

ONOMASTICON IV

GEORGE H. SCHEETZ
Peoria, Illinois

'Wright' is a word whose earliest recorded use was, according to the OED, circa 695 A.D. The word is now considered archaic or dialectic, but in its 1300-year history 'wright' has spawned many attributed and combined words and surnames, the subject of this listing. All words are from Webster's Second, the OED, or S. Baring-Gould's Family Names and Their Story. Words which double as surnames are indicated by an asterisk and are either recorded in Baring-Gould or known to the author; if a reader knows someone whose surname is in this list, but not noted as such, please send in a correction. I have provided definitions (in parentheses) for words listed without definition.

PART ONE: -WRIGHT (a combining form of the noun 'wright' denoting an artificer, especially in woodwork)

ARKWRIGHT* chest-maker; maker of those coffers that were intended to preserve linens and tapestries, curtains, &c.

BOATWRIGHT* (boat-maker)

BOOKWRIGHT maker of books; an author

BUTTERWRIGHT (maker of butter, or butter-churns)

CANDLEWRIGHT (maker of candles, or candlesticks)

CARTWRIGHT* artificer who makes carts: a cartmaker

COACHWRIGHT (maker of coaches)

COMBWRIGHT one who assembles, builds, or repairs textile combining machines

EYEWRIGHT one who cures eyes (also, a maker of needles?)

FANWRIGHT one who erects, maintains, and repairs forced-draft fans

GATEWRIGHT (gate-maker)

GLASSENWRIGHT a glazier; glass-maker; also GLAZENWRIGHT (obs.)

HOUSEWRIGHT housebuilder

MILLWRIGHT one whose occupation is to build mills, or to set up their machinery; now, usually, a workman who erects the shafting, moves machinery, cares for belting, &c., in a workshop

NOVELWRIGHT (bookwright)

PENWRIGHT (bookwright)

PHOTOPLAYWRIGHT composer of photoplays

PITWRIGHT pit carpenter

PLAYWRIGHT maker or writer of plays; a dramatist

PLOWWRIGHT* one who makes or repairs plows; also PLOUGH-WRIGHT*

- PUMPWRIGHT one who fits up and repairs pumps and pumping machinery
- SCENEWRIGHT in the theatre, a designer and maker of scenery
- SHIPWRIGHT* 1. a craftsman who builds wooden ships 2. a woodworker employed in the building of iron or steel ships, in such work as laying decks, &c. 3. in shipyards, a fairer, plater, shorer, wayman, &c.
- SLAYWRIGHT* one who makes slays for weaving
- SONGWRIGHT (song-maker; songwriter)
- SPAEWRIGHT (a fortune-teller, or diviner)
- STAGEWRIGHT playwright
- STOCKWRIGHT one who fits together the parts of stocks, as of circular textile combs
- TELLWRIGHT* (tile-maker)
- TIMBERWRIGHT (ship-builder, of ribs)
- VERSEWRIGHT a versifier; poet; poetaster -- used in depreciation
- WAGONWRIGHT a maker and repairer of wagons; a wainwright; also WAGGONWRIGHT
- WHEELWRIGHT a maker or repairer of wheels and wheeled vehicles
- WAINWRIGHT* a wagonwright; also WAYNWRIGHT
- WOODWRIGHT woodworker; one who works in wood
- WRIGHT* an artificer or handicraftsman, especially a constructive workman; also, to work as a wright (Scot.)
- WRIGHT(E) write (obs.)

PART TWO: WRIGHT-

- WRIGHTCRAFT (carpentry)
- WRIGHTFUL having deserved something; rightfully (obs.)
- WRIGHTGARTH a joiner's yard
- WRIGHTHOUSE (workshop)
- WRIGHTIN(E) in chemistry, confessine
- WRIGHTING the occupation, business, or craft of a wright or carpenter
- WRIGHTLESSLIKE undeservedly
- WRIGHTRY wrighting (obs.)
- WRIGHTSMITH (wright)
- WRIGHTWORK work performed or done by a joiner