



The Bullet Hole

December - 2011

Next business meeting January 9th at 7:30 p.m. - January Shoot is on the 15th.

Shooter's meeting at 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS PARTY A SUCCESS!

GREAT DAY AT THIS MONTHS SHOOT!



Tales from Winchester

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Please be sure to thank Shotgun Marshal, Annie Gunsinger, TJ Chuckwagon and Bonnie Blue Bear if you won a turkey. For you pie winners, be sure to thank Carson Kate and Sagebrush Sam.

I'll thank them anyway, didn't win either!

Sorry I wasn't able to make the last shoot, but I talked to Sam and it sounded like he wrote a lot of fun, challenging stages. I'll be sure to make January's shoot.

Reminder that winter is here. Dress appropriately; we want you warm and safe while shooting therefore, rubber-soled boots are o.k.

Here's to a Happy New Year for all!



From The Match Director:

Howdy. . . .

Had a wonderful Christmas Party, and I am sure everyone had a good time. Like to thank Winchester and Sally for their hand in making this a successful party. Sally's mom did the backdrop, and it sure was wonderful, especially for the background for the pictures. Winchester and Sally's presentation was very interesting. Also would like to thank Shotgun Marshal and Annie Gunsinger for all their help and involvement. A special thanks to Shotgun Marshal and Bonnie Blue Bear for the appreciation plaque. Like I have always said, the people in the club, make the club, and I really appreciated the plaque. Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and hope to see you all again next year.

Thanks to everyone who came out to our December shoot and helped set up and take down targets. It ended up being a really pretty day, and everybody seemed to have a good time. We

had 15 shooters, and we all laughed a lot with the stages. It doesn't matter if the target is small or large (can shoot).

Thanks to Minnesota Buckshot for filling in for Winchester. Thanks to everyone who helped haul the trailers. Several of us went down for pizza afterwards. Hope to see everyone next year.

Keep your powder dry. . . .Sam



A History Lesson:

- Continued from last month -

Gunfight in Tombstone

Ike Clanton had told others that Doc Holliday, Virgil Earp, Wyatt Earp, and Morgan Earp had all confided in him that they had actually been involved in the Benson stage robbery. On October 25, 1881, Ike Clanton was in Tombstone, drunk and very loud. Holliday accused him of lying about the Benson stagecoach robbery. Tombstone City Marshal Virgil Earp intervened and threatened to arrest both Doc and Ike if they did not stop arguing, and Holliday went home.

After the confrontation with Ike Clanton, Wyatt Earp took Holliday back to his boarding house at Camillus Sidney "Buck" Fly's Lodging House to sleep off his drinking, then went home and to bed. Tombstone Marshal Virgil Earp played cards with Ike Clanton, Tom McLaury, Cochise County Sheriff Johnny Behan and a fifth man (unknown to Ike and to history), until morning.

At about dawn on October 26, the card game broke up and Behan and Virgil Earp went home to bed. Ike Clanton testified later he saw Virgil take his six-shooter out of his lap and stick it in his pants when the game ended. Not having rented a room, Tom McLaury and Ike Clanton had no place to go. Shortly after 8:00 am barkeeper E. F. Boyle spoke to Ike Clanton, who had been drinking all night, in front of the telegraph office. Boyle encouraged him to get some sleep, but Ike insisted he would not go to bed. Boyle later testified he noticed Ike was armed and covered his gun for him, recalling that Ike told him "'As soon as the Earps and Doc Holliday showed themselves on the street, the ball would open—that they would have to fight'... I went down to Wyatt Earp's house and told him that Ike Clanton had threatened that when him and his brothers and Doc Holliday showed themselves on the street that the ball would open." Ike said in his testimony afterward that he remembered neither meeting Boyle nor making any such statements that day.

