

TOMBSTONE PERSONALITIES

THE COWBOYS- HENCHMEN GROUP

The Cowboys were a gang of rustlers and stagecoach robbers that operated in and around the Tombstone area from roughly 1876 to 1881. Although legend has portrayed them as a well-organized criminal organization, their members were known to come and go at will and the activities committed by them were rarely well planned or coordinated. Most of the crimes were random jobs committed by individual members with no other goal than to seize loot that would later be squandered in the saloons, brothels and gambling parlors of the area's boomtowns.

The Clanton family's ranch was the unofficial headquarters of the gang and the family led many of the large scale rustling operations. Although Newman "Old Man" Clanton was considered the leader of the gang, it was an honorary title at best. Usually, the gang would ride into Mexico, round up a few hundred head of cattle and drive them back across the border, selling them to various government and private contractors in and around the Tombstone area. They gained valuable combat experience in running fights against Mexican ranchers and Federales, Mexico's national police force and border guard.

The most heinous crime ever committed by the gang was the Skeleton Canyon Massacre. It was conspicuous not only for the barbarity of the attack but for also being the biggest operation ever mounted by the gang, with most of its members participating. The Cowboys ambushed a pack train of smugglers from Mexico who used the valley to move surreptitiously between Mexico and the United States. The smugglers not killed or mortally wounded during the ambush were brutally tortured to get them to reveal their caches of loot and then executed. Later, the smuggler's friends would get a small measure of revenge when they staged an attack of their own. The Mexicans ambushed the Cowboys in Guadalupe Canyon, killing "Old Man" Clanton and another member of the gang before losing several men and retreating. This event would be known as the Guadalupe Canyon Massacre. After the death of "Old Man" Clanton, Curly Bill Brocius became the primary leader of the group.

After the events following the Gunfight at the OK Corral, the gang was dispersed and soon evaporated. Some of its prominent members were killed during the Earp Vendetta ride. Many others wound up at the wrong end of a gun or rope committing various smaller crimes.

In addition to the individual gunfighters described above, other known members of the gang were "Old Man" and Phineas Clanton, Leonard Crane, Billy Grounds, Zwing Hunt, Frank Stilwell, Florentino "Indian Charlie" Cruz, Billy Claiborne, Johnny Barnes, Joe Hill, Pete Spence, Pony Deal, Milt and Bill Hicks, Bill Johnson and possibly Dave Rudabaugh.

STR: 3 AGL: 3 MND: 2 RES: 3
Move: 5" DR: 4 Fate: 3 Vitality: Henchmen Group
Traits: Combat Attack 1
 Combat Evade 1
 Crack Shot 1

Equipment: While the Cowboys would have been armed with weapons as diverse as their personalities, to maintain simple gameplay, when engaged in ranged combat, choose to have the group attack with either heavy pistols or rifles. In close combat assume every figure is armed with a knife.

