**Gunfight at the OK Corral**

Tombstone, Arizona (1881 photograph)



Eye Witness Questionnaire:

1. How many people were involved in the gunfight? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many people were in each group

 Cowboys: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Marshals: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What types of weapons did each group have?

 Cowboys: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Marshals: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Can you name everyone involved in the shootout? How do you know their names?

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1. Were any badges visible? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who spoke first? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who shot first? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Did anyone talk to any members of either group before the incidence?

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1. Can you name who was shot? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What conversations did you hear among the members of either group?

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1. How many shots were fired? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Place the paths of the Federal Marshals and the placement of the cowboys and Marshals at the gunfight on the following diagram. (next page)



**FOURTH STREET**

N

Freemont St, arrow points toward 3rd St.

View of Gunfight Site, Left mid photo, marked with a large white patch. The smaller white patch at left marks corner where Tom McLaury fell. Fry's studio is immediately to the viewer's right of the large white patch; the O.K. Corral office building is at the near corner, between Fly's and the viewer.

**Tombstone town law**: “In 1880, the City council received a motion from Councilman Gray to create an ordinance against carrying concealed weapons. The motion passed and became Ordinance # 9 which was later revised to include all guns not just concealed.”

Arizona State Parks, Historical Event Series, Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park, accessed 8.22.08, www.pr.state.az.us/text/featurestories/tcshphist/shootout.html

**Witness**

**Marshal Virgil Earp**

Had a previous meeting with Ike Clanton- He had a rifle and six shooter. After disarming

him I asked him " Are you hunting me?" He said he was and a second sooner and he would have killed me.

Later saw the Clantons and McLowry's in the gun shop on Fourth Street. They were filling their belts with cartridges and looking at guns and pistols. While talking to a committee of men who called me to the side, the cowboys left and the next time I saw them they were all going to Dunbar's corral where they walked over into the O.K. Corral.

I called on Sheriff Johnny Behan to go and help me disarm them. He refused to go saying there would be a fight for sure and they would not give up their arms to me.

Sheriff Behan said," They will not hurt me and I will go down alone and see it I cannot disarm

them.

After Behan left, I was notified that they were on Freemont street. I called on Morgan and Wyatt and Doc Holliday to go and help me disarm them. Gave Doc Holliday a shot gun and told him to carry it under his coat rather than cause excitement.

When we got to Bauer's meat market the cowboys were standing in the vacant lot west of

the lodging house.

Sheriff Johnny Behan saw us walking and started to wards us at a fast walk. "For God's sake, don't go down there or they will murder you."

I told Johnny Behan that I was going to disarm them.

Sheriff Behan said." I have already disarmed them."

Clantons and McLowry's were standing in a row.

Heard click. click, clicking of their pistols.

I had a cane in my hand, raised it and said" Hold! I don't want that. I want your guns." Tom McLowry had his hand on the rifle scabbard on his horse.

Billy Clanton threw down his six shooter at full cock. Two shots went off right away. One

was Billy Clanton’s. I drew and began firing.

Tom McLowry did not draw the rifle, but fired twice over his horse.

First shot from Frank McLowry was the shot that hit Virgil Earp.

Ike Clanton was not armed. Ran across the street to the dance hall.

Both McLowry's and Bill Clanton died.

Marshal Virgil Earp shot in calf of right leg.

Morgan Earp shot through the shoulder.

Doc. Holliday was hit in his pistol scabbard - no damage to Doc Holliday

**H.F.Sills- locomotive engineer and lives In Las Vegas, New** Mexico

Saw four or five men standing in front of the O.K. Corral about 2 o'clock.

Heard then talking about some trouble they had with Virgil Earp and that they made threats

at that time that on meeting him they would kill him on sight.

Someone else in the party said they would kill the whole party of Earps when they met

them.

A man pointed out Virgil Earp to me and said he was the city Marshal.

I called Virgil Earp over and told him of the threats I had overheard the party make.

One of the men who made the threat had a bandage on his head. (He was later pointed out

to me as Ike Clanton).

A few minutes later I saw the Marshal and a party start down fourth street and go up and talk to the other party.

Not close enough to hear conversations but saw revolvers pulled out immediately.

The Marshall had a cane in is hand and he throwed up his hand and spoke. I did not hear the words. By that time Billy Clanton and Wyatt Earp had fired their guns.

