

Ormond W. Wright

This carte-de-visite shows Ormond W. Wright, (1850-1937). Wright, a Presbyterian minister from New Jersey, migrated at the age of twenty-seven to Dodge City, Kansas. His mission to the wild and lawless cow town was to provide spiritual guidance to its rough and rowdy citizens. Wright's Sunday services were delivered with kindness and compassion to parishioners in the town's dance halls and saloons. His easy going manner quickly earned him the respect and the trust to solicit the necessary funds to build Dodge City's first nondenominational church. The Union church built between 1875 and 1876, offered the citizens of Dodge City a place for worship and social gatherings. Some of the town's most prominent citizens like Wyatt Earpt and Bat Masterson were deacons of the church. The success from the Union church soon prompted the town's need for a second church. On May 26, 1878 under Rev. Wright's leadership, the Presbyterian church was recognized as the first organized denomination in Dodge City. Rev. Wright served as the church's minister until he returned, in 1882, to New Jersey. After a brief illness Wright resumed his spiritual journey by becoming the minister of the Presbyterian church in Barnegat, New Jersey. For thirty years he served the congregation and the community of Barnegat until his passing in 1937. The congregation honored his years of service, by renaming the church the Wright Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Creator: Mc Michael

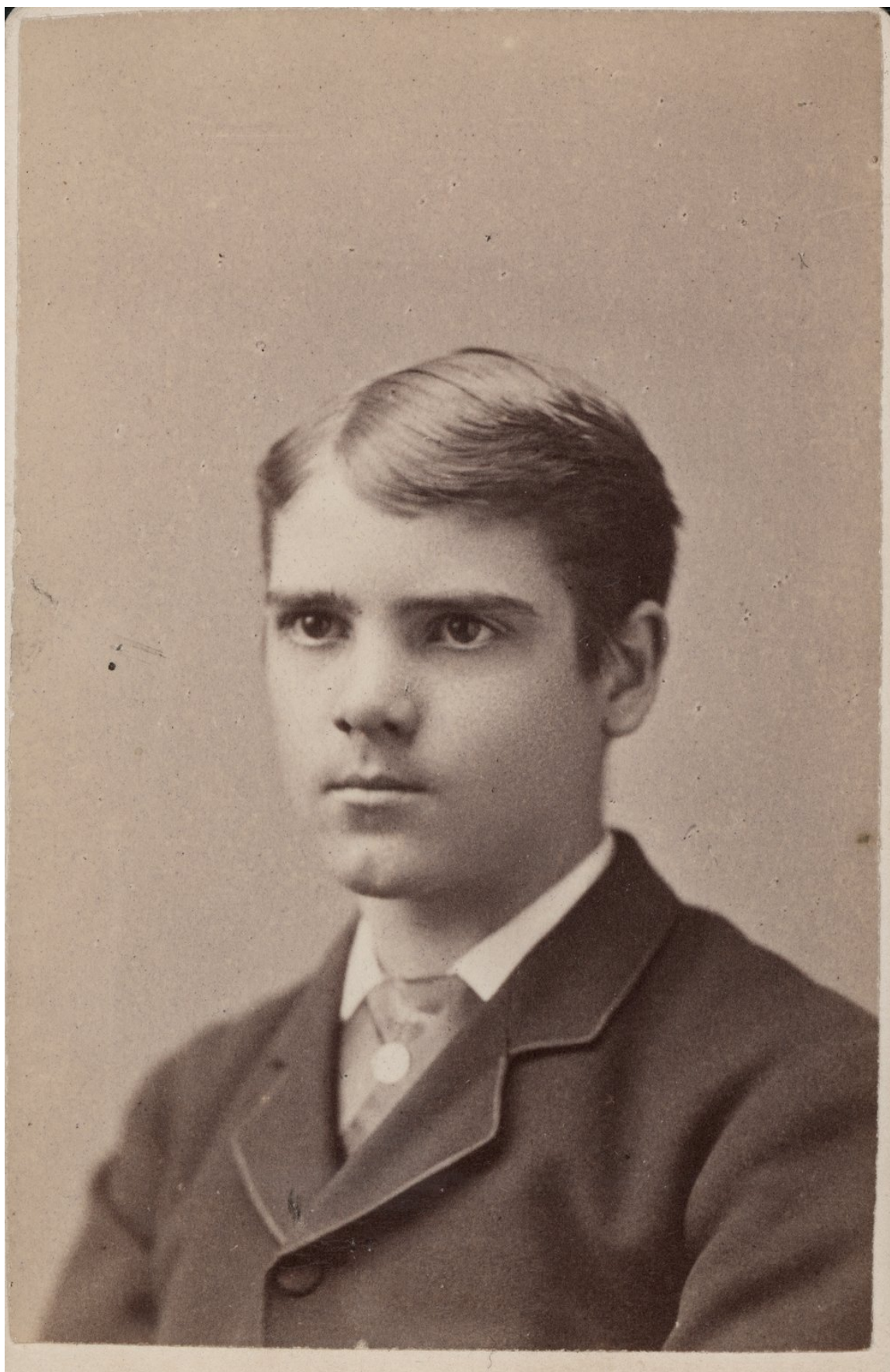
Date: Between 1860s and 1870s

Callnumber: B Wright, Rev. O.W. *3

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Dodge's Pioneer Preacher

B

Wright, Rev. O.W.

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Rev O.W. Wright

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