

Belle Starr

Myra Maybelle Shirley, also known as Belle Starr, was a controversial woman. Belle was born in Missouri in 1848. She was an educated woman with an exciting lifestyle, according to legends. Belle was known to be involved in gangs and with bandits.

The law wanted the men she was involved with. She had many men. It is uncertain what order these men were in Belle's life. She is said to have relationships with Cole Younger, an outlaw who may have fathered her first child, Pearl. Jim Reed, a bandit, was married to Belle for seven years. It is also said that he could be the father of Pearl along with their son Eddie. Next is Sam Starr, son of Tom Starr, whom Reed was involved with before he died. While married to Starr it is said Belle had other men, Jim Middleton and a man by the name of Blue Duck. She was never married to these men. Her last husband was Jim July, who was wanted for horse theft.

It is said that Belle ran with the James and Younger gang in her early days. It is also said that she was an aid to her husbands in their crime. Others contradict those stories saying she rejected the life of crime. Because a lot of Belle Starr's life is a mystery many writers have filled in the gaps by embellishing her life. Belle was never your average lady; not the way that society thought she should be. She ran around with bandits and lived a life in the rugged and fast lane. She didn't have many lady friends and did not do the same things that many other women did in that time, such as social events and social gatherings.

On February 3, 1889 Belle Starr was shot off her horse and then shot in the shoulder and face. She died in the street where she lay. It is unknown who the killer was.