

## TOMBSTONE PERSONALITIES

### THE CLANTONS and MCLAURYS

Like many of their contemporaries, the Clantons were a Missouri family that migrated to the west following the American Civil War. In the 1870s Newman "Old Man" Clanton and his sons Phineas (Finn), Ike and William (Billy), relocated to Arizona and started a cattle ranch. By 1877 they operated the largest and most successful cattle ranch in the territory. They also were the epicenter of a large, unruly group of semi-organized criminals known to history as The Cowboys.

Although not as organized and close knit as western myth has portrayed them, the Cowboys were a force to be reckoned with. The Clanton's ranch was their unofficial headquarters and at one point or another, many of the Cowboys worked for the family. While the Clantons were primarily occupied with cattle rustling, other members of the gang robbed stagecoaches, banks and stores. The gang committed many of their crimes across the border in Mexico and Mexican authorities registered many official complaints with the United States, usually to no avail.

The two most famous members of the Clanton family are Ike and Billy. Both were involved in the Gunfight at the OK corral, the bloody culmination of events that ended the feud between them and the Earps. The tensions between the two factions were a combination of political, economic and philosophical differences. The Clantons saw the Earps as interlopers who were trying to build their political careers at the expense of them and their Cowboy friends.

Ike Clanton has been branded by legend as a blowhard and coward and history backs this up. Ike was notorious for having a big mouth and it got him into trouble often. He also suffered from the delusion that he was smarter and cleverer than he was. For example, in two notable court cases against the Earps, Ike's testimony actually strengthened the defendants' cases!

Ike's mouth was probably the catalyst that set off the Gunfight at the OK Corral as he had spent the morning before the fight saloon hopping and bragging about killing Holliday and the Earps. Ike's cowardice is most evident during the famous gun battle. During the gunfight, Ike ran up to Wyatt and instead of attacking him or spoiling his aim, pleaded that he was unarmed and didn't want to be shot. After Wyatt pushed him away, Ike fled the fight, abandoning his friends and his brother Billy.

Ike may have been present in Tucson and involved in the second assassination attempt against Virgil Earp but managed to escape the fate of Frank Stilwell, a fellow Cowboy who was found the next day near the Santa Fe railroad tracks, riddled with bullets. Ike was one of Sheriff John Behan's deputies in the posse that tried unsuccessfully to chase down and capture Wyatt and his allies during the Earp Vendetta Ride. After Wyatt and his allies left the territory for good, Ike returned to his life of crime. In 1887 he was shot and killed by lawman Jonas V. Brighton while resisting arrest.

Billy Clanton was only 19 at the time of his death at the Gunfight at the OK Corral. Sadly, his whole reason for being in town in the first place was to bail Ike out of jail. Although younger, Billy was always Ike's protector, making Ike's abandonment of his brother during the fight all the more callous and tragic. Despite his association with the cowboys, Billy was well-liked by residents of the community and his death, more than the others, fueled the ill will that would eventually drive the Earps out of Arizona.

Standing his ground bravely, he wounded both Morgan and Virgil Earp. He was wounded in six locations and continued firing with his left hand after being shot in the right wrist. Mortally wounded, he slumped against a wall of a neighboring building, clutching his empty pistol. After the smoke cleared, he was approached and disarmed by Tombstone resident and photographer C.S. Fly. Billy's last words were, "Give me more cartridges."

The McLauray brothers, Tom and Frank owned a ranch in the neighboring valley and were members of the gang as well. Not much is known of their early history but like their neighbors and allies, the Clantons, the McLaurys were Missourians who had traveled to Arizona and made their fortunes herding cattle. Both brothers were members of the Cowboys. Both of them were killed during the Gunfight at the OK Corral.

Of the two, Frank was considered the most dangerous and a good shot. Frank harbored a personal grudge against Wyatt. Earlier that day, Frank was accosted by Wyatt and accused of carrying a concealed weapon. He refused to hand it over. Wyatt pistol-whipped him and Virgil dragged him off to court. After being fined, he joined his brother and the Clantons outside the OK corral, preparing to leave town. Tom, like Billy Clanton, had ridden to his brother's defense after hearing about the altercation from others.

There is some question about whether either of the McLaurys was armed at the beginning of the fight. Frank's concealed pistol (if he had one in the first place) would certainly have been confiscated. Although Tom was armed when he rode into town, he tried to grab a rifle from a scabbard on his brother's horse during the fight. During the OK Corral shootout, Tom was shot in the chest by Doc Holliday's shotgun at close range, staggered into the street and died. Frank managed to wound Doc Holliday before being shot dead by Holliday and Morgan Earp.

Billy Clanton and the McLaurys were buried side by side in Tombstone's famous Boot Hill cemetery. Both families being wealthy, the funeral was one of the largest ever to take place in Tombstone. Although all three were known associates of the Cowboys, they were long time residents of the area and popular whereas the Earps were viewed as newcomers, prepared to use their positions in law enforcement to further their own political agenda. Regardless, the deaths of Billy and the McLaurys and the killings during the Earp Vendetta Ride soon led to the breakup of the Cowboys. Tombstone settled down to become a quiet and prosperous mining town.



### BILLY CLANTON

STR: 3      AGL: 3      MND: 3      RES: 4  
 Move: 5"    DR: 4 [1]    Fate: 4      Vitality: 4  
 Traits:      Combat Attack 1  
               Combat Evade 1  
               Crack Shot 2  
               Extra Vitality 1  
               Greased Lightning 2  
               Tough  
 Equipment: Single Action Pistol (DN 5, ER 10", Fan)  
               Rifle (DN 6, ER 15")  
               Knife (DN 4)

#### SPECIAL RULES:

**PROTECTIVE:** Billy was always looking out for his brother, Ike. If Ike is ever involved in a Close Combat within line of sight of Billy, Billy must move using his full movement to join the combat. He will remain in the combat until their opponent(s) are KOed or Ike flees the combat, at which point Billy's player may choose to have him escape the combat as well, if he wishes.

### IKE CLANTON

STR: 3      AGL: 3      MND: 3      RES: 3  
 Move: 5"    DR: 4      Fate: 3      Vitality: 3  
 Traits:      Combat Attack 1  
               Combat Evade 2  
               Cowardly  
               Crack Shot 1  
               Dodge  
               Escape Artist 1  
               Lightning Reflexes 1  
 Equipment: Single Action Pistol (DN 5, ER 10", Fan)  
               Rifle (DN 6, ER 15")  
               Knife (DN 4)



### FRANK MCLAURY

STR: 3            AGL: 4            MND: 2            RES: 3  
 Move: 5"        DR: 4            Fate: 3            Vitality: 3  
 Traits:            Combat Evade 2  
                     Crack Shot 2  
                     Deadeye Shot []  
                     Dodge  
                     Greased Lightning 2  
                     Lightning Reflexes 1  
                     Reputation  
 Equipment:      Single Action Pistol (DN 5, ER 10", Fan)  
                     Rifle (DN 6, ER 15")  
                     Knife (DN 4)

### TOM MCLAURY

STR: 3            AGL: 3            MND: 3            RES: 3  
 Move: 5"        DR: 4            Fate: 3            Vitality: 3  
 Traits:            Combat Attack 1  
                     Combat Evade 1  
                     Crack Shot 1  
                     Dodge  
                     Roper 2  
 Equipment:      Single Action Pistol (DN 5, ER 10", Fan)  
                     Rifle (DN 6, ER 15")  
                     Knife (DN 4)  
                     Lasso (DN-, extra reach 5", entangle)