



Decius Wade was born in Ashtabula, OH where he spent his early years. He studied law in the office of his uncle, Benjamin Wade a US Senator. Decius Wade married Bernice Galpin on June 3rd, 1863. In 1867, he was elected to a term in the Ohio Senate

In March of 1871, Wade was appointed the 3rd Chief Justice of the Montana Territorial Supreme Court by President US Grant. He was later appointed to 3 more terms

Wade authored roughly 30 percent of the court's opinions during its 25 year history. As a trial judge, Wade reportedly sentenced at least 500 to prison terms and 12 to the gallows. He once ordered a murderer hung on Thursday because he thought too many men were hung on Friday! In 1876, he published a law-related novel which achieved some popularity on the territory.

When Montana became a state in 1889, Wade was named as one of three commissioners charged with writing the first codification of Montana laws. The Commission produced 4 codes which were submitted to the Montana Legislature in 1892. It took three years to approve the first three in 1895!

In 1894, Decius Wade took part in the first organizational meeting of the Montana Society SAR and was chosen as its first President.

Wade eventually returned to Ashtabula where he spent his final years. One historian has estimated he traveled more than 25,000 miles around Montana holding court by stagecoach before the railroads were built!