The Marshall changed his cane to the other hand and pulled out his revolver. He seemed to be hurt, fell down then got up and started shooting.

After the gunfight, I recognized Billy Clanton as the one who fired at the same time as Wyatt Earp.

**Mrs. Addle Borland-dressmaker**

I live right across Freemont Street opposite Fly's House.

Saw five men leaning against the small house west of Fly's. One man was holding a horse.

Saw four men coming down the street.

A man in a long coat (identified at trial as Doc Holliday) walked up to the man with the horse

and put a pistol in his stomach then backed up about three feet.

Shooting started.

Don't know who shot first.

Did not see the cowboys throw up their hands.

The five cowboys approached the other party as the other party of four walked toward

them.

Did not hear any conversations between parties because door was shut and watched out

the window

**Albert C. Bilicke - Hotel Keeper In Tombstone**

Watched Tom McLowry enter the butcher shop without a pistol. When he came out, his

pants pocket protruded as if there was a revolver therein.

**M.T. Boyle- (Ned Boyle) Barkeeper at the Oriental saloon**

Met Ike Clanton the morning of the 26th I saw his pistol. I covered up his pistol and advised him to go to bed.

He insisted he would not go to bed and said as soon as Earp and Doc Holliday showed themselves they would have to fight.

He left and went into Kelly’s saloon.

I went to Wyatt Earps' house and told him that Ike Clanton had threatened that when he and his brothers and Doc Holliday showed themselves the ball would be open then and there.

**J.B. W. Gardiner-physician and surgeon in the army**

Saw Tom McLowry about noon on the 26th. He was in a disturbance with one of the Earp brothers. Saw him fall from the effects of a blow from a pistol.

Next time I saw him he was standing in front of the butcher shop. He entered and on his coming out I observed the right hand pocket extending outward with what I supposed was

a pistol.

**J. A. Kelly - saloonkeeper at Kelly's saloon**

Ike Clanton was in saloon.

Heard Ike Clanton tell Joe Stump about some trouble last night with the Earp crowd and

Doc Holliday.

I asked Ike for details. He said they had insulted him and he wasn't heeled. Now he is heeled and that-they had to fight on sight.

**Robert S. Hatch - saloon keeper**

I saw Mr. Fly come out of his house. He made a remark about Billy Clanton who was lying

on his back with a pistol in his right hand. Mr. Fly walked toward Clanton, reached down and

took it out of Billy's hand, Billy said "Give me some more cartridges."

**W.S. Williams- Lawyer In Tombstone**

I was at the residence of Virgil Earp on the evening of the 26th.

Sheriff Behan said to Virgil Earp. I went to see the Clanton crowd and told them to disarm. I could not or they would not". "When I went to stop you, and spoke to you, you did not answer. I heard you say, "Boys, throw up your hands, I have come to disarm you."

One of the McLowry boys said." We will." and drew his gun and the shooting commenced.

**Wesley Fuller-hiding in the alley**

Claimed he saw Doc Holliday fire the first shot. Couldn't say whether it was a pistol or shotgun.

**William F. Billy Claiborne**

*(Billy the Kid) arrested by the Earps for a killing-- he was out on bond.*

McLowry's and Clantons threw up their hands and were shot down by Doc Holliday and

Morgan Earp. I ran from the gunfight

**Wyatt Earp**

Oct. 25th , while I was in the Oriental Saloon, Ike Clanton, with his six shooter showing, said he was not fixed right: that in the morning he would have a man to man. I told him I wouldn’t fight no one if I could get away from it. He walked off and left me saying.” You mustn't think I won't be after you in the morning." Myself and Holliday walked away,

Oct. 26th.around noon, Ned Boyle came to me and said, "I met Ike Clanton and he said As soon as those Earps make their appearance on the street today the ball will be open." We are here to make a fight"

When I was in the saloon, Jones came to me and said, "What does all this mean?" I asked what he meant. He said, "Ike Clanton is hunting you Earp boys with a Winchester and a six shooter. I said, "I will go down and find him and see what he wants:

I went out and met Virgil and Morgan Earp after they had disarmed Ike Clanton. Ike Clanton threw his Winchester at Virgil and Virgil knocked him down and took away his six shooter.

