

# POINTS WEST

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Cover:

Irving Bacon, *Cody on the Ishawooa Trail*, 1904.  
Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming.  
Bequest in memory of the Houx and Newell  
Families. 20.64

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# Contents

WINTER 2003

*Illustration of Buffalo Bill by Jan Woods Krier*

- 
- 2** *TIMES TO TRY A SOUL: William F. Cody in 1876*  
Juti A. Winchester, Ernest J. Goppert Curator of Western American History, Buffalo Bill Museum
- 6** *PARDS WITH WILD BILL AND TEXAS JACK*  
Thadd Turner
- 14** *"GOD BLESS THE HANDS THAT MADE THEM CUSTARD PIES."*  
Juti A. Winchester, Ernest J. Goppert Curator of Western American History, Buffalo Bill Museum
- 17** *"NO SWEARING OR DRINKING IN MY COMPANY SINCE I GOT GOOD."*  
*Buffalo Bill Finds God*  
Steve Friesen, Director, Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, Denver, Colorado
- 24** *CODY AND WANAMAKER: The Foundation of American Indian Citizenship*  
Katrina Krupicka, MA Candidate, New Mexico State University
- 30** *TEST YOUR BUFFALO BILL IQ*
- 32** *RENDEZVOUS ROYALE, 2003*







# *Times to Try a Soul*

## *William F. Cody in 1876*

*by Judi A. Winchester*

*Ernest J. Goppert Curator of Western American History*

*Buffalo Bill Museum*

Buffalo Bill was a darned good scout. Recognized by frontier soldiers around the plains as a reliable man to have when danger threatened, Cody was in his twenties when he was made chief scout for the Fifth Cavalry in 1868. In the summer of 1876, he was designated chief scout of the Big Horn and Yellowstone Expedition, drawing \$150 a month for pay, which is approximately \$2500 per month in today's money. Within a few months, he was paid even more for carrying dispatches through territory still held by Indians. He was young, strong, and at the height of his career. However, at the end of that summer, Buffalo Bill threw it all away. What could have induced him to turn aside from a sure thing, leave the plains behind, and head in a new direction?

The nation's centennial year began for Cody much as the previous few years had begun. During the winters since 1872, he had been traveling around the east, portraying himself in a series of border dramas for enthusiastic audiences. During the summers, Buffalo Bill had continued to serve as a civilian scout for the frontier army, gaining a reputation and collecting his share of glory and attention to take back and use to thrill the crowds who would pay, not to see the play, but to see the handsome, magnetic Cody in person. In 1875, however, the army did not need Cody and he was able to spend the summer at home with his wife Louisa and their young family, who were then living in Rochester, New York.

A loving father, Cody treasured his two daughters, Arta and Orra, but he absolutely doted on his only son. Born in 1870 and the youngest child, Kit Carson Cody was named for a scout from an earlier era. As a very young man, Buffalo Bill had once met the original Kit Carson. Impressed with the soft-spoken old Indian fighter, Cody named his son after Carson in the fashion of the time. By 1875, the five-year-old boy could talk and play, and that golden summer no doubt was filled with laughing children and smiling parents. One can imagine the heavy heart with which Buffalo Bill returned to the thespian life in September, but many of the Combination's engagements were not far away and he was able to return to visit "Kitty" and his girls regularly.

Winter passed and spring returned in 1876. Buffalo Bill was enjoying success with his Combination, and the troupe played to packed houses in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and even in Ontario, Canada. They were scheduled to tour eastern cities until July, and the season looked like it would be a lucrative one. On April 21, only days after playing in Rochester and while the actors were busy putting a show together in Springfield, Massachusetts, Louisa Cody telegraphed her husband that their son Kit was seriously ill with scarlet fever. Buffalo Bill finished the first act of the play and then caught the train to Rochester, only to have the joy of his heart silenced as his son died in his arms later that night.

"He was to [sic.] good for this world. We loved him to [sic.] dearly he could not stay," Cody wrote to his sister Julia in the early hours of the morning. "And now his place is vacant and can never be filled, for he has gone to be a beautiful Angel in that better world, where he will wait for us." The grieving father wrote as he watched over his two daughters (also sick with the same fever), while Louisa slept, overcome with grief and exhaustion from nursing her three children.



Kit Carson Cody. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. P.69.194

Kit's death was a blow to Cody, but he returned to the stage immediately after his child's funeral.<sup>1</sup>

Buffalo Bill's heart was no longer with his theatrical career. He ended the season earlier than anticipated, disbanded the company, and answered the army's call. The summer of 1876 was shaping up to be one of the most hotly fought of the Indian Wars, and Cody's old friends in the Fifth Cavalry needed his expert help. Crook surely could have used Cody on June 17 in his fight at the Rosebud, but Buffalo Bill had not yet made his way west. Buffalo Bill was warmly welcomed when he finally joined the troops, and one man later wrote about seeing him there for the first time since 1869. "There is very little change in his appearance . . . except that he looks a little worn, probably caused by his vocation in the East not agreeing with him."<sup>2</sup>

In early July while out on a scout, news reached the soldiers about the

battle at the Little Big Horn River. Each man could imagine in grisly detail the fates of their comrades, many of whom they had fought with and camped with. Some of those who had met their end at the Greasy Grass had entertained their fellows with music, and others by forming "nines," baseball being the rage on the frontier at the time. Feelings ran high, and some swore bloody revenge on the Indians who had merely been fighting for their lives and homes in that desperate summer. Evening campfires must have been morose affairs, with boasting of who would perform what depredation on any Indians who crossed their path.



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Anger was in the air when the Fifth Cavalry engaged the Cheyenne at Hat Creek on July 17. Historians still argue about the particulars of Buffalo Bill's fight with Yellow Hair, but however it happened, Cody took the man's scalp, probably amid the cheers of the other soldiers. "No doubt you will read of it in the papers," he wrote to his wife later, in a letter that bragged of the incident.<sup>3</sup> The newspapers did indeed trumpet the deed, and for years afterward Cody himself told different versions of the story to journalists as well as friends. But, what kind of satisfaction could Buffalo Bill honestly have felt as he found himself covered with the blood of someone who was simply defending his home, his family, and his way of life? Later in life, Cody expressed regret at his act, and occasionally denied that it ever happened. But in the furious summer of 1876, he showed no remorse.

Only a few weeks after the battle at Warbonnet Creek, word reached Cody of the unfortunate death of his friend and former scouting pard, James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok. Wild Bill was only thirty-nine years old and had been recently married when Jack McCall shot him in the back on that hot August night in Deadwood. Friends since Cody's youth, the two men had scouted together, hunted together, and acted together on the stage. The news must have hit Buffalo Bill hard. Cody quit his position as chief of scouts for the Big Horn and Yellowstone Expedition, citing the end of the campaign against the Indians as his reason for doing so. Despite being wounded soon after, he continued to accept difficult and dangerous assignments for a few weeks. In September, Buffalo Bill finally walked away from his scouting career for good.

Cody himself later claimed that he quit the army for the more lucrative acting profession. He never gave any other explanation for taking up a less violent life than to pursue a career on the stage. Buffalo Bill hoped to eventually make enough money to be able to retire from the traveling life and become a cattle baron at his ranch in North Platte near Fort McPherson, Nebraska. There, he could rest on the laurels of his scouting career as well as on his theatrical fame, and enjoy his family and children. Did Cody look back on the events of 1876 with sorrow, regret and a resolve to make a new start? We can only guess, but a series of events such as Buffalo Bill experienced in a few short months would have been enough to break any man's heart. He never forgot Kitty, Wild Bill, or any of his friends, but the world was watching, and the show must go on. ■

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#### NOTES

1. Letter from William F. Cody to Julia Cody, April 22, 1876. Spelling has been retained from the original. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. (MS 6) Series I:B Box 1 folder 5.
2. Don Russell, *The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1960), 220.
3. Letter from William F. Cody to Louisa Cody, July 18, 1876. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. (MS 6) Series I:B Box 1 folder 5.



