Mr. Wagner was born at Hebron, West Virginia, on September 8, 1885. He was united in marriage with Hazel Nutter on June 2, 1915, at Logan, Ohio.

The couple came to El Dorado from Ohio in March 1918, when development of the Mid-Continent oil field was in its infancy. Since those early formative years of the industry here, Mr. Wagner had stood at the forefront of leaders whose vision, knowledge and energetic activity elevated the industry to a position of unchallenged dominance in the local area.

In his early years here, Mr. Wagner was superintendent of the Ramsey Petroleum company. In 1947, he formed the J.H. Wagner Drilling company, which he operated with singular success for nearly a quarter of a century. He remained personally active in its management up until weeks before his passing.

In personal, business and fraternal relationships, Mr. Wagner evinced a warm and outgoing personality. He sought the companionship of his contemporaries - in all age groups - and reveled in their friendship.
A man of inflexible honor, Mr. Wagner ordered his daily life in terms of high ethical performance and unswerving loyalty. Gentle and courtly of demeanor, he was deeply devoted to members of his family, regarding their welfare as pre-eminent above all concerns.

Mr. Wagner was a member of the First United Methodist church of El Dorado and was active in its affairs. He also was a long time active member of the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas association (KIOGA). His fraternal memberships included New Straitsville (Ohio) Lodge No. 48, A.F.&A.M.; Royal Arch Masons, Chapter No. 75 of Logan, Ohio; Royal and Select Master Council No. 39 of Ohio, and El Dorado Commandery No. 19, Knights Templar.