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'BAT' MASTERSON DEAD

BARTHOLOMEW 'BAT' MASTERSON SUFFERS HEART ATTACK WHILE WORKING AT HIS DESK

October 25th, 1921

Famous western pioneer and gunfighter, 'Bat' Masterson has died at his desk while writing an article for his newspaper, the 'Morning Telegraph' in New York this morning.

Mr. Masterson was born in Quebec, Canada in 1853. He later changed his name to William Barkley Masterson, but was known as 'Bat' for most of his life.

Although 'Bat' Masterson has been credited with 27 killings, a more accurate figure would be one or two.

Bat Masterson was also a close friend of Wyatt Earp after meeting Wyatt, whom he met while both were buffalo hunting on the Salt Fork of Arkansas. After parting they would not meet up again until 1876.

On April 16, 1881, 'Bat' arrived in Tombstone, Arizona to assist his younger brother, Jim in a 'problem' his brother was experiencing. He left shortly after 'solving' the problem in a sort of way, thus missing being part of wild west history's most famous gun battle, the gunfight at the OK corral.



Mr. Masterson would have been 68 next month. He will be buried at the Woodlawn cemetery in New York.

Special report by Lady Belle - Outlaw

SEE 'BAT' MASTERSON'S FULL STORY ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Coca-Cola was originally green.
2. The most common name in the world is Mohammed.
3. The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.
4. The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.
5. TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
6. Women blink nearly twice as much as men!!
7. It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.

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Bat Masterson Lawman

by Lady Belle

Bartholomew Masterson was born in November 1853, in Quebec, Canada. He later changed his name to William Barkley Masterson, and was nicknamed "Bat" most of his life. Though legend has Bat credited with some 27 killings, in actual truth the total was closer to one or two notches on his gun.

Bat Masterson was a buffalo hunter, gambler, lawman and gunfighter. In 1872, at the age of nineteen, he first met Wyatt Earp while both men were hunting buffalo on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas. They soon parted, not meeting up again until 1876. During the 1870's, Masterson drifted through Colorado, Kansas, Texas, Arizona and other locations. In 1876, he was caught up in a fight over a dance hall girl, killing a military officer named King, and was wounded badly in the leg in the process.

In the summer of 1876, after leaving Sweetwater, Texas, Bat drifted north to Dodge City where his brother George was bartender of the premier dance hall and gambling palace, Varieties. Bat soon took on a position working as a deputy under Marshal Wyatt Earp and patrolled Front Street with a walking stick for several weeks. He left in July of that same year to follow the gold rush to Deadwood, but got no further than Cheyenne, Wyoming where he worked as a fargo banker.

Not staying long, Masterson returned to Dodge for the cattle season of 1877. He bought an interest in the Lone Star Dance Hall and in November 1877, Bat was elected sheriff and took office in January. He had been sheriff less than a month when a six-man gang of outlaws held up a train in the next county. Although the felony was outside of his jurisdiction, Bat led a posse that captured two of the robbers without firing a shot, and not long afterward Bat, his brother Ed, and his deputy captured two more of the robbers near Dodge, again without a fight. In April, when a pair of good-fer-nothing drunks killed his brother Ed, then Dodge's marshal, Bat is said to have shot them both, killing one. At the Long Branch Saloon, Bat spent many nights gambling with poker pals Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp and Luke Short.

In 1880, Bat was living with nineteen-year old Annie Ladue and was no longer sheriff. He then followed Wyatt Earp, the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday to Tombstone, Arizona. After a brief stay, in April 1881 he traveled back to Dodge City in response to his younger brother, Jim, Dodge's marshal and co-owner of a dancehall. Jim had got into a scrape with his partner A.J. Peacock, and the man they employed as bartender, Al Updegraph. Bat arrived by train at noon on April 16. Fighting his brother's battle, Bat was in a gunfight with Updegraph. An unknown man shot Updegraph from behind, the shot possibly coming from inside the saloon. Bat was fined eight dollars for shooting his pistol in the street, and then rode the evening train out of town. This would be his last gunfight, at the age of 27. Had he stayed in Tombstone, perhaps Bat would have helped shoot it out at the O.K. Corral with the Earps and Clantons. But that was not part of his destiny.

For the next two years, Bat roamed the West, until returning to Dodge in 1883 when pal Luke Short needed his help in the "Dodge City War." In the 1890's Masterson ran a fargo layout in the Arcade in Denver and also worked as a sports editor. As the years passed, he drank heavily and was later asked to leave Denver. As the 1900's rolled around, he moved to New York City, where he took a job as a newspaperman, working as a sports writer for the New York Morning Telegraph. In 1907, the Wild West was revisited through his experiences when he wrote a series of columns for Human Life magazine. Some of his recounts included Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday.

On the morning of October 25, 1921, Bat Masterson sat behind his newspaper desk, picked up his ink pen and wrote these words, "There are those who argue that everything breaks even in this dump of a world of ours. I suppose these ginks who argue that way hold that because the rich man gets ice in the summer and the poor man gets it in the winter things are breaking even for both. Maybe so, but I'll swear that I can't see it that way..." These would be the last words he wrote. He died of a heart attack at his desk.