

“Logan: The Honorable Life and Scandalous Death of a Western Lawman”

By Jackie Boor, Cable Publishing, cablepublishing.com, 715-372-8499, 269 pages

REVIEW BY JANET GEARY

What started out a family mystery turned into one of the most interesting Nevada history books I have ever read. Not only is the life story of former Nye County Sheriff Tom Logan fascinating, the research that went into this book is unbelievable.



BOOR FAMILY

Sheriff Tom Logan seated and deputies - circa 1904

sense of the once-booming town of Tonopah and the surrounding county at the turn of the century. It's a great read for any Nevada lover or history buff and will keep you turning the pages until the mystery of Tom Logan's life and death is solved—or is it?

Excerpt from “Logan: The Honorable Life and Scandalous Death of a Western Lawman”

“The discovery of gold generated the bulk of lawlessness that made the West wild and the Colt six-shooter often more powerful than any law book stored on a shelf. Between 1850 and 1890, approximately 20,000 men were killed in gunfights, an all-too-frequent method for settling disputes. Sheriffs could at-will declare a renegade desperado as ‘bearing the wolf’s head,’ thereby granting permission to kill on sight as they would a wild animal. Translation: Wanted dead or alive, legal rights optional.

“Sheriffs were usually elected to office, although occasionally appointed. Previous law enforcement experience was not required, but both job and life depended heavily on being a quick study. Entrusted to tackle vice and all manifestations of disorder, the frontier sheriff relied on personal prowess, gut instinct, steady nerves, and recurrent strokes of ingenuity. He also had to be amply skilled with a sidearm, proficient with horses, and able to round up a posse in swift fashion. Some were certainly more capable than others, and more than a few succumbed to bribery and other corrupt enticements. Still, history attests the majority stood firm and stalwart in their oaths to protect and serve. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, these often forgotten lawmen served at the forefront of converting unruly encampments into civilized municipalities. With constantly evolving duties, they fought and cajoled, jailed and punished, sacrificed and bled for the common good.

“And some, like Sheriff Tom Logan, died in the line of duty.”

There should be no doubt that the author, Jackie Boor, took great pains in telling the true story of her great grandfather—the legendary Sheriff of Nye County from 1899 to 1906— and his untimely death.

My suggestion; read the acknowledgements and chapter notes first so you get a sense of what Boor accomplished in not only telling the story of the murder of Tom Logan, but also the subsequent trial and acquittal of the man who shot him.

Famous names from Nevada's past—such as Pat McCarran, “Diamondfield Jack” Davis, and George Wingfield—are main characters in this true story of murder and politics. Even Wyatt Earp had a role, along with many other former residents of Nye County and beyond.

The research is impeccable, and the book reads like a novel, full of historic photos that only Logan's descendants could provide. The letters Tom wrote to his daughters and the political cartoons peppered throughout the book were my favorite parts, although I also found the trial transcripts to be riveting.

I had the opportunity to meet Jackie not long ago and got a sense of the love of family that drove her to tell this story. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and after reading this book, I know why.

If you want to know more about Nye County history, this book will enlighten you, because even though it's mainly about Tom Logan, the reader gets a real