They took Ike Clanton to Wallace's court. Ike Clanton said to me.. I will get even with all of

you for this. If I had a six shooter I would make a fight with all of you. Morgan said, "If you want to make a fight right bad I will give you one." He offered Ike Clanton his six shooter and Campbell, the deputy sheriff, pushed Ike down and said he wouldn’t allow any trouble.

I was tired of all the threats and believed from what others said that they intended to

assassinate me. I thought if I had to fight for my life against them I had better face them in the open.

I said this to Ike Clanton and he replied, “All right, I'll see you after I get through here. I only want four feet of ground to fight on."

I walked on and Tom McLowry came up to me and said, "If you want to make a fight I will make a fight with you anywhere." I said," Alright make a fight right here: I slapped him in the face with my left hand and drew my pistol with the right. He had a pistol in plain sight and made no move to draw it so I hit him over the head with my six-shooter and walked away.

I went into Halfords for cigar and soon saw Tom and Frank McLowry and William Clanton. I followed them to the gunsmith shop. Frank McLowry's horse was on the sidewalk so as deputy Marshall I commenced to back the horse off the sidewalk. Billy Clanton had a six shooter. In the gunsmith shop they all were changing cartridges in their belts.

Virgil Earp was city Marshall, Morgan was a special policeman for six weeks. I was sworn in for Virgil when he was away in Tucson, and I was still acting Marshall since his return several days before. Virgil's duty was to disarm these men and knew he would have trouble so I followed to give assistance.

About ten minutes later, Virgil, Morgan, Doc Holliday and myself were standing on the corner of Fourth and Allen streets. Several people said. "There is going to be trouble with those fellows. A man named Coleman said to Virgil Earp,. They mean trouble. They have just gone up from Dunbar's corral into the OK Corral, all armed. I think you had better go and disarm them."

Morgan said that they had horses and thought that we should get some in case they made

a run. I said, “No, if they try to run we will shoot their horses."

We four then started through Fourth Street, turned the comer onto Fremont Street We walked a few steps further when I saw sheriff Behan leave the party and come towards us. He kept looking back as if he apprehended danger. I heard Behan say to Virgil, “For God's sake don't go down there or you will get murdered.” “Virgil,” I replied, “I am going to disarm them.” When I and Morgan came up to Behan, he said, “I have disarmed them. When he said this I took my pistol which I held in my hand under my coat and put it in my overcoat pocket.

We came up on them close. Frank and Tom McLowry and Billy Clanton standing in a row against the east side of the building opposite the vacant space west of Fly's photo gallery. Ike Clanton and Billy Claiborne and a man I did not know (later identified as Billy Allen) were standing in the vacant space about halfway between the photo gallery and the next building west.

Billy Clanton, and Frank and Tom McLowry had their hands at their sides and Frank and

Billy's six shooters were in plain sight.

Virgil said, throw up your hands I have come to disarm you: Billy Clanton and Frank

McLowry laid their hands on their six shooters, Virgil said, ”Hold, I don't mean that. I have come to disarm you." Billy. Clanton and Frank McLowry commenced to draw their pistols at the same time that Tom McLowry threw his hand to his right hip and jumped behind the horse. When I saw them draw their pistols I drew my pistol. Billy Clanton leveled his pistol at me but I did not aim at him. I knew Frank McLowry had the reputation at being a good shot and I aimed at him. The first two shots were fired by myself and Billy Clanton. "He shot at me and I shot at Frank McLowry. I don't know which shot was first, we fired almost together

The fight then became general. After about four shots were fired, Ike Clanton ran up and. grabbed my arm. I could see no weapon in his hand and thought at the time he had none and I said to him, “the fight has now commenced: go to shooting or get away: At the same time I pushed him off with my left hand. He started and ran down the side of the building”

My first shot struck Frank in the belly. He staggered off to the side but first fired a shot at me. When we told them to throw up their hands, Billy Claiborne held up his left hand and then

broke and ran. If Tom McLowry was unarmed I did not know it I believe he was armed and he fired two shots at our party before Holliday who had the shotgun fired and killed him. I never fired at Ike Clanton, I did not intend to fight unless it became necessary. When Billy Clanton and Frank McLowry drew their pistols I knew it was a fight for life and I drew and fired in defense of my own life and the lives of my brothers and Doc Holliday.

