

POINTS WEST

JOURNAL OF THE BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER ■ CODY, WY ■ WINTER 2001



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Director of Membership



Webster's Handy Dictionary. A Handy Dictionary of the English Language . . . from the latest edition of the large dictionary of Noah Webster, L.L.D. By Loomis J. Campbell. New York, Cincinnati, Chicago: American Book Co., 1877 by G.&C. Merriam Co. Signed by May Cody Bradford.

POINTS WEST

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The Buffalo Bill Historical Center is a private, non-profit educational institution dedicated to preserving and interpreting the cultural history of the American West. Founded in 1917, the Historical Center is home to the Buffalo Bill Museum, Cody Firearms Museum, Plains Indian Museum, Whitney Gallery of Western Art, Draper Museum of Natural History and McCracken Research Library.

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Cover: Items in our cover photograph by Chris Gimmeson and Sean Campbell include early Wyoming and Montana territorial imprints and historic reading and writing materials from the McCracken Research Library. The ink well and pen set are from the L.A. Huffman Collection, MS 100. The Victor Arland letter from MS 2 was written from Trail Creek, Wy.T. in March 1882. The small green pocket diary dates from 1851, and was used by R.F. Rodan of Nevada City, Ca. The gold wire bifocal eyeglasses are from the Buffalo Bill Museum, 1.69.2259A.

Books shown include two from the Garlow Family Collection, *Webster's Handy Dictionary*, 1877, and *The Poet Scout*, 1886, by Capt. Jack Crawford. Standing next to these are titles from the Rare Book collections: *General Laws, Memorials and Resolutions of the Territory of Wyoming . . .* Cheyenne, Wy.T., 1870 (first set of laws for Wyoming); *Wonder-land Illustrated; or, Horseback Rides Through the Yellowstone National Park*, Virginia City, M.T., 1873, by Harry J. Norton (first tourist guide to YNP); *The Vigilantes of Montana, or Popular Justice in the Rocky Mountains*, Virginia City, M.T. 1866, by Thomas Dimsdale (first book published in Montana); and, *Life Amongst the Indians: A Book for Youth*, London, 1867, by George Catlin.

CALENDAR

OF UPCOMING EVENTS

2002

- JAN. 12** *Winter Wonder Workshops for Youth and Adults, 1–3 p.m. FREE event.*
- 8 – 30** *Early Explorers, Preschool Children and Parents, 10:30–Noon. Fee.*
- 25** *Fourth Friday 5–7 p.m. FREE event.*
- FEB 9** *Winter Wonder Workshops for Youth and Adults, 1–3 p.m. FREE event.*
- 5 – 13** *Early Explorers, Preschool Children and Parents, 10:30–Noon. Fee.*
- 22** *Fourth Friday 5–7 p.m. FREE event.*
- 26** *Buffalo Bill's Birthday*
Wreath Laying Ceremony / Public Program 7 p.m.
- MAR 22** *Fourth Friday 5–7 p.m. FREE event.*
- APR 5 – 7** *20th Annual Cowboy Songs & Range Ballads,*
The Great American Cowboy: History, Legend and Song



Happy Holidays!

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Shotted Tail Agency - 16 Mai 1875.