Later in the morning, Ike picked up his rifle and revolver from the West End Corral, where he had stabled his wagon and team and deposited his weapons after entering town. By noon that day, Ike, drinking again and armed, told others he was looking for Holliday or an Earp. At about 1:00 pm, Virgil and Morgan Earp surprised Ike on 4th Street where Virgil buffaloed (pistol-whipped) him from behind. Disarming him, the Earps took Ike to appear before Judge Wallace for violating the city's ordinance against carrying firearms in the city. Virgil went to find Judge Wallace so the court hearing could be held.."

Ike reported in his testimony afterward that Wyatt Earp cursed him. He said Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan offered him his rifle and to fight him right there in the courthouse, which Ike declined. Ike also denied ever threatening the Earps. Ike was fined \$25 plus court costs and after paying the fine left unarmed. Virgil told Ike he would leave Ike's confiscated rifle and revolver at the Grand Hotel which was favored by Cowboys when in town. Ike testified that he picked up the weapons from William Soule, the jailer, a couple of days later.

At around 1:30–2:00 pm, after Tom had been pistol-whipped by Wyatt, Ike's 19-year-old younger brother Billy Clanton and Tom's older brother Frank McLaury arrived in town. They had heard from their neighbor, Ed "old man" Frink, that Ike had been stirring up trouble in town overnight, and they had ridden into town on horseback to back up their brothers. They arrived from Antelope Springs, 13 miles east of Tombstone,

where they had been rounding up stock with their brothers and had had breakfasted with Ike and Tom the day before. Both Frank and Billy were armed with a revolver and a rifle, as was the custom for riders in the country outside Tombstone. Apache warriors had engaged the U.S. Army near Tombstone just three weeks before the O.K. Corral gunfight, so the need for weapons outside of town was well established and accepted.

Billy and Frank stopped first at the Grand Hotel on Allen Street, and were greeted by Doc Holliday. They learned immediately after of their brothers' beatings by the Earps within the previous two hours. The incidents had generated a lot of talk in town. Angrily, Frank said he would not drink, and he and Billy left the saloon immediately to seek Tom. By law, both Frank and Billy should have left their firearms at the Grand Hotel. Instead, they remained fully armed. The city statute was not specific about how far a recently-arrived visitor might "with good faith, and within reasonable time" travel into town while carrying a firearm. This permitted a traveler to keep his firearms if he was proceeding directly to a livery, hotel or saloon.

A man named Coleman told Virgil that the Cowboys had left the Dunbar and Dexter Stable for the O.K. Corral and were still armed, and Virgil decided they had to disarm them. The three main Tombstone corrals were all west of 4th street, a block or two from where Wyatt saw the Cowboys buying cartridges.

Sheriff Johnny Behan

Cochise County Sheriff Johnny Behan, a friend to the Cowboys, later testified that he first learned of the trouble while he was getting a shave at the barbershop after 1:30 pm, which is when he had risen after the late-night game. Behan stated he immediately went to locate the Cowboys. At about 2:30 pm he saw Ike, Frank, Tom, and Billy gathered off Fremont street in a narrow 15–20 feet wide empty lot or alley immediately west of 312 Fremont Street, which contained Fly's 12-room boarding house and photography studio. The lot was six lots removed from the rear entrance to the O.K. Corral.

When Virgil Earp learned that Wyatt was talking to the Cowboys at Spangenberg's gun shop he picked up a 10-gauge or 12-gauge, short, double-barreled shotgun from the Wells Fargo office around the corner on Allen Street. To avoid alarming Tombstone's public, Virgil returned to Hafford's Saloon carrying the shotgun under his long overcoat. He gave the shotgun to Doc Holliday who hid it under his overcoat. He took Holliday's walking-stick in return. From Spangenberg's, the Cowboys moved to the O.K. Corral where witnesses overheard them threatening to kill the Earps. They then walked a block north to an empty lot next to C. S. Fly's boarding house where Doc Holliday lived.

Virgil Earp was told by several citizens that the McLaurys and the Clantons had gathered on Fremont Street and were armed. He decided he had to act. Several members of the citizen's vigilance committee offered to support him with arms, but Virgil said no. He had previously deputized Morgan and Wyatt and also deputized Doc Holliday that morning. Wyatt spoke of his brothers Virgil and Morgan as the "marshals" while he acted as "deputy."

