



GEORGE E. GOODFELLOW: THE SURGEON OF THE WILD WEST AND FATHER OF CIVILIAN TRAUMA SURGERY

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Early Life

- Born 1855 in Downieville, CA. Moved throughout the American west in Nevada
- Feb. 1876: finished his MD from University of Wooster in Cleveland, OH
- Dec. 1876: Married Katherine Colt (cousin of Samuel Colt), moved to Prescott, AZ to become company doctor for mining project.
- Served as contract surgeon to Army in Fort Whipple and Fort Lowell near Tucson.

Goodfellow in Tombstone, AZ

- Arrives in 1880. Opens practice on 2nd floor of Crystal Palace Saloon.
"the condensation of wickedness."
- Tombstone in 1880: 12 doctors, but only 4 completed their medical education
- *Became known as "Gunfighter's Surgeon"*
 - Treated Wyatt Earp and his 4 brothers, Doc Holliday, Bat Masterson, John O'Rourke aka "Johnny Behind the Deuce", Curly Bill Brocius, Buckskin Frank Leslie, John Ringo, Indian Charlie, the Clantons, the McLowry's
- *"presumably had a greater practice in gunshot wounds of the abdomen than any other man in civil life in the country."* - WW Whitmore, Arizona Daily Star, October 1932

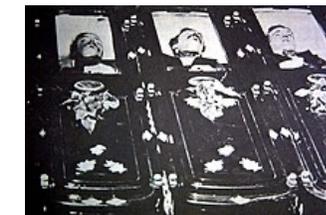


Laparotomy for Trauma

- July 13, 1881: First to perform laparotomy for gunshot wound
- July 9: 47yo gunfighter named Jack Smith brought to Goodfellow's office, had been shot in the abdomen by a .32 Colt revolver on July 4
- *"seeing that he was rapidly sinking, I determined to perform an operation, the feasibility of which I had been considering for some time; i.e. open the abdomen, clean it and sew up the intestinal wounds."*
- *"It was midnight in a little mountain mining town. I was alone entirely, having no skilled assistance of any sort, therefore was compelled to depend for aid upon the willing friends who were present-these consisting mostly of hard-handed miners just from their work on account of the fight."*
- 6 enterotomies/colotomies which were primarily repaired - patient survived
- 1889: Published 5 cases of laparotomy for GSW *"Cases of Gunshot Wound of the Abdomen Treated by Operation"* in the *Southern California Practitioner* of 1889; 4 of the 5 patients survived
- *"Their maxim is 'shoot for the guts', knowing that death is certain, yet sufficiently lingering and agonizing to afford a plenary sense of gratification to the victor in the contest"*
- Pioneered use of sterile prep with lye or whiskey
- Published 13 articles about abdominal GSW based on treatments and techniques learned while practicing medicine in Tombstone
- *"While I have no experiments upon animals to record, the autopsies mentioned...have given me equally as good data upon which to base my assertions regarding the absolute necessity of immediate interference in cases of gunshot wound of the abdominal cavity."*

Gunfight at the OK Corral

- October 1881: Goodfellow's office was across the street from OK Corral
- Treated US Marshall Virgil Earp, US Marshall Morgan Earp, and Doc Holliday's bullet wounds
- Participated in autopsies on Cowboy Billy Clanton and McLaury brothers
- Goodfellow's testimony about the nature of Billy Clanton's wounds supported defendant's version of events.
- Dec. 1881: Marshall Virgil Earp ambushed with shotgun, hit in left arm. Treated by Goodfellow, removed 4 inches of bone from his left arm
- March 1882: Pronounced Morgan Earp dead after he was shot in the back of the head while playing pool



Perineal Prostatectomy

- 1891: appointed as Chancellor at University of Arizona in Tucson
- Dec. 29, 1891: First perineal prostatectomy
- Demonstrated technique to Hugh Hampton Young of Johns Hopkins, who was doing suprapubic prostatectomies at the time – credited with making the prostatectomy a successful surgery
- Early pioneer of spinal anesthesia using cocaine
- Case series in 1904: 78 cases, no fistulae or incontinence, 2 deaths.