Cher Monsieur Camille

J'ai reçu votre lettre dans les premiers jours de Mars, j'ai attendu que nous ayons terminé la chasse pour vous répondre, nous avons été bloqués ^{15 jours} par une tempête de neige à quatre miles de l'agence et n'est que le 15 Avril que nous avons pu quitter l'agence pour traquer le castor sur le Maundee River à l'environ 40 miles de l'agence. Là nous sommes restés une semaine, nous avons pris 18 castors sur le creek puis nous retournâmes à l'agence pour nous préparer à partir sur une autre rivière où les castors sont très nombreux. En retour à l'agence nous apprîmes que plusieurs parties d'indiens étaient sur le sentier de la guerre, et qu'il y avait du danger de s'éloigner de l'agence, En conséquence, nous restâmes à notre camp ~~à quatre miles de~~ bas de l'agence. Il n'y a plus de gros gibier autour de l'agence sur un rayon de 30 à 40 miles, nous allons nous organiser pour aller dans les Black Hills au fait est qu'elles seront ouvertes, là le gibier est très abondant d'après les récits de quelques blancs qui avaient quittés l'agence pour se rendre dans les Black Hills où ils restèrent quelques jours prospectant pour l'or, une compagnie de cavaliers fut envoyée à leur poursuite et en ramènerent 7 sept sur quatorze les autres furent se faire appier dans les montagnes, j'ai parlé à quelques uns d'entre eux et qu'ils pensaient des Cotes Noires ils me répondaient qu'ils n'avaient pas d'inquiétudes dans tous les rapports sur les Black Hills à propos de la découverte de l'or en assez grande quantité, l'un d'entre eux en avait 32 petits grains qu'il avait trouvés dans une seule pan. Etant au moment où les soldats s'emparement de lui ils ont été relâchés à leur arrivée à l'agence sur promesse de ne plus retourner dans cette contrée avant qu'elle ne soit ouverte aux blancs, mais quelques jours après ils partirent de nouveau en prenant un autre chemin, prétendant qu'ils allaient sur le Nebraska à la recherche de provisions. Vous savez sans doute

J'ai reçu votre lettre dans les premiers jours de Mars, j'ai attendu que nous ayons terminé la chasse pour vous répondre, nous avons été bloqués 15 jours par une tempête de neige à quatre miles de l'agence et n'est que le 15 Avril que nous avons pu quitter l'agence pour traquer le castor sur le Maundee River à l'environ 40 miles de l'agence. Là nous sommes restés une semaine, nous avons pris 18 castors sur le creek puis nous retournâmes à l'agence pour nous préparer à partir sur une autre rivière où les castors sont très nombreux. En retour à l'agence nous apprîmes que plusieurs parties d'indiens étaient sur le sentier de la guerre, et qu'il y avait du danger de s'éloigner de l'agence, En conséquence, nous restâmes à notre camp à quatre miles de bas de l'agence. Il n'y a plus de gros gibier autour de l'agence sur un rayon de 30 à 40 miles, nous allons nous organiser pour aller dans les Black Hills au fait est qu'elles seront ouvertes, là le gibier est très abondant d'après les récits de quelques blancs qui avaient quittés l'agence pour se rendre dans les Black Hills où ils restèrent quelques jours prospectant pour l'or, une compagnie de cavaliers fut envoyée à leur poursuite et en ramènerent 7 sept sur quatorze les autres furent se faire appier dans les montagnes, j'ai parlé à quelques uns d'entre eux et qu'ils pensaient des Cotes Noires ils me répondaient qu'ils n'avaient pas d'inquiétudes dans tous les rapports sur les Black Hills à propos de la découverte de l'or en assez grande quantité, l'un d'entre eux en avait 32 petits grains qu'il avait trouvés dans une seule pan. Etant au moment où les soldats s'emparement de lui ils ont été relâchés à leur arrivée à l'agence sur promesse de ne plus retourner dans cette contrée avant qu'elle ne soit ouverte aux blancs, mais quelques jours après ils partirent de nouveau en prenant un autre chemin, prétendant qu'ils allaient sur le Nebraska à la recherche de provisions. Vous savez sans doute

How the West was Written

NATHAN BENDER

HOUSEL CURATOR, MCCrackEN RESEARCH LIBRARY

Writing was an integral part of personal life even in the frontier west. It permitted the keeping of diaries, long distance correspondence and business, and the formal printing of laws, books and newspapers. Despite the stereotype of illiterate frontiersmen and cowboys, reading and writing were essential to the successful exploration and settlement of the west. Western printing presses developed right along with the establishment of towns, reliable transportation and mail delivery. Creative writing was present from the beginning, and poetry was a popular literature. This overview looks at the history of western writing and publishing as seen from the northern Rocky Mountains and northern Great Plains.

Writing with Pictures

Artistic renderings of deeds and visions served as a traditional writing style for the Plains Indians. Petroglyphs carved into stone, pictographs painted onto hide, and pencil drawings sketched into ledger books are all part of a long tradition of recording meaningful events with representational drawings. Obviously, not all drawings were intended as "writing," but painted robes known as "winter counts" that depict annual events in a person's life, and ledger drawings

Left: Letter from Frenchman Victor Arland to Mr. Camille, May 16, 1875. Spotted Tail Agency, Dakota Territory. Arland describes his beaver trapping and political arguments among the Sioux Indians regarding the proposed sale of the Black Hills. He eventually moved to Wyoming Territory and founded the small town of Arland. Gift of Dadant & Sons, Inc., MS 2.