**Ike Clanton - cowboy who started fight and then ran away.**

I, the McLowry brothers, William Clanton and Bill Claiborne were standing in the vacant lot, west of Fry's photo gallery on Freemont Street.

Sheriff Behan came down and told us he had come to arrest us and disarm us. I told him I had no arms. Morgan Earp had taken my arms a short time before.

William Clanton said he was leaving town. Sheriff Behan left him alone.

Tom McLowry said he had no arms.

Frank McLowry said he was leaving town and would not give up his arms unless the parties

who hurt his brother were also disarmed."

Sheriff Behan checked me for arms, found none. Tom McLowry said. I am not armed and

opened his coat.

Sheriff Behan looked up Freemont street and ordered us to stay until he came back.

The Earp party just appeared. Behan met the Earps, told them to stop. They passed by

and came on where we were.

It was about twenty paces from where Behan met the Earps. Wyatt and Virgil " You have been looking for a fight" and at the same time ordered us to throw up our hands. We threw up our hands and they commenced to shooting.

The first two shots were fired by Holliday and Morgan Earp.

Wyatt and Virgil Earp fired next in quick succession.

Morgan shot before Wyatt Morgan shot William Clanton. I know this because I saw him

point his pistol within two or three feet of his bosom and Billy staggered. Billy was holding his hands up level with the top of his head.

I was holding my hands up the .same way. Wyatt Earp shoved his pistol up against my belly and told me to throw up my hands, He said, “You can have a fight.” I turned on my heel, taking a hold of Wyatt. He shot, I pushed him around the corner of the photograph gallery and I jumped into the door, ran and finally ended up at the dance hall.

Wyatt Earp did not say, "The fight has commenced and you must either fight or get away."

As I ran. I heard bullets strike the building and whiz by.

Tom McLowry threw open his coat by the lapels and said he had no arms. Frank McLowry had his hands up when the first shots were fired

Four or five shots were fired by the Earp party before I left the grounds. Up to that time no

shots had been fired or weapons drawn by the Clantons or McLowrys. There were two horses on the grounds with Winchester rifles on each horse.

**R. F. Coleman**

In the O.K. Corral at 2:30

Saw Ike and Bill Clanton and Frank and Tom McLowry (Cowboys ) in earnest conversation across the street, in Dunbar's Corral.

Told Sheriff Behan cowboys were brewing trouble. .

Told Sheriff Behan that he should disarm the cowboys.

Saw cowboys heading to the West 'End Corral.

Saw and told Marshall Virgil Earp what I saw and said to Sheriff Behan.

Walked through the OK Corral and was fifty yards behind the sheriff Behan.

Saw Virgil, Wyatt, Morgan Earp and Doc Holliday, all armed, in Freemont Street

Saw Sheriff Behan leaving the cowboys after having a conversation with them.

Was in Fly's Photograph gallery when I heard Virgil say, “Give up your arms.”

Frank McLowry made a reply.

General gunfire - over thirty shots.

Tom McLowry fell first, then Bill Clanton fell, Mr. Fly took his revolver.

Frank McLowry ran then fell. Morgan Earp shot and fell. Doc Holliday hit in left hip, kept firing

Virgil Earp hit after third or fourth firing -- he kept shooting.

Wyatt Earp, kept shooting, not hit.

After firing was over, Sheriff Behan went up to Wyatt Earp and said" I'll have to arrest you."

Wyatt Earp said,. I won't be arrested today. You have deceived me. You told me these men were disarmed; I went to disarm them.

**Witness Sheriff Behan**

About 2:30 I heard of trouble brewing between the Clantons and the Earps. I asked Virgil

Earp what was the excitement. Virgil Earp said, "There was a lot of \_ in town looking for a

fight. He mentioned no names.

I said that he had better disarm the crowd. He said he would not, but would give them a

chance to make a fight I said, "It is your duty as a peace officer to disarm the parties..”

I was talking to Morgan Earp and Holliday at the intersection of Allen and Fourth. Virgil Earp had a shotgun. I saw no arms on the others.

I went to the end of Fourth at the corner of Fremont and crossed over and saw Frank McLowry holding a horse and in conversation with somebody. I told Frank McLowry I would have to disarm him and I proposed to disarm everybody that had an arm. He said that he would not give up his gun.