# PARDS WITH WILD



"Flamboyant Fraternity." From left: Eugene Overton, Wild Bill Hickok, Buffalo Bill Cody, Texas Jack Omohundro, Elisha Green.  
Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. P.6.908

b. 1846



# BILL AND TEXAS JACK

by Thadd Turner

Over the years, Buffalo Bill Cody developed many long lasting friendships and relationships with the well-known and popular characters of his times. Frontiersmen, military leaders, politicians, and even the kings and queens of major European countries could be counted as personal acquaintances on the Christmas list of the legendary showman and plainsman. There were none more popular during the country's rapid expansion than two of America's then best known frontier scouts and dime novel heroes — James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok, the famous lawman and pistoleer, and John B. “Texas Jack” Omohundro, the former Confederate Army scout and Texas cattle drover.

According to the legendary Hickok biographer, Joseph G. Rosa, a young Will Cody probably first met the future lawman and gunfighter sometime in the late summer of 1856 in Leavenworth, Kansas. Hickok

*Both Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack were born in 1846, and that was the least of what they had in common.*

had recently relocated there from Illinois, accompanied by his older brother Lorenzo. Wild Bill worked various jobs around the area and at some point was befriended by Isaac and Mary Cody, parents of the then ten-year-old Will. Isaac died soon after in 1857. Buffalo Bill later wrote in his memoirs that he first met Wild Bill when Hickok saved him from a serious beating by an irate teamster while they were all working for a freighting company. Cody had recently been hired as an “extra”, the term generally used at that time for a young boy too small to drive the teams or load freight, but who was able to perform various camp

duties for the crew as an extra hand. When the teamster chose to pick on Cody, Hickok intervened. It's not certain if this event actually happened, but the two men did form a colorful long-term friendship that by Cody's own account included a stint with the Pony Express in 1860, Cody offering his talents as an express rider, and Wild Bill working as a teamster and stagecoach driver for the company.

Both Cody and Hickok joined the Union Army in the Civil War. Hickok served as a scout and spy along the Missouri and Kansas borders for almost four years with General John Sanborn and elements of the “buckskin” scouts. Nine years younger, Cody enlisted later in the war and by 1864 was an infantry soldier for a volunteer regiment. Despite stories to the contrary, it is doubtful that they saw one another until after the war's end in April of 1865. When the terrible fighting finally stopped between American brothers and cousins, both men returned to the open plains and sought employment as civilian scouts for the U.S. military. Hickok served briefly under Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer in Kansas, while Cody would eventually be assigned to the Fifth Cavalry at Fort McPherson, Nebraska. Cody was later designated chief of scouts for the same troop in June of 1876, just prior to Custer's defeat at the Little Big Horn in Montana.

A new character soon entered the picture. In the late summer of 1869, Virginian and former Confederate scout John B. Omohundro arrived at Fort Hays, Kansas. He had only recently earned the sobriquet “Texas Jack” driving wild Texas longhorn cattle to the explosive railhead towns in Kansas.









There, Texas Jack was introduced to Wild Bill Hickok by another popular Custer scout, Moses E. "California Joe" Milner. By that time, Hickok was serving as the acting Sheriff of Ellis County in nearby Hays City. Texas Jack was well over six feet tall and, like the other two scouts, cut a striking figure. Little is known of the nature of their friendship during this period, but historians assume that both men may have crossed paths on a number of different occasions over the next four years while they were employed on the frontier.

Soon after meeting Wild Bill, Texas Jack made his way to Cotton Springs, Nebraska, a tiny station and trading post on the very busy Union Pacific railroad that followed the mighty Platte River west. Nearby, Fort McPherson sat along side the convergence of the Oregon and Overland Express Trails. Upriver, the growing community of North Platte stood poised to become a vital center of trade and commerce that even later would become the birthplace of Buffalo Bill's outdoor Wild West show. Arriving at Cotton Springs, Texas Jack soon met Cody at the fort. By now, Cody had earned the catchy moniker that would stick with him the rest of his life by hunting buffalo for the Kansas Pacific Railroad.

Both Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack were born in 1846, and that was the least of what they had in common. Like Cody, Jack left home as a teenager, but to work the cattle ranches of Texas prior the outbreak of the Civil War hostilities. He joined his Southern countrymen in 1864 in the battle against



*Upriver, the growing community of North Platte stood poised to become a vital center of trade and commerce that even later would become the birthplace of Buffalo Bill's outdoor Wild West show.*



the Northern invaders before the war's end, despite his tender age. Some historians hold that it might have been Texas Jack who put the last dispatches in the hand of the popular Confederate cavalry officer, Major General J.E.B. Stuart, at the battle of Yellow Tavern, Virginia, on May 11, 1864 only moments before Stuart was mortally wounded.

Cody was instrumental in getting Omohundro hired on as a "trail guide and scout" with the Fifth cavalry at Fort McPherson. Soon the two became fast friends and were sharing many frontier duties and campaign experiences in the field. Late in 1871, the Fifth Cavalry was reassigned to Arizona Territory, but the two scouts stayed on at the fort at the request of General Sheridan. By this time, Buffalo Bill had appeared in dime novel stories about the Civil War and America's wild frontier.

The Grand Duke Alexis of Russia came to America to hunt buffalo in January 1872. Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer and the United States Army hosted this "international" big game hunt, and they wanted only the best trail guides available. Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack were assigned the chief scouting duties. The hunt was a roaring success promoted by the national press, which only made the two scouting pardos more popular with the hero seeking public back East.

In December of that remarkable year, dime novelist Ned Buntline convinced Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack to come east for the winter and join him in Chicago to act in a stage play he was putting together about their adventures. The fledgling actors were confused as to what their new roles might be but on December 16, only four days after arriving from the wild frontier, the play *Scouts of The Prairie* opened to a packed house with the inexperienced duo as the leads. The crowd didn't seem to care that neither scout could act. They were real frontiersmen, and that's what everyone had come to see.



The scouts' first dramatic season was a success and their acting talent improved. In 1873, the pair went out on their own to produce *Scouts of The Plains*, and invited Wild Bill to join them on stage under the troupe's new banner *Cody's Combination*. Now the American public had three of the most famous frontiersmen together on one stage. The show played to full houses everywhere along the

East coast. Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack had become comfortable on the stage and liked the attention and good wages. Hickok, on the other hand, never took well to the bright lights and crowds, sometimes accusing the other scouts of "play acting" and of degrading themselves for profit. Because of his sincere friendship with Cody and Omohundro, Wild Bill tried to stick it out until the end of the first season but by March of 1874 he had had enough. Homesick for the simplicity of the open plains, Hickok announced that he was leaving the show. In an effort to show they held no hard feelings and appreciated his genuine support, Cody and Omohundro presented their fearless friend Wild Bill with a fine pair of nickel-plated revolvers before he left the troupe.

Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack continued with the stage show for two more years before they decided to go their separate ways. For his part, Omohundro married the leading lady, the famous Italian ballerina Giuseppina Morlacchi, and together they developed their own stage troupe. After the unexpected death of his beloved son Kit Carson Cody in 1876, Buffalo Bill left the stage and returned to the frontier as chief of scouts for the newly returned Fifth Cavalry. Texas Jack also returned to the West as a newspaper correspondent for *The New York Herald*.

Ironically, Wild Bill and a small wagon party started for the gold rush in the Black Hills the same week that Custer and his seventh Cavalry met their end at the Little Big Horn. Out on the rolling plains, just south of the new gold fields that lay in the Sioux Indian Reservation, a wild looking vaquero encountered Hickok and the wagon party.



