

## TOMBSTONE PERSONALITIES

### THE EARPS

Born in Missouri, the Earps were the epitome of the American pioneer family. With careers as varied as lawmen, politicians, buffalo hunters and sometimes saloon and brothel owners, they strode across the West, leaving a legend in their wake. Of the five brothers in the family, Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan are the most famous.

Virgil, the oldest brother, fought for the Union during the Civil War and was seriously wounded. He led a distinguished career as a lawman and acted as the stabilizing influence among the family. Of the three, he was the least violent but whenever he or his brothers were threatened he became a dangerous opponent.

Wyatt, the middle child, was the undisputed leader of the clan. Never ruffled, he waded into danger heedless to the possibility of personal injury. Surviving his many adventures unscathed, he lived a long life and survived to see his own story immortalized in film and print.

Morgan was the youngest of the three. He idolized his older brothers, especially Wyatt and willingly followed them into any situation. Considered the hothead brother, he was easily insulted and quick to anger.

All three, along with Wyatt's friend, "Doc" Holliday, took part in the Gunfight at the OK Corral, the most famous gunfight in the history of the west. The heart of the conflict was a tangled web of rivalry, politics and bad blood between the Cowboys, a semi-organized gang of highwaymen and rustlers and the Earps and their allies. The feud was mostly a contest between the two factions over who would emerge with the most influence over the Arizona boomtown of Tombstone and the surrounding area.



On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1881, the struggle erupted into violence. After receiving death threats against him, his brothers, Holliday and several of their allies in the town, Virgil, then town Marshal, deputized his brothers and "Doc" and confronted the Cowboys outside the OK Corral. Their opponents were Ike and Billy Clanton, Frank and Tom McLaury and Billy Claiborne. Virgil ordered all five to turn over their guns or they would be arrested. Claiborne fled, escaping through the Corral and took no part in the battle.

Opinion is mixed as to what followed next but most agree that Wyatt and Billy Clanton drew their pistols and fired almost simultaneously with the firing becoming general as the other participants drew and fired as well. Ike Clanton, unarmed, ran to Wyatt and pleaded with him not to kill him. Wyatt brushed him aside and Ike fled the gunfight. The Earps and Holliday killed Tom and Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton. Holliday, Virgil and Morgan were all wounded. Wyatt was unharmed.

The Earps and Holliday were acquitted of all charges during the trial that followed the gunfight but continued receiving death threats. Virgil was shot from ambush and was crippled for life. Soon after, Morgan was gunned down from ambush and killed. After seeing Virgil off to safety, Wyatt, Doc and several of their friends left Tombstone and hunted down and killed several other Cowboys during a spree of revenge known as the Earp Vendetta Ride before fleeing Arizona for good. With both the Earps' and the Cowboys' factions shattered and dispersed, the final chapter of the saga played out and Tombstone settled down for good.

In the years following the Gunfight at the OK Corral, Virgil would continue his career in law enforcement despite losing the use of his left arm. After spending two years convalescing at his family's home in California, Virgil was hired as an agent by the Southern Pacific railroad, opened his own short-lived detective agency, became the first City Marshal of Colton, California and operated a saloon in the boomtown of Vanderbilt, California. Eventually returning to Arizona, he became involved in mining and ranching in and around Prescott. Although offered the position of Yavapai County Sheriff, he declined due to health reasons. After a brief return to Colton, he moved to Goldfield Nevada, briefly serving as deputy sheriff of Esmeralda County before dying of pneumonia in 1905.

Wyatt's adventures would continue until his death. Hiding out in Colorado, Earp and his allies successfully fought extradition back to Arizona to stand trial for the murders committed during the Earp Vendetta Ride. After that, he traveled the West, following the lure of the boomtowns as he always had. A brief stay in California reunited him with Virgil and a former paramour, Josephine Marcus, an actress he had met in Tombstone. They became lifetime companions and although never officially married, they would remain at each other's sides for the next forty-six years. Wyatt returned to Colorado and operated a gambling table in Gunnison.

Wyatt would return to Dodge city at the request of his old friend Bat Masterson for an event known as the Dodge City War. The mayor and town council of were pressuring a Dodge City saloon and gambling parlor owner and gunfighter, Luke Short, to shut down his businesses and leave the city. Luke, through Masterson, recruited a group of notorious gunfighters and dubbed them the Dodge City Peace Commission. It was a veritable who's who of famous gunfighters including Wyatt, Bat Masterson, "Doc" Holliday and lesser-known badmen "Shotgun" Collins, Texas Jack Vermillion, Johnny Millsap and Johnny Green. The terrified mayor and town council soon relented and the "war" was won without a shot being fired. The gunfighters stayed long enough to see that Short was given time to get his affairs in order, sat for a photographic portrait and went their separate ways.

Wyatt spent the next ten years operating saloons and buying and selling mines in Colorado and Idaho with various detours to other boomtowns. Wyatt and Josie returned to San Francisco so that Josie could spend some time with her family. Earp spent the next few years managing a stable and dictating his memoirs. In 1897 he and Josie followed the gold rush to Nome, Alaska and operated a saloon and gambling parlor.

Wyatt moved to Hollywood in the early 1920s and began hanging around movie sets, befriendng cowboy stars William S. Hart and Tom Mix and a then unknown extra named John Wayne. He died at his Hollywood home in 1929 at the age of 80.

### WYATT EARP

STR: 3            AGL: 4            MND: 3            RES: 4  
 Move: 5"        DR: 4            Fate: 4            Vitality: 3  
 Traits:            Combat Attack 2  
                     Combat Evade 1  
                     Cool  
                     Crack Shot 2  
                     Greased Lightning 2  
                     Dodge  
                     Leader 3  
                     Lightning Reflexes 1  
 Equipment:     Single Action Pistol (DN 5, ER 10", Fan)  
                     Buntline Special (DN 5, ER 12", Fan, Cumbersome)  
                     Knife (DN 4)

### SPECIAL RULES:

CHARMED- Despite being involved in several dangerous gunfights, Wyatt was never injured in any of them. He may always re-roll one failed DR die (i.e., dice scoring 1-3) when resisting damage from any attack.

### VIRGIL EARP

STR: 3            AGL: 3            MND: 4            RES: 3  
 Move: 5"        DR: 4            Fate: 3            Vitality: 3  
 Traits:            Combat Attack 1  
                     Combat Evade 2  
                     Crack Shot 2  
                     Dodge  
                     Greased Lightning 1  
                     Lawman  
                     Sharp Senses 2  
 Equipment:     Single Action heavy pistol (DN 5, ER 10", Fan)  
                     Shotgun (DN5, ER 10", variable strength)  
                     Knife (DN4)

### MORGAN EARP

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

Crack Shot 1  
Greased Lightning 1  
Dedicated (to brothers)  
Dodge

Equipment: Single Action heavy pistol (DN 5, ER 10", Fan)  
Knife (DN 4)

**SPECIAL RULES:**

**HOTHEADED-** Morgan was notoriously impatient and ready to fight at a moment's notice. He may never hold an action whenever he is activated.