A Painted Tipi—Assiniboin. Edward S. Curtis's caption for this photogravure notes that, "A tipi painted with figures commemorative of a dream experienced by its owner is a venerated object." V. 18, pl. 633, from *The North American Indian*. Gift of Douglas L. Manship, Sr.





Charles M. Russell
(1864–1926). *Waiting
for a Chinook*, ca. 1903,
watercolor on paper,
20½ x 29 in. Gift of
Charles Ulrick and
Josephine Bay Foundation,
Inc. 88.60. This painting
represents the tragic
condition of northern
cattle in the winter of
1886–87.

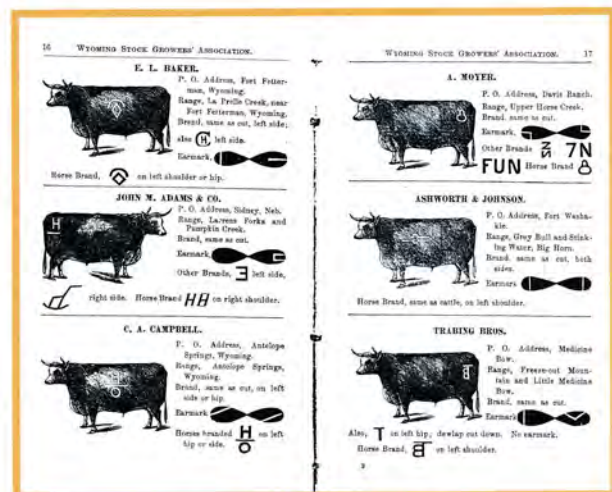
that depict historical events are able to be “read” by those skilled in their interpretation. Thus, these drawings represented events rather than particular words. Much of the historic ledger book art documents personal deeds of war or of the hunt.

The concept, “a picture is worth a thousand words,” can also be found in Euro-American traditions. Cowboy artist Charlie Russell, when requested by non-resident owners for a report on a herd of 5000 cattle after the deadly winter of 1886–87 simply drew a starving steer that he titled *Waiting for a Chinook*. His drawing conveyed the disastrous conditions far more eloquently than any written report.

Cattle brands are also an ancient tradition that were commonly used for western ranching, but are very different from Plains Indian pictographs. Brands are distinctive marks to identify ownership. They have their own rules of literacy, being an odd amalgamation of alpha-numeric characters and pictographic symbols. Public registration regulates their use and prevents confusion that would arise from the same brand being used by different ranches.



Killing a Flat-Head and Receiving an Arrow Wound in Left Side. This ledger drawing by Chief Sitting Bull depicts him in battle on his horse. The small bird above his head is likely a name-glyph, a pictographic means of identifying himself. 40.70.7.



Pages from *Cattle Brands*, second edition. Chicago: Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, 1883. Loan from Willis McDonald IV. L.1.91.118.

Languages and the Written Word

The English language became the dominant language of the West, though Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Swedish and many other languages were present due to America's colonial history and continuing immigration.



Embroidered samplers such as this, c. 1850, helped children learn their ABC's. Gift of Helen Cody Allan, 1.69.1294

Writing in all of these languages was common, and so it is not unusual in western historical archives to find instances of letters or books printed in non-English languages that date from the 19th or early 20th century. The English language was commonly learned by second generation American children, but that did not preclude bilingual ethnic communities from prospering, especially with the already well established Spanish language in California and the southwest.

As communication between Indians and non-Indians developed and people took to learning one another's languages, the need arose for a text written version of the Indian languages. If one looks at the history of printing in the United States, it is soon apparent that among the earliest printings of each state are books published in American Indian languages. These vary greatly from simple though inexact attempts to use European language alphabets to sound out American Indian words, to very

sophisticated syllabaries which assign unique characters to individual syllables. Early publications in American Indian languages include word lists for conducting commerce and translations of the Bible and other religious writings for the teachings of Christianity.

