

Captain William L Wright

Captain William L Wright was born to L. B. and Ann (Tumlinson) Wright in Lockhart, Texas February 19, 1868. The family moved to Dewitt County and later to Wilson County.

In 1892 Will married Mary Ann (Mollie) Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Brown on December 20, 1892, in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Five sons and one daughter were born to the Wrights. Three of their sons became Texas Rangers.

Will Wright served as deputy sheriff under Sheriff Craighead of Wilson County. Then in 1899 Wright joined the Texas Rangers Company E (later renamed Company C) commanded by John H. Rogers. In 1902 he left the Rangers and was elected Sheriff of Wilson County and served for fifteen years. He served one term as president of the Texas Sheriffs' Association. The citizens of Wilson County presented a beautiful bay horse to Will Wright as a tribute for his excellent service and friendship.

In 1917 Governor William Hobby appointed Will Wright as Ranger captain of Company K, 1917-1919, and then Company D, 1919-1925. In 1927 Governor Dan Moody appointed Wright as Ranger captain of Company A, he served in this capacity until 1933. Captain Wright was called, El Capitan Diablo, (The Devil Captain). The Rangers under his command continued to guard the Rio Grand River border through WWI. Wright was known to be a law enforcer and as a peace maker.

Wright rejoined the ranger in 1935, he participated on the transition of Texas Rangers from horseback era to the modern Rangers of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Captain Wright retired from the Rangers in 1939 and returned to Wilson County. Sam Fore, his grandson, said of him, "He loved the Texas Ranger Force with a deep and abiding affection. Captain Will Wright is a member of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame. A marker remembering this remarkable Wilson County citizen, sheriff and Texas Ranger is located in front of the Jail House Museum in Floresville.

Captain William Wright died March 7, 1942, and is buried in the Floresville City Cemetery.

Compiled by Nancy De La Zerda, April 2023