Above: Wild Bill Hickok. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. Vincent Mercaldo Collection. P.71.1655

Right: (From left): Buffalo Bill Cody, Texas Jack Omohundro, Wild Bill Hickok. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. P.69.2179







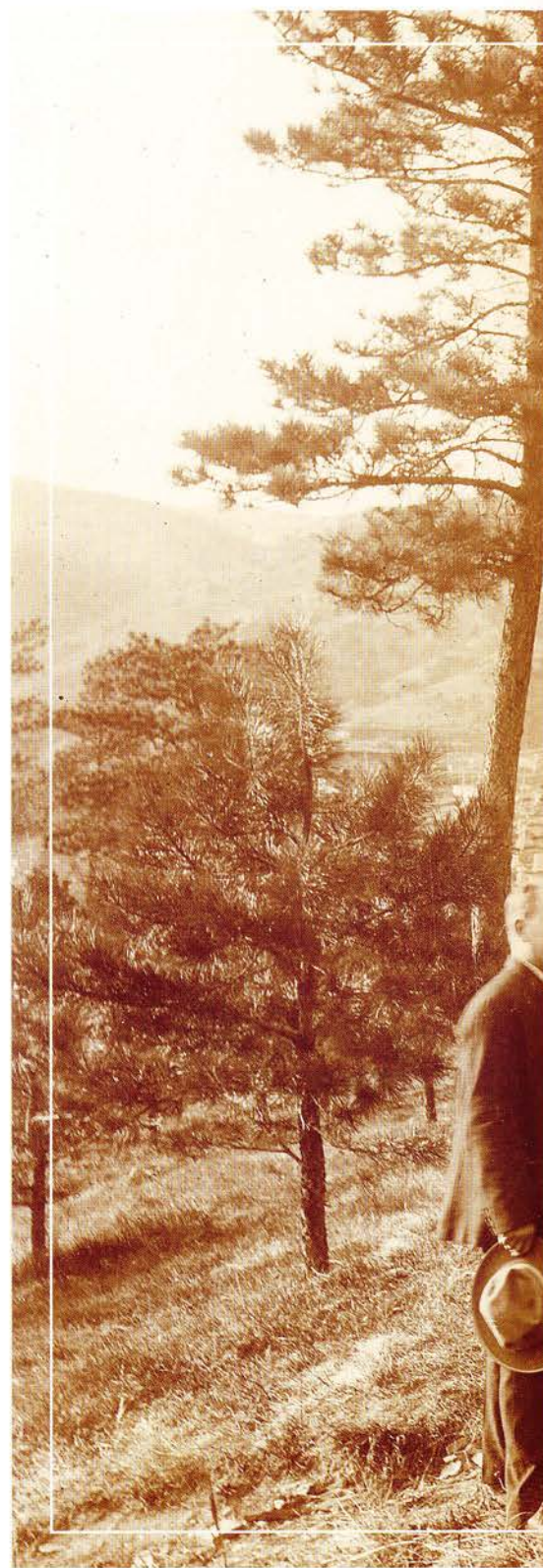
It was Buffalo Bill dressed in one of his fancy stage outfits, and he delivered the shocking news of Custer's death to Wild Bill, a former scout for the ill-fated Lieutenant Colonel. This chance meeting was the last between the two long time friends. Less than five weeks later on August 2, while gambling and drinking on a warm and lazy afternoon, Hickok was shot in the back of the head and killed by Jack McCall in the No. 10 Saloon in Deadwood, in the Black Hills. After the tumultuous summer of 1876, Buffalo Bill returned to the stage for good.

Buffalo Bill outlived both of his longtime pardes but never forgot them. Just one year after Hickok's death, it was announced in the local Deadwood papers that Buffalo Bill had helped pay for a new fence to be erected around Wild Bill's gravesite to protect the site from trophy seekers and grave robbers. In June of 1880, only three weeks shy of his 34th birthday, Texas Jack contracted pneumonia in Leadville, Colorado, where he was performing with his wife and their troupe. Texas Jack's illness worsened and he died unexpectedly on June 28, 1880, and was laid to rest in the local cemetery with a simple wood headstone and brief inscription.

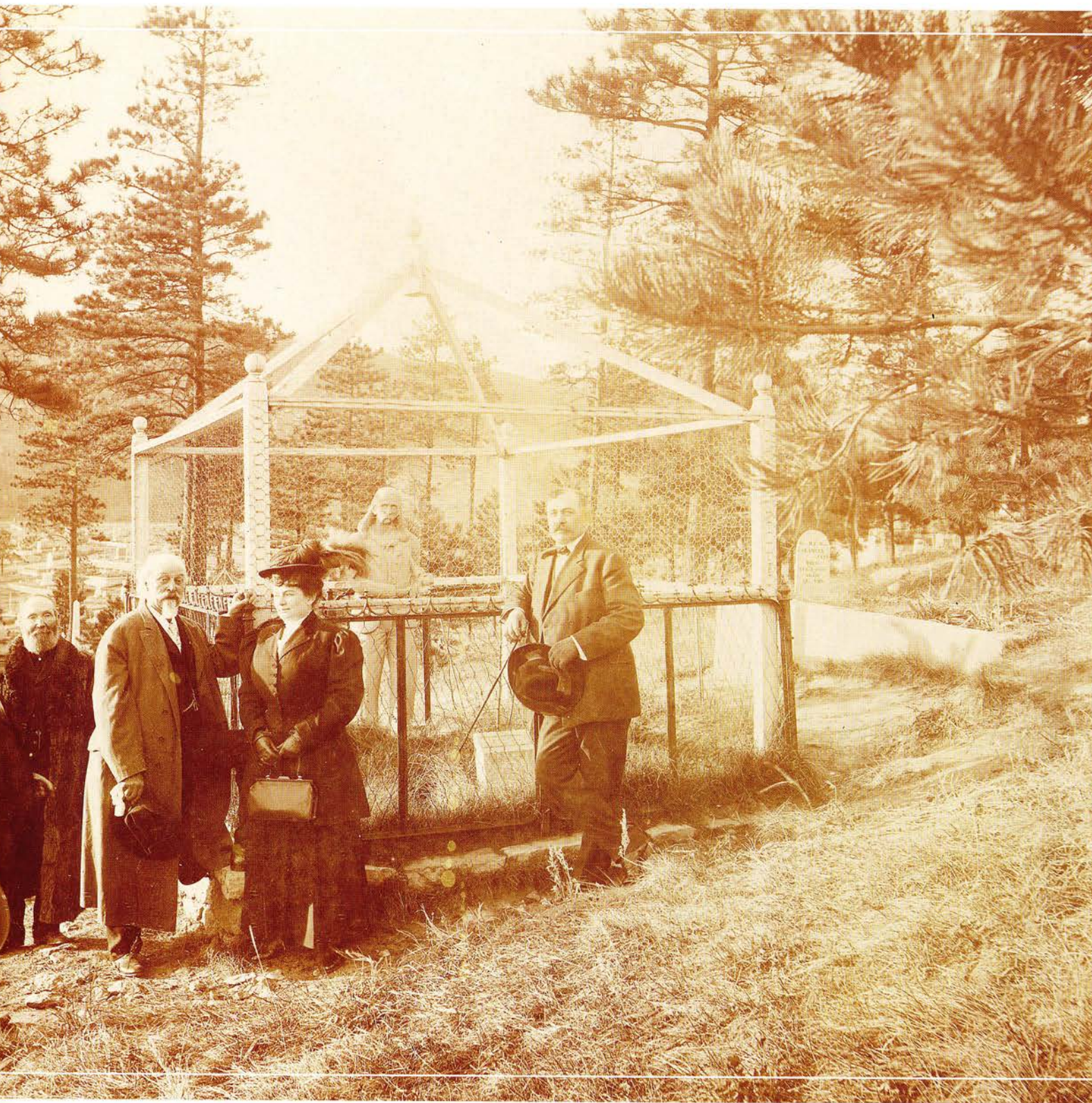
Twenty-eight years later on September 5, 1908, Buffalo Bill paid tribute to Texas Jack by visiting his old friend's gravesite and erecting a new marble monument to honor his former companion. On a sunny day in Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery, the old frontiersman read a small tribute to his scouting pard: "*Texas Jack was an old friend of mine, and a good one . . . I learned to know him and respect his bravery and ability. He was whole souled, brave, and a good hearted man.*" A local band played a popular stage song from the time, and the ceremony concluded, a fitting tribute to an eternal friendship of trust and enduring loyalty. ■

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Thadd Turner, author and screenwriter, is a member of the Western Writers of America and wrote the non-fiction book, "Wild Bill Hickok: Deadwood City—End of Trail," 2001, Old West Alive! Publishing. A former contributing editor for *True West Magazine*, he has been published in *Wild West Magazine*, *Deadwood Magazine*, *NOLA*, and currently has one Western screenplay in development and two other feature scripts optioned. Thadd can be reached at [thaddturner@aol.com](mailto:thaddturner@aol.com), or visit his website at [www.oldwestalive.com](http://www.oldwestalive.com).







