Wright Morris was born January 6, 1910 at Central City, Nebraska to Will and Grace Osborne Morris, and spent the first nine years of his boyhood in this community.

Six days after his birth his mother died and was buried in the Chapman Cemetery beside a son and her own mother. Will Morris was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad as a depot agent. He eventually left his job and drifted from one disastrous entrepreneurial idea to another. By the time he was nine years old, Wright Morris, an observant, inquisitive boy, and his listless father would move on to Omaha and ultimately, Chicago where the younger Morris would reach his manhood.

However, the author’s impressions were shaped by the community he observed in those formative boyhood years. Many people and places that appear in his works have their origins in Central City and the surrounding area.

Wright Morris is regarded as one of America’s most gifted novelists and photographers. Internationally recognized, he received the National Book Award in 1957 for The Field of Vision and the American Book Award in 1981 for Plains Song. With other thirty books and numerous short stories to his credit, Morris has utilized the Nebraska and his plains boyhood as themes numerous times. Books by Morris include The Inhabitants, The Home Place, God’s Country and My People, Will’s Boy, The Man Who Was There, The Works of Love, Ceremony in Lone Tree, Fire Sermon and A Life.

Wright Morris died April 25, 1998 at the age of 88 years. He is buried in the Chapman Cemetery.

WRIGHT MORRIS Collection:
The library has a good-sized collection of Wright Morris's works. The collection is located in the glass-doored display case near the north center window. Most of the materials can be checked out, although there are a few that are deemed too rare to circulate. These are locked under glass and can be viewed if a librarian opens the case for you.

Our Collection Includes:

About Fiction; Reverent Reflections on the Nature of Fiction.....
A Bill of Rites, A Bill of Wrongs, A Bill of Goods
Cause for Wonder
A Ceremony in Lone Tree
A Cloak of Light: Writing My Life
Collected Stories
The Deep Sleep
Distinctly American: The Photography of Wright Morris
Earthly Delights, Unearthly Adornments; American Writers as Image Makers
The Field of Vision
Fire Sermon
The Fork River Space Project; a novel
God's Country and My People
The Home Place
The Huge Season
In Orbit
The Inhabitants
A Land Fair and Bright--Will's Boy
A Life
Love Affair--a Venetian Journal
Love Among the Cannibals
Man and Boy
The Man Who Was There
My Uncle Dudley
One Day
Origin of Sadness
Photographs & Words
Picture America
Plains Song, For Female Voices
Real Losses, Imaginary Gains
Solo: An American Dreamer in Europe 1933-34
Structures & Artifacts
The Territory Ahead
War Games
Will's Boy: A Memoir
The Works of Love
The World in the Attic
Two for the Road
What a Way to Go
Wright Morris: A Reader
Wright Morris: Origin of a Species