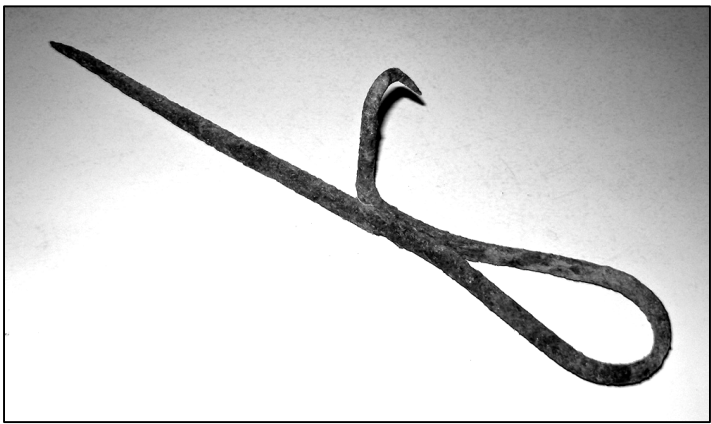


# BROTHERS-IN-LAW

## The Story of Deputies W.W. Cates and John Henry Bright

The bullets whizzed past the gleeful men, women, and children...the citizens of Gleeson who had gathered on a hill to watch the shoot-out. From their vantage point on the hill, the onlookers could see the outlaw crawling along a rain gully through the brush, but his pursuers, Deputies Cates and Bright, had gone right past him, and were now riding with their backs to him...easy targets.

The incident began in the early hours of September 5, 1912, when Francisco Chavez, still a little drunk, entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gregorio Barela while they were sleeping. Sitting on the edge of the bed, he urged Mr. Barela to share in the bottle of wine which he'd brought. As he did so, Francisco reached across Gregorio and laid his hand upon Mrs. Barela, offering a consolation of another sort. Gregorio took exception to this intrusion, and stood to defend his wife, at which an all-out fight between Gregorio and Francisco took place.



Francisco pulled a miner's candle spike out of his coat and used the sharp end to chase Gregorio out of the house and into the neighbor's house. Mrs. Barela, in the meantime, left their home and went in search of Deputy Cates. When Cates arrived, Chavez was nowhere to be found. In searching for him, Cates turned the corner of a building and found himself facing Chavez, who had a Winchester rifle pointing at Cates' stomach. "Get out of here!" Chavez warned, "There's not enough officers in Cochise County to take me in!"

Deputy Cates retreated and used the telephone to call up Deputy John Bright of Courtland, who lived between Courtland and Gleeson. When Bright arrived, they renewed the search for Chavez and found him running out of town toward some brush. Cates and Bright fired on Chavez, as he ducked from bush to bush and fired back at the deputies. Cates and Bright decided to get their horses, and as they retrieved them, a crowd of Gleeson residents came out to watch the show. It had been a long time since there was a real live shoot-out in the area, and the citizens of Gleeson were treating it, not as a dangerous event, but as wonderful and grand entertainment, despite the fact that bullets were headed as much in their

direction as toward the principal participants.

Upon their return, Cates and Bright, now mounted, rode out into the brush, scouring the landscape for the fugitive. Chavez, meanwhile, had dropped down into a shallow gully, and was crawling away. He could be clearly seen by the onlookers from their vantage point on the hill, but he was invisible to the lawmen. Riding right past him, they found themselves ahead of Chavez, who could now pop up any time from his gully and shoot them in the back.

Seeing this, Gleeson residents C.H. Kirk and Dutch Getchens ran down from the hill and into the brush, to warn the deputies about the danger they were in. While they were running, Kirk, a recent immigrant from Oklahoma, found himself almost stepping on the desperado, who had crawled out quite a distance from the gully. Kirk pointed his revolver at Chavez, who promptly threw up his hands and was arrested.

In all, more than thirty shots were fired into and out of the high brush, with nary a one hitting either desperado, lawman, or spectator. Chavez was taken into custody and locked in the Gleeson jail until Sheriff Wheeler came from Tombstone and took him to the county seat for trial in the Superior Court.

