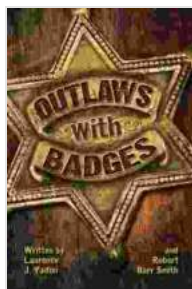


# Outlaws With Badges: The Corrupt and Brutal Reign of Laurence Yadon and His Deputies

In the annals of American history, there are countless tales of law enforcement officers who have abused their power and violated the public trust. One such story is that of Laurence Yadon, a Mississippi sheriff who ruled his county with an iron fist for decades. Yadon and his deputies were known for their rampant corruption, brutality, and disregard for the law.

## A Sheriff with a Criminal Past

Laurence Yadon was born in Mississippi in 1922. He grew up in a poor family and had a troubled childhood. As a young man, he was arrested several times for assault and battery. In 1948, he was convicted of manslaughter and served two years in prison.



### Outlaws with Badges by Laurence J. Yadon

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2010 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 288 pages



Despite his criminal past, Yadon was elected sheriff of Quitman County, Mississippi, in 1972. He quickly established himself as a ruthless and

authoritarian figure. He and his deputies were accused of numerous crimes, including murder, assault, and extortion.

## **A Reign of Terror**

Under Yadon's rule, Quitman County became a lawless place. The sheriff and his deputies were above the law. They would routinely stop and harass African Americans, who made up a majority of the county's population. They would also arrest people on trumped-up charges and hold them in jail without bond.

Yadon and his deputies were also known for their brutality. They would often beat suspects during interrogations and use excessive force during arrests. In one case, a man named Lee Roy Williams was arrested for allegedly stealing a cow. Yadon and his deputies beat Williams so badly that he was left with permanent brain damage.

## **Corruption and Extortion**

In addition to their brutality, Yadon and his deputies were also corrupt. They would take bribes from criminals and businessmen and would use their positions to enrich themselves. They would also extort money from local businesses and residents.

One of Yadon's most notorious schemes was the "meat raffle." Every month, the sheriff would hold a raffle in which people could win a side of beef. However, the raffle was rigged so that Yadon and his deputies always won the prize. They would then sell the beef at a profit.

## **Civil Rights Violations**

Yadon and his deputies also violated the civil rights of African Americans in Quitman County. They would routinely harass and intimidate black people, and they would often arrest them for no reason. In one case, a group of black teenagers were arrested for "disturbing the peace." They were held in jail for several days without being charged with a crime.

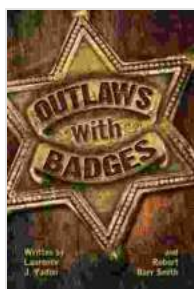
Yadon's reign of terror continued for decades. He was re-elected to office time and time again, despite the numerous allegations of corruption and brutality against him. It was not until 1995 that he was finally defeated in an election.

## Justice at Last

In 1996, Yadon was indicted on a variety of charges, including racketeering, extortion, and civil rights violations. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. He died in prison in 2019.

Several of Yadon's deputies were also convicted of crimes. Some of them served prison sentences, while others were fired from their jobs.

The case of Laurence Yadon is a reminder of the dangers of unchecked power. When law enforcement officers are allowed to operate above the law, they can become a threat to the very people they are sworn to protect.



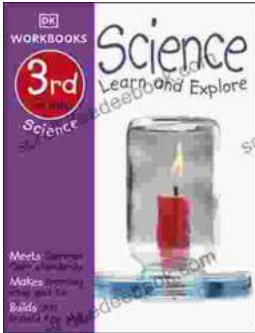
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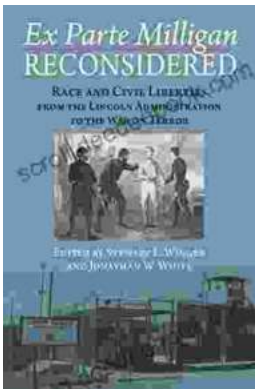
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