

Chapter 1 : The Authentic Life of Billy, The Kid

The legend of Billy the Kid was created by his killer, Sheriff Pat Garrett. Early Life. Billy the Kid was born William Henry McCarty Jr. on November 23, , in New York City.

He played a prominent role in a frontier feud. John Tunstall Billy the Kid first earned his reputation as a gunslinger in , when he participated in a bloody frontier war in Lincoln County, New Mexico. The conflict centered on a business rivalry between British-born rancher John Tunstall and a pair of Irish tycoons named James Dolan and Lawrence Murphy. The tensions finally boiled over in February , when Tunstall was murdered by a posse organized by Sheriff William Brady, a supporter of The House. In July , the feud reached its climax with a deadly, five-day firefight in the town of Lincoln, after which the Regulators disbanded and the two sides sealed a flimsy peace agreement. He would spend the rest of his life on the run from the authorities. The Kid never robbed a train or a bank. The young gunslinger stole the occasional horse, but he never once held up a bank, train or even a stagecoach. Outside of his gunfighting days with the Regulators, his main criminal enterprise was rustling cattle on the New Mexico plains. He was involved in at least nine murders. In a four-year span between and , the baby-faced outlaw was involved in the shooting deaths of some nine men, at least four of whom he killed singlehandedly. One particularly legendary gunfight unfolded in January at a New Mexico saloon. It proved to be a wise move. Later that evening, Grant pulled the same pistol on the Kid and tried to shoot him in the back. The Kid made a famous jailbreak. The outlaw was found guilty of the murder of Sheriff William Brady and confined to the Lincoln courthouse. He was scheduled for a date with the hangman, but on the evening of April 28, , he engineered the most daring getaway of his criminal career. During a trip to the outhouse, the Kid slipped out of his handcuffs, ambushed a guard and shot the man to death with his own pistol. He then armed himself with a double-barreled shotgun and gunned down a second guard who was crossing the street. Once in control of the courthouse, the Kid collected a small arsenal of weapons, cut his leg shackles with a pickaxe and fled town on a stolen horse. News of the brazen escape was soon reprinted in newspapers across the country, making the Kid the most wanted man in the West. He was just 21 years old at the time of his death. Sheriff Pat Garrett Credit: No sooner had he woken Maxwell than the Kid also approached the house, having stopped nearby to get beef for a late dinner. One bullet struck the year-old near his heart, killing him instantly. An image of Billy the Kid from his wanted poster. We strive for accuracy and fairness. Twice a week we compile our most fascinating features and deliver them straight to you.

Chapter 2 : 9 Things You May Not Know About Billy the Kid - HISTORY

The Other Life of Billy the Kid and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

Dick Brewer, c. The three men had wielded an economic and political hold over Lincoln County since the early s, due in part to their ownership of a beef contract with nearby Fort Stanton and a well-patronized dry goods store in Lincoln. Tunstall put Bonney in charge of nine prime horses and told him to relocate them to his ranch for safekeeping. During the encounter, one member of the posse shot Tunstall in the chest, knocking him off his horse. Baker and Morton were killed while trying to escape. Hindman, were killed. Battle of Lincoln On the night of Sunday, July 14, McSween and the Regulators—now a group of fifty or sixty men—went to Lincoln and stationed themselves in the town among several buildings. Another group led by Marin Chavez and Doc Scurlock positioned themselves on the roof of a saloon. Peppin then sent a request for assistance to Colonel Nathan Dudley, commandant of nearby Fort Stanton. In a reply to Peppin, Dudley refused to intervene but later arrived in Lincoln with troops, turning the battle in favor of the Murphy-Dolan faction. Bonney and the other men fled the building when all rooms but one were burning. Beckwith, who was then shot and killed by Bonney. All four were indicted for the murder, despite conflicting evidence that Bernstein had been killed by Constable Atanacio Martinez. Antrim, alias Kid, alias Bonny [sic]" but was unable to execute them "owing to the disturbed condition of affairs in that county, resulting from the acts of a desperate class of men". It specifically excluded persons who had been convicted of or indicted for a crime, and therefore excluded Bonney. According to eyewitnesses, the pair were innocent bystanders forced at gunpoint by Jesse Evans to witness the murder. On March 15, Governor Wallace replied, agreeing to a secret meeting to discuss the situation. Bonney met with Wallace in Lincoln on March 17. During the meeting and in subsequent correspondence, Wallace promised Bonney protection from his enemies and clemency if he would offer his testimony to a grand jury. Bonney escaped from the Lincoln County jail on June 17. The origin of the difficulty was not learned. He walked up to Grant, told him he admired his revolver, and asked to examine it. Grant handed it over. Before returning the pistol, which Bonney noticed contained only three cartridges, he positioned the cylinder so the next hammer fall would land on an empty chamber. When it failed to fire, Bonney drew his own weapon and shot Grant in the head. A reporter for the Las Vegas Optic quoted Bonney as saying the encounter "was a game of two and I got there first". Carlyle offered to exchange places with Greathouse, and Bonney accepted the offer. Carlyle later attempted to escape by jumping through a window but he was shot three times and killed. The shoot-out ended in a standoff; the posse withdrew and Bonney, Rudabaugh, and Wilson rode away. Unknown to Bonney and his companions, a posse led by Pat Garrett was waiting for them. When they arrived on December 26, they were met by crowds of curious onlookers. The following day, an armed mob gathered at the train depot before the prisoners, who were already on board the train with Garrett, departed for Santa Fe. Garrett refused to surrender the prisoner, and a tense confrontation ensued until he agreed to let the sheriff and two other men accompany the party to Santa Fe, where they would petition the governor to release Rudabaugh to them. On the evening of April 28, while Garrett was in White Oaks collecting taxes, Deputy Bob Olinger took five other prisoners across the street for a meal, leaving James Bell, another deputy, alone with Bonney at the jail. Bonney asked to be taken outside to use the outhouse behind the courthouse; on their return to the jail, Bonney—who was walking ahead of Bell up the stairs to his cell—hid around a blind corner, slipped out of his handcuffs, and beat Bell with the loose end of the cuffs. Bonney waited at the upstairs window for Olinger to respond to the gunshot that killed Bell and called out to him, "Look up, old boy, and see what you get". When Olinger looked up, Bonney shot and killed him. The first bullet struck Bonney in the chest just above his heart, killing him. Ritch, the acting New Mexico governor, refused to pay the reward. Most of these claims were easily disproven but two have remained topics of discussion and debate. In , a central Texas man Ollie P. This was unsupported by his family until , some time after his death. The image shows Bonney wearing a vest over a sweater, a slouch cowboy hat, and a bandanna, while holding an Winchester rifle with its butt resting on the floor. For years, this was the

