

Man vs. Legend, the Lawman Wyatt Earp

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I am going to be looking in to the famous Lawman Wyatt Earp and comparing the information I find to some well known portrayals of him throughout our lives. Comparing him in some movies he was portrayed in, fables about him, and tales we have been privy to.

Depending on which side of the law you found yourself in the late 1800s Wyatt was sure to be either a lawful hero or a Midwestern villain in the story. Focusing in on his first law job in Missouri, to his start in professional gambling in Kansas, and leading to his gun slinging days in Arizona we are sure to separate some fact and fiction.

- Wyatt got his first job in law enforcement when he moved to Missouri after being involved in some Native American raids on his travels there with his family
- Buffalo hunting and brothels lead him to Kansas where he picked up gambling
- Along the way in his gambling career he met Doc Holiday
- Arizona was the scene for his well known gun battle with Doc against the cattle thieves

There are not many people I know that don't know a sorted fact of two about Wyatt Earp, or if you drop the name Tombstone, or maybe even Doc Holiday. What I find a lot of people don't know is what lead up to the gun battle in Tombstone. They know the movies, not the history. The character as he has been portrayed over the years. I too would like to know more of the actual person and not just the characters I grew up hearing about. He seemed to venture away from the law, but always find his way back to it. I would like to shed some light on the rest of his story, how he landed in Arizona, and his life along the way. He has a large amount of his life spent in some type of law enforcement, wether that shines through or not is what we are going to find out.

I would like to learn how during his life he could find himself in such situations as stealing horses, and running brothels, and still be known as a great lawman. The ways back in the 1800s compared to now interests me. It was about swift justice and how it was served back then. I would also like to find out the swing from cattle to gambling, although some may say they are one in the same in some cases. The journey of the real Wyatt Earp and what lead him to Arizona.

- Were Doc and Wyatt gambling competitors before becoming friends? How does that differ from portrayal?
- How did his pregnant wives death send him on a different path in life then he may have gone otherwise?
- How many times was he arrested and the charges? Comparatively.
- Was Virgil a reason to hang on and keep 'coming back to the light'? He was an influence for much of his life?
- Jack of all trades it seems, what were his various job titles outside of lawman?
- Trial for the shoot out at the corral, was it justifiable? Or was he looking for 15 minutes of fame?
- When did Josephine come in to his life? Was her influence good or bad?
- What was life like after the corral? Did he continue to be a lawman, or take other ventures?
- How did he get involved in brothels? Was that what lead him to gambling?
- Since he made a career from it, was he a good gambler? Did he meet Doc that way or did they know of each other before then?