Witnesses later testified that Ike Clanton had spent all day, even after his arrest and disarming, threatening to gun down the Earps. However, when the gunfight broke out, Ike ran forward and grabbed Wyatt, exclaiming that he was unarmed and did not want a fight. To this protest Wyatt said he responded, "Go to fighting or get away!". Clanton ran through the front door of Fly's boarding house and escaped, unwounded.

In the days prior to the gunfight, Ike had enlisted the help of fellow Cowboy Billy Claiborne, who was reputed to be good with a gun. Claiborne, who was also unarmed, fled the gunfight. Tom and Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton were killed.

Files murder charges against Earps

After the gunfight in Tombstone that Ike had fled, during which the McLaury brothers and Billy Clanton were killed, Ike Clanton filed murder charges against the Earps and Doc Holliday. They were arrested and released on bail. During a month-long preliminary hearing before Judge Wells Spicer, Clanton told a story of abuse that he had suffered at the hands of the Earps and Holliday the night before the gunfight. He denied

threatening the Earps. He testified that the Clantons and Frank McLaury raised their hands after Virgil's command, and Tom thrust open his vest to show he was unarmed. Clanton said Wyatt shoved his revolver in his belly, telling him, "You son-of-a-bitch, you can have a fight!".

Ike backed up Cochise County Sheriff Johnny Behan's testimony that Holliday and Morgan Earp had fired the first two shots and that the next several shots also came from the Earp party. Under cross-examination, Clanton told a story of the lead-up to the gunfight that did not make sense. He said the Benson stage robbery was concocted by the Earps and Holliday to cover up money they had "piped off" to pay bribes. Ike also claimed that Doc Holliday and Morgan, Wyatt, and Virgil Earp had separately confessed to him their role in the Benson stage holdup, or else the cover-up of the robbery by allowing the robbers' escape.

Ike Clanton proved a better witness for the defense than the prosecution. He said that Doc Holliday, Virgil Earp, Wyatt Earp, and Morgan Earp had all confided in him that they had actually been involved in the stage robbery. He further claimed that Holliday had told him that Holliday had "piped off" money from the stage before it left (although no money was missing, and the stage had not been successfully robbed). Clanton also said Holliday had confessed to him about killing the stage driver. Murder was a capital offense, and given their relationship, it was unlikely Holliday would confide in Ike. Ike testified that Earp had threatened to kill his confederates because he feared they would reveal his part in the robbery. Ike said he feared that Wyatt wanted to kill him because he knew of Wyatt's role. These and other inconsistencies in Ike's testimony lacked credibility. By the time Ike finished his testimony, the entire prosecution case had become suspect.

Judge Spicer exonerated the lawmen. In his ruling, he noted that Ike Clanton had the night before, while unarmed, publicly declared that the Earp brothers and Holliday had insulted him, and that when he was armed he intended to shoot them or fight them on sight. On the morning of the shooting Virgil Earp had arrested him for carrying a revolver. At the gunfight, he was unarmed. Spicer noted that Ike Clanton had claimed the Earps were out to murder him, yet on both occasions that day the Earps had not killed him, and allowed him to escape unchallenged during the fight. Spicer wrote, "the great fact, most prominent in the matter, to wit, that Isaac Clanton was not injured at all, and could have been killed first and easiest."

Clanton was later accused, along with his brother Phin Clanton and friend Pony Diehl, of attempting to kill Virgil Earp on December 30, 1881, a shooting which left Virgil with a crippled left arm. Though Ike's hat was found at the scene where the ambushers waited, a number of associates stood up for him, saying that he had been in Contention that night, and the case was dismissed for lack of evidence.

On Saturday, March 18, 1882, Morgan Earp was killed by a shot through a door window facing a dark alley while playing billiards at Hatch's Saloon in Tombstone. Wyatt was shot at and missed. Wyatt Earp concluded that he could not rely on civil justice and decided to take matters into his own hands. He concluded that only way to deal with Morgan's murderers was to kill them.