Missionaries such as James Evans, Stephen R. Riggs and Rodolphe Petter devoted their lives to learning Indian languages as a means of spreading the gospel. The creation of word-based writing systems and the consequent production of dictionaries and translations were enormously valuable scholarly undertakings. Their achievements allowed native speakers to read and write in their own languages. A few American Indian nations created their own formal writing systems after understanding the concept as practiced by Euro-Americans. Sequoyah is deservedly famous for

developing the Cherokee syllabary in Georgia, but further west in Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska, the Sac and Fox (Mesquakie) also developed their own syllabary, that in turn was adopted by the Kickapoo.

At the end of the frontier era, forced reservation culture and government boarding schools often discouraged or even prevented native language use. Bilingual language programs for American Indians have been supported by the federal government since the early 1970s, though not soon enough to save many of the languages.

MARKOS

WOTANIN WAŠTE TAWA.

WICOWOYAKE 1.

1 Jesus Messiya Wakantanka Cinhintku kin Wotanin Wašte tawa tokaheya kin he dee.

2 Wicašta wokcanpi kin en owapi qon iyececa; Iho, niite kin itokam wahoši mitawa yewaši kta, nitokam canku wiyeya enicihnake kta.

3 Wicaho wan hewotahedan hotanin kin hee, Itancan tacanku kin wiyeya ekicihuaka wo, ocanku owotanna kicaga wo.

4 Johannes hewotahedan baptem wicaqu, qa woahitani kajupji kta, on iyopeiciyapi baptem wicaqupi kin he oyaka ece.

5 Unkan Juda makoce kin owan-caya tanhan, qa nakun Jerusalem etanhan ekta yapi; unkan woahitani ohdaka, Jordan wakpa

kin en, iye owasin baptem wicaqu.

6 Unkan Johannes kamel hin kin koyake qa telimiso wan ipiyagkiton; qa psipsicadan tuhinga canhanpi ahna yuta ece:

7 Qa woyake qa heya; Miha-kam wanji mikapeya wašake cin he u ce, he patuš nawajin qa hankpan weciyušdoke kta iye-micihantu šni.

8 Miš miye awicakehan mini on baptem cičupi; tuka iye qe Woniya Wakan kin on baptem ničupi kta ce.

9 Unkan anpetu kin hena icunhan, Galile en Nazareth etanhan Jesus u, qa Jordan en Johannes baptem qu.

10 Unkan mini kin etanhan itanwankanhde ku qehan, ecahankeya malpiya kin yuzannipi qa Woniya Wakan kin wakiye-

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Dakota Wowapi Wakan Kin. The New Testament in the Dakota Language. Translated from the original Greek by Stephen R. Riggs (1812-1883). New York: American Bible Society, 1913. p. 54. Book of Mark. Gift of Joanita Montieth, MS 124.



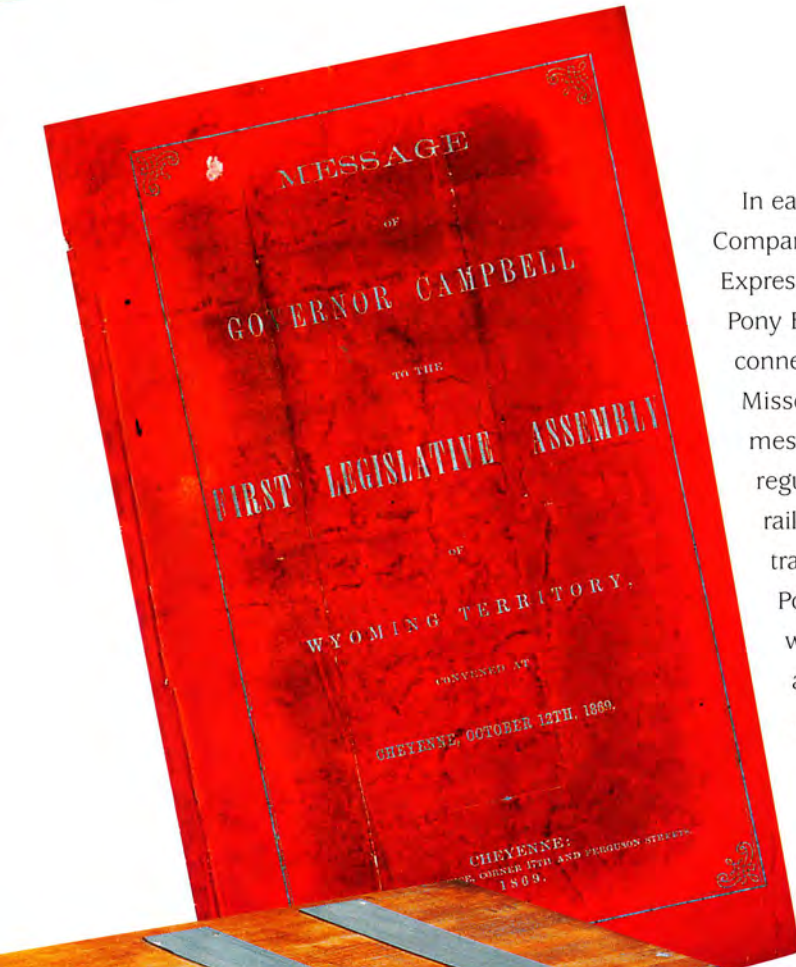
Frederic Remington, (1861–1909), *Post Office in Cow Country*. Black and white oil on canvas, c. 1901. This view of cowboys reading a newspaper may be based on Remington's visit to William F. Cody's ranch in 1897. The hills in the background strongly resemble the McCullough Peaks outside of present day Cody, Wyoming. 11.76.