only photograph scholars and historians agreed showed Bonney. This led historians to believe he was left-handed, but they did not take into account that the ferrotype process produces reversed images. Horan and Paul Sann wrote that Bonney was "right-handed and carried his pistol on his right hip". If authentic it is the only known photo of Billy the Kid and the Regulators together and the only image to feature their wives and female companions. McCubbin and outlaw historian John Boessenecker concluded in that the photograph does not show Bonney. Kent Gibson, a forensic video and still image expert, offered the services of his facial recognition software, and stated that Bonney is one of the individuals in the image. A photograph curator at the Palace of the Governors archives, Daniel Kosharek, said the image is "problematic on a lot of fronts", including the small size of the figures and the lack of resemblance of the background landscape to Lincoln County or the state in general. As a result of his efforts, a stone memorial marked with the names of the three men and their death dates beneath the word "Pals" was erected in the center of the burial area. New Mexico Governor Bruce King arranged for the county sheriff to fly to California to return it to Fort Sumner, [] where it was reinstalled in May Although both markers are behind iron fencing, a group of vandals entered the enclosure at night in June and tipped the stone over. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.

Chapter 3 : Summary of the Life of Billy the Kid

The Authentic Life of Billy, the Kid is a biography and first-hand account written by Pat Garrett, sheriff of Lincoln County, New Mexico, in collaboration with a ghostwriter, Marshall Ashmun "Ash" Upson.

As for where Billy the Kid was born; New York, Indiana, and Missouri are potential birth places, but there is no -without a doubt- proof to support any of them. Childhood friends in Silver City said that he was about 12 years old in , and the Coe cousins would go on to say that the Kid was about 17 years old during the Lincoln County War in early Lincoln resident, Lily Casey, would also say that the Kid was barely 16 when he was jailed in Lincoln in November of This would then make him under 21 years old at the time of death. Garrett may have deliberately made the Kid 21 years old to make him an adult man when he shot him, instead of giving the harsh reality of gunning down a kid possibly still in his teens. In the end, it made no difference of age, Garrett was still viewed with suspicion. Billy the Kid had a younger brother named Edward or another story he had a older brother named Joseph. The Kid did not have a younger brother named Edward, but he did have a younger brother named Joseph. At the age twelve, Billy the Kid killed his first man who had insulted his mother. After the killing, he bid his mother farewell and ran away. The above is an example of some of the hogwash written about Billy the Kid. During an argument, the bully rushed the Kid, sat on him and pummeled him in the face, since the Kid knew he was no match for the heavyweight, he shot him. Though it was purely self-defense, the Kid was wanted for murder. Billy the Kid was short, chubby and ugly. Here is an unbiased statement from a reporter of the Las Vegas Gazette: So if Billy the Kid was as butt-ugly as some say, why did he have so many female admirers and every description said about him whether by man or woman all say he was a "fine looking lad" or "handsome with boyish good looks. Billy the Kid was left-handed. He was ambidextrous, but primarily right-handed. Due to the reverse image of the only known photograph of Billy the Kid, it gave the incorrect impression that he was left-handed because his revolver is positioned on the left side. Someone finally realized the imaged was flipped by looking at the Winchester rifle. Billy the Kid had a hair-trigger temper, which could explode with the slightest provocation. Everyone who came in contact with the Kid, either friend, foe or a reporter, all agree that the Kid had an easygoing personality, a wonderful sense of humor, and was always in good spirits, despite any situation, whether it be bad or good. He was credited for never losing his composure and having a cool head under the most desperate of circumstances. Miguel Antonio Otero Jr. He was always in a pleasant humor when I saw him-laughing, sprightly, and good natured. Of course, dime novelists ran with this idea, and therefore created the myth. Billy the Kid was illiterate and had no schooling. Though he probably had little schooling, the Kid was not illiterate. As a youngster he was an avid reader of books and dime novels. Judging from the letters he wrote to Governor Wallace, they were articulate and almost error free. Jessie Evans and Billy the Kid were childhood friends. Jesse Evans was under the employment of John Chisum at the time when the Kid was still attending grammar school. A bit of an exaggeration. John Tunstall was 24 years old when he was murdered, hardly the age of a father figure. They become more like brothers to him, then Tunstall. Billy the Kid was a large scale rustler. The true title holders of "large scale" rustlers go to John Kinney and Jessie Evans. How bad was he? There were wanted posters on Billy the Kid. The closest thing to a wanted poster was a reward notice the governor put in the Las Vegas Gazette in December of Satisfactory proofs of identity will be required. There is also a funeral notice poster which is also a fake. Both are nothing more than souvenirs. Billy the Kid shot a man for snoring too loud at a hotel. Unfortunately, some folks confuse the ruthless Hardin with the easy-going Billy the Kid. At one time Billy the Kid rode with Jesse James. Billy the Kid never rode with Jesse James. Supposedly they ate together and chatted, and during that meeting Jesse invited the Kid to join his gang in which the Kid flatly refused. Robbing banks and trains did not interest him. Rustling cattle was one thing, but armed robbery was entirely another! Therefore, the myth of Billy the Kid being a member of the James gang at one time is absolutely false. Billy the Kid would drink to the extreme and go on drunken rages. When one is living on the edge and can expect trouble at any moment, the Kid was bright enough to know it was best to keep himself sober and clear-headed. In an era when just about every man would have a drink, the Kid was probably a light social

