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When Law Was in the Holster

The Frontier Life of Bob Paul

By John Boessenecker

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Lawman Bob Paul (1830–1901) cast a long shadow in frontier California and Arizona Territory. Today he is remembered for his friendship with Wyatt Earp and involvement in the 1881 gunfight near the OK Corral.

Award-winning historian John Boessenecker begins with Paul's boyhood adventures as a whaler in the South Pacific, then traces his journey to Gold Rush California where he was a lawman, Wells Fargo shotgun messenger, and detective. In the 1880s, Paul became sheriff of Pima County, Arizona, and a railroad detective. In 1890 President Harrison appointed him U.S. marshal of Arizona Territory. Bob Paul's story illuminates frontier politics, Mexican-U.S. relations, vigilantism, and western

San Francisco attorney **John Boessenecker** is the author of *Lawman: The Life and* Times of Harry Morse, 1835–1912 and Bandido: The Life and Times of Tiburcio Vasquez.



