

# "THE LEGEND OF BRUSHY BILL ROBERTS"

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If you had lived during the 1800s and the early 1900s, would you have been an outlaw, farmer, cattleman, or a sheriff? Do you think you would have claimed to be a notorious outlaw, knowing he had a bounty hanging over his head? One man did just that.

Brushy Bill Roberts alias Ollie Roberts was an 89 yr. old man living an ordinary life with his wife in the town of Hico, Texas, until one day when an attorney, William Morrison, received a phone call from a man in Florida named Joe Hines, a.k.a. Jesse Evans. Evans claimed that Billy the Kid hadn't been shot and killed by Sheriff, Pat Garrett, as many people had thought. Evans said that Garrett had really shot a friend of The Kid, named Billy Barlow.

Morrison decided to visit Brushy. The two men talked, but Brushy denied being The Kid. Brushy said that his brother was living in Texas and that his brother was Billy the Kid. Morrison began making plans to visit Brushy's brother in Mexico. The more Morrison planned, the more Brushy grew nervous. As Morrison headed for the door, Brushy whispered into his ear and told him to come back tomorrow. He also told him that his wife would be gone and that he wanted to tell him more.

Morrison did as Brushy asked and returned the next day. Brushy finally confessed to being the Kid. For hours Morrison interviewed Brushy. When Morrison asked Brushy for proof that he was the Kid, Brushy took his clothes off and exposed many bullet and knife wounds.

Morrison came to find that all of the wounds that Billy the Kid alias William H. Bonney was known to have, were accounted for on Brushy's body, along with many others.

Brushy told Morrison that he was born in Buffalo Gap, Texas, to James H. Roberts and Mary Adeline Roberts. He said that he was given the name William Henry Roberts. Brushy also told Morrison that his date of birth was December 31, 1859.

When Brushy a.k.a. William Henry Roberts was three years old his mother Mary died. This was the year of 1862. At this point in time Brushy's father, James, was away fighting in the Civil War, so Brushy went to stay with his maternal half aunt Catherine McCarty and her son. The three traveled to many different places, and they traveled quite often. Everyone just assumed that Brushy was Catherine's son, but as I said before, Catherine was only Brushy's maternal half aunt. Catherine feared that Brushy's father, James, would try to take his son back when he returned

from the Civil War, so she gave Brushy the name Henry McCarty as an alias, and she was sure to cover her tracks.

Brushy Bill told Morrison that as he got older, he decided to stay in New Mexico. As a boy, he became entangled in gunfights, murders, and he soon became a cattle thief.

After the Kid a.k.a. William H. Bonney, alias

Henry McCarty, shot and killed Sheriff William Brady, he was sentenced to death. He was arrested and put in jail, but escaped from jail. Then, he was once again arrested and placed in jail once more.

After Billy the Kid escaped, he contacted and presented himself to Governor Lew Wallace, asking for a pardon for all of the horrible things he had done, and for the crimes he had committed. Wallace and Brushy made a deal. Brushy kept his end of the deal, but Wallace turned on Brushy.

Sometime after Wallace's promise had been broken, Pat Garrett was elected sheriff. He soon started tracking the Kid. Garrett allegedly tracked Billy to the home of Pete Maxwell in Old Fort Sumner, New Mexico, on the day of July 14, 1881. Then, Garrett shot and killed Billy the Kid alias Brushy Bill Roberts. According to Billy, Garrett had really killed Billy Barlow, a friend of Brushy. Brushy also said that he fled New Mexico and changed his name. Supposedly, Brushy headed for Old Mexico and changed his name. Over the years, Brushy traveled to many places including Florida and Cuba, and had many aliases. Then, Brushy settled in Hico, Texas, married three times, and lived a normal life until Morrison came into the picture.

After Morrison heard of the pardon that Brushy was promised, but didn't receive, he decided to take Brushy into New Mexico to get his promised pardon. Brushy agreed to meet the governor and the governor only, but when they arrived, many people were there, including Pat Garrett's son and many others. Brushy's mind went blank. He didn't remember any thing. He couldn't even remember his name.

After returning home Brushy confessed to his wife, who had been kept in the dark the whole time, that he was Billy the Kid.

Then, on December 27, 1950, tragedy struck. Brushy Bill Roberts died of a heart attack, walking to the post office, four days before his 91st birthday.

Whether you chose to believe the legend of Brushy Bill Roberts or not just keep one thing in mind, every one is entitled to their own opinion, even if it is wrong.