Cody at Wild Bill's grave. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. P.69.1069



# "God Bless the Hands That



Buffalo Bill's trip to the Grand Canyon of Colorado River and Buckskin Mountain of Arizona, ca. 1907.  
Cody (top left) and party on volcanic slope. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. Gift of Gilbert Patten. P.69.1094



# Made Them Custard Pies.”

## William F. Cody's North Rim Adventure

by Judi A. Winchester

Ernest J. Goppert Curator of Western American History  
Buffalo Bill Museum

Arizona was still a territory in 1892 when William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody took a party of English noblemen, American businessmen, and friends to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Fresh from a recent successful European tour, Cody was eager to invest some of his newly acquired capital in business ventures that would provide some fun for him as well as bring good returns. He had high hopes for this winter expedition to the Kaibab Plateau and the Buckskin Mountains, deep in the Arizona Strip country.

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While in England, Cody had met John W. Young, businessman and son of the Mormon prophet Brigham Young. These two enterprising individuals had come up with a scheme to attract hunters from all over the world to the far-flung American frontier. Cody and Young planned to acquire a large piece of land straddling the Grand Canyon and, after fencing it, release captured big-game animals from Africa and Asia into the area to breed. Meanwhile, the “International Shooting Club” would build a posh clubhouse in Flagstaff that well-heeled hunters could use as a base camp. Experienced guides as well as equipment could be hired in the sleepy lumber town, and it was easily reached by rail, although Harvey girls and a spur going to the Grand Canyon were still a few years in the future. Cody and Young hoped that this trip would interest both English and American investors in the project, and spared no expense to impress their guests. They hired the best guides, porters and cook to make the journey memorable.

Colonel W. H. MacKinnon and Major St. John Mildmay were the English lords who made the trip from England to Arizona. “Arizona John” Burke and Prentiss Ingraham accompanied the group, as well as “Pony Bob” Haslam and Johnny Baker. Cody family members Horton Boal and Edward Bradford made the trip, and all were met at the station by North Rim residents Dan Seegmillier, Junius Wells, E. D. Wooley, and the later-famous Grand Canyon guide John Hance. North Platte photographer W. H. Broach brought his camera and made a record of the trip.



The reporter for the *Coconino Weekly Sun* noted that Buffalo Bill and his party spent a few days in Flagstaff preparing for their trip before starting north through the rough volcanic landscape made white with winter snow.

The men traveled for almost two weeks before reaching Lee's Ferry, where they crossed the Colorado River and reached the North Rim. There, they hunted deer and other game despite the inclement weather. At one point, Major Mildmay had a close call, his horse losing its footing on the ice and slipping toward the edge of a cliff. According to Burke, Buffalo Bill rescued Mildmay by lassoing his horse and pulling them both to safety.<sup>1</sup> Camp life was jolly, however, and the group had a wonderful time while they made their way through the Arizona Strip and into the Buckskin Mountains, where Young owned some cattle property managed by Seegmiller and Wooley.

In Kanab, Utah, Cody and his party were the guests of the Wooley family for three days. Emma Bentley Wooley hospitably prepared a dinner for the men, and Dee Wooley, as head of the house, asked Buffalo Bill to say grace. With an eye for his favorite dessert, Buffalo Bill held forth for the company: "God bless the hands that made them custard pies."<sup>2</sup>

All good things must come to an end, and soon the expedition made its way north to Salt Lake City, where the men parted company for their respective homes. Despite the expense and trouble that Cody and Young went through to interest investors, the shooting club never became a reality.

Other interests quickly claimed Cody's attention. The 1893 season turned out to be the best ever enjoyed by the Wild West as it thrilled crowds at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Soon after, Cody made his initial investment in a Big Horn Basin irrigation project in Wyoming that became his namesake town. Eleven years after the North Rim expedition, President Theodore Roosevelt made the Grand Canyon into a national park, erasing forever the idea that individuals could claim a section of that country for private gain. Among Mormon families in the Kanab country, the story about the blessing offered by Buffalo Bill for Mrs. Wooley's custard pies is told, even to this day. ■

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## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> John M. Burke, compiler, *"Buffalo Bill" From Prairie to Palace: An Authentic History of the Wild West*, with the authority of General W. F. Cody ("Buffalo Bill") (Chicago and New York: Rand, McNally and Company, 1893), p. 275.

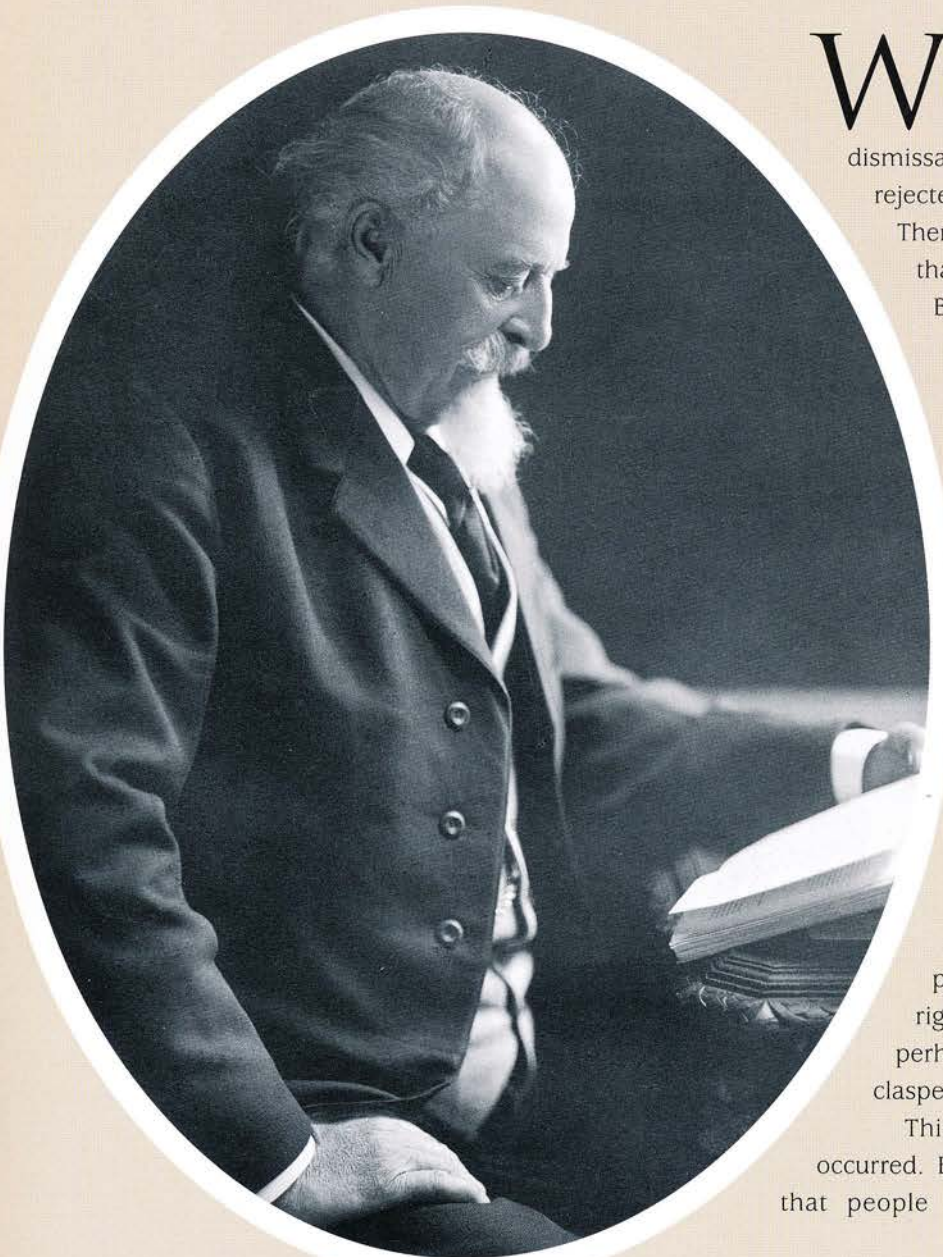
<sup>2</sup> Royal B. Wooley to P. T. Reilly, oral history interview, Ogden, Utah, May 31 and June 4, 1969. Plez Talmadge Reilly Collection (MS 275), Cline Library, Special Collections and Archives Department, Northern Arizona University.



