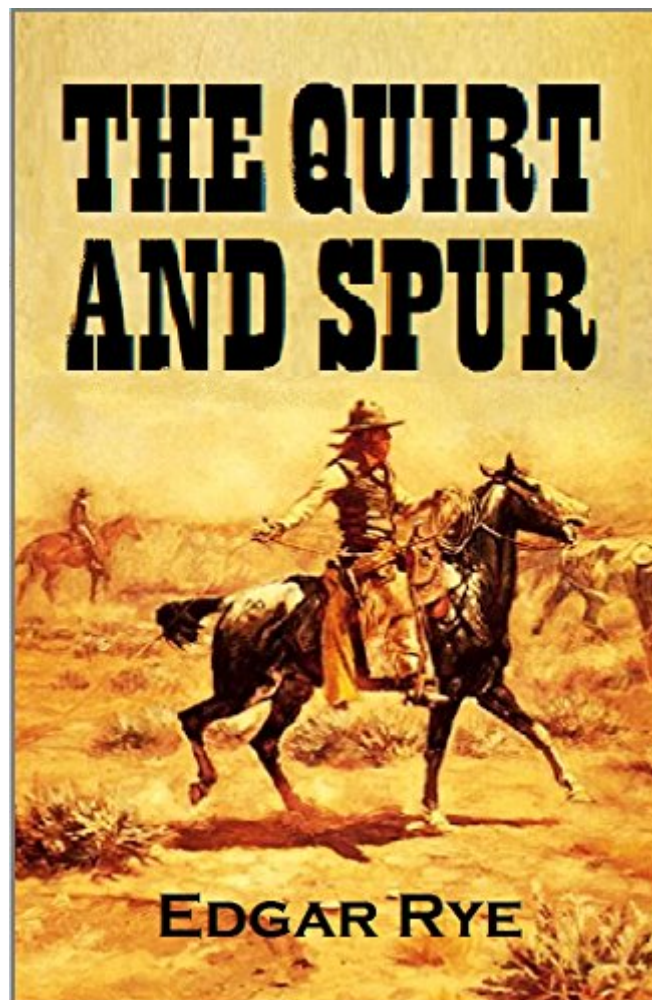




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# The Quirt And Spur: Vanishing Shadows Of The Texas Frontier (1909)



## Synopsis

Former Albany journalist Edgar Rye in 1909 wrote a biographical retrospective, *The Quirt and the Spur*. Originally from Kentucky, Rye, was newspaper editor, justice of the peace, and county attorney in Shackelford County, Texas. Rye was thought to have been a member of a vigilance committee. Rye was an old time justice of the peace in a wild town on The Flats, which was a lawless area at the foot of the hill on which Fort Griffin stood; he was Bat Masterson's friend. Mr. Rye is evidently at home in what he writes, for every story bears the impress of the truth from a man who has lived the scenes he depicts. It is all laid in Texas, and such chapters as *Breaking the Tenderfoot*, *The Wild and Woolly Citizen*, *On the Buffalo Range*, *A Texas Wedding Day* and some dozen others, make it a book you can't put down till you finish it. Altogether a well-written, authentic and intensely interesting book of life on the plains. A valuable book for young and old. Edgar Rye is a name known to most Texans and his book is both an entertaining and informative account of the human invasion of the rugged Texas range land.

**CONTENTS**

*The Tenderfoot* *Breaking in the Tenderfoot* *The Legend of the Tonkawa Indians* *The "Wild and Woolly" Citizens* *The Vigilance Committee* *Leadbetter's Salt Works* *The Advent of "Texas"* *Amusing Incidents On the Buffalo Range* *The Genuine Cow Boy* *Indian Battles on the Frontier* *Texas' Wedding Day*

Far out into that vast expanse of country known as Northwest Texas, in the early days of the frontier, when unrestrained nature played with the ambitions and passions of men—far out beyond the confines of civilization—beyond the reach of the strong arm of the law—beyond the christianizing influences of the church—beyond the gentle touch of a woman's hand—far out where daring men took possession of the hunting grounds of the Indian and killed herds of buffalo to make a small profit in pelts, leaving the carcasses to putrify and bones to bleach on the prairies—far out where cattlemen disputed over the possession of mavericks, and the branding-iron was the only evidence of ownership—far out where a cool head backed the deadly six-shooter, and the man behind the gun, with a steady aim and a quick trigger, won out in the game where life was staked upon the issue—far out where the distant landscape melted into the blue horizon, and a beautiful mirage was painted on the sky line—far out where the weary, thirsty traveler camped over night near a deep water hole, while near by in the green valley a herd of wild horses grazed unrestrained by man's authority—far out where the coyote wolves yelped in unison as they chased a jack rabbit in a circle of death, then fought over his remains in a bloody feast—far out where the gray lobo wolf and the mountain lion stalked their prey, killed and gorged their fill until the light in the East warned them to seek cover in their mountain lairs—far out where bands of red warriors raided the lonely ranch houses, killing, burning and pillaging, leaving a trail of blood and ashes behind them as a sad

warning to the white man to beware of the Indian's revengeâ "far out into this wonderful country of great possibilities, where the sun looked down upon a scene of rare beauty, brilliant, gorgeous and fascinating, appealing to sentiment, awakening love of romance and sending man's thoughts soaring on wings of his imaginationâ "far out into this storehouse of nature, where the luxuriant mesquite grass, like an emerald carpet of velvet, covered the hills and valleys, furnishing unlimited pasture for the great herds of cattle turned loose on the open range" is the region which furnishes the narratives that comprise this book.

## Book Information

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More than my expectations, with the vanishing shadows.

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