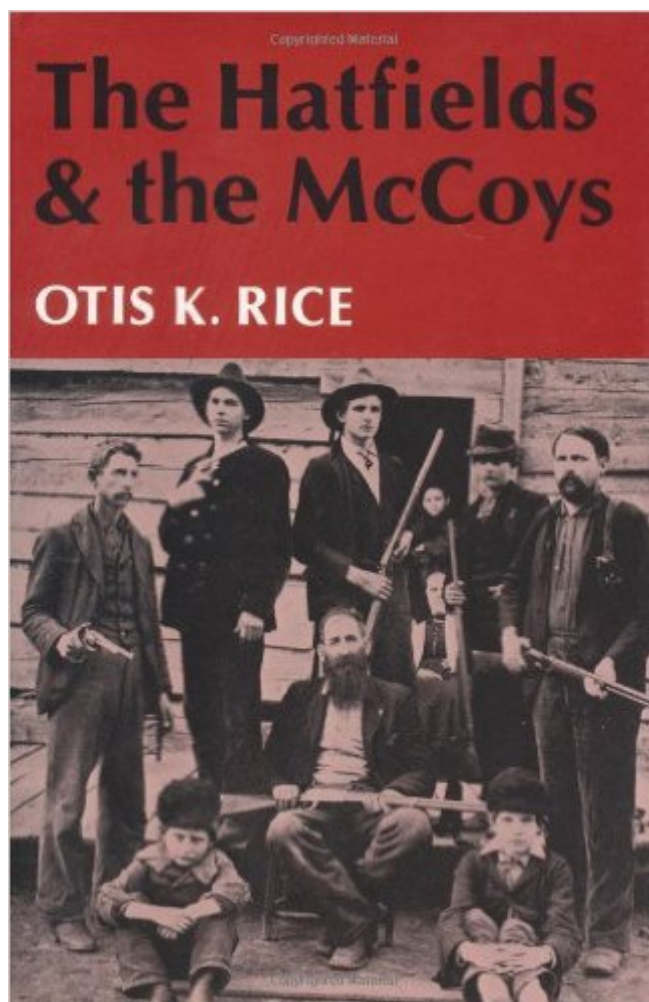


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The Hatfields And The McCoys



Synopsis

The Hatfield-McCoy feud has long been the most famous vendetta of the southern Appalachians. Over the years it has become encrusted with myth and error. Scores of writers have produced accounts of it, but few have made any real effort to separate fact from fiction. Novelists, motion picture producers, television script writers, and others have sensationalized events that needed no embellishment. Using court records, public documents, official correspondence, and other documentary evidence, Otis K. Rice presents an account that frees, as much as possible, fact from fiction, event from legend. He weighs the evidence carefully, avoiding the partisanship and the attitude of condescension and condemnation that have characterized many of the writings concerning the feud. He sets the feud in the social, political, economic, and cultural context of eastern Kentucky and southwestern West Virginia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By examining the legacy of the Civil War, the weakness of institutions such as the church and education system, the exaggerated importance of family, the impotence of the law, and the isolation of the mountain folk, Rice gives new meaning to the origins and progress of the feud. These conditions help explain why the Hatfield and McCoy families, which have produced so many fine citizens, could engage in such a bitter and prolonged vendetta

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've become quite the Hatfield-McCoy historian over the years, having helped to produce an hour-long multimedia program to be shown to the general public on this fascinating topic. A partner and I also worked with members of both families (descendants of the feudists) to put it all together. One of our foremost resources was this book, the work of Otis Rice. Of the many available

texts covering the Hatfield-McCoy feud, Rice outshone all the others. The writing is a little stiff but since the topic is so engaging, most readers won't mind the scholastic text. This book has my highest recommendation for those interested in the history of Appalachia.

I was looking for a book to give me a factual narrative of the Hatfield-McCoy feud. I took a chance on his book and was nicely rewarded. Heavily footnoted and scrupulously dispassionate, the book gives a clear and concise rundown of the events leading up to, during, and as the feud wound down. In the course of doing so, this book also debunks many of the myths and some of the commonly held beliefs of what took place during this feud. Indeed, the book also gives details on other feuds that occurred during the years that the Hatfield-McCoy feud ravaged the Tug River valley. It is a good, easy to read book. The only failing of the book is that the pictures section is heavily tilted towards the Hatfields. I don't know if this is because the McCoys did have as many pictures or what. But a better balanced photo section would be helpful.

Much has been written of the feud yet in this book I found a "good read" along with a very historical study. Also inside the front and back covers you will find a family tree graphic to help you trace possible relations.

I listened to "The Hatfields and McCoys" written by Otis Rice and read by Dick Hill while I was at work. This is a very interesting and extremely well researched story. I love the whole family feud saga and the time in history in which it happened. Anything you want to know about the Hatfields and McCoys is in this book as well as history of that area and political issues of the times. Very good book. However, I would not recommend listening to it. Not Dick's fault, he is great as a narrator, but there is so much detail in this book that it is hard to follow in your head. There isn't a lot of imagery. I have recently watched the mini-series on TV with Kevin Costner (you must watch that BTW) and that helped with the imagery in my head. I would highly recommend reading this book. I received this audio for free from [...]

After reviewing several different books about the Hatfields and McCoys, I found this book to be factual, organized, and easy to read.

My husband is a direct descendant of the McCoys and that is why I ordered this book. (his mothers name is in it) This book was hard to find but is a great bargain on here. If you are a history buff u

have to read this book.

This is an older book from a regional college professor. He goes on and on about his pedigree and the pedigree of the folks who helped him get the book into print. At the time he published it, it was probably accurate. However, we know much more now than we did at the time of his writing. If you are like me and collecting all things published about the two families and their culture, then buy it. It's worth adding to your collection in the sense that in 2012, we can see just how much a lot of the info has changed. Consider it the first book of your collection.

Excellent account, boring in some sections, vague in others but use your imagination and it's all good. There are many other versions, this is just one account that someone told me was more near to the truth. Who knows!

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