drinker, but was never a raving drunk. Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid were close friends. This is another exaggerated issue of the legend of Billy the Kid. To have a friend-turn-lawman shoot his old outlaw buddy makes a great plot for novels and movies. Pat Garrett and the Kid no doubt knew each other, but they were not close friends. He knew his first duty was to bring down the Kid and he did more than that, he ambushed the Kid in the dark, then went one step further and wrote a book about him portraying him as a cold-blooded monster. Out of all the myths surrounding Billy the Kid that one is a doosey! See the final myth at the bottom of this page. The most popular one of all: Due to research and claims by those who knew him, we already came to the conclusion that the Kid never saw his 21st birthday. So we can scratch that one, as far as the 21 men he killed. Bell and Bob Olinger while escaping jail and an upcoming hanging. Of course the posse blamed the killing on the Kid, which caused him to lose what little favor he had with the public and not to mention any hopes of receiving a pardon from the governor. The Kid was blamed for killing Buckshot Roberts, but it was Charlie Bowdre who gave the feisty gunman his fatal wound. Lastly, he was blamed for killing a Mescalero agency clerk, Morris Bernstein. While the Kid and his cohorts were watering their horses at a nearby spring several yards away, a gunfight broke out between Bernstein and Atanacio Martinez who was riding with the Kid, which resulted in Martinez killing the clerk. So in actuality, the Kid single handedly killed four men and participated in five shootings, now that makes the grand total of nine men. Contrary to the myth, Billy the Kid did not kill a man just to see him kick or to prove his toughness. Billy the Kid was not killed on July 14, , but lived to be an old man. Well, this is just another tall tale added to the legend of Billy the Kid. This endless and heated debate can be compared to the argument of UFOs or Darwinism where people on both sides just talk circles around one another and get nowhere. If a robbery takes place at a bank, and investigators interview ten witnesses, they will hear ten different versions of what happened, what those people saw and how they perceived it. The investigators then do their own research of the evidence and try to match eyewitness testimonies and then come to a conclusion. So after my investigation, I came to the conclusion that Billy the Kid was indeed killed on July 14, by Sheriff Garrett. Why also, would Garrett help the Kid fake his death after the Kid humiliated him by escaping his jail and killing two of his deputies? Brushy also looked no way shape or form like Billy the Kid. Brushy was also illiterate, in which the Kid was not. This is just a small sample of my argument.

Chapter 4 : Billy the Kid - Wikipedia

Twelve decades after Billy the Kid's death in , books, movies, and essays about this western outlaw are still popular. And they all go back to one source: The Authentic Life of Billy, the Kid, published in by the man who killed Billy, Sheriff Pat www.nxgvision.com *ick Nolan, an authority on the.*

Bonney, better known as "Billy the Kid," whose daring deeds and bloody crimes have excited, for some years last past, the wonder of one-half of the world, and the admiration or detestation of the other half. I am incited to this labor, in a measure, by an impulse to correct the thousand false statements which have appeared in the public newspapers and in yellow-covered, cheap novels. Of the latter, no less than three have been foisted upon the public, any one of which might have been the history of any outlaw who ever lived, but were miles from correct as applied to "the Kid. I will strive to do justice to his character, give him credit for all the virtues he possessed"and he was by no means devoid of virtue"but shall not spare deserved opprobrium for his heinous offenses against humanity and the laws. I have known "the Kid" personally since and during the continuance of what was known as "The Lincoln County War," up to the moment of his death, of which I was the unfortunate instrument, in the discharge of my official duty. I have listened, at camp-fires, on the trail, on the prairies and at many different plazas, to his disconnected relations of events of his early and more recent life. This man has known Bonney well from that time to his death, and has traced his career carefully and not with indifference. I have communicated, by letter, with various reliable parties, in New York, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Chihuahua, Sonora, and other states of Mexico, in order to catch up any missing links in his life, and can safely guarantee that the reader will find in my little book a true and concise relation of the principal interesting events therein, without exaggeration or excusation. I make no pretension to literary ability, but propose to give to the public in intelligible English, "a round, unvarnished tale," unadorned with superfluous verbiage. The truth, in the life of young Bonney, needs no pen dipped in blood to thrill the heart and stay its pulsations. Under the nom de guerre "the Kid," his most bloody and desperate deeds were wrought"a name which will live in the annals of daring crime so long as those of Dick Turpin and Claude Duval shall be remembered. Yet, a hundred volumes have been written, exhausting the imagination of a dozen authors"authors whose stock in trade was vivid imagination"to immortalize these two latter. Risking the charge of prolixity, I wish to add a few words to this, my address to the public, vide, a sermon among many others , recently preached in an eastern city by an eminent divine, of which discourse "the Kid" was the literal, if not the announced text. The fact that he lied, swore, gambled, and broke the Sabbath in his childhood, only proved that youth and exuberant humanity were rife in the child. He but emulated thousands of his predecessors, who lived to manhood and died honored and revered"some for public and some for domestic virtues, some for their superior intellect, and many more for their wealth-how attained the world will never pause to inquire. The sentiments involved in the sermon alluded to are as antedeluvian in monotonous argument, language, and sense, as the Blue Laws of Connecticut. Immaculate mentor of the soul. And, suppose "the Kid" had knowingly violated the Sabbath? Circumstances favored the worser angel, and "the Kid" fell. A dozen affidavits have been proffered me for publication, in verification of the truth of my work. I have refused them all with thanks. Let those doubt who will. But little is known of his father, as he died when Billy was very young, and he had little recollection of him. In the family, consisting of the father, mother, and two boys, of whom Billy was the eldest, emigrated to Coffeyville, Kansas. Soon after settling there the father died, and the mother with her two boys removed to Colorado, where she married a man named Antrim, who is said to be now living at, or near, Georgetown, in Grant County, New Mexico, and is the only survivor of the family of four, who removed to Santa Fe, New Mexico, shortly after the marriage. Billy was then four or five years of age. Antrim remained at and near Santa Fe for some years, or until Billy was about eight years of age. It was here that the boy exhibited a spirit of reckless daring, yet generous and tender feeling, which rendered him the darling of his young companions in his gentler moods, and their terror when the angry fit was on him. It was here that he became adept at cards and noted among his comrades as successfully aping the genteel vices of his elders. It has been said that at this tender age he was convicted of

