

ELDER KEITH JOEL WALKER



THE LAST OF THE ROUGH RIDERS

The Tapestry of Faith & Valour

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A Tapestry of Faith and Valor

Written by
Elder Keith Joel Walker



Introduction



In the annals of American history, the Wild West era stands as a testament to courage, resilience, and the spirit of adventure. The figures from this time—cowboys, Native Americans, and scouts—wove a rich

tapestry of stories filled with gunfights, exploration, and the relentless pursuit of truth. Today, we find a parallel in the lives of Apostolic Pentecostal preachers, who, like the last of the Rough Riders, continue to stand for their faith amid societal challenges. This booklet intertwines the legacy of these brave individuals, celebrating their commitment to truth and the message of salvation.

Chapter 1

The Legacy of the Wild West

The Wild West was populated by legendary figures who embodied the rugged spirit of the frontier. Notable cowboys and gunfighters include:

Cowboys and Gunfighters:

1. Billy the Kid (Henry McCarty): A notorious outlaw known for his role in the Lincoln County War, he became a symbol of the lawlessness of the West.

2. Wild Bill Hickok (James Butler Hickok): A legendary lawman and gunfighter famous for his sharpshooting and dramatic life, he was known for his quick draw and fearless demeanor.



3. Doc Holliday (John Henry Holliday): A gambler and dentist who became famous for his involvement in the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, he was a man of both intellect and bravery.

4. Wyatt Earp: A lawman renowned for his pivotal role in the O.K. Corral shootout, he stood for justice in a time of turmoil.

5. Buffalo Bill Cody (William Frederick Cody): A showman who popularized cowboy culture through his Wild West shows, he showcased the heroism of

the American frontier.

Notable Tales and Fables:

- **The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral:** This legendary shootout involved Wyatt Earp, his brothers, and Doc Holliday against the Clanton gang. It is often seen as a battle between law and lawlessness, with Earp and his allies representing the fight for justice in a chaotic world.
- **Wild Bill Hickok's Last Stand:** In Deadwood, South Dakota, Wild Bill Hickok was shot in the back while playing poker. His death marked the end of an era, but his legacy as a protector of the frontier lives on, symbolizing the lawman's duty to uphold justice, even at the cost of his life.
- **The Legend of Billy the Kid:** Despite his outlaw status, Billy the Kid was seen by some as a Robin Hood figure—fighting against corrupt lawmen and standing up for the oppressed. His daring escapes and quick draw made him a folk hero, embodying the spirit of rebellion against injustice.

Native American Leaders:

1. **Sitting Bull:** A Hunkpapa Lakota leader who resisted U.S. government policies, he is remembered for his fierce defense of his people's rights and way of life.

2. Crazy Horse: A Lakota war leader known for his bravery at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, he fought valiantly for his people's freedom.

3. Geronimo: An Apache leader who fiercely resisted expansion into tribal lands, he symbolizes the struggle for Native American sovereignty.

4. Chief Joseph: Leader of the Nez Perce, known for his eloquent speeches and resistance against U.S. forces, he became an enduring symbol of Native American dignity.

Scouts and Frontiersmen:

1. Kit Carson: A frontiersman and scout instrumental in westward expansion, he was known for his survival skills and knowledge of the land.

2. Daniel Boone: A pioneer known for settling what is now Kentucky, he blazed trails that others would follow.

3. Jim Bridger: A mountain man and scout celebrated for his survival skills and contributions to the exploration of the West.

4. William "Billy" Dixon: A buffalo hunter and sharpshooter recognized for his prowess in battle,

particularly during the Battle of Adobe Walls.

The Last of the Scouts:

1. Charlie Goodnight: A cattleman and scout who developed the Goodnight-Loving Trail, he played a vital role in the cattle drives of the Old West.
2. Tom Horn: A scout and hired gunman known for his controversial life, he was a figure of both admiration and infamy.
3. Bill Tilghman: A lawman and scout who played a key role in establishing order in Oklahoma, he was known for his integrity and dedication to justice.

Chapter 2

Tales and Fables of Valor

The Wild West is filled with tales of bravery and



moral clarity. One such story is that of Wyatt Earp, who, alongside his brothers and Doc Holliday, faced off against the Clanton gang at the O.K. Corral. This encounter was not just a gunfight; it was a

stand for justice and order in a chaotic world. Earp's commitment to uphold the law, even in the face of death, exemplifies the spirit of the Rough Riders—those willing to fight for what is right.