# "NO SWEARING OR DRINKING IN MY COMPANY SINCE I GOT GOOD."

## BUFFALO BILL FINDS GOD

*by Steve Friesen, Director, Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, Denver, Colorado*



William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody sat alone in his French hotel. It had been over two months since he learned of the dismissal of his divorce suit. The judge had rejected all of his charges against Louisa. Then the judge went further, commenting that, despite Louisa's wifely devotion, Bill had been "cruel to her and heaped indignities upon her." Those words had been rolling around in his head ever since he saw them in the newspapers. All of his life he had tried to do the right thing. He had thought that a divorce would make both Louisa and him happier. But the trial just seemed to make everything worse. Daughter Arta died and Louisa accused him of murdering her by breaking her heart with the divorce. And the demands of the Wild West had nearly exhausted him since the death of his friend and partner Nate Salsbury two years earlier. So many of his old friends, and three of his four children had passed on. Maybe his sister Julia was right about God and the Promised Land, perhaps he needed to change his life. Bill clasped his hands and bowed his head.<sup>1</sup>

This scenario may or may not have occurred. But it is often in the darkest times that people experience a spiritual awakening.





Above: Colonel and Mrs. Cody and Arta. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. P.69.188



Something happened to Buffalo Bill in the spring of 1905 that gave him a change of heart about his life. Previous to that date, his sister Julia Cody Goodman, a devout and active Christian, had written to him at least once about the state of his soul. He had replied to her 1901 letter, "You speak about the promised land — And my accepting Christ. Now Julia, no one wants to do right more than I do and I propose to lead an honest life — doing good helping my fellow creature when and wherever I can." He went on to say he did not want to go to church on Sunday and then cheat his neighbor on Monday, implying that many Christians were hypocritical. He concluded, "If I am too wicked to pray to God, I will ask my Angel Mother and children, who are in Heaven to speak a good word for me to God." Perhaps that good word, combined with all of the emotional and other struggles he was facing, brought Buffalo Bill a spiritual awakening in spring of 1905.<sup>2</sup>

William Cody wrote Julia from France on June 14, 1905:

"And it's in my old age I have found God — And realize how easy it is to abandon sin and serve him. When one stops to think how little they have to give up — to serve God. It's a wonder so many more don't do it. A person only has to do right. Through this knowledge I have quit drinking entirely. And quit doing rash things simply by controlling my passions and temper when I find myself getting angry." <sup>3</sup>

Cody's experience that year was more of a spiritual awakening than a full conversion experience. Unlike some people who reject religion outright, Buffalo Bill had never really lost God. He did rail at God once after forty-four days of rain nearly ruined his season. In a letter to his partner Nate Salsbury he complained that, "God, Christ and the devil is against me." Characterizing himself as a Jonah, he wrote, "I am an Ingersol man from this out. And a damned Joner disgusted with myself and the world — there is no heaven — if so it can stay there and be damed." Despite his reference to Ingersol, a well-known atheist of the time, he was apparently just letting off steam. He continued to close occasional letters to his sister Julia and her husband Al with the words "God bless you." Prior to 1905 his feelings about God could be best characterized as ambivalent. His sister Helen Cody Wetmore wrote in her biography of Bill, "He was not averse to church-going, although he was liable even in church to be carried away by the rollicking spirit that was in him."<sup>4</sup>

William Cody grew up in a religious family. His mother, who had a profound influence on him in his youth and to whom he often referred in later life, was quite devout. When a young Bill broke his leg while trapping, he spent nearly thirty days in a dugout while his friend Dave Harrington went for help. Many of those days were spent reading a small Bible that his mother had presented to him. As an adult he was surrounded by people who had strong religious convictions. One of these was his sister Julia, who was active in churches wherever she lived. Another was his devoted friend and publicist John Burke. When a "delegation of Salvationists" visited the Wild West camp at Madison Square Garden in 1897, they reported that Burke was conducting Morning Prayer services.<sup>5</sup>

Buffalo Bill had always had a soft spot in his heart for the poor and downtrodden. When his show opened at Madison Square Garden he announced a special Orphan's Day, inviting charity organizations from all over Manhattan to bring their children. Free admission was extended to over 5,000 children. Most appearances by Buffalo Bill's Wild West in major American and European cities included such free days as well as donations to charitable organizations.<sup>6</sup>







Buffalo Bill also gave money to churches and counted North Platte, Nebraska, minister George Allen Beecher among his friends. Beecher remarked upon Cody's honesty in his autobiography as well as noting, "I learned to respect this man for his virtues, and to be patient with his faults." And Cody did have his faults, the most prominent being a love of women and alcohol.<sup>7</sup>

Buffalo Bill was accused of being a womanizer and may have had several affairs. His fame, wealth and good looks made him very attractive to women and his marriage to Louisa was filled with conflict. Their life together was a cycle of arguing, separating and then making up. Their first separation occurred briefly in 1877. Bill then made a first attempt to divorce Louisa in 1883. Bill's nephew Ed Goodman observed the cycle when he was with the Wild West show in 1887. In 1902, Bill wrote Julia that he was living a life of misery and his marriage grew "more unbearable each year." That letter marked the beginning of a three-year effort at divorce that ended in failure in 1905.<sup>8</sup>

In his younger days, Buffalo Bill acquired a reputation of being a prolific drinker, although most accounts suggest that he was in control of the alcohol rather than it being in control of him. And he generally kept away from alcohol during the show season. In 1901, he wrote his friend Mike Russell, "Oh but I am enjoying this trip—more than I ever did any before. Why—because I am not drinking." In 1902 he stated in an interview "I've got 600 men here and I abstain for the sake of example. They're not ashamed to keep off drink if I do." While Buffalo Bill was definitely in control of his habit, it does not appear that he had given up drinking entirely before 1905.<sup>9</sup>

Buffalo Bill was a man with problems when he arrived in France in 1905. His hoped-for divorce had been dismissed and his good name tarnished in newspapers throughout the United States and Europe, his third child had just died, his partner of twenty years had died two years earlier, and he was having to take a good look at how he had lived his life. And, at fifty-nine, he discovered he needed God more than he thought. His letter to Julia that June was upbeat. He had found God and he was positive about the future. "I am doing a nice business. And everything running smooth."<sup>10</sup>

Buffalo Bill's spiritual awakening was a largely private experience. On rare occasions he did mention his beliefs in public. In a 1907 interview he stated, "I believe that a man gets closer to God out there in the big, free West . . . You feel differently about your fellow man out there in the West. He's nearer to you and God's nearer to you. You are filled with a true religion and a bigger realization of life." In 1909 he gave a special performance of the Wild West for the inmates at Auburn prison in New York. He introduced the show with a brief speech saying he had brought it to them since they could not come to him. He concluded, "I hope that when you get out that you will come to see my show. Look to God and put your trust in Him. Think it over now and when you get out God will help you."<sup>11</sup>

