

# Dodge City Stories



## Killing of Ed Masterson

The Round Table of Dodge City: Border Men Knights-Errant Who Surpassed the Achievements of Heroes of Romance



# APRIL 9, 1878

## Ed. Masterson killed in the line of duty.

In 1878 Bat Masterson was Sheriff of Ford County and his brother Ed was marshal of Dodge City. Some Texas cowboys led by Corporal Walker a herd boss took possession of a dance hall and made a rough house.

The sheriff and the marshal went over to quell the disturbance. Bat went inside and Ed who was the gentler of the Mastersons paused on the front porch to disarm a cowboy named Wagner.

"I will have to take your gun," said Ed Masterson.

Wagner short stout dark and surly placed his gun against Masterson's breast and fired even setting fire to his victim's clothing by the shot. Bat ran out and Ed staggered toward him saying, "I've got my dose Bat I'm done for."

Some men would have caught their brothers in their arms others would have begun firing without a word but Bat Masterson did one of the things which prove him his old comrades say a great general. His mentality covered every feature of the situation. First he sprang from the lighter sidewalk into the darker street.



*The Killing of Ed. Masterson; The Round Table of Dodge City: Border Men Knights-Errant Who Surpassed the Achievements of Heroes of Romance by Little.*

# Bat Masterson

In the twinkling of an eye he had whipped a drunken mob of mad killers slain two men avenged his brother's death and restored order in Dodge City.

Then he said to his dying brother Ed, "put the fire out of your clothes go across the street and get help. I'll stay here and tend to this."

Wagner fell at his first fire shot through the abdomen and died that evening in terrible agony. Next he shot the leader Walker through the lungs and through the side and still firing rapidly chased the other cowboys out of sight from where he stood.

In the twinkling of an eye he had whipped a drunken mob of mad killers slain two men avenged his brother's death and restored order in Dodge City.

The tall figure of the fair faced Walker with death hanging over his head walked slowly up the sidewalk to the next saloon door and quietly through that saloon to the rear where he fell in a heap.

Masterson showing his continuity of purpose ran swiftly after him found him as he supposed dead at the back door and came away for he never kicked a man when he was down.

Returning to the front he met his friend the prosecuting attorney the Hon Mike Sutton now collector of internal revenue for the State of Kansas.

"Come on, said Bat. "We 'll go quick and see how Ed's getting along," and walked swiftly across the street in quest of his brother.

The spectators on the other side by the light of his burning raiment watched Ed Masterson stagger across the street and the railroad track to the north then gathered him up and gave him every attention.

Bat came in as his brother was gasping for his last breath. He turned away walked across the street with his lawyer friend seated himself upon the sidewalk dropped his head upon his hands and suddenly burst into tears.

A black and white portrait of Bat Masterson, a man with a mustache wearing a bowler hat and a suit. The image is the background for the entire graphic.

# Bat Masterson

published by:  
WILD WEST PODCAST  
©2017