This 25 cent stamp was issued by Wells, Fargo & Co. for delivery of a half ounce of mail cross-country by Pony Express. Gift of Dick and Mary Bowman, 1.69.5652.13.

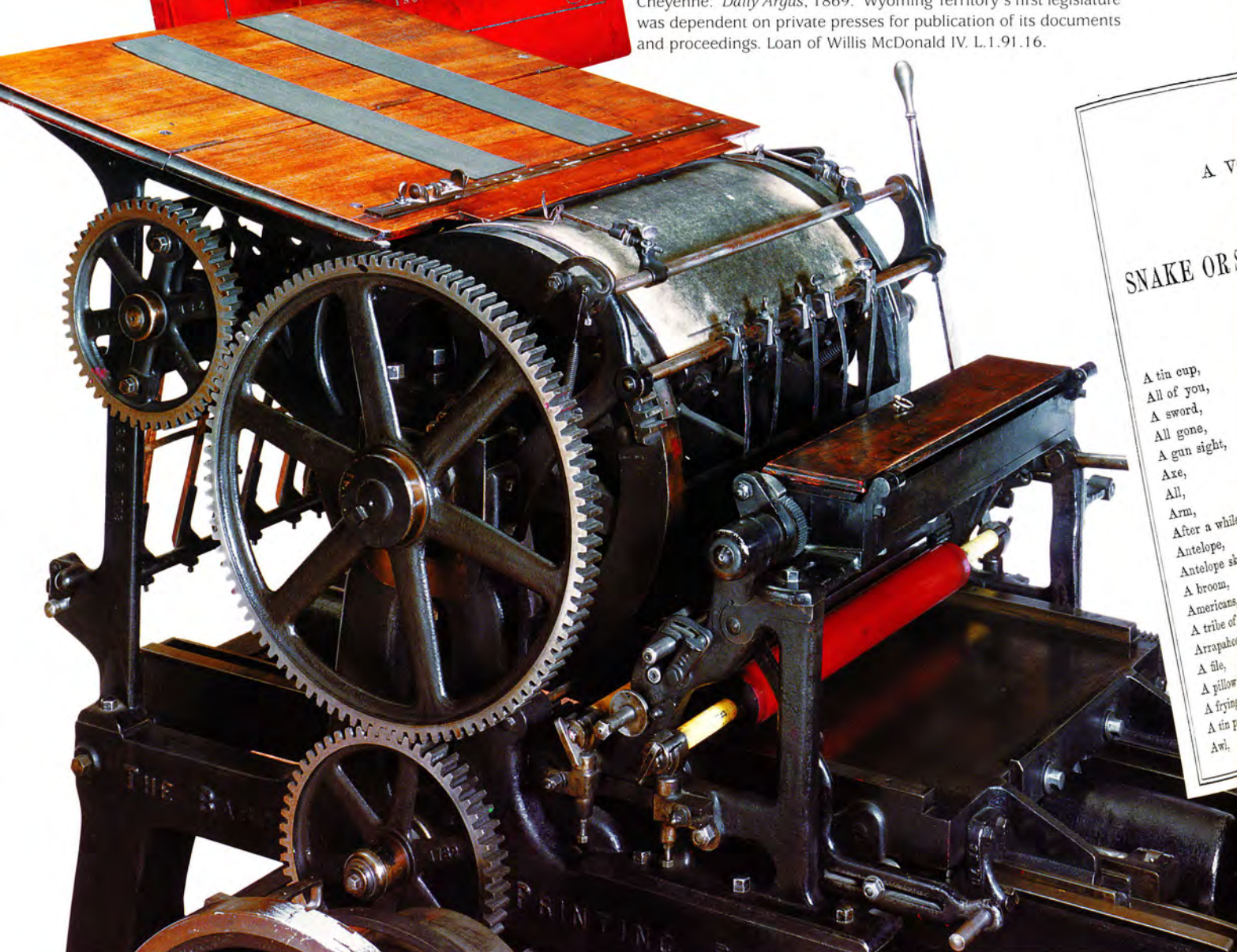
Mail Delivery and the Pony Express

Delivery of private correspondence, business papers and newspapers in the west depended upon reliable and trustworthy transportation. After California was admitted to the union in 1850 a need arose for communication between east and west coasts. Steam ship routes up the Missouri and its tributaries were confined by the Rocky Mountains, and sailing by sea around South America was a long and dangerous voyage. A cross-country land route promised shorter distances and faster delivery time. Overland mail and passenger services by stagecoach were established in the mid-1850s by the freighting firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell and by their rivals, the Overland Mail Company. To increase the speed of delivery, Russell, Majors & Waddell set up a chain of Pony Express relay stations with fast horses and teenage riders, armed with small bibles and Colt revolvers, that stretched from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California, beginning on April 3, 1860. This express mail service succeeded in delivering mail over a distance of 2000 miles in only 10 days. William F. Cody was one of the first Pony Express riders, who later highlighted the excitement and adventure of the mail delivery in re-enactments for Buffalo Bill's Wild West.



