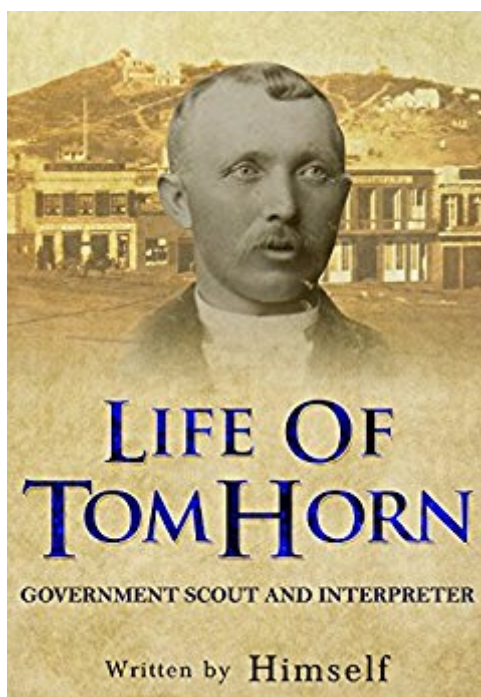


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# Life Of Tom Horn: Government Scout And Interpreter



## Synopsis

1903. Tom Horn awaits execution for the murder of fourteen-year-old boy. He writes this memoir. Tom Horn was born in Missouri, in 1860. His parents, who were deeply religious, regularly beat him – on one occasion leaving him laid up in the family barn, where he needed a week to recover. Their attempts to beat him into submission soon ended when aged just fourteen years old, he left home and headed West. With \$11 in his pocket after selling his rifle, and nothing to stay for after his beloved dog had been shot, young farm boy Tom Horn travelled through Kansas and reached Santa Fe in 1874. Horn went on to become many things. He was to become a pivotal figure in the cattle business, making a name for himself amid growing hostility between cattle barons and settlers as a government scout and interpreter for Generals Wilcox, Crook and Miles in the Apache wars. He was assistant to the infamous Al Sieber, Chief of Scouts, and was known as the “King of Cowboys”™. He was a Pinkerton, a cowboy, a range detective and a gunman with potentially lethal ability – yet he was well respected and known as a gentleman who was true to his word. In this account of his life, he recounts the shocking events that led to his imprisonment for the murder of a fourteen year old boy. It was a crime for which he was hanged in 1904, and many think he was wrongly accused. Life of Tom Horn is a compelling western and a story of guilt, innocence and justice amongst the Apache Wars. Tom Horn (1860-1903) was a US Army Scout, Pinkerton, cowboy, detective and assassin. He wrote his memoirs whilst in jail for a murder. His innocence is still debated.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As with all autobiographies this book provides us with a fascinating picture of the adventurous life of Tom Horn. Yet it is the death of Tom Horn that has been the subject of great controversy to the present day; hanged for the murder of a fourteen year old boy, on evidence that was highly questionable. This book is referred to as a vindication, and though many have disputed this, in some subtle ways it is. Whilst reading this narrative of Tom Horn's years as a scout and interpreter, at no point could I envisage him being the kind of man to kill a boy from ambush. He portrays himself in his autobiography as hard working, fearless, trustworthy, and as a man who served his country well. Though with any autobiography the reader has to accept an element of bias, it appears at times as if Tom Horn tries to minimize his own heroics and exploits. To this end the book serves its purpose. What is most astounding about the book is where it finishes. Tom Horn makes no attempt to explain the events leading up to his conviction and execution. This is both surprising and baffling. Surely most men in his position would have taken the opportunity to plead their innocence. Not so with Tom Horn. He seems content to let the readers make their own decision, by things reported in the newspapers at that time. Maybe he was just confident that people would believe him to be innocent despite much of what was being written. This edition of the book was supplemented with letters written to and from Tom Horn whilst he was imprisoned. These are valuable as they offer an insight into Tom's state of mind during this period.

This is an exceptional autobiography that details the life of Tom Horn prior to the tragic incident in Wyoming. The book is NOT a vindication. The material added by John Coble is clearly identified, and were his personal attempts to vindicate Tom Horn. Written in jail and on his way to the gallows, Tom Horn wrote only about his life as Indian Scout and Interpreter, because this is how he wished to be remembered! "Life of Tom Horn" reflects upon his childhood, and the early adult events that shaped the most glorious and enjoyable years in the prime of his life. He probably deserved the Medal of Honor for the Apache Wars. Details of his life as a miner, Pinkerton detective, rodeo champion and mule skinner for the Spanish American War were left out, probably intentionally. His

reputation in Wyoming was so thoroughly distorted and trashed by journalistic sensationalism fueled by ongoing range feuds, that it probably wasn't worth addressing. (He is still hated today by many.) I feel he believed that good would prevail and find him innocent. Time wasn't on his side when he wrote this...The book is a fabulous historical account of life in the southwestern frontier. The details of his life as Indian scout are easy to put into perspective and supported by many factual historical accounts of the time. If one has a map and photographs of the southwestern United States and Mexico, it becomes even easier to put into perspective. The book is also a great resource for anyone researching Geronimo and the Apache wars. To this day, Tom Horn's innocence or guilt is embroiled in controversy. Some family members still carry a burning hatred for the man, others admiration and love.

This is a Non-Fiction Auto-Biography written by Tom Horn who was born November 21st 1860 in Memphis, Missouri on a family farm. When he leaves as a young boy for the west and a life of adventure. He writes a fascinating narrative about himself from leaving the family with a good portrait of early western history that is not taught in our schools. The mere mention of Apache Indians usually makes most people think of wagon trains being attacked. But Tom Horn introduces the many sides and issues of the Native Americans of the South West both in Mexico and the USA, to his the final chapter of his life and hanging. He introduces the reader to the Apache Chiricahua Native Americans who roamed the deserts and mountains of the South West in Mexico and the USA. He [Tom Horn] then introduces us to Al Sieber a man who was respected by the Native Americans. Through Mr. Sieber's tutorage Tom Horn becomes well respected by the Native Americans too. He later goes into his years living with Apaches while learning their language, tracking skills, and ability to survive in such a harsh climate as the Deserts and Mountains of the South West adding onto the skills he was learning from Al Sieber. The author [Tom Horn] later explains the reasons for the last Chiricahua outbreak from the "Indian" Reservation at San Carlos Arizona. And then the final capture and to the "civilizing" of Geronimo. The book then goes into Tom Horn's later adventures and then to the final chapter of his life in the Cattle Wars throughout Wyoming. When he was hired by the "Cattle Barons" to stop the cattle rustlers. But as Tom Horn's methods begin to get noticed by the Government and the Press the Cattle Barons turn on Tom Horn.

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