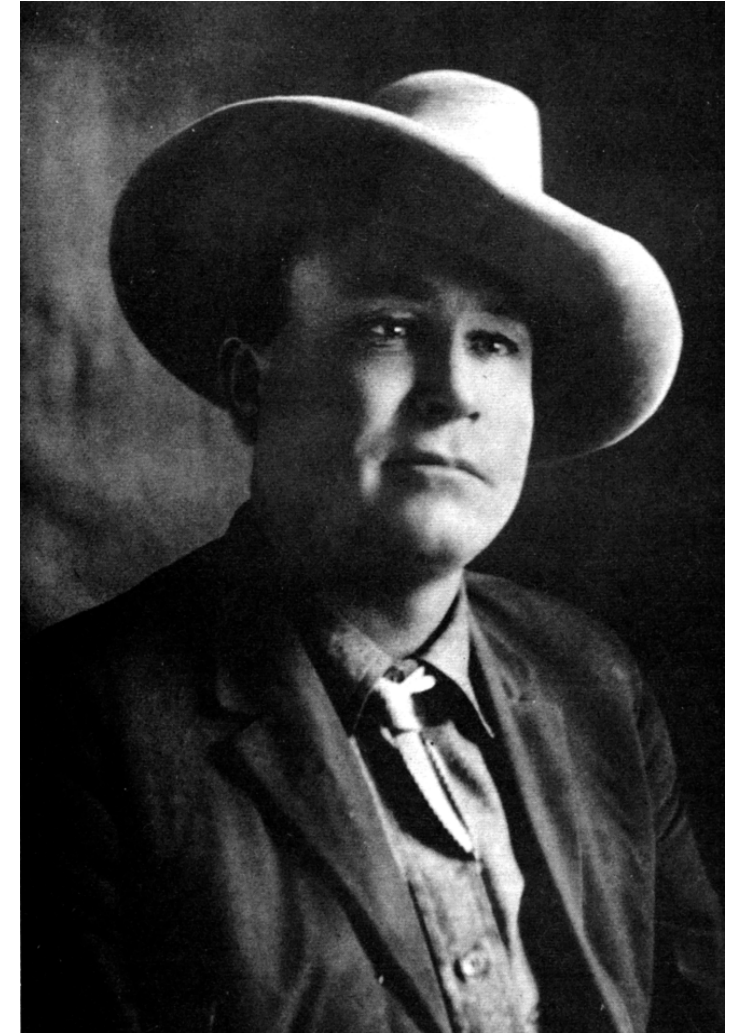
This was hardly the first adventure for Cates and Bright, and their association continued until their deaths, less than 2 years apart, when they lived near each other in Tucson, Arizona. They first met in Texas, when each married one of the Allen sisters, Minnie and Pearl. They were brothers-in-law, in more ways than one.

Wesley Wooten Cates, known as Wes or just W.W., had joined the Texas Rangers at the age of 17, and had served there under Ranger Captain Bill McDonald. Thereafter, Wes became the first City Marshall of Amarillo, Texas. When the Allen sisters wanted to follow their mother to Arizona, both the Cates and Bright families packed their Texas bags and moved further west, stopping for a few years in Roswell, New Mexico, and then continuing west to Arizona and into Cochise County.

Wes, though a few years younger, had more experience as a lawman, and became the city constable (and jailor) at Gleeson, which was the older town, while his brother-in-law, John Bright, was the Courtland lawman. The two families frequented each others' houses, and often went on camping trips to the Chiricahua mountains together. The Cates' named their son "John Bright

Cates," in honor of their friend and relative.

Whenever Bright or Cates had to be absent for any period, such as in traveling to Tombstone for a trial, the other would cover for him, moving back and forth as needed between the two neighboring towns.



When Cates' wife, Pearl, became ill and was unable to live in Gleeson anymore, the family moved to Casa Grande, where Wes became the first marshal of that town as well. He served as Captain of the mounted guard in the state prison in Florence, where he no doubt oversaw the incarceration of several of his previous "acquaintances". The Pima County Sheriff persuaded Wes to move to Tucson, where he became a deputy and border patrolman. His last job was transporting federal prisoners for the U.S. Marshall. Wes passed away from cancer on October 31, 1955, survived by his wife, Pearl. He is buried in the Santa Rita mountains.

John Henry Bright, deputy of Courtland, lost his wife Minnie to kidney disease on December 16, 1916. Minnie was buried in the Gleeson cemetery, leaving John to care for his daughter and twin sons. The three children spent much of their youth growing up in the Cates home in Casa Grande, where they joined the youngest of the four Cates children.

John remarried, to Katherine Norton, and had another child, Howard Bright, while he was constable in Johnson City. He later became a U.S. Deputy Marshall, and moved to Tucson, where he lived for 28 years, just a mile and a half from his friend and brother-in-law, Wes Cates. John Bright died in February of 1954, and was buried in Southlawn cemetery.