Buffalo Bill did reveal his faith to those with whom he was closest. A month after he found God, he reaffirmed in a letter to his niece Josie, Julia's daughter, "My faith and trust is in God." Five months later, he wrote a very affectionate letter to his friend and protégé Johnny Baker that included the words "no father ever had a son more loving and faithful" and closed "God bless you my son." For the next decade, Cody frequently closed letters to friends, family and business partners with "God Bless You."<sup>12</sup>

Buffalo Bill opened up about his beliefs most to his sister Julia. In 1906, he wrote Julia that he wanted Minister Harper to come to the TE Ranch outside of Cody and deliver one of his "blessed sermons" at a dinner for the neighbors "to bring us closer to God." In 1914 he wrote, "Let us show the Lord we are Christians. And will carry our cross. God ever bless you my patient brave sister. Remember our brave Christian mother and what she endured." His letters also reminded Julia that he prayed for her each night.<sup>13</sup>





Wild West at Auburn Prison. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. Gift of Gilbert Patten. P.69.1961

With the change in his spiritual life, Buffalo Bill made changes in the rest of his life just as he had said he would. On May 16, 1906, he wrote Julia "No swearing or drinking in my Company since I got good." He was still working on being good years later in 1914 when he wrote that he was "trying to live on earth as God would be pleased to have me live. I slip up some times then I ask God's forgiveness." Bill managed to stay away from alcohol for the rest of his life and he began slowly healing his relationship with Louisa. Their last twelve years together were more harmonious than any time before.<sup>14</sup>

On January 9, 1917, Buffalo Bill was baptized by Father Christopher Walsh at the Denver home of his sister Mary Cody Decker. He told the priest that he had never belonged to any religion but that he had always believed in God. He knew he had only a short time to live and he wished to die in the Catholic faith. Father Walsh asked the appropriate questions, then administered the sacrament. Twenty-four hours later, surrounded by friends and family, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody entered his promised land.<sup>15</sup> ■

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## NOTES

1. "Buffalo Bill's Divorce Suit Dismissed," *London Telegraph*, March 25, 1905. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, 1905 Scrapbook.
2. Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, May 20, 1901, in Stella Foote, *Letters from Buffalo Bill*. p. 87.
3. Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, June 14, 1905. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, Series I B, Box I, folder 21.



4. Letter in Richard J. Walsh, *The Making of Buffalo Bill*, 1928, pp. 242–243; Helen Cody Wetmore, *Last of the Great Scouts*, 1918 edition, p. 297.

5. "Julia Cody Goodman's Memoirs of Buffalo Bill," *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 28, No. 4, Winter, 1962, p.485.

"Rough Riders on their Knees," *New York Journal*, May 3, 1897. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, 1896–1897 Scrapbook.

6. "Orphans at Wild West: Five Thousand Children the Happy Guests of Buffalo Bill," *The New York Press*, May 8 1907, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, 1896-1897 Scrapbook. Letter from the Association des Marçunvins acknowledging a donation of gate receipts, Brussels, Belgium, June 6, 1891. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, Series I B, Box 2, folder 24.

7. George Allen Beecher, *A Bishop of the Great Plains*, 1950, p. 112.

8. Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, Sept. 24, 1883, in Stella Foote, *Letters from Buffalo Bill*, p. 33; Letter from Ed Goodman to parents Al and Julia Goodman, March 17, 1887, in Stella Foote, *Letters from Buffalo Bill*, p. 47.

"Buffalo Bill's Divorce," *London Telegraph*, March 9, 1905. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, 1905 Scrapbook.

Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, March 21, 1902, in Stella Foote, *Letters from Buffalo Bill*, pp.89–90.

9. Letter to Mike Russell, Jan. 22, 1901, in Sarah J. Blackstone, *The Business of Being Buffalo Bill*, p. 17.

"Buffalo Bill a Teetotaler," *Sunday Companion*, Feb. 28, 1902. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. Association Files, Buffalo Bill Museum Curator's Office.

10. Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, June 14, 1905 Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6.

11. "Buffalo Bill Cody at Close Range" by Charles Darnton. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, 1907 Scrapbook. "The Show in Prison," Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, 1909 Scrapbook.

12. Letter to Josie Goodman, July 24, 1905, in Stella Foote, *Letters from Buffalo Bill*, pp.120–121; Letter to Johnny Baker, Nov. 12, 1905. Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, Denver, Colorado. Archives.

13. Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, April 21, 1906, (William F. Cody Collection, McCracken Library, BBHC); Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, June 26, 1914, in Stella Foote, *Letters from Buffalo Bill*, p. 141; Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, May 2, 1914, in Stella Foote, *Letters from Buffalo Bill*, pp.140–141.

14. Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, May 16, 1906, in Stella Foote, *Letters from Buffalo Bill*, p.128; Letter to Julia Cody Goodman, May 25, 1914, in Stella Foote, *Letters from Buffalo Bill*, p. 141.

15. William Barrett, "Buffalo Bill Was Baptised by a Sligo Priest," October 1960, *Catholic Digest*. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6.



Cody and his sister Julia.

Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. P.69.214



# *Cody and*



Iron Tail on horse with tipis. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming; Vincent Mercaldo Collection. P.71.658



# Wanamaker

## The Foundation of American Indian Citizenship

*By Katrina Krupicka, MA Candidate  
New Mexico State University*

**T**he life of W. F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody has been the topic of myths and legends for over a century. Incidents were fabricated and distorted to entertain the American public as well as the international community. Buffalo Bill himself helped to perpetuate many of the myths, giving him a legendary status that continues to fascinate audiences today.

No strangers to contradiction and confusion, historians attempting to unravel the life story of Buffalo Bill have a daunting task. After wading through the misconceptions, however, the story of a profoundly thoughtful and compassionate individual emerges; someone who was thoroughly interested in the common good of man, regardless of race, class or gender. A primary example of Buffalo Bill's sincerity is evident in his contributions to the spirit behind the Wanamaker Expeditions that took place in the early twentieth century.

The Wanamaker Expeditions epitomized Cody's dream to create a stronger relationship between American Indians and Euro-Americans. Lewis Rodman Wanamaker was the son of the business tycoon John Wanamaker. In 1907 he became heavily involved in the management of his father's department stores, one in Philadelphia and one in New York City. Despite having the name "Wanamaker" associated with the expeditions, the true force behind them was embodied in Dr. Joseph K. Dixon. A self-proclaimed academic doctor and a retired minister, Dixon was hired as a lecturer for the educational bureau of the Wanamaker department stores. His lectures had an increasing tendency to focus on the topic of Native Americans. Eventually he was able to convince his employer to sponsor expeditions in 1908, 1909, and 1913 to gather "educational" information on the "race."

The purpose of the expeditions was to record the history of the American Indian before the "race" vanished from the landscape. While the notion of such an occurrence holds little merit today, it was a strongly held belief that captured the imagination of many educated people on the East Coast at the beginning of the century. During the first two expeditions, Dixon took photographs and made motion pictures, the most famous being a production of the epic poem *The Song of Hiawatha* filmed at Crow Agency in Montana.<sup>1</sup>





Wanamaker portfolio. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. MS6.9.39

A plan to erect a memorial to the American Indian in New York Harbor evolved from the first two expeditions. Identified in a newspaper article from May 12, 1909, as being a statue of “bronze and as great, if not greater in size than the Statue of Liberty,” the memorial would stand for “the welcome given in years gone to the early settlers by the red man and it will be a sign to present and future generations that the first American welcome is as hearty in perpetuity.”<sup>2</sup> A dinner held in honor of Col. W. F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody served as the announcement of this monumental endeavor.

