



# Wyatt Earp & Doc Holliday: The West's Greatest Gunslingers

*Charles River Editors*

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\*Includes pictures of Earp, Holliday, and important people and places in their lives.

\*Includes a detailed description of their feud with the Clantons and McLaurys, and the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

\*Discusses the various myths and legends about each man.

\*Includes bibliographies of both men for further reading.

\*Includes a Table of Contents.

"For my handling of the situation at Tombstone, I have no regrets. Were it to be done over again, I would do exactly as I did at that time. If the outlaws and their friends and allies imagined that they could intimidate or exterminate the Earps by a process of assassination, and then hide behind alibis and the technicalities of the law, they simply missed their guess." – Wyatt Earp

"Doc was a dentist, not a lawman or an assassin, whom necessity had made a gambler; a gentleman whom disease had made a frontier vagabond; a philosopher whom life had made a caustic wit; a long lean ash-blond fellow nearly dead with consumption, and at the same time the most skillful gambler and the nerviest, speediest, deadliest man with a six-gun that I ever knew." – Wyatt Earp

They were an unlikely duo. Wyatt Earp (1848-1929), the "toughest and deadliest gunman of his day", symbolized the swagger, the heroism, and even the lawlessness of the West, notorious for being a law enforcer, gambler, saloon keeper, and vigilante. Then there was John Henry "Doc" Holliday (1851-1887), a dentist turned professional gambler who was widely recognized as one of the fastest draws in the West and one of its quirkiest figures. The only thing that might have been faster than the deadly gunman's draw was his violent temper, which was easily set off when Holliday was drunk, a frequent occurrence. By the early 1880s, Holliday had been arrested nearly 20 times.

Together the two formed an enduring friendship that proved pivotal in some of the West's most legendary events. The seminal moment in both men's lives also happened to be the West's most famous gunfight, the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, which famously pitted Earp, his brothers Morgan and Virgil, and Holliday against Ike Clanton, Billy Clanton, Billy Claiborne, Tom McLaury and Frank McLaury. 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. The aftermath led to assassination attempts against the Earp brothers, one of which was successful, touching off the "Earp Vendetta Ride". For those two events alone, the legacies of Earp and Holliday have endured to make them the two most recognizable figures of the West, and their unique characteristics have added a mystique, legendary quality to them.

Despite their fame and notoriety, to a great extent some of the details of their lives remain a mystery, as the embellishment of time and legend have made it difficult to separate fact from legend. Did Holliday earn his deadly reputation through actual violence or mostly through myths spread by the man himself? The same can be asked of Wyatt, who became a living legend and even served as an advisor for early Hollywood Westerns.

Wyatt Earp & Doc Holliday attempts to separate fact from fiction in chronicling the lives of the two legends, while also analyzing their legacies and the mythology that has enveloped their stories. Along with pictures of

important people, places, and events in his life, you will learn about Wyatt Earp & Doc Holliday like you never have before, in no time at all.

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