

Billy the Kid Pardon

<p>There was no effective law enforcement in the West. This is the environment that Billy the Kid grew up in after he was orphaned at 15.</p>	<p>Billy was first convicted of horse stealing as a teenager. He was imprisoned and shackled</p>
<p>People had to show strength. If you were challenged, under Arizona law you could fight back</p>	<p>Billy killed 'Windy' Cahill after an argument. He shot him, but Cahill had no intention of drawing a weapon. It took two days for Cahill to die</p>
<p>'Windy' Cahill was a sadistic man who frequently bullied young citizens, including Billy. He took pleasure in this</p>	<p>After the Cahill murder, Billy fled to New Mexico and was quickly convicted of stealing horses from J.H. Tunstall. He was imprisoned</p>
<p>Billy was recruited by J.H. Tunstall after he was released from prison and worked on his ranch. He was a good employee</p>	<p>'The Regulators' started a conflict known as the Lincoln County Wars. It eventually claimed the lives of 70 people</p>
<p>A group of Irish landowners called 'The House' controlled Lincoln County and its law. This included Sheriff Brady.</p>	<p>'The Regulators' killed Sheriff Brady in the street while he was conducting official business</p>
<p>Brady hired criminals and gunmen to kill Tunstall. He did this because Tunstall had taken business from 'The House'</p>	<p>When Lew Wallace became governor he issued many pardons. Billy the Kid did not receive one of these</p>
<p>After Brady escaped prosecution for Tunstall's murder, Billy formed a group called 'The Regulators'. They killed Tunstall's killers</p>	<p>Deputy Carlyle was killed at a stakeout of Billy's hiding place after being held prisoner for several hours</p>
<p>Billy signed a truce with 'The House', but when they tried to cover up a murder he testified against them and helped put them in jail</p>	<p>Billy was twice convicted of the murder of Sheriff Brady by Judge Bristol. On both occasions he was sentenced to hang</p>
<p>Governor Lew Wallace offered Billy a pardon if he testified against 'The House'. Billy knew the risks, but agreed to it</p>	<p>After his capture by Sheriff Garrett, Billy killed two men as he escaped from custody. He shouted from the balcony that he was sorry</p>
<p>Billy always maintained that Deputy Carlyle was killed by his own men in an accident</p>	<p>\$5000 was offered for the capture of Billy the Kid. This was a really high sum of money</p>