larceny in Santa Fe, but as a careful examination of the court records of that city fail to support the rumor, and as Billy, during all his after life, was never charged with a little meanness or petty crime, the statement is to be doubted. About the year , when Billy was eight or nine years of age, Antrim again removed and took up his residence at Silver City, in Grant County, New Mexico. From this date to , or until Billy was twelve years old, he exhibited no characteristics prophesying his desperate and disastrous future. Bold, daring, and reckless, he was open-handed, generous-hearted, frank, and manly. He was a favorite with all classes and ages, especially was he loved and admired by the old and decrepit, and the young and helpless. To such he was a champion, a defender, a benefactor, a right arm. A little child never lacked a lift across a gutter, or the assistance of a strong arm to carry a heavy burden when Billy was in sight. To those who knew his mother, his courteous, kindly, and benevolent spirit was no mystery. She was evidently of Irish descent. Her husband called her Kathleen. She was about the medium height, straight, and graceful in form, with regular features, light blue eyes, and luxuriant golden hair. She was not a beauty, but what the world calls a fine-looking woman. She kept boarders in Silver City, and her charity and goodness of heart were proverbial. Many a hungry "tenderfoot" has had cause to bless the fortune which led him to her door. In all her deportment she exhibited the unmistakable characteristics of a lady—a lady by instinct and education. Billy loved his mother. He loved and honored her more than anything else on earth. Yet his home was not a happy one to him. However this may be, after the death of his mother, some four years since, the step-father would have been unfortunate had he come in contact with his eldest step-son. With great natural intelligence and an active brain, he became a fair scholar. He wrote a fair letter, was a tolerable arithmetician, but beyond this he did not aspire. The shield had another side never exhibited to his best friends—the weak and helpless. His temper was fearful, and in his angry moods he was dangerous. He was not loud or swaggering, or boisterous. He had no bark, or, if he did, the bite came first. He never took advantage of an antagonist, but barring size and weight, would, when aggrieved, fight any man in Silver City. His misfortune was, he could not and would not stay whipped. When oversized and worsted in a fight, he sought such arms as he could buy, borrow, beg, or steal, and used them, upon more than one occasion, with murderous intent. He was older than Billy and constituted himself a sort of preceptor to our hero. When young Bonney was about twelve years of age, he first imbrued his hand in human blood. This affair, it may be said, was the turning point in his life, outlawed him, and gave him over a victim of his worser impulses and passions. The brute made a rush for him, but as he passed Ed. Moulton, a well-known citizen of Silver City, he received a stunning blow on the ear which felled him, whilst Billy was caught and restrained. However, the punishment inflicted on the offender by no means satisfied Billy. By good fortune, Moulton saw him with the gun, and, with some difficulty, persuaded him to return it. Billy was usually a spectator, when not a principal, to any fight which might occur in the town, and this one was no exception. He saw the motion, and like lightning darted beneath the chair—once, twice, thrice, his arm rose and fell—then, rushing through the crowd, his right hand above his head, grasping a pocket-knife, its blade dripping with gore, he went out into the night, an outcast and a wanderer, a murderer, self-baptized in human blood. He went out like banished Cain, yet less fortunate than the first murderer, there was no curse pronounced against his slayer. He went out forever from the care, the love, and influence of a fond mother, for he was never to see her face again—she who had so lovingly reared him, and whom he had so tenderly and reverently loved. Never more shall her soft hand smooth his ruffled brow, whilst soothing words charm from his swelling heart the wrath he nurses. No mentor, no love to restrain his evil passion or check his desperate hand—what must be his fate? Billy did, truly, love and revere his mother, and all his after life of crime was marked by deep devotion and respect for good women, born, doubtless, of his adoration for her. Happy he With such a mother! Faith in womankind Beats with his blood, and trust in all things high Comes easy to him, and though he trip and fall, He shall not blind his soul with clay. All the good influences were withdrawn from his patch. The dove of peace and good will to his kind could find no resting place in his mind, distorted by fiery passion, and when deadly revenge shook his soul, he would have plucked the messenger from its perch, "though her jesses were his heartstrings. His deeds of desperate crime in that Territory are familiar to old residents there but it is impossible to follow them in detail, or to give exact dates. It is probable that many of his lawless achievements have escaped both written history and tradition. Records of the courts, at the Indian agency and military posts,

and reports from officers and citizens give all the information which can be obtained and cover his most prominent exploits. After the fateful night when Billy first imbrued his hands in blood and fled his home, he wandered for three days and nights without meeting a human being except one Mexican sheepherder. He talked Spanish as fluently as any Mexican of them all, and secured from this boy a small stock of provisions, consisting of tortillas and mutton. He was on foot, and trying to make his way to the Arizona line. The next we hear of Billy, some three weeks after his departure from Silver City, he arrived at Fort then Camp Bowie, Arizona, with a companion, both mounted on one sore-backed pony, equipped with a pack-saddle and rope bridle, without a quarter of a dollar between them, nor a mouthful of provision in the commissary. Billy always called him "Alias. Billy and his companion fell in with a party of three of these Indians, some eight or ten miles southwest of Fort Bowie in the passes of the mountains. A majority of the different tribes of Apaches speak Spanish, and Billy was immediately at home with these. His object was to procure a mount for himself and his companion. He tried arguments, wheedling, promises to pay, and every other plan his prolific brain could suggestâ€”all in vain. Billy gave a vague account of the result of this enterprise, yet uncompromising as it sounds, it leaves little to surmise. Here were twelve good ponies, four or five saddles, a good supply of blankets, and five pony loads of pelts. Here were three blood-thirsty savages, revelling in all this luxury and refusing succor to two free-born, white American citizens, foot sore and hungry. The plunder had to change handsâ€”there was no alternativeâ€”and as one live Indian could place a hundred United States troops on our trail in two hours, and as a dead Indian would be likely to take some other route, our resolves were taken. In three minutes there were three "good Injuns" lying around there, careless like, and, with ponies and plunder, we skipped. There was no fight. It was about the softest thing I ever struck. It is known that they disposed of superfluous ponies, equipage, and furs to immigrants from Texas, more than a hundred miles distant from Fort Bowie, and that they returned to the reservation splendidly mounted and armed, with money in their pockets. If anything was known by the authorities, of the Indian killing episode, nothing was done about it. No one regretted the loss of these Indians, and no money could be made by prosecuting the offenders. The quiet life Billy led in the plazas palled upon his senses, and, with his partner, he again took the road, or rather the mountain trails. Meeting a band of eight or ten Indians in the vicinity of San Simon, the two young fellows proposed and instituted a horse-race.

Chapter 5 : Billy The Kid - The True Legend

During the pursuit for Billy the Kid, Garrett ended up killing two of the Kid's closest comrades, Tom O'Folliard and Charlie Bowdre. Finally on December 23, Garrett trapped the Kid and three other gang members at a cabin in Stinking Springs.

