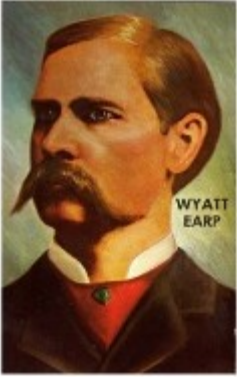


WYATT EARP



Wyatt Berry Stapp Earp was born on March 19, 1848 in Monmouth, Illinois and grew up on a farm in Iowa.

In 1864, he moved with his parents to California. After working as a stagecoach driver and buffalo hunter, he served as deputy marshal in Wichita, Kansas and Dodge City, Kansas, where he became friends with Bat Masterson and Doc Holliday, and established his reputation as a lawman and gambler. His first wife died and a second marriage did not last.

In Tombstone, Arizona, Earp acquired the gambling concession at the Oriental Saloon and met his third wife Josie. In 1881, a feud with the Clanton gang ended with the famous Gunfight at the OK Corral. Three of the Clanton gang were killed. The three Earp brothers, Virgil, Wyatt and Morgan, survived, along with Doc Holliday.

Wyatt and Josie Earp moved often. Between 1885 and 1887, they arrived in booming San Diego, where Wyatt gambled and invested heavily in real estate and saloons in the Stingaree district, now the Gaslamp Quarter. They lived here on and off for several years. Earp owned or leased four saloons and gambling halls in San Diego. The most famous was the Oyster Bar located in the Louis Bank Building at 837 5th Avenue. He refereed at local prize fights. During the heyday of San Diego's boom, Earp won a trotting horse named Otto Rex. He and Josie began to travel the racehorse circuit. They left San Diego in the early 1890s.

In 1897, Wyatt and Josie headed for Nome Alaska where they operated the Dexter Saloon during the height of the Alaska Gold Rush. They returned to the states in 1901 with an estimated \$80,000 and immediately headed for the gold strike in Tonopah, Nevada, where his saloon, gambling and mining interests once again proved profitable.

Wyatt Earp spent his final years working mining claims in the Mojave Desert. He and Josie summered in Los Angeles, where they befriended early Hollywood actors and lived off real

estate and mining investments. He died in Los Angeles at the age of 80 on January 13, 1929. Wyatt's cremated ashes were buried in Josie's family plot in Coloma, California, just south of San Francisco. Josie died in 1944, at the age of 75 and was buried beside him.

Among his enduring legacies are as frontiersman, lawman, gambler and prospector, and a post office near his Mojave Desert mining claims along the Colorado River of Route 62 which bear the name "Earp, California 92242."

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