The direct connection between Buffalo Bill and the Wanamaker Expeditions is difficult to gauge in the time prior the banquet. Given in his honor, its purpose was “to express publicly the appreciation of Colonel Cody’s services as a scout and a fighter, and more than all, to call upon him to tell as no other man could the good side of the Indian.”<sup>3</sup> At the banquet, Buffalo Bill was presented with the *Wanamaker Tribute Portfolio*. The portfolio, with a silver buffalo head on its buffalo hide cover, was actually presented to Cody by General Nelson A. Miles and Dr. Dixon. Six pages contained the text of the tribute to Cody, commending him on various aspects of his life and career.

The text of the tribute credits Cody with fulfilling the daunting task of being a societal idol of the American West. He is praised for his character as an individual, for his work as a plainsman, scout and guide for the Army, and for fighting for the rights of the American Indian. The *Wanamaker Tribute* goes on to credit Cody with establishing a model for Americans as a true frontiersman. Through the performances of his Wild West show, he was preserving a way of life as well as educating its spectators and boosting pride in the United States.



Along with the other elements highlighted in Col. Cody's career and characteristics, the one most emphasized by the contents of the portfolio is his work in creating a harmonious relationship between Indians and non-Indians. It commended Buffalo Bill for his "honorable work among the Indians, in which [he] not alone gave distinguished service to the government, saving the lives of hundreds of soldiers and settlers, but where [he] also won such respect and love from the Red Man as to eclipse in his regard all other white men . . . " <sup>4</sup> The text of the tribute continues on, not only praising Buffalo Bill for his extraordinary life but also revealing his contribution in perpetuating sentiments held by the general American public:

"Because, by reason of your knowledge and strength, and by reason of the Indian's love for and trust in the Man who has never deceived him, you have built up and presented to the World the great and enduring picture of those old Stage Coach Days, representing in life the most vivid and exciting action of an epoch of American history, long since closed, and exhibiting the character, habits and skill of a race that will soon become extinct . . . " <sup>5</sup>

The portfolio also contains a report of the Wanamaker Expedition made in 1908 and photographs taken during the trip.

While the construction of the statue never took place, the spirit behind the Wanamaker Expeditions, the Wanamaker Tribute portfolio, and the proposed National Indian Memorial resulted in a document significant to American history: *The Declaration of Allegiance of the American Indians to the United States*.<sup>6</sup> The idea, evolving in 1909 at the last Council of Chiefs, was to create a declared peace between Indian tribes and all other people in the country. The allegiance centered on the symbol of the American Flag. Dixon felt that if the American Indians accepted the flag as a unifying entity, they would have a constant reminder of their loyalty to the United States.

President William Howard Taft agreed to a signing ceremony at Fort Wadsworth in New York City, which some participants viewed as being a dedication ceremony of the National Indian Monument. Thirty-two chiefs were present at the ceremony to sign the allegiance, which was a consolidation of their own individual allegiances: "We, the undersigned representatives of the various Indian tribes of the United States, through our presence and the part we have taken in the inauguration of this memorial to our people, renew our allegiance to the glorious flag of the United States, and offer our hearts to our country's service . . . " <sup>7</sup> Many tribal leaders believed that the document was a treaty. Several skeptical individuals viewed the document as a publicity stunt by Rodman Wanamaker and other East Coast businessmen.

During the 1913 Wanamaker Expedition, Joseph Dixon, with permission from newly elected Woodrow Wilson, traveled to eighty-nine Indian reservations to perform signing ceremonies. By the end of the expedition, the document had 900 signatures, representing 189 American Indian tribes. The signed Declaration became a lobbying tool for Dixon to push Congress to grant Indians citizenship in the United States. Indian veterans returning from World War I, however, were the real catalyst for granting citizenship to Native Americans. Dixon, though, would take credit for the legislation for the rest of his life.<sup>8</sup>

Citizenship was not universally welcomed among the American Indian population. Having recently received ownership of property, many Indians viewed the citizenship as a ploy to exert taxation, thus enforcing a new type of captivity.<sup>9</sup> In fact, Dixon's signing expedition was met with a great deal of resistance across the country, as many Indians simply used the ceremony as a sounding mechanism for their own dissatisfactions with the United States government.





Wild West in front of Wanamaker's Department Store. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. Gift of Gilbert Patten. P.69.1243.7



The rights of citizenship for American Indians continue to be questionable into the twenty-first century. Calls for land rights, sovereignty and acknowledgement of past treaties are just a few of the topics of the dynamic discourse today.

It is difficult to accurately assess a single causation of Indian citizenship in the United States. Instead, several different elements helped to create the roots for the movement. What can be properly conjectured is that W.F. Cody had a great deal of influence in establishing a mood for change. Buffalo Bill's dedication to Indian culture and rights in the United States was an obvious element in his Wild West Show. By creating an awareness of the importance of Indians in American society, Cody was able to be a catalyst for significant American Indian legislation. He was successful in providing the government and society with a foundation upon which could be built a new relationship with American Indians. The Wanamaker Portfolio is a significant symbol of Cody's crucial role in the emergence of a new state of mind among the American public. ■

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## NOTES

1. Barsh, Russel Lawrence, "An American Heart of Darkness: The 1913 Expedition for American Indian Citizenship," *Great Plains Quarterly*, Vol. 13(2) 1993), 91–115. Dixon exercised a high level of influence over the topic of the multitudes of photographs taken during the expeditions. He would have Indians dress in native dress, depicting a race that desperately needed the helping hand of the white man. This would come to be one of the many ironies of the expeditions, especially since many of the Indians who were photographed were highly educated men with impeccable English who felt awkward in the native dress.
2. Lindstrom, Richard, "Not From The Land Side, But From The Flag Side:" Native American Responses To The Wanamaker Expedition of 1913," *Journal of Social History*, no. 30(1) (1996), p. 211.
3. Newspaper article entitled "Statue of Indian for City's Harbor" taken from the Wanamaker file in the vertical files of the Buffalo Bill Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming.
4. Newspaper article, "Statue of Indian for City's Harbor."
5. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, Series IX, Box 31.
6. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. William F. Cody Collection. MS6, Box 31.
7. Appendix, Barsh, Russel Lawrence, "An American Heart of Darkness: The 1913 Expedition for American Indian Citizenship," *Great Plains Quarterly*, Vol. 13(2) 1993), pp. 91–115.
8. Barsh, p. 110.
9. Barsh, pp. 107–108.



# Test Your

*Everybody knows a little bit about William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody! How much do you know? Test your Buffalo Bill IQ with our quiz.*



1. Where was William F. Cody born?
2. What was the first year that Buffalo Bill took a Wild West exhibition on the road?
3. How many bison did Buffalo Bill say he killed for the Kansas Pacific Railway?
4. What is "Cody's Combination?"
5. Buffalo Bill lived in a number of places in his lifetime. Which of the following cities are not former Cody residences?
  - Rochester, New York
  - North Platte, Nebraska
  - Rome, Kansas
  - San Francisco, California
  - Chester, Pennsylvania
6. In what year was the town of Cody founded?
7. How old was Buffalo Bill when he died?
8. What was the origin of the TE brand?
9. What color was Buffalo Bill's hair when he was young?
10. Who is the Irma Hotel named after?
11. How many sons did Buffalo Bill have?
12. What is the "Old Glory Blowout"?
13. In what year did Buffalo Bill win the Congressional Medal of Honor?
14. Who was the first European monarch to bow before the American flag?
15. In what month did the hunt with the Grand Duke Alexis take place?
16. What rank did Cody hold during his Civil War service?
17. What caliber is Lucretia Borgia?
18. How tall was Buffalo Bill?
19. What color were Buffalo Bill's eyes?
20. What was Buffalo Bill's favorite dessert?



