

# THE HATFIELDS & THE McCOYS

OTIS K. RICE

READ BY DICK HILL

"A captivating account of two families whose stubbornness and loyalty were exceeded only by their capacity for a terrible revenge." —*Southern Living*

The Hatfield-McCoy feud has long been the most famous vendetta of the southern Appalachians. Over the years it has become encrusted with myth and error. Scores of writers have produced accounts of it, but few have made any real effort to separate fact from fiction. Novelists, motion picture producers, and others have sensationalized events that needed no embellishment. Using court records, public documents, official correspondence, and other documentary evidence, Otis K. Rice presents an account that frees, as much as possible, event from legend.

Rice sets the feud in the social, political, economic, and cultural context of eastern Kentucky and south western West Virginia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By examining the legacy of the Civil War, the weakness of such institutions as the church and education system, the exaggerated importance of family, the impotence of the law, and the isolation of the mountain folk, Rice gives new meaning to the origins and progress of the feud. These conditions help explain why the Hatfield and McCoy families, which have produced so many fine citizens, could engage in such a bitter and prolonged vendetta.

**Otis K. Rice** (1919–2003) became West Virginia's first Historian Laureate in 2003. He served as chair of the history department at the West Virginia University Institute of Technology for over two decades, retiring in 1997 with the title professor emeritus of history. He is the author or coauthor of several works, including *The Allegheny Frontier*, *Frontier Kentucky*, and *West Virginia: A History*.

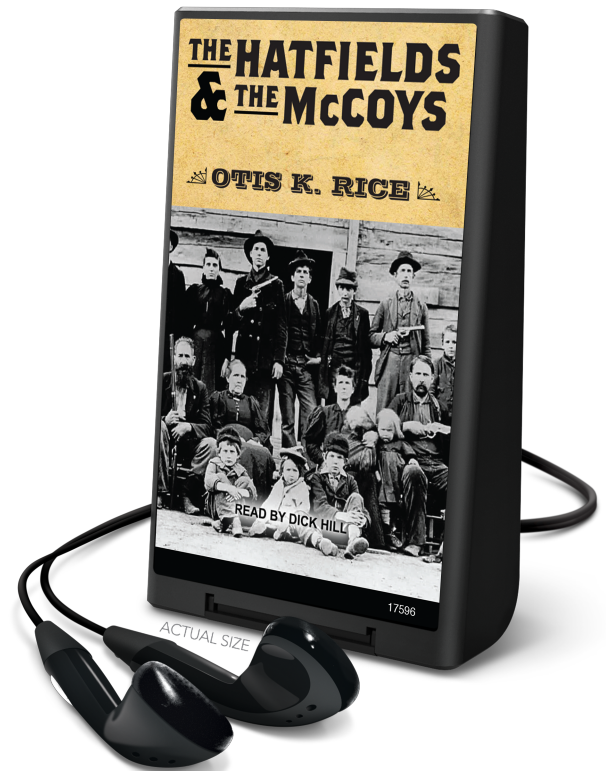
**Dick Hill** has recorded over four hundred audiobooks and has won three Audie Awards. An *AudioFile* Golden Voice, he is also the recipient of several *AudioFile* Earphones Awards. His recordings include *The Man Who Changed the Way We Eat* by Thomas McNamee and *The Creative Destruction of Medicine* by Eric Topol, M.D.

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OTIS K. RICE

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