowledge, only one family of disciples out there besides themselves. Bro. Wright goes out there walking by faith in the promises of God. He will labour to build up the cause in that province. Brethren, help him by your means and in your prayers. Address him as above, care of R.C. Hill, 1073 Howe St.

The Bible Student, Jan 1905, p. 3.

St. Catharines Ont.—Church meets on Lord's Day at 10 a.m., for Bible School. At 11 a.m. for worship. At 7 p.m. for preaching. Wednesday at 8 p.m., Bible Study. J. Madison Wright, Evangelist
Christian Monthly Review, Feb 1919, p. 2

J. Madison Wright, Evangelist name dropped from directory listing with April 1920 issue.

Jordan church stands well in that it has kept records almost from the first, which can be said of few older churches. . . . Jordan furnishes a list of evangelists since 1854, which is revealing. . . . Other names are: . . . Duncan H. Stirling, W. M. Wright, H. M. Evans, D. H. Jackson, C. G. McPhee, R. K. Akers*, O. H. Tallman, A. Stewart.
The Disciples of Christ in Canada since 1830, by Reuben Butchart. Toronto: Canadian Headquarters' Publications Churches of Christ (Disciples), 1949, p. 426.
<http://www.mun.ca/rels/restmov/texts/rbutchart/dcc/DCC25.HTM>

Commending J. Madison Wright
To Whom It May Concern:

These credentials show that the church of

Christ, worshipping at Seventh Avenue East, in Columbus, Ohio, in regular session, set apart, appointed, ordained, John Madison Wright and his wife, Lavinia Wright, as missionaries, and that it commends them for work in India to the love and fellowship of all everywhere.

Done by order of the church, this twenty seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-three. Signed by the active elders, and by deacons: Harley A. Williamson, Eugene C. Wohnhas, Al. Henning, Carl F. Painter, A. E. Eddy. Carl

F. Painter, 180 Brinker Ave., Columbus, Ohio, is treasurer of the church.

In India men work among men, and women among women. Sister Wright goes to do woman's work (Titus 2:3-5; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15). The Lord willing, Sept. 30, 1933, is the date for sailing from Quebec, Canada. Home address, J. Madison Wright, 2816 Osceola Ave., Columbus, Ohio.

Word and Work, Sept 1933, p. 166

PART ONE: A VISION SPLENDID by Lillian M. Torkelson

Chapter I: Radville Summer School

1938: Teachers: Principal J. C. Bailey, Vilma Gustafson.

The first floor of a large store building on Main Street served as kitchen, dining hall and bedrooms for the girls. No, the boys did not sleep on the streets. As I always mention the dormitory for the girls, you will wonder if boys attended. Yes, but they usually slept in tents or in the meeting house.

Sis. M. Locke was camp mother. Bro. and Sis. Madison Wright, publishers of "Scriptural Songs," were present at this session. Sis. Wright taught singing. ...

Visiting brethren who have assisted with the teaching are: Madison Wright (1938), Wilfred Orr, George Johnson (1941), D. A.

Sinclair (1943), H. A. Rogers (1944) and Gordon Pennock (1945).

First Published in 1946 by the Gospel Herald Radville, Saskatchewan

The Church at Carman [by] W. Eatough

A list of meetings following show that the best available help was secured from the beginning, 1892 Brother Harding, 1892 Brother J. W. Hines (20 additions), 1893 Brother Paul Hayes, 1894 Brother E. A. Elam, 1895 Brother Madison Wright, 1897 Brother J. A. Craig, 1898 Brother A. Foster, in residence till 1903, 1900 Brother Roberts, 1964 Brother W. D. Campbell, 1906 Brother M. Watterworth, 1906 Brothers S. Jones. Among other helpers may be mentioned Brethren Hugh Rogers, 1899, Brother C. W. Petch, Brother P. Crossley, Brother C. Montgomery.

Gospel Herald, Mar. 1941, p. 10

Church Home in Victoria: Victoria Church of Christ

The Church of Christ in Victoria as a body of members meeting regularly for worship seems to have started in 1912 when Bro. and Sister Andrew Archibald with members of the family numbering about 10 in all moved from Ice Lake, Manitoulin Island, to Victoria. ... Some, of whom, had been converted through the efforts of Bro. Keffer and Bro. Madison Wright in about 1905,

...

In 1915 Bro. and Sister MacMurchie moved to Victoria and shortly after their arrival meetings were held in their home. ...

... We were compelled to move with the result that we bought a Church house of our own at 1620 Fernwood Road in 1929, where we have continued to meet till the present time. In the meantime there were protracted meetings with Bro. John Bruce with some additions and one with Bro. Madison Wright when nine were baptized into Christ. ...

P. E. Bailey.
Gospel Herald, Mar. 1950, p. 2

The Vancouver Congregation: Historical Sketch of the Vancouver, B. C., Church of Christ.

There have been a number of preachers here for varying lengths of time, ... as well as a couple of meetings with Bro. J. Madison Wright, . . .