Bonney alias Billy the Kid is probably the most misunderstood historical figure of the Old West. He was not a cold-blooded killer, nor was he a robber of trains or banks. Instead he was a gunfighter in a feud between two factions in which both sides stole from each other and killed. The Lincoln County War would have turned out exactly the way it did if Billy the Kid never took part in it. Although Billy the Kid was one of many who fought and killed during the LCW, he was the only one that faced conviction and was sentenced to death. So Billy the Kid used his wit and courage to escape his date with the hangman which boost his notoriety even more. History first traces the Kid as a youngster in Indiana in the late s and then in Wichita, Kansas in His mother Catherine McCarty was a widow and single mother and he had a younger brother named Joseph born By , Catherine was diagnosed with Tuberculosis and was told to move to a climate that was warmer and drier. Catherine was suffering from consumption and her health began to deteriorate rapidly. The Kid now had to earn his own keep, so he was put to work washing dishes and waiting on tables at a restaurant. After a year of no parental guidance and looking out for himself, the Kid quickly fell in with the wrong crowd. One of his troublemaking buddies, Sombrero Jack, stole some laundry from a Chinese laundry cleaner and told the Kid to hide the bundle. The Kid got caught with it and was arrested. The county sheriff decided to keep him locked up for a couple of days just to scare him, but the Kid escaped and ran away 3. The Silver City newspaper reported: Jack has skinned out. All alone in a strange desert, the Kid wandered from one ranch to another to find work. For the next 2 years the Kid tramped around as a ranch hand and gambler. He then met up with a horse thief name John Mackie who taught him the tricks of the trade and the two became partners. But after some close calls, arrest, and escaping from custody, the Kid decided it was wiser to give up his new occupation. He returned some stolen horses to the army to clear himself and got work as a ranch hand. One day while at a saloon in Camp Grant, Arizona, the Kid who was about sixteen at the time, got into serious trouble. After some name-calling, Cahill rushed the Kid and slammed him down on the ground, then jumped on top of him and proceeded to slap him in the face. When Cahill fell over the Kid squirmed free, ran off, and mounted the nearest horse and fled Camp Grant. The gang made their way to Lincoln County where the Boys joined forces with James Dolan, who was currently in a feud against an Englishman entrepreneur named John Tunstall and his attorney and partner Alex McSween. The feud would be famously known as the Lincoln County War 4. Tunstall refused to be intimidated and instead tried to fight back with legal action. The feud then turned into an all out war. So Tunstall gave him an ultimatum: Now fighting for the Tunstall side and in the hopes of a better future, the Kid changed his name to William H. So they took the law in their own hands. Lastly, they had a dramatic gunfight with Dolan gunman Buckshot Roberts, but during that shootout their leader Dick Brewer was killed. The Regulators were particular bitter towards Bill Morton, because he led the posse that murdered Tunstall and was one of those that shot him. As for the Brady shooting, six members of the Regulators the Kid included ambushed the sheriff and four of his deputies as they walked down the street in Lincoln to arrest Alex McSween. The Regulators revenge only made things worse. They were now viewed as the bad guys and warrants were put out for their arrest. Now the Dolan side struck back. Dolan sent for Colonel Dudley at Fort Stanton for assistance. The colonel came with troops along with a Howitzer and Gatling gun. On the fifth day of the siege the Dolan side was getting impatient, so they set the house on fire. By nightfall, the house was completely ablaze and heat from the flames were overwhelming. When the men began to run out of the burning house the Dolan side opened fire and all hell broke loose. McSween and three men were killed, but Billy the Kid and the others escaped into the darkness. The war was over; the Regulators disbanded and the Kid was now a fugitive. Billy the Kid was unable to settle down, so he made his living by gambling and rustling cattle. The Kid heard about Governor Axtell being replaced by Lew Wallace, who was now trying to bring law and order to Lincoln. The Kid wrote to the governor that he was tired of running and would surrender to authorities and testify against the Dolan side to have his murder charges dropped. The

governor agreed and promised the Kid a full pardon. The Kid surrendered and testified in court, but the Santa Fe Ring had influence over the court system, so members of the Dolan side, including James Dolan, were acquitted. Wallace simply lost interest and left the Kid to his fate. On the run again and an outlaw, the Kid went back to making a living the only way he knew how – rustling. It happened when a posse from White Oaks surrounded the Kid and his gang at a station house, during the standoff the posse accidentally killed their own deputy, James Carlyle. Before the shooting, Billy the Kid sensed trouble from a man named Joe Grant and he casually went up to him and asked to see his gun. As he pretended to admire it, he spun the cylinder so the hammer would fall on an empty chamber. Finally on December 23, Garrett trapped the Kid and three other gang members at a cabin in Stinking Springs. After a short standoff, Billy the Kid came out and surrendered. Billy the Kid was quickly put on trial in Mesilla and was sentenced to hang for the murder of Sheriff Brady. After his sentence was passed, the Kid was taken to Lincoln to await his hanging. The Kid was shackled and imprisoned in a room in the Lincoln courthouse as two deputies took turns guarding over him. On April 28, the Kid made his most daring escape which would also be his last. The Kid was successful in getting a drop on the lone guard, Deputy James Bell, by slipping his hand out of the handcuffs and using the heavy restraints to hit the deputy over the head. The other guard Bob Olinger was across the street having dinner when he heard the gunshots. He ran toward the building and as the Kid saw him approaching he shot Olinger down with a shotgun 7. The Kid rode out of Lincoln a free man and headed to the only place he could call home: Bob Olinger was a bully and an old enemy of Billy the Kid. He took pleasure in tormenting the helpless prisoner and used his shotgun to intimidate him. Garrett and Maxwell ran out of the room and huddled outside with the two deputies and waited. They could hear as the Kid gasped for breath and then all was quiet - Billy the Kid was dead 8. Garrett may have deliberately been waiting in the dark to shoot the Kid. Although he did participate in killings, the men he fought against were much worse than he ever was. This nineteen or twenty year old lived a short life but made a lasting impression. Thanks to Billy the Kid, New Mexico has a thriving business in tourism as a steady flow of tourists each year come to visit the Billy the Kid sites. Even in death Billy the Kid is likeable and he has a large following with people all over the world.

