

AUDIE MURPHY

A LIFE FROM BEGINNING TO END



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Introduction

Born on June 20, 1925, celebrated actor and soldier Audie Leon Murphy began life in a worn-down, dilapidated home on the outskirts of Kingston, Texas. He was the son of Emmett and Josie Murphy, two poverty-stricken sharecroppers of Irish descent. As was typical for sharecroppers in those days, the Murphys lived in a run-down house on someone else's land. They were allowed to live on the property where they worked and were given a meager fee in exchange for their routine services.

Along with Audie, the Murphys had a long line of other children, but only nine of these would live long enough to become adults. Audie was the seventh child to be born, and it's said that by number seven, his parents were at such a loss for names that they simply named him after a neighbor who had aided Mrs. Murphy during her pregnancy.

It was a hardscrabble life that Audie was brought into, and from the very beginning, he had to fight for every crumb he could get. It's said that Mrs. Murphy took baby Audie with her into the fields while she picked cotton, practically as soon as he was born. By the time he was four years old, he was picking the crop right along with the rest of the family.

Although Audie's mother and even his siblings were said to be hardworking, it has been insinuated that his father Emmett was not quite so industrious. People who knew Emmett would later claim that he was more into gambling away his wages than earning an honest living. It was apparently this streak of wantonness that eventually led Emmett to abandon his family. Growing up without a father, young Audie learned rather quickly what it meant to be a man.