

The gunfight continued with the man
most commonly known as:



Cowboy Hill
1887-1937

WHO WAS COWBOY HILL?

The man most commonly called Cowboy Hill seemed not to have a real name. An examination of the numerous newspaper articles written about him has revealed almost thirty aliases or nicknames.



**1910 US Census: Arthur Hill
born in 1887 in Montana
1930 US Census: W. B. Johnson
born in 1887 in Montana**

The earliest articles from the year 1904 use the name Arthur Hill, and by 1908 the nickname "Cowboy" had been added. Here are the other names that have been identified.



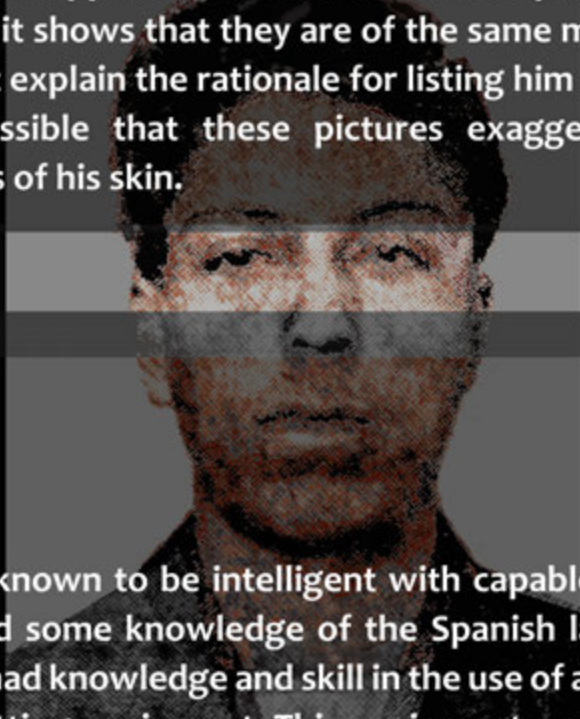
Other known aliases and referenced names: Joseph Rivers, Chief Bill Baker, William X. Baker, William J. Baker, William Baker Johnson, William Johnson, Indian Johnson, W. B. Johnson, "Gingerale" Johnson, "Gingerale" Jack, "Gingerale Chief", "The Spaniard", Louis Muzzio, Joseph Muzzio, James Muzzio, J. T. Muzzio, John Muzzio, J. L. Muzzio, J. P. Muzzio, Juan Armada or Armanda, W. B. Willets, Willut B. Meajus, Don Mareau or Meroo, Mars Jerras, Maris Jeras, Little Bull, Cowboy, Chief, Indian.

“...a dark tall man...”



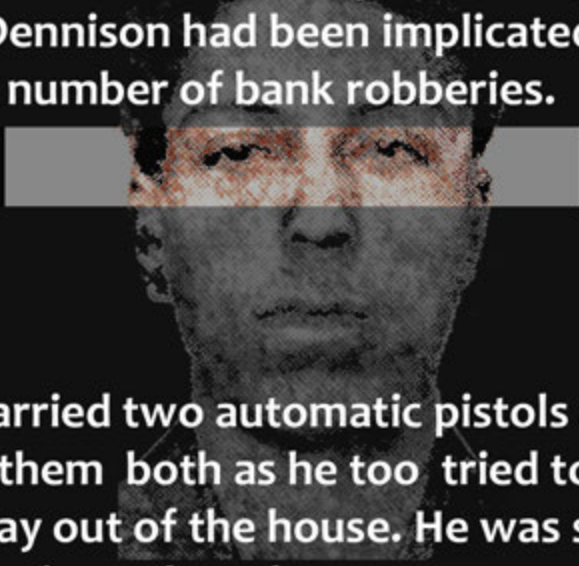
Cowboy Hill was described as having a dark complexion and was reported to be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ Native American. He himself reportedly used the term “half breed”. Some descriptions indicated that he may have been full-blooded, but this can’t be confirmed since he does not show up in the 1900 census in Montana as a Native American. There is some confusion about his actual racial heritage because in two census forms, 1910 and 1930 he is listed as white. An arrest record from April of 1908 in Toledo, Ohio, lists him as “colored”.

There are two known pictures of Cowboy Hill. In one picture he appears to be of African descent, but the other shows him to be more Native American or Mexican in appearance. When these two pictures are overlaid it shows that they are of the same man but it does not explain the rationale for listing him as white. It is possible that these pictures exaggerate the darkness of his skin.



He was known to be intelligent with capable writing skills and some knowledge of the Spanish language. He also had knowledge and skill in the use of acetylene torch cutting equipment. This equipment was used to cut open safes. He allegedly wrote an instruction manual on the use of this equipment.

In the early 1900s Hill came to Ohio and began to cause trouble in both Toledo and Cleveland. By 1920 he had been in and out of prison several times. At the time of the raid on September 14th he and Dennison had been implicated in a large number of bank robberies.



Hill carried two automatic pistols and he fired them both as he too tried to shoot his way out of the house. He was shot so many times that there are no accurate estimates of the number of wounds he accumulated, but somehow he lived.

When the shooting stopped two young women emerged from one of the bedrooms, where they had been hiding. Mrs. Billie Calhoun was Archie Dennison's girlfriend. 15-year-old Viola Cochran claimed that she was only the cook.



Mrs. Billie
Calhoun



Viola
Cochran

WHO WAS COWBOY HILL?



A NATIVE AMERICAN

“Indian in Police Court Again”

“Keokawho was in police court yesterday, charged with breaking into a laundry. Keokawho is a Kiowa Indian, seventeen years old. When he is at home, he stays in Montana, where he settled after completing his course at Sacred Heart college in San Francisco. He is registered at the central police station as Arthur Hill, in which unpicturesque name he was baptized. His case was continued.”

Cleveland Plain Dealer; August 2, 1904, page 10

Toronto, Ohio

Joe Rivers



Pete Foust

Joe Muzzio



Edward Burton