In early 1861 Wells, Fargo & Company and its Overland Mail Company obtained a government contract to continue the Pony Express and stage mail services. However, in October 1861 the Pony Express service was ended with the opening of the final connecting link of telegraph lines between California and Missouri, an electronic mail service that could send messages at nearly the speed of light. The delivery of regular mail was further improved with the building of railroads from the east and west, which joined to form a transcontinental railway in 1869 in Utah at Promontory Point. By the 1870s eastern periodical publications were becoming regularly available in the west. Horses and coaches continued to be used for mail delivery in areas without railways until replaced by automobiles on improved roads.

Left: *Message of Governor Campbell to the First Legislative Assembly of Wyoming Territory, convened at Cheyenne, October 12th, 1869.* Cheyenne: *Daily Argus*, 1869. Wyoming Territory's first legislature was dependent on private presses for publication of its documents and proceedings. Loan of Willis McDonald IV. L.1.91.16.



SNAKE OR

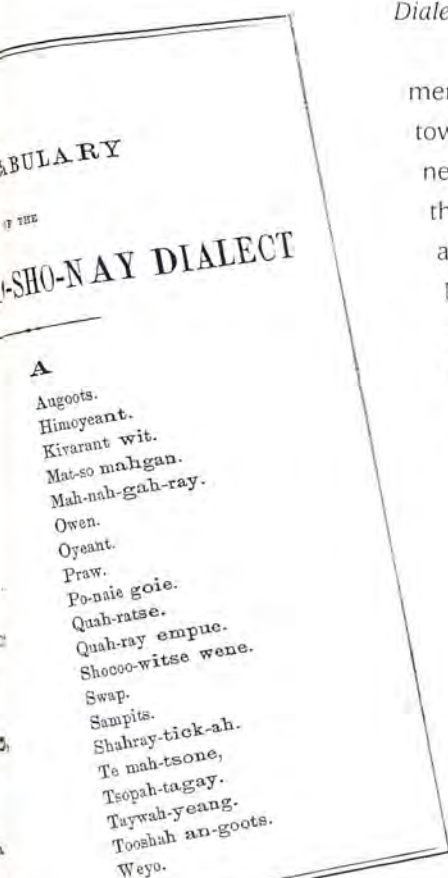
A tin cup,
All of you,
A sword,
All gone,
A gun sight,
Axe,
All,
Arm,
After a while
Antelope,
Antelope sk
A broom,
Americans
A tribe of
Arrapahoe
A file,
A pillow
A frying
A tin p
Awl,