Chapter 6 : Billy the Kid born - HISTORY

1. He was orphaned as a teen. Little is known about Billy the Kid's early days, but he was most likely born Henry McCarty in the Irish slums of New York City sometime in late

As the author wrote in his introductory to this biography, "I am incited to this labor, in a measure, by an impulse to correct the thousand false statements which have appeared in the public newspapers and in yellow-covered, cheap novels. Upson and Garrett shared equally in the royalties. He was buried there in a cemetery lot owned by Pat Garrett. Dykes There is good reason to believe that the legend of Billy the Kid , including the familiar historical figure he has become, would not be known at all today if this book had not been published. Brief descriptions of these follow: New Mexico Printing and Publishing Company. Copies of this version are exceedingly rare. Fulton, Maurice Garland , ed. This version is also scarce. Colonel Fulton carefully edited and left copious notes to make this much superior to the first version. Greatest Sheriff of the Old Southwest Authentic Story of Billy the Kid. The Frontier Press of Texas. This version is still available. University of Oklahoma Press. Garrett, Sheriff of Lincoln Co. The first printing was in August , sixth printing in July , and tenth printing in , with an introduction by J. The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid. This version contains photographs, illustrations, maps, and notes and is widely available. There are also many smaller publishers that offer facsimiles of the above versions.

Chapter 7 : The Death Of Billy The Kid,

Since Billy the Kid is one of the most familiar figures of the Old West, featured in countless books, magazine and newspaper articles, television shows, and movies, one wonders the truth of his short yet noteworthy life.

After the death of his father, he traveled west with his mother ending up in Silver City, New Mexico Territory in His life would last only four more years, but in that short period he became embroiled in the events that made him a legend. Lincoln County was in a state of near-anarchy in The native Apache had recently been subdued and the local cattlemen divided themselves into two camps in a fight for local power. Tunstall befriended the Kid acting in many ways as a surrogate father. His first victims were the sheriff and his deputy, killed from ambush on the streets of Lincoln. On the run for two years, the Kid was eventually captured, tried, convicted and returned to Lincoln to hang for the murders. On the evening of April 28, as he was climbing the steps returning him to his cell, the Kid made a mad dash, grabbed a six-shooter and shot his guard. Hearing the shots, a second guard ran from across the street only to be gunned down by the Kid standing on the balcony above him. Mounting a horse, William Bonney galloped out of town and into history. One of his first acts was to capture Billy the Kid, sending him to trial for the murder of the Lincoln sheriff and his deputy. Garrett was away from Lincoln on county business when the Kid made his escape. Rather than chase after the fugitive, Garrett kept to his ranch mending fences and attending to his cattle. In July, the Sheriff received word that the Kid was hiding out at the abandoned Fort Sumner about miles west of Lincoln. On the night of July 14, the Sheriff and his two deputies approached the dusty old Fort now converted to living quarters. The residents were sympathetic to the Kid and the lawmen could extract little information. Garrett published his account of the incident a year after it happened: We approached these houses cautiously, and when within earshot, heard the sound of voices conversing in Spanish. We concealed ourselves quickly and listened; but the distance was too great to hear words, or even distinguish voices. Soon a man arose from the ground, in full view, but too far away to recognize. He wore a broad-brimmed hat, a dark vest and pants, and was in his shirtsleeves. Little as we then suspected it, this man was the Kid. We learned, subsequently, that, when he left his companions that night, he went to the house of a Mexican friend, pulled off his hat and boots, threw himself on a bed, and commenced reading a newspaper. He soon, however, hailed his friend, who was sleeping in the room, told him to get up and make some coffee, adding: It was near midnight and Pete was in bed. I walked to the head of the bed and sat down on it, beside him, near the pillow. I asked him as to the whereabouts of the Kid. He said that the Kid had certainly been about, but he did not know whether he had left or not. From his step I could perceive he was either barefooted or in his stocking-feet, and held a revolver in his right hand and a butcher knife in his left. The death of Billy the Kid From a contemporary illustration He came directly towards me. Before he reached the bed, I whispered: The intruder came close to me, leaned both hands on the bed, his right hand almost touching my knee, and asked, in a low tone: He raised quickly his pistol, a self-cocker, within a foot of my breast. Retreating rapidly across the room he cried: Quickly as possible I drew my revolver and fired, threw my body aside, and fired again. The second shot was useless; the Kid fell dead. A struggle or two, a little strangling sound as he gasped for breath, and the Kid was with his many victims. A Short and Violent Life How To Cite This Article: Pat Garrett was shot in the back in while traveling in a buckboard from his ranch to a nearby town. His murder was never solved.

Chapter 8 : The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid by Pat F. Garrett

The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid by Pat F. Garrett (English) Paperback Book F See more like this The Authentic Life Of Billy The Kid: By Pat, F. Garrett Brand New.

