



## Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier

By Roger D. McGrath

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**Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier** By  
Roger D. McGrath

From the Preface:

On the frontier, says conventional wisdom, a structured society did not exist and social control was largely absent; law enforcement and the criminal justice system had limited, if any, influence; and danger--both from man and from the elements--was ever present. This view of the frontier is projected by motion pictures, television, popular literature, and most scholarly histories. But was the frontier really all that violent? What was the nature of the violence that did occur? Were frontier towns more violent than cities in the East? Has America inherited a violent way of life from the frontier? Was the frontier more violent than the United States is today?

This book attempts to answer these questions and others about violence and lawlessness on the frontier and do so in a new way. Whereas most authors have drawn their conclusions about frontier violence from the exploits of a few notorious badmen and outlaws and from some of the more famous incidents and conflicts, I have chosen to focus on two towns that I think were typical of the frontier--the mining frontier specifically--and to investigate all forms of violence and lawlessness that occurred in and around those towns.

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## **Editorial Review**

### From the Inside Flap

"What happened at Bodie and other frontier towns is the subject of Roger D. McGrath's *Violence on the Frontier*, and it is replete with surprises. McGrath takes a sharp look at western violence by comparing community life during the heyday of two California mining camps, Bodie and Aurora. . . . Few if any incidents escaped his keen eye, and he writes with relish about what he found."

--Martin Ridge, *California Magazine*

"Why is America so violent? When that question is raised, the old chestnut of frontier heritage is inevitably pulled from the fire. . . . McGrath's valuable book suggests that violence in modern America is rooted less in the conquest of the frontier than in the formation of the modern city. . . . His research produces evidence of a powerful set of shared values that rigorously limited violence to consenting adults."

--William Broyles, Jr., *New York Times*

"This handsomely produced book provides a valuable test case in the study of frontier violence and will provide food for thought for many years to come."

--Larry D. Ball, *Western Historical Quarterly*

"This is one of the best of a small but growing number of frontier community studies and will offer inspiration and model to other scholars. Its close examination of frontier mining towns yields valuable insights into lives of the men and women who lived--and died--in them. Its concrete assessment of nature of violence and lawlessness in frontier settings not only corrects some past generalizations about frontier violence but also gives historians very useful data to compare with other frontier communities."

--John Clendenin Townsend, *Magill's Literary Annual*

### About the Author

**Roger D. McGrath** was a U.S. Marine and history professor at UCLA. He currently is at California State University-Northridge.

## **Users Review**

### From reader reviews:

#### **Nancy Kidder:**

The actual book *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier* has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The writer makes some research ahead of write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can get the point easily after perusing this book.

**Maria Holder:**

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier, it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

**Carl Terrell:**

This Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier is brand new way for you who has attention to look for some information given it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having little bit of digest in reading this Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this specific book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books produce itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in book form make them feel tired even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book variety for your better life in addition to knowledge.

**David Myers:**

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