Deputy U.S. Marshal Wyatt Earp led a federal posse that escorted Virgil Earp to the railroad, bound for his parent's home in Colton, California. Wyatt shot and killed Frank Stilwell, who was laying in wait at the Tucson, Arizona rail yard. A few days later Wyatt gathered a larger posse and set out on a vendetta, determined to mete out justice that had evaded him. Wyatt never located Ike, and the Earps and Holliday left the Arizona Territory in late April, 1882.

Death

Ike Clanton and his brother Phineas were charged with cattle-rustling and pursued by detective Jonas V. Brighton. On June 1, 1887, at Jim Wilson's Ranch on Eagle Creek, south of Springerville, Arizona, Phin Clanton surrendered, but Ike resisted and was shot dead.

A reporter who corresponded with Brighton in late June 1887 relayed Brighton's story about the arrest and shooting:

The next morning, while they were at breakfast, Ike Clanton came riding up to the front door. Mr. Brighton got up from the table, walked to the door, and was familiarly saluted by him. Just at this time, Mr. Miller stepped to the door, to be ready to render any assistance needed, and when Ike saw him he wheeled his horse and attempted to get under cover of the thick cover which grows close to Wilson's home, at the same time pulling his Winchester from its scabbard. Both Brighton and Miller ordered him to halt but instead of doing so, when about twenty yards distant where the trail took a turn to the left, he threw his rifle over his left arm attempting to fire; at this instance Detective Brighton fired, the ball entering under the left arm and passing directly through the heart and out under the right arm. Ike reeled in his saddle and fell on the right side of his horse, his rifle falling on the left. Before the fall, Brighton fired a second shot which passed through the cantle of the saddle and grazed Ike's right leg. When Brighton and Miller walked up to where Ike lay they found he was dead. Mr. Wilson, at whose ranch the shooting occurred, notified the nearest neighbors and four men came over and identified the deceased and assisted in giving him as decent a burial as circumstances would admit.

A conflicting account reports that Ike's body lay where it fell for several days until nearby Mormon ranchers buried him in a unmarked grave in the old Mormon cemetery southeast of Eagar, Arizona on what is today called "The 26 Bar Ranch".

In late June 1996 a Clanton family descendant, Terry "Ike" Clanton, along with former Citadel professor and grave expert James A. Browning, searched the area near Eagle Creek in what is now Greenlee County, Arizona, where Ike was reportedly buried. They quickly discovered a shallow grave under a large tree that they believe contains the remains of Ike Clanton. Since their discovery, Terry has unsuccessfully tried to interest Tombstone city officials in exhuming the remains and re-interring them in Tombstone's famous Boot Hill graveyard.

Portrayals in film

Ike Clanton is portrayed by Grant Withers in the 1946 John Ford classic "My Darling Clementine". Lyle Bettger portrayed Clanton as a brutal thug in John Sturges' 1957 film Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. In Sturges' 1967 sequel, Hour of the Gun, he is portrayed very differently as a highly sophisticated figure by Robert Ryan. Although the film is a generally accurate depiction of the events surrounding the gunfight at OK Corral and the subsequent Earp Vendetta, it errs in showing Ike as having been tracked down in Mexico and shot by Wyatt. Later films correctly show Wyatt allowing Ike to live. Ike Clanton appears in the 1966 Doctor Who story "The Gunfighters", played by William Hurndell, which is largely based on the Sturges film and portrays Ike as the villain, albeit a somewhat comedic and inept one. It differs from history by showing Ike participate and die in the OK Corral gunfight.