Early printing in Wyoming and Montana

The 1860s saw several printing presses and newspapers established in the northern Rocky Mountain territories. At Fort Bridger, Utah Territory (now Wyoming), a small single page newsletter *The Daily Telegraph* was printed in 1863 by Hiram Brundage. This paper, known from only a single issue, published news reports obtained from telegraph dispatches. In 1864 John Buchanan started *The Montana Post* that published local and national news in the gold mining camp of Virginia City. *The Frontier Index* was published by Legh and Fred Freeman from a railroad car that traveled the rails serving railroad construction crews. The Freemans began their paper in 1865 in Nebraska and by 1868 had worked their way across Wyoming.

Montana Territory's first book was *The Vigilantes of Montana* by Thomas J. Dimsdale. This title, published in 1866 in Virginia City by the *Montana Post* Press, became world famous for its exciting and detailed accounts of life in the gold fields and remains one of the most important western titles ever printed. Wyoming's first book was published at Fort Laramie that same year, when it was still Dakota Territory, being fifty copies of *Dictionary of the Sioux Language* by Lieuts. Joseph Hyer and William Starring, with compilation aided by Lakota language interpreter Charles Guerreu. The second book was a reprinted edition published by the Freeman brothers' railroad car press at Green River City, being *A Vocabulary of the Snake, or, Sho-sho-nay Dialect* by Joseph A. Gebow, in 1868.

Early printing on the western frontier strongly correlates with the establishment of early population centers, such as mining camps, army forts, or railroad towns. Within the 1870s and 1880s most towns of any size were setting up newspapers, and local and state governments were relying on the presses for the publication of their laws. Newspaper editors were not known for timidity, and they made no apologies for trying to influence public opinion. Newspapers were usually a strong asset to a new town, as a good paper could provide a community with a sense of its own identity, promote the town and keep it informed of current events. The establishment of local presses and papers combined with telegraph service, reliable postal delivery and an east-west railroad connection were a powerful combination that enabled fledgling towns to quickly grow and do business with the rest of America.



Babcock Drum-Cylinder Printing Press, c. 1895. The most important ingredient for success for any new town on the frontier, next to a post office, was a newspaper. This printing press was purchased by W. F. Cody for the *Cody Enterprise* (Cody, Wyoming) in 1889. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. George Abrahamson. I. 69, 1843.

Left: *A Vocabulary of the Snake, or Sho-sho-nay Dialect*, by Joseph A. Gebow was reprinted in 1868 in Green River City, Wyoming Territory. The English-Shoshone word list was based on Gebow's own work as an interpreter with the Shoshone. Loan of Willis McDonald IV. L. 1.91.5.

THE
POET SCOUT.



CAPT. JACK CRAWFORD.

Western Poetry

Poetry was quite popular in the 19th century. In the gold mining camp of Virginia City in 1864, miners had access to a bookstore with the latest Victorian novels and poetry. *The Montana Post* routinely printed poetry, both reprinted and original from the miners themselves. The very first issue of August 27, 1864 begins with "The Haunted Palace" by Edgar Allan Poe, which qualifies as the first published poem in the state. The paper's second issue of September 3 published the first original poem, "The Dying Son — in Montana," by R. D. Aye. Composed of seven morbid stanzas, it begins:

I am dying, mother, dying,
Quoth the feeble, fainting boy,
Without thy tender care to sooth
Me in this agonizing hour.

Other original poems published by *The Post* in the next year included verse that was humorous, lovesick, patriotic (the Civil War was going full tilt), and philosophical. New lyrics were presented for popular tunes and a requiem was printed for the death of President Lincoln. All in all it is apparent that the miners were actively engaged in creative writing — especially during the winter months when mining was at its low ebb.