Similarly, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse fought not only for their people but for the very idea of freedom against overwhelming odds. Their battles were not merely against soldiers; they were against the erasure of their culture and identity. Their legacies remind us of the importance of standing firm in one's beliefs, even when the world seems stacked against you.

The story of Doc Holliday also serves as a powerful example. Despite his background as a dentist, he chose to stand alongside Earp in the fight against lawlessness. His skills with a gun and his willingness to defend his friends in the face of danger made him a legendary figure—one who fought on the right side of history, protecting the innocent and upholding justice.



Buffalo Bill Cody, known for his Wild West shows, took the stories of the frontier to the masses, portraying the bravery of cowboys and Native Americans alike. His shows celebrated the heroic deeds of those who stood for justice and fairness, reminding audiences of the values that built the nation.

Chapter 3

The Apostolic Pentecostal Heritage

In the spirit of these rugged individuals, we find a new generation of leaders within the Apostolic Pentecostal movement. These men, like the Rough Riders of old, are committed to standing firm in their faith and proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ.

Elder Vaughn Morton: A seasoned elder of Truth Tabernacle in Fresno, California, Vaughn Morton has dedicated over 60 years to preaching the oneness of God and the Acts 2:38 message of salvation. He embodies the spirit of a gunfighter, having faced challenges and adversities while standing for holiness and separation from the world.

Elder Tommy Johnson: A tough rider and gunfighter in the old West of faith, Elder Johnson has fought spiritual battles with unwavering conviction.

Elder Garza and Elder Klann: Known as straight shooters, these men represent the rough riders of the Apostolic Pentecostal faith, committed to truth and integrity.

Elder Joel Pace, Elder Booker, Elder Wheeler, Elder Wilson, Elder Couch, and Elder Epley: These men have contended for the faith that was once delivered to the saints, embodying the resolve of the last scouts.

Elder Hyler: A man of prayer and conviction, Elder Tyler exemplifies faith and love for God, standing strong in the face of adversity.

Elder Phil White: Known for his involvement in spiritual battles, Elder White has fought for the true Apostolic Pentecostal message.

Elder Frost and Elder Sosa: Men of prayer and dedication, they have ridden the old horse of truth, standing firm for the old paths.

Elder Joel Holmes and Elder Lambreth: Committed to the mission field, they have given their all to Jesus, embodying the essence of the rough rider.

Elder Tony Spell: A modern-day gunfighter, Elder Spell stood firm during the COVID-19 pandemic, refusing to close the doors of his church. He

faced opposition from both the government and fellow believers, yet he remained steadfast in his commitment to the truth of the Gospel.

Chapter 4

Standing on the Right Side of History



As we reflect on the legacies of both the Rough Riders and the Apostolic Pentecostal preachers, we must ask ourselves: What side of history will we stand on? Will we join the

ranks of the last of the gunfighters who uphold the oneness of God and the Acts 2:38 message? Or will we become part of the Apostate Apostolic Pentecostal church that strays from the old paths and embraces a more charismatic approach?

The choice is clear. We can choose to be like the Rough Riders, standing firm in our convictions and fighting for the truth of the Gospel. We can choose to

be the last of the scouts, guiding others on the path of righteousness and faith.

Let us honor the contributions of those who have come before us and continue to uphold the values they represent. May their stories inspire us to remain steadfast in our faith and to carry the torch of the Apostolic Pentecostal message into the future.

Chapter 5

Notable Scouts of the Wild West

The Wild West era was a brief period from 1865 to 1895. During this time, Indian scouts from many nations, including the Pawnee, Apache, Crow, Shoshone, and Tonkawa, served as guides, trackers, guards, and fighters for the army. They were invaluable allies in army campaigns because they were familiar with the terrain and fighting prowess of rival tribes.



The last scout in the United States Army's Apache Scouts retired in 1947. The Apache Scouts were part of the United States Army Indian Scouts, and served as the military's eyes and ears during the Apache Wars from 1849 to 1886.

The Wild West era was characterized by exploration, westward expansion, and the need for skilled individuals who could navigate the often treacherous terrain and interact with various cultures. Scouts played a crucial role during this time, serving as guides, messengers, and mediators between different groups. Here are some of the notable last scouts from the Wild West era:

1. Kit Carson (1809-1868):

- A legendary frontiersman, Kit Carson was a trapper, guide, and Indian agent. He was instrumental in the westward expansion of the United States and played a significant role in the California Gold Rush. Carson's extensive knowledge of the terrain and Native American cultures made him a valuable asset to explorers and military leaders.