William Bonney is without a doubt the most famous outlaw that has ever lived. He died at a young age but will forever be remembered. He is man of many tales and some myths. Countless books and some movies have been made after him. Whatever your feelings, he is without doubt a memorable character who has come to represent one of the great chapters of human civilization, the Wild West! His name was William Henry McCarty. Some knew him as and he sometimes liked to go by the alias of Henry Antrim. No one knows for sure when or where he was born but many believe he may of been born in New York in or around the 23rd November and he died 14th July He claimed to of killed 21 men, one for each year of his life. This is the story of Billy The Kid. Childhood Billy The Kids early years and childhood are full of mystery. He was said to have been born in an Irish neighbourhood of New York in No one knows for sure but it has been suggested Catherine immigrated to the US from Ireland, perhaps when she was just However there is no solid proof this was her. Antrim worked on a farm and Catherine run a laundrette and invested in property. After about a year Catherine was diagnosed with Tuberculosis and because at the time doctors recommended a warm climate as an ailment for the condition, so they then once again sold up and moved on. A couple of months later they finally arrived in Silver City where they settled down. Silver City was a bustling little mining town. With the sale of her properties and laundrette business, they were able to purchase a small place in the town right on Main Street and Broadway. Catherine once again offered a laundrette service as well as selling home baking as well as taking on lodgers. William Antrim worked in mining. Billy and his brother attended the local school, quickly made friends and enjoyed playing and dancing. Catherine worked hard to both raise her kids and try to make money to support her family. William Antrim spent a lot of time away from home prospecting with very little e success and he also liked to drink and gamble. William Antrim was away at the time so it left her friends and neighbours the task of arranging her funeral. Billy was very close to his mother and her death no doubt crushed both him and his brother. When Antrim did return he sold his cabin and placed his son in care and left for Arizona. Billy was placed with the Truesdell family who owned a local hotel where he had to work as a waiter and table tender as well as doing odd jobs to earn his keep. Joseph was placed with John Dryer who was the owner of the Orleans club and was made to work as an errand boy. According to the accounts at the time Billy had light brown hair, blue eyes and was of slim build. He was often seen wearing a sombrero hat which had a large band around it. He was also said to be very polite and charming. He was easy to like and friendly but he could become angry and violent instantly. Becoming An Outlaw Aged 15 Billy was in trouble with the law of Silver city when he stole some clothes from a laundrette with his friend, so he decided to leave town and travelled into Arizona. Not much is known about this period but he was said to have been working in some ranches in town when work was available. It was around this time when he killed his first man. The story goes that a blacksmith called Frank P. Both men got in an argument an Cahill slapped Billy to the floor and they got in a bit of a tussle. Billy being out weighed and realising he probably was in trouble drew out a pistol and ended up shooting Cahill in the stomach. Cahill died the next day and The Kid had been thrown into a guardhouse from which he escaped and went on the run. He then ended back in New Mexico where he worked as a cattle hand for Murphy and Dolan. Billy ended up meeting with John Tunstall whom was a wealthy Englishman and they hit it off straight away. The Kid ended up leaving Murphy and Dolan and began rustling cattle for Tunstall. He looked up to Tunstall as the father figure he never had. They had been made deputy sheriffs by sheriff William Brady who had in turn been helped to be made sheriff by Murphy and Dolan. Tunsdall was stopped by these men and an argument began about the ownership of cattle. Jesse Evans and Billy Morton then shot him dead while he was unarmed. A posse was formed to get revenge and Billy joined this posse. Billy became a deputy. One of the members McCloskey did not agree with this plan and after an argument was shot dead by fellow Regulator McNab. McNab put his gun to the head of McCloskey blow his brains out. Morton and Baker knowing they would be next fled the scene. The Kid

seeing them run chased them down and fired two shots, killing them both. The Regulators then split up and went their own ways. An old veteran called Andrew L. In April of , Brewer and the Regulators which including the Kid decided to take the war to Roberts. When Roberts saw them approach he charged at them firing his guns. Billy jumped off his horse and fired at Roberts hitting him in the stomach. Roberts managed to escape and hide in an outhouse. Roberts fired from the outhouse and injured a few of the men as well as shooting Brewer in the head. The Regulators continued shooting at the outhouse until Roberts lay dead and full of holes. On the 1st of April Billy and five accomplices rode into Lincoln quietly and set a trap for Sheriff Brady. They hid behind a wall which they made holes through to be able to shoot. Sherriff Brady, Hindman and Matthews walked down the street armed. As soon as they came into range The Kid and his group shot at the three men. Sheriff Brady was shot down dead, Hindman was shot down and later died of his wounds. Matthews put up a good fight and survived. After killing Brady and wounding Hindman, Billy and his posse rode out of town. After this event Lincoln became divided because some thought what Billy and his posse did was cowardly, while others thought it was justice as Sheriff Bradys men had killed Tunstall in cold blood. This now meant the Kid and his posse were wanted men. Peppin was also of Murphy and Dolan alliance so The Kid could not expect much sympathy. Peppin gathered around forty men and went into pursuit of Billy and his gang. They caught up with Billy and 14 others when they were visiting Alexander McSween at his mansion in Lincoln. Billy and his gang were surrounded so they barricaded themselves and were ready for a gunfight. Billy and his gang refused to surrender so a gunfight began which lasted for five days. Marion Turner who used to be with McSween-Tunstall but now was with the Murphy-Dolan told Billy he had a warrant for his arrest and to give up. Billy and his men knowing they had to escape made a run for it. Miraculously Billy managed to dodge the bullet fire crossed a river and disappeared into the long grass. McSween not wanting to run away from his house walked out of his house unarmed to surrender but was shot nine times and died. Around this time Lew Wallace was made governor. Billy set up a meeting with Wallace as he knew he was a wanted man and set up a deal whereby he would be captured but in exchange for his witness statement of another murder case he would be pardoned for his previous killings. However while The Kid was waiting to give evidence in court he had second thoughts and made an escape from his cell. He headed off to Fort Summer. Billy having heard this approached Joe in the street. Joe did not recognize him and Billy made the impression that he was impressed and interested in Joe. He even convinced Joe to hand over his gun so that he could look and admire his six shooter. Billy then told Joe that he was Billy the kid and they both reached for their guns. Of course Billy won and the outwitted Joe Grant lay dead. The Kid was on the run again and on Nov 27, a posse managed to catch up with him as well as his friends Dirty Dave Rudabaugh, and Billy Wilson. During this encounter a man named Deputy James Carlyle was shot dead. Either way Billy or his friends once again escaped capture. Garrett decided to track Billy The Kid down. Garrett killed both of them in Stinking Springs, New Mexico and captured Billy The Kid who he brought to a trial to face murder charges. While Billy was waiting to be sentenced he wrote four letters to Gov. Wallace asking for clemency. Bristol was a slight man with a full grey beard. The judge was sat at one end of the crowded courtroom on a platform, while The Kid was sat cuffed and guarded to the right of him looking defiant. Ollinger reportedly taunted and teased Billy along the way. During his time in Lincoln jail Billy managed his most daring escape some might even call him the original Houdini!

Chapter 9 : Billy The Kid | HistoryNet

"Billy the Kid", a folksong in the public domain, was published in John A. Lomax and Alan Lomax's American Ballads and Folksongs album, and also their Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads album. Members of the Western Writers of America chose it as one of the Top Western songs of all time.