A. Summerscales
Gospel Herald, March 1950, p. 6

WRIGHT.—J. Madison Wright was born November 12, 1866 on a farm near Cookeville, Tenn., of Christian parents. He left the farm for college and the preparation for the ministry at the age of twenty. He attended Grayson College, Whitewright, Texas; was a charter member of Nashville Bible School, now David Lipscomb College; and later attended Ralston University, in Washington, D. C., from which he received his bachelor's degree in elocution. Through the years thereafter he has been engaged in evangelistic work throughout the United States and Canada, starting many faithful congregations of the church in destitute fields in Canada and western United States. On July 14, 1896, he married Miss Lavinia White, of Meaford, Ontario, Canada, who has been his faithful companion and loving mother of their four children—Evan Elnathan, Oti Amybel, Earnest Madison and Miris Daniel – and who now survive him.

Gospel Advocate, 1945, p. 383

J. Madison Wright

Born November 12, 1866, on a farm near Cookeville, Tennessee, of Christian parents, he left the farm for college and the preparation for the ministry at the age of 20. He attended Grayson College, Whitewright, Texas, was a charter member of the Nashville Bible School, now David Lipscomb College, and later attended Ralston University in Washington, D.C.,

from which he received his bachelor's degree in elocution.

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On July 14, 1896, he married Miss Lavinia White at Meaford, Ontario, Canada, who has been his faithful companion and loving mother of their four children (Evan Elnathan, Oti Amybel, Earnest Madison, and Miris Daniel), and who now survive him, looking forward to the blessed hope of a reunion with her beloved in the land of endless day.

Always ready to suffer for the Lord and sacrifice the comforts common to others in order to devote his time to the Lord's work he has suffered from trials without and pains within. A few weeks ago he began to suffer from severe heart attacks which continued to grow worse until he was fatally stricken during a severe spell of intense pain and suffering. He passed to his reward at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 5, 1945.

The sorrowing family expresses its thanks to the many friends and neighbors who responded so generously in helping them during the severe shock and strain which resulted from the sudden loss of their beloved husband and father.

Word and Work, Aug 1945, p. 177-178

Clipping from Grace Stewart Perry's scrapbook – no year:

'Mother's Number Up
I Killed her,'—Minister

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 11—A bearded 42-year-old minister calmly told police today that he beat his elderly mother to death with his fists and a piece of a stove last night, then listened to Hill Billy music for a while "before I became violently ill."

Earnest Wright, who identified

himself as a minister of the Church of Christ Campbellites, talked freely of the slaying which he said occurred because "my life is based on a series of numbers and mother's number came up last night."

"Her number was 709," he said. The number 709 was written on the side of the stove from which a piece had been taken. The iron was found in the back yard.

Wright, who said he customarily went nude at home, charged his mother was a "witch. the most powerful witch in America."

Police who answered his telephone summons: "I murdered my mother and I'm waiting up here for the police"—found Mrs. Lavinia Wright, about 75, dead in her bed with a skull fracture, brain hemorrhage and a broken neck

"She had to be eliminated," Wright said.

"When the time came to perform the operation, I acted on schedule. The meaning of 709 came to me five minutes before I killed my mother." "Mother asked me to turn down the radio. As I did that, the number 709 became clear."

"When a number comes up I act immediately. I never hesitate or argue. The number suddenly told me to kill her."

Police said he told them he hit his mother with his fists and she fell to the floor.

"I twisted her head several times, then beat her with pieces from the iron heating stove," they quoted him.

Neighbors said Wright had a reputation for being "strange." One family said he had preached sermons to a flock of chickens and from the top of the small house.

A first-degree murder charge was filed.

A brother, Miris Wright, told police his brother had "never been right since he was hurt in an earthquake in California.

"We had intended to put him in an

institution New Year's Eve, but we delayed.

"My mother wrote last week she was growing more fearful of Earnest. I decided to come to Columbus. "I got here too late," he said.

Another clipping, dated Sunday January 12, 1947:

Preacher, 42, Fatally Beats Aged Mother
Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 11. (UP) A heavily-bearded 42-year-old minister told police today that his aged mother, "the most powerful witch in America," had tried to poison him and that he beat her to death with a piece of stove "because her number—709—came up."

First degree murder charges were filed against the preacher, Earnest Wright, who called police to his home, where they found the body of Mrs. Lavinia Wright, about 75, dead in her bed with a skull fracture, brain hemorrhage and broken neck.

Wright identified himself as an ordained minister in the Church of Christ Campbellites, and told police that "my life is based on a series of numbers, and mother's number came up last night."

Neighbors spoke of Wright as a "strange" man who sometimes preached sermons from the top of the house, and to a flock of chickens. A brother, Miris D. Wright of Lakewood, Ohio, said "Earnest had not been right since he was injured in a California earthquake in 1932."

Police found the number "709" written on the side of the stove in crayon, a blood-covered piece of the stove was discovered in the back yard.

"I twisted her head several times, then beat her with pieces from the stove," he told police. "As soon as she was dead I went into the other room to dress. I listened to some hill billy programs while waiting for time to pass.

"Then I became violently ill. That

was why I couldn't notify the police until this morning," he said.

The brother reported that "we planned to put Earnest in an institution New Year's Eve, but we delayed."