



The Earp Brothers: Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan Earp

Charles River Editors

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*Weaves the lives of the Earp brothers into one entertaining and educational narrative

*Includes pictures of important people and places. Explains the origins of the Gunfight at the OK Corral and the controversial details that continue to be debated today.

*Includes a Bibliography for further reading.

Of all the colorful characters that inhabited the West during the 19th century, the most famous of them all is Wyatt Earp (1848-1929), who has long been regarded as the embodiment of the Wild West. Considered the "toughest and deadliest gunman of his day", Earp symbolized the swagger, the heroism, and even the lawlessness of the West, notorious for being a law enforcer, gambler, saloon keeper, and vigilante. The Western icon is best known for being a sheriff in Tombstone, but before that he had been arrested and jailed several times himself, in one case escaping from prison, and he was not above gambling and spending time in "houses of ill-fame".

Though they have long been overshadowed by their more famous brother Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan Earp played decisive roles in some of the most famous events in the history of the Old West. Most notably, the two brothers were at Wyatt's side for America's most famous gunfight, the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Though the gunfight lasted less than a minute, it is still widely remembered as the climactic event of the period, representing lawlessness and justice, vendettas, and a uniquely Western moral code. Fought in the middle of Tombstone, Arizona, the gunfight pitted the three Earp brothers and Doc Holliday against Billy Clanton, Tom McLaury and Frank McLaury. By the time the 30 second gunfight was over, the McLaury brothers were dead in the street, Billy Clanton had suffered a painful and fatal gunshot wound to the chest, and Holliday, Virgil and Morgan Earp were all wounded.

To this day, the motives behind the gunfight, and exactly how it all went down, remain heavily debated, but the aftermath of the gunfight is much better known. Both Virgil and Morgan were the targets of assassination attempts in the coming months, precipitating the Earp Vendetta Ride in 1882.

The attention spent on the Gunfight and the Earp Vendetta Ride, as well as the fact that Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday are two of the most famous men of the West, have largely obscured the personal details of Virgil and Morgan. The Earp Brothers chronicles the West's most famous brothers, while examining the roles they played in some of the West's most famous events. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the Earp brothers like never before.

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