William Henry McCarty, Jr. Sumner in the New Mexico Territory. He had several aliases but is best known as Billy the Kid. He was only 18 when he killed his first man. Billy the Kid No one knows for certain where Billy the Kid was born. Some place his birth in New York, but this is largely unsubstantiated. His mother came to the United States during the great famine in Ireland. Her name was Catherine McCarty and there is some debate whether this was her married name or her maiden name. She died in William was apparently a very honest year-old when he became an orphan. He worked for his room and board for a hotel owner who took him in after his mother died. The hotel owner was impressed with his honesty and diligence, as were others. A year later he was forced to seek new lodgings through no fault of his own. He promptly got into trouble for the theft of some food. Five months later, he was in trouble with the law once more, stealing clothing and firearms. After two days, he escaped from jail and began a life as a fugitive from the law. This began a time of increased criminal activities for Billy the Kid. He tried to stay out of trouble but it seems he made friends in the wrongs crowds. It has been said that he killed almost two dozen men but eight or nine is probably much closer to the truth. By the following year, he had become a full-time rustler. His methods, like the men who rode with him, were rough and ready. The Kid and his gang would steal horses up and down the Pecos Valley and drive them to a ready market in Tascosa, the newest, rowdiest cow town in the Texas Panhandle. When there were no horses to steal, they rode over to the Panhandle anyway and stole the big ranches there "such as the LX and LIT" blind. The party consisted of Garrett H. When on top of that someone told the Texans that Billy the Kid was in the area, and that if he ran into them he would wipe them out, Stewart decided discretion was the better part of valor and led his men back to the Panhandle. This made [LX foreman Bill] Moore mad, so he concluded to rig up an outfit of his own and send them over after the cattle, hence he sending out after me. My outfit, after getting it rigged up, consisted of a chuck wagon with four good mules to pull it, a cook and five picked men, named as follows: On starting, Moore gave me these orders. I will keep you supplied in money just as long as they have got a nickel left, that I can get hold of. That would save about seventy-five miles driving for us. He told us to go to Antion Cheeko on the Pacos River and there wait until he came with the corn. We went ahead and got there on Sunday [November 27,] at 12 o'clock. Just as we all rode up into town the cathlick church broke and the Mexacans coming out of it. They all stoped and gazed at us, and wondered what was the matter. We all had 2 belts full of cartridges a peace around us and was armed to the teeth with six shooters Bowie knives and Winchesters on our saddles. While we was there Billy the Kid come in town one night and stole 3 good horses from Mexacans. He then rote a letter to Frank Stuart telling us to not come no further, that he did not want to fite us. But if we came to come a shootin. This was strate goods but we had it to face. As you will see later we had all went deeply in debt while we was there and expected Charley to come with a picket full of monnie from Las Vagas. But when he come we was broke. He got to gambling up there and lost all the monnie the LX firm started him with and he had to give a check on them for the corn, so we had to give checks here they same way. The morning we left Anton Chico, it was snowing. There was already about five inches of snow on the ground. By the time we stopped at noon, snow was from eight to ten inches deep. We made a dry camp, and melted snow to water our horses. There would be nothing for them to eat. Bob Boberson and Charley Siringo immediately told Pat so. Pat insisted he was telling it straight, and after a long argument, Bob and Charley agreed to leave it to their men personally to decide who would go with Pat. We took the wagons and went on to White Oaks, reaching there on the day before Christmas. I remember the date, because just at midnight Christmas Eve, a lot of us slipped out of the saloon and turned loose our artillery, firing two or three salvos in to the air by way of saluting the new Christmas morning. When we went back into the saloon the first thing we saw there was Pinto Tom Longworth , the lanky, red-headed Marshall of White Oaks, crawling out from under a billiard table, which cost Pinto Tom

several rounds of drinks before morning. The hunt for Billy the Kid would get results in December , culminating in his capture by a Sheriff Garrett-led posse on the 23rd at a rock house once used as a forage station at Stinking Springs Ojo Hediendo east of Fort Sumner near Taliban. Jim East, however, adds telling detail that appears in none of the others. Although one or two writers have cited it, this is the first time his account of the hunting of the Kid has been published in its entirety. We crossed to the Piedrenal Springs where we struck the breaks of the Pecos. I remember how good chuck tasted thereâ€”after we had been without for so long. We spent the night there, and as our horses were played out we stayed there the next dayâ€”. We slept in a house that night, as it was very cold. Garrett got word by a Mexican runner who came up that the Kid and his gang were at Fort Sumner and if we would hurry we might get them. It was forty two miles from Puerta de Luna to Sumner. About dusk we pulled out. It snowed all the way down, and there were about four inches on the ground when we got there just before day. When we left the wagons we had to cut ourselves out of all our bedding except one blanket apiece, as we could not carry more. We had one six-shooter, a Winchester and a blanket apiece. We packed no horses, and we had only the ones we rode. I slept on the one blanket and rode the one horse all that winter. Garrett asked him when he had seen the boys last. He said that they were there about sundown and that after they had drunk some whiskey and shot up the store they had gone to a vacant house just across the street and he thought they were still there. We slipped across to the house. It was still snowing. There was a little fire flickering in the fireplace and when it flared up a little we could see the form of a man before the fireplace. We thought that the whole bunch was there. Garrett told us to take no chances and to begin shooting when we went in. Garrett kicked the door open and we all jumped in with our Winchesters ready, and it was only [Mike Cosgrove] the mail carrier from Las Vegas. We came mighty near shooting him, not knowng who he was as there was not much light. He said that he did not know anything about the Kid and his gang and he did not want toâ€”. We found that the Kid was out of town then and we did not know where. We went over to a long adobe building, the old hospital building of the Fort, and built a fire in the fireplace, rustled a little chuck, and stayed there all day. It snowed all the time. The next night Garrett told everybody to stay in Fort Sumner and for no one to leave on pain of death. He was afraid someone would slip out and tell the Kid. During the morning a Mexican came to Garrett and said that his wife and baby were at home and they had no milk for the baby. He said that his cow had got out andâ€”asked permission to go after her and said he would be right back. Nearly all the Mexicans were friendly to the Kid. Lon Chambers and Lee Hall had been placed on guard over our horses. I was rolled up in my blanket trying to get a little sleep before going on second guard, and Garrett, Barney Mason, Tom Emory and Bob Williams were playing poker. A man on foot in that country was almost helpless. Chambers, who was on guard, heard them coming, slipped up to the door and said: Just then they turned around the end of the hospital building. The only light was from the snow. Garrett hollered at the bunch to throw up their hands, but they jerked their six-shooters and the fight commenced. All of them wheeled and left with the exception of one. We took him inside and laid him down on my blanket. The boys went back to playing poker and I sat down by the fire. You are going to die in a few minutes. The game went on and the blood began running inside Tom. He began groaning and asked me to get him a drink of water. He drank a little, lay back, shuddered and was dead.