2. Jim Bridger (1804-1881):

- Known as one of the greatest mountain men and scouts, Jim Bridger was a frontiersman who explored the American West extensively. He is credited with discovering the Great Salt Lake and was a key figure in the fur trade. Bridger's skills in survival and navigation made him a sought-after guide for expeditions.

3. William "Billy" Dixon (1850-1913):

- A buffalo hunter and scout, Dixon is best known

for his sharpshooting skills during the Battle of Adobe Walls in 1874. His remarkable long-range shot during this battle is legendary, and he later became a prominent figure in the Texas Panhandle, where he helped establish settlements.

4. Charlie Goodnight (1836-1929):



- A cattleman and scout, Goodnight is famous for developing the Goodnight-Loving Trail, which facilitated cattle

drives from Texas to Colorado. He was a pioneer in the cattle industry and played a significant role in the early ranching economy of the West.

- Charles Goodnight was a rancher, trailblazer, and entrepreneur who is known as the “father of the Texas Panhandle.
- During the Civil War, Goodnight rode alongside Cureton’s rangers fighting the Comanches along the Texas border from the Canadian to the Colorado and Brazos Rivers. After the war ended, Goodnight would return to his cattle operation on the Brazos.

5. Tom Horn (1860-1903):

- A controversial figure, Tom Horn was a scout, tracker, and hired gunman. He worked for various ranchers and became infamous for his involvement in cattle wars in Wyoming. Horn's life was marked by violence and conflict, and he was ultimately tried and executed for murder.

6. Bill Tilghman (1854-1924):

- A lawman and scout, Tilghman served as a deputy U.S. marshal and was known for his work in bringing law and order to Oklahoma. He was involved in numerous gunfights and was respected for his integrity and dedication to justice.

7. George Armstrong Custer (1839-1876):

- Although primarily known as a cavalry officer, Custer also served as a scout during the Civil War and in the Indian Wars. His controversial tactics and leadership during battles, particularly at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, have made him a polarizing figure in American history.

8. Liver-Eating Johnson (John Johnston) (1824-1900):

- A mountain man and scout known for his fierce reputation, Johnson is said to have hunted down and killed members of the Crow tribe after they killed his Native American wife. His life became the stuff of legend, and he was known for his rugged survival skills.

9. Ned Wynkoop (1835-1891):

- A soldier and scout, Wynkoop was known for his efforts to mediate between the U.S. government and Native American tribes. He played a significant role during the Indian Wars and was respected for his attempts to promote peace.

The last scouts of the Wild West era were individuals who embodied the spirit of adventure and resilience. They navigated uncharted territories, faced the challenges of the frontier, and often found themselves in morally complex situations. Their legacies continue to influence how we understand the history of the American West, showcasing the diverse experiences of those who lived during this transformative period.

Chapter 6 The Final Frontiers

As we approach the culmination of history, we stand on the final frontiers of the Apostolic Pentecostal movement, awaiting the return of the ultimate Rough Rider. This figure, riding on a white horse, is prophesied to come back with “King of Kings” and “Lord of Lords” written on His thigh, as described in Revelation 19:11-16. The imagery evokes the spirit of the last great battle—the Battle of Armageddon.

In this climactic confrontation, the true Apostolic Pentecostal saints will ride alongside Him, embodying the spirit of the Rough Riders and the last scouts. They will stand for truth and righteousness in the final gunfight against the forces of darkness. As Zechariah 14:5-10 illustrates, the faithful will rise to meet the challenges ahead, united in their commitment to God's purpose.

This last battle will not only be a physical confrontation but also a spiritual one, where the faithful will demonstrate their unwavering allegiance to the Gospel and the message of salvation. As we prepare for this ultimate showdown, let us remember the lessons of valor and faith from our forebears and be inspired to carry forward their legacy.

Conclusion

The tapestry of the last of the Rough Riders and the Apostolic Pentecostal preachers is rich with stories of valor, faith, and unwavering commitment to truth. These men, like their Wild West counterparts, have faced challenges head-on, standing firm in their beliefs and leading their congregations with courage.

As we reflect on their legacies, let us honor their contributions and continue to uphold the values they

represent. They are the last scouts and gunfighters in a world that often seeks to undermine the truth. May their stories inspire us to remain steadfast in our faith and to carry the torch of the Apostolic Pentecostal message into the future.

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Read and Obey Acts 2:38