Clanton is played by Stephen Lang in the 1993 movie Tombstone (1993) starring Kurt Russell as Wyatt Earp. This movie draws heavily on the book by former Tombstone Assistant Marshal Billy Breakenridge, "Helldorado: Bringing the Law to the Mesquite". He is played by Jeff Fahey in the 1994 movie Wyatt Earp (1994) starring Kevin Costner as Wyatt Earp. Christopher Fulford played him in 2007 in the BBC drama-documentary Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. In The Original Star Trek Third Season (1969) episode entitled 'Spectre of the Gun,' Captain James T. Kirk played by William Shatner, plays the part of Ike Clanton throughout the episode as part of an alien illusion test.



Up-Coming Events:

SILVER STATE SHOOTISTS 2012 CALENDAR

JANUARY 2012

Business Meeting 1/9/12, 7:30 pm
Match 1/15/12, 10 am shooters meeting

FEBRUARY 2012

Business Meeting 2/13/12, 7:30 pm
Match 2/19/12, 10 am shooters meeting

MARCH 2012

Daylight saving time begins
Business Meeting 3/12/12, 7:30 pm
Match 3/18/12, 10 am shooters meeting

APRIL 2012 (Smithy's Revenge)

Business Meeting 4/9/12, 7:30 pm
Match: 4/15/12, 9 am shooters meeting
April 30, dues due

MAY 2012

Business Meeting: 5/14/12, 7:30pm
Match: 5/20/12, 9 am shooters meeting
Buffalo Shoot: 5/25 - 27/12
Sat. Shooters Meeting: 12 Noon
Sun. Shooters Meeting: 8 am

JUNE 2012

Business Meeting 6/11/12, 7:30pm
Match: 6/17/12, 9 am shooters meeting

JULY 2012

Business Meeting: 7/9/12, 7:30pm
Match: 7/15/12, 9 am shooters meeting

AUGUST 2012

Business Meeting: 8/13/12, 7:30pm
Match: 8/19/12, 9 am shooters meeting

SEPTEMBER 2012

Business Meeting: 9/10/12, 7:30pm
Match: 9/16/12, 9 am shooters meeting

OCTOBER 2012

Business Meeting: 10/8/12, 7:30pm
Match: 10/21/12, 9 am shooters meeting
Buffalo Shoot: 10/26 - 28/12
Sat. shooters meeting: 12 Noon
Sun. shooters meeting: 8 am

NOVEMBER 2012

(Turkey Shoot)
Daylight saving time ends
Business Meeting: 11/8/12, 7:30 pm
Match: 11/21/12 10 am shooters meeting

DECEMBER 2012

Christmas Party
12/1/12 at Casino Fandango
Business Meeting: 12/10/12, 7:30pm
Match: 12/16/12, 10 am shooters meeting

The business meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the fire station on Stewart Street in Carson City. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm. The room is located on the north side of the building.

Shooters meetings for matches will be at 10 am from November through March and 9 am from April through October.

If you know of a coming CAS (Cowboy Action Shooting) event, please send us the information and we'll put it this here newsletter!

Happy Birthday Cowboy!

The following cowboys had their birthdays this month:

• Larimie Larry (Larry Guerrero) December 31st



Classified:

Would you like to see an advertisement for your business in this newsletter? All you have to do is send us a business card or email us your ad and we'll put it in.

Classified ads are open to anyone who wishes to sell something. Please provide a brief description along with the asking price and a phone number where you can be reached. Photos are always a plus. Send or email all submissions to Shotgun Marshal at 600 Frontage Road - Gardnerville, NV 89410 or email to marshallgoldy@frontier.com

Badge holders. Plain, unadorned \$20.00 each.

With lacing, Choice of colors, \$25.00 each.

Contact Kid Nickle at ndolphay@yahoo.com

Phone (530) 253-3502

PEDERSOLI 1859 SHARPS CALVARY CARBINE.

.54 caliber, percussion cap black powder, 22" barrel

Fired less than 5 times (with blanks only) for Civil War re-enactments - \$500.00

Contact "Shotgun Marshal" at marshallgoldy@frontier.com or (775) 265-0267

The contents of this newsletter was edited and compiled by "Shotgun Marshal" Goldy. If you have any questions or wish to place something in this newsletter, please contact me at:

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