



## I Married Wyatt Earp: The Recollections of Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp

*Josephine Marcus Earp, G.G. Boyer*

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"*I Married Wyatt Earp* will not be the last word on the subject, but it ranks at the top or very near the top of the importatnt books on the Tombstone story and probably the best on the key figure of Wyatt."--*Arizona Highways*"For anyone remotely interested in this era and the events that punctuated it, this book is an invaluable source."--*Remark*"A sympathetic recollection of life with Wyatt Earp which reveals as much about "Josie" as Wyatt."--*The Journal of San Diego History*

## **I Married Wyatt Earp: The Recollections of Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp Details**

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## **From Reader Review I Married Wyatt Earp: The Recollections of Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp for online ebook**

### **Kathy Dobronyi says**

Interesting read about a little known period of time in the American West (Missouri, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, California, and Alaska) in the 1880-1900.

Editor Glenn G. Boyer had quite a challenge cobbling together the collected memoirs of Mrs. Wyatt Earp, including several thousand pages of manuscript and related notes by Mabel Earp Cason while verifying the facts with other sources.

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### **Tom Barnes says**

Josephine Marcus Earp was born with a sense of adventure, she ran away from a prosperous and loving home in San Francisco not to join the circus, but a theatrical troupe playing Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore that was bound for Tombstone.

Young, attractive and impressionable is a prescription for trouble in a mining town. Josie accepted Johnny Behan's offer of marriage before she had time to look over the whole field, and it came back to haunt her. Behan bought her a ring but put off the wedding. Wyatt Earp caught Josie's eye and opened up a classic love triangle. Then to further complicate matters both suitors were in a race to become the next sheriff of Cochise County.

Josie's accounts of Tombstone are right on the mark and two of her best friends Addie Bourland and Marietta Spencer have inside knowledge regarding two of Tombstone's major happenings – the shootout at the OK Corral and the murder of Morgan Earp.

Josie tells about the bloodletting after the shootout and how in order to get out of the line of fire Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday along with several allies leave Tombstone and go to Colorado. Josie followed Wyatt a short time later and they soon got married. While they were in Colorado they spent time with Doc Holliday and Bat Masterson and did some mining in the Gunnison area.

Then it was on to the silver strike at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and the gold fields of Alaska. Back in the states Wells Fargo hired Wyatt to do some detective work in Texas. When that job was finished they traveled to San Diego, California in search of business opportunities. The two dined out went to parties, attended the theatre and saw the famous Lily Langtry perform in Shakespeare's "As You Like It." Wyatt made a number of profitable investments in both saloons and real estate. He also won a fine trotting racehorse in a poker game. That one horse peaked Wyatt's interest in racing and he eventually bought and raced a sizeable stable of horses. Following those days on the racing circuit and a stint as a boxing promoter Wyatt and Josie settled in and lived out their lives in Los Angeles entertaining and being entertained by Hollywood's burgeoning movie community.

Wyatt died in 1929 and Josie lived until 1944.

Josephine Marcus Earp tells a compelling story of an era filled with colorful characters and fascinating events.

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## **Well Read Southerner Blog says**

Since the movie Tombstone is one of my top 10 movies of all time I just had to read this and I loved it. It was almost like reading the script of the movie for half of it. Hearing the female side of their relationship was interesting because she was definitely not the typical woman of her time period and she just saw so much adventure and change in her life.

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## **Stephanie Cottom says**

this is a re-read, and quite good

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## **Steven says**

I enjoyed this book, although at times I felt as if Wyatt's wife who wrote this was distant from him. I am also surprised that pictures of the original notes by Josie Earp were not included among the photographs shown. Still, it was a good read filled with historical references.

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## **Jason Jeffery says**

If you are a fan of history and westerns, then this is a must read. As expected, the tale is biased, but the "ghost writer" does leave footnotes that clarify the truth from "fiction." Through the story you see more of the man that became a legend, beyond the shootout at the OK Corral and into their years as prospectors in Alaska. For those that have seen the movies on Wyatt Earp or read historical tales of the man, then you must read this to see what type of man he really was. How he was as a husband, a friend, and a man.

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## **Teresa says**

This is the autobiography of Josephine Earp. It is very good, but you just have to remember that she is writing this at the end of her life and is looking back at the events, including her childhood.

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## **Bill Sweet says**

Stopped reading this when I discovered that this was basically a fiction, a hoax conducted by Boyer, and has been discredited and pulled by the university press. Annoying.

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## **Sem says**

Fun, but to be taken with several hefty grains of salt.

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### **Tracy says**

I found the personal view of Wyatt Earp and his wife very interesting. Josie is evasive in many parts of the book, sidestepping over some of her actions that she now believes may show her in an unpleasnat light. This leaves the story lacking at times. Despite this, I found the book enjoyable.

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### **Jake says**

Like *The History of Joseph Smith By His Mother*, this is a memoir written by a dearly beloved of a famous historical figure. Since it is not an academic history, it comes from a more personal place and offers a unique perspective of great value. I found myself surprised by how engaging Ms. Earp's remembrances are.

No doubt she sometimes dispenses with truth to save face, but her account of the gunfight at the O.K. Corral is refreshingly candid. It hints at my suspicion that the ghosts of the past are none too pleased by our fixating on the most painful moments of their lives. For people who want to achieve a broader perspective of Wyatt Earp, I recommend this book as a must-read supplemental to histories like *Wyatt Earp: The Life Behind the Legend*.

Fair warning, the book spends lots of time post-Tombstone, as the author waxes sentimental about lesser known events that have nothing to do with the famous gun fight. Don't expect an edge-of-your-seat read. This is an often domestic portrait of Wyatt and Josie.

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### **DocHolidavid says**

This is an account of the life of Wyatt Earp as seen through the eyes of his wife, Josephine Marcus Earp, who left affluent society to marry a legend of his time and ever since.

Her description is, by all appearances, honest. Well as honest as anyone can write of his or her life. No one tells of true shame – nor should they. Josephine leaves the appropriate inferences.

She aptly converts a legend into a believable man. Wyatt is not depicted as all good, completely evil or superhuman. His feats are described credibly, and yet the travels Josephine and Wyatt did together in a time when such touring was not so convenient are rather amazing. The amount of energy, grit, knowhow and stamina are quite remarkable.

The best review I've seen of this book is written under the name of Tom Barnes within the discussion in Goodreads.

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