# Buffalo Bill IQ!

## ANSWERS:

1. LeClaire, Scott County, Iowa.
2. 1883.
3. 4,280.
4. "Cody's Combination" was one of the stage troupes that Buffalo Bill acted with in the 1870s.
5. San Francisco, California.
6. 1896.
7. 70 years, 10 months, 15 days.
8. Cody purchased cattle from his good friend Mike Russell, who used the TE brand at his ranch in the Black Hills. Buffalo Bill registered the brand as his own in Wyoming.
9. Brown.
10. The Irma Hotel is named after Cody's youngest daughter Irma.
11. Cody's only son, Kit Carson, died in 1876.
12. The "Old Glory Blowout" was the Fourth of July Celebration that Buffalo Bill held in North Platte in 1882. It served as the genesis for the Wild West.
13. 1872.
14. Queen Victoria, in 1887.
15. January, 1872.
16. Private.
17. Lucretia Borgia was chambered for the .50-70 Government cartridge.
18. At his tallest, Buffalo Bill was six feet and one-half inch tall.
19. Brown.
20. Custard pie!



# RENDEZVOUS *Royale*

**A CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS IN CODY, WYOMING**

*Rendevvous Royale is a Hit*

September saw another joyous celebration of the arts in Cody during Rendezvous Royale. The Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale, Patrons Ball, and the Western Design Conference combined forces to produce the premier fall social event in the Rockies.

From the inspiration of the Art Show to the excitement of the auction to the fun of the Quick Draw to the elegance of the Patrons Ball, hundreds of art aficionados and patrons enjoyed seeing old friends, making new ones, buying great contemporary art, and partying the night away. 2004 Rendezvous Royale—September 22nd–25th.



Donna Howell-Sickles offers her Quick Draw painting to spirited bidding that sold for \$15,000!



Left: U.S. Senator Craig Thomas and Susan Thomas.



Right: Former Governor Mike Sullivan and Jane Sullivan.



George Mongon and Jill Osiecki Gleich (left) enjoy listening to BBHC board chairman Alan Simpson congratulate Patrons Ball Chairperson Jodie Thompson.



Left to right (seated): Bob Brown, Donna Nielson, Lloyd Nielson, Beth Blatt. Left to right (standing): Nancy Brown, Dana Cranfill, Carrie Gasch, and Tim Blatt.



From left: Sarah Weedon, Kristin LaBazzo, and Mary Kay Kalkowski.



Fran and Dr. Lenox Baker are winning bidders at Friday's auction.



# Happy Holidays!



*O*n the bright Christmas morning  
She opened wide the door,  
And an avalanche of Christmas  
Came tumbling on the floor.  
The children heard the rumble  
Of the gift, and without pause  
They came in from their bedroom  
And shouted "Santa Claus!"

The widow knelt beside them,  
Despite their childish pranks;  
With streaming eyes and fuller heart  
Returned to God her thanks.  
And stealthy through the bushes  
There moved off one so still,  
"God bless you little cubs," said he,  
Then vanished Buffalo Bill.



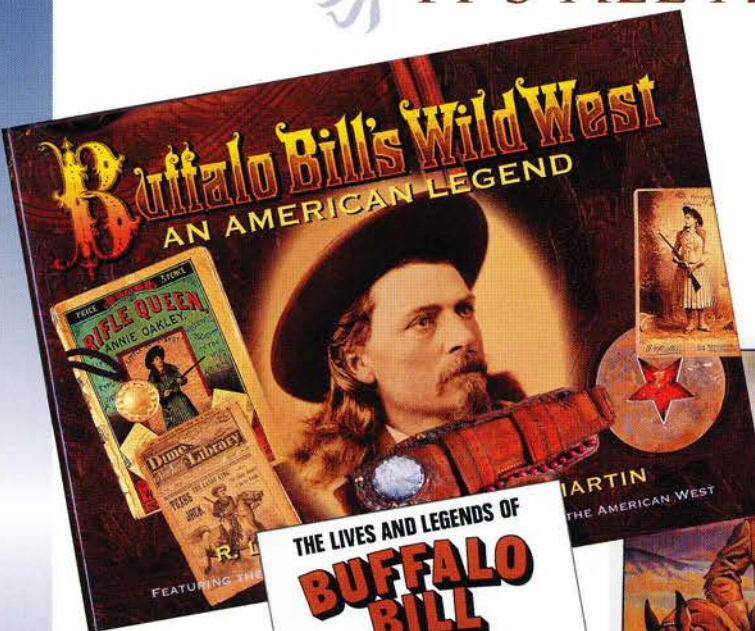
From **Buffalo Bill as Santa Claus**  
By D. H. Winget. Clinton, Iowa:  
Press of the Merry War, 1910-1919



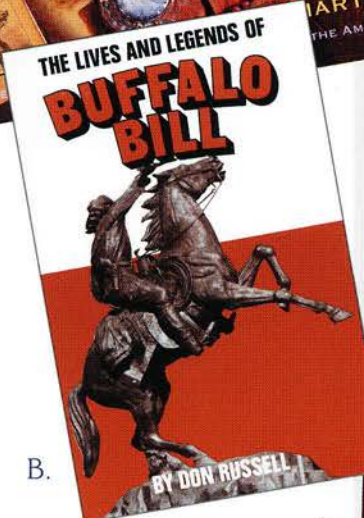
Buffalo Bill as Santa.  
Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. P.6.701



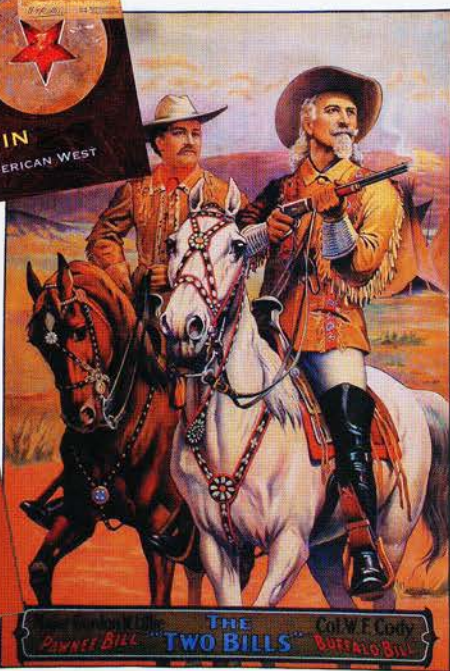
# IT'S ALL ABOUT BILL.



A.



B.



C.

## A. *Buffalo Bill's Wild West: An American Legend*

By R.L. Wilson with Greg Martin. A panoramic celebration of colorful characters of Buffalo Bill's Wild West that toured the world, creating a romantic, rough and tumble image of the West. Featuring the Michael Del Castillo Collection of the American West. Features 225 color plates and 160 historic images — highlighting the colorful arms, posters, and costumes of Wild West shows and the performers. Images of show posters, rare cabinet card photographs, and advertising art. 316 pages. Hardcover. Price to Patrons \$51.00

## B. *The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill*

By Don Russell. This book is quite possibly the most comprehensive biography of one of America's most loved folk heroes, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. The myths are stripped away and his flamboyant show years are written in the proper perspective. Cody emerges, as he truly was, a daring plainsman. 500 pages. 1960 University of Oklahoma Press. Price to Patrons \$23.76

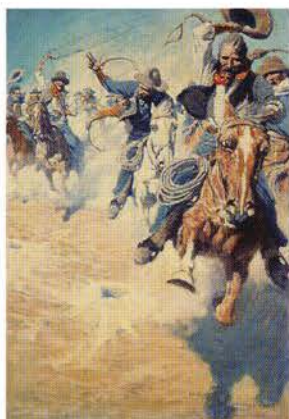
## C. *The Two Bills*

The "Two Bills" poster, c. 1912 was featured as a life-sized print of Buffalo Bill Cody and Pawnee Bill Lillie as they led a parade into the "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Far East" show arena. Measures: 24 in. H x 17 in. W. Price to Patrons \$10.62

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307.587.3243 ■ [www.bbhcstore.com](http://www.bbhcstore.com)



N. C. Wyeth (1882-1945), *The Wild, Spectacular Race for Dinner, 1904-1905*. Oil on canvas, 38.125 x 26 inches. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming. Gift of John M. Schiff. 44.83

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