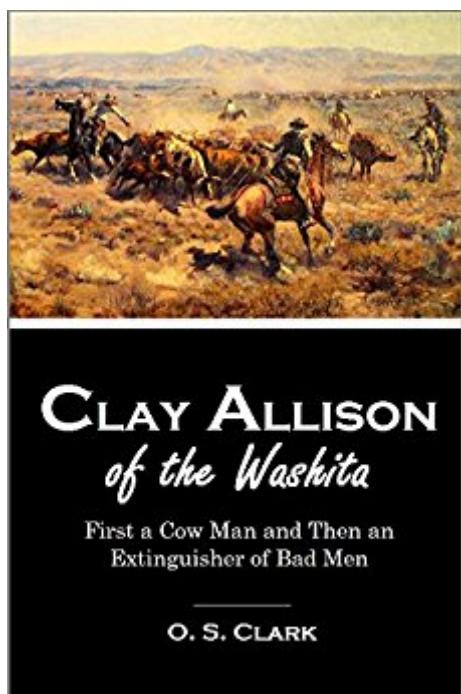


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# Clay Allison Of The Washita: First A Cow Man And Then An Extinguisher Of Bad Men (1922)



## Synopsis

Robert Clay Allison (1841 – 1887), after fighting for the South in the Civil War, headed west to seek his fortune, becoming a famous gunfighter, cattle rancher, and cattle broker of the American Old West. O.S. Clark, the author of this 1922 publication "Clay Allison of the Washita" writes of his first meeting of Allison: "The writer, together with two cow boy friends, Charley Shideler and Sam Hanna, had gone into New Mexico in the eighties at different times and had purchased cattle, and driven them to the Pan Handle of Texas. "...We noticed a lone horseman approaching. As he came nearer we noticed that he was well equipped with plenty of shooting irons and was riding a magnificent black gelding. When he got into the camp circle we invited him to light and have some dinner. He did so, and upon closer inspection we observed that he and his mount were completely covered with Winchester rifles, the regulation 45 Colts, and the conventional Bowie knives. The man realized at once that we were three Tenderfeet and he proceeded very slowly and deliberately to answer any pertinent or personal questions. He said "in a casual like way," that he was from the Washita Country and was then on his way to New Mexico, where he had a brother living, and who was at that time in trouble. We boys again got very busy with our questions, as we had previously heard a great deal about a man by the name of Clay Allison who had considerable of a reputation and name as a brave and daring character. ...Blunderingly and ignorantly we bumped on more inquiries ... asking him if he knew or had heard of Clay Allison in that country. Again he turned the subject and put the conversation on another tact, and taking his time ... said quietly, determinedly and with some emphasis, that he was CLAY ALLISON, "What are you going to do about it?" "Well, we were suddenly struck with the drunken reels and some fancy knee shaking. We couldn't even get up off our haunches or fall over, we were so scared so we did our best to keep from swallowing our Adams Apple and choking to death. Finally suspecting that at that particular time he might be perfectly harmless we were determined to keep him that way if possible, and we at once became three! of the best table waiters the banks of that old Beaver Creek had ever seen. "...It was a pleasing and relieving sight to see Mr. Allison, with his magnificent array of preparedness disappear over the darkening horizon. It was always a source of gratitude to us that he did not, while visiting us and partaking of our hospitality get funny with his guns and shoot at our toes just to see us dance the highland fling and make our hair stand up pompadore like, but as I have said before he was considered a perfect gentleman, either in a fight or a visit. And thus we first knew Clay Allison." In describing how he came to write a book about Clay Allison, Clark writes: "For a number of years there has been appearing in the Saturday Evening Post several interesting stories of Western happenings, written by some eminent authors. At last there appeared a particularly interesting

number and one where the scenes were laid close to some of my old stamping grounds, where I was doing my very best to be a good and well behaved Cow Puncher, relating incidents and mentioning some characters that I had heard of and some men that I knew, while "on the range." It occurred to me that perhaps one or two of these writers might know of others that I had known, so, with some fear and trembling, I wrote some of them, asking if they knew certain fellows in the old "wooley, eat'em alive" days. I mentioned Clay Allison, whom I happened to know, and incidentally suggested that if they knew Clay, that they were the right ones to put in history the life of this "wooliest of the wooley." --- After encouragement, Clark then decided to write the story of Clay Allison himself. Originally published in 1922; may contain an occasional imperfection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Some good parts. Badly written, jumps around, hard to follow. The geography and detail of locations were accurate but not for everyone.

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