I saw Ike Clanton and Tom McLowry down the street below Fly's building. I said to

Frank, “Come with me." We went to where they were standing and I said," Boys, you must

give up your arms." Billy Clanton and William Claiborne were also there. I checked and Ike

Clanton was unarmed. Tom McLowry pulled his coat open and showed that he was not

armed. Of the five standing there, Claiborne said he was not one of the party, that he was

wanting them to leave town. I told them to go to the sheriff’s office, lay aside their arms and stay until I got back. I told them I was going to disarm the other party.

I saw the Earps and Holliday coming down the south side of Freemont, I said to the Clanton party, "I see them coming: wait here; I will go up and stop them." I walked up to the Earp party and told them to not go any further, that I was there for the purpose of disarming the Clanton party. They did not heed me. I said, “ Go back! I am not going to allow any trouble if I can help it.”

I followed them. When they arrived within a few feet of the Clanton Party I heard one of them say, I think it was Wyatt Earp, "You \_ have been looking for a fight and now you can have it" About that time a voice said." Throw up your hands."

During this time pistols were pointed. I saw a nickel plated pistol ( I think in Doc Holiday’s

hand) pointed at ,I think, Billy Clanton. I heard Billy Clanton say.' Don't shoot me. I don't want to fight." At that time I saw Tom McLowry throw open his coat and said,'" have

nothing." or “I am not armed.”

The nickel plated pistol was the first fired and from the second man from the right. The first two shots were fired by the Earp party. I saw Frank McLowry with one hand to his belly and with his right hand shooting at Morgan Earp. He started across the street I heard shots from Frank McLowry. I saw Billy Clanton shoot Morgan Earp, I saw him running and a shot was fired and he went over on his head. I heard Morgan Earp say; “I got him."

I never saw arms in the hands of any body of the McLowry party except Frank and Billy

Clanton. I think eight or ten shots had been fired before I saw arms in the hands of any at

the McLowry or Clanton party. Frank McLowry was the first man with a pistol. After a few

shots, Ike Clanton ran to the corner of Fly's house running into the back building.

I saw a shotgun with Holliday before the fight commenced. f did not .see the gun go off and

if I did ,I did not distinguish it from a pistol.

**Cross Examination responses by Sheriff Behan**

A second or two occurred between the statement "Throw up your hands" and the first shot. My attention was on the Earp crowd, not the Clanton party.

I cannot locate the individual members of the Earp party. My impression was that Virgil

Earp was on the far left (8) 6 5 7 An Earp at (6) and (7) Holliday (5)

 1 8

 2 3 4

Frank McLowry (1) Billy Clanton (2) Tom McLowry{3) Ike Clanton (4),.

I did not know what happened with the shotgun. It might have been used and I not see it "

I am not sure of the position of Doc Holliday. He might be the second from the right.(5) I don't believe that Holiday fired the shotgun first and then drew his nickel plated pistol.

The nickel plated pistol was in the hands of the second from the right (5 . This person was

5 - 6 feet from the Clanton Party. The first shot was fired from the nickel plated pistol.

Holliday was not in Fremont street, about 25 ft. from the Clantons When the first shot was

fired, Doc Holiday had a heavy, shaggy overcoat reaching below his knees. There was not more than 20 -30 Seconds before the first and last shot.

When I left the Clanton party I was satisfied that Ike Clanton and Tom McLowry had no

arms. I checked Ike Clanton. Tom McLowry might have had a pistol shoved into the waist

of his pants and I not know it

Frank McLowry held the horse as long as he was by the building, inside the vacant lot.

The horse did not intervene between the Clanton party and Doc Holliday. .Frank McLowry

could have stepped back of the horses head.

I did not see Tom McLowry discharge one or more pistol shots from behind or over the back of the horse.

I did not see Tom McLowry shot Morgan Earp over the horses back.

I know William (Billy) Allen but do not remember seeing him at the time of the shooting.

I have met and talked with him about the matter but not to compare his and my recollection of what took place.

I didn't hear any shooting coming from the alleyway between Fly's house and the building east of it I was not there during the shootout.

I never said to the Earps, "I have got them disarmed," or words to that effect.

I didn't see Ike Clanton seize Wyatt Earp and say, "The fight has commenced. Either fight or get away."

Whether there was one or two horses - Frank Me Lowry had a hold of a horse.