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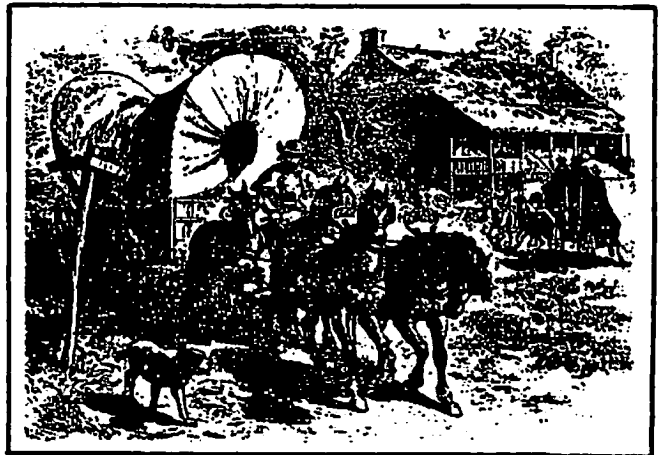
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JUDGE EARP

By FRED HOLLADAY

THE Earp Brothers have cut their way through millions of words; in scores of articles and books telling of their adventures in Wichita, Dodge City and Tombstone, where the infamous battle of the O.K. Corral took place. However, little has been printed about their father, Nicholas Porter Earp, who led a life as adventurous as any of his sons.



Nick Earp

"Judge" Earp, so dubbed because he had served as Justice of the Peace at towns in Illinois, Iowa, and at Colton, California, was born in North Carolina in 1813, son of Walter Earp, an itinerant Methodist preacher and school teacher.

Nicholas was only a year old when the family migrated to Kentucky. Here he participated in the hardships of frontier living and joined in espousing Methodism — a new religion that gained converts by the thousands as circuit-rider preachers roamed all over the states east of the Mississippi.

When the Earp family moved to Monmouth, Illinois in 1846, Nicholas joined the local militia and when that state became inflamed with anger at the news of a whole company of Illinois Volunteers being slaughtered in Mexico at the beginning of our war with that country, the militia formed the core of a new regiment, "Stapp's Illinois Mounted Volunteers," and left for the front.

The leader of this ragged cavalry was Captain Wyatt Berry Stapp, owner of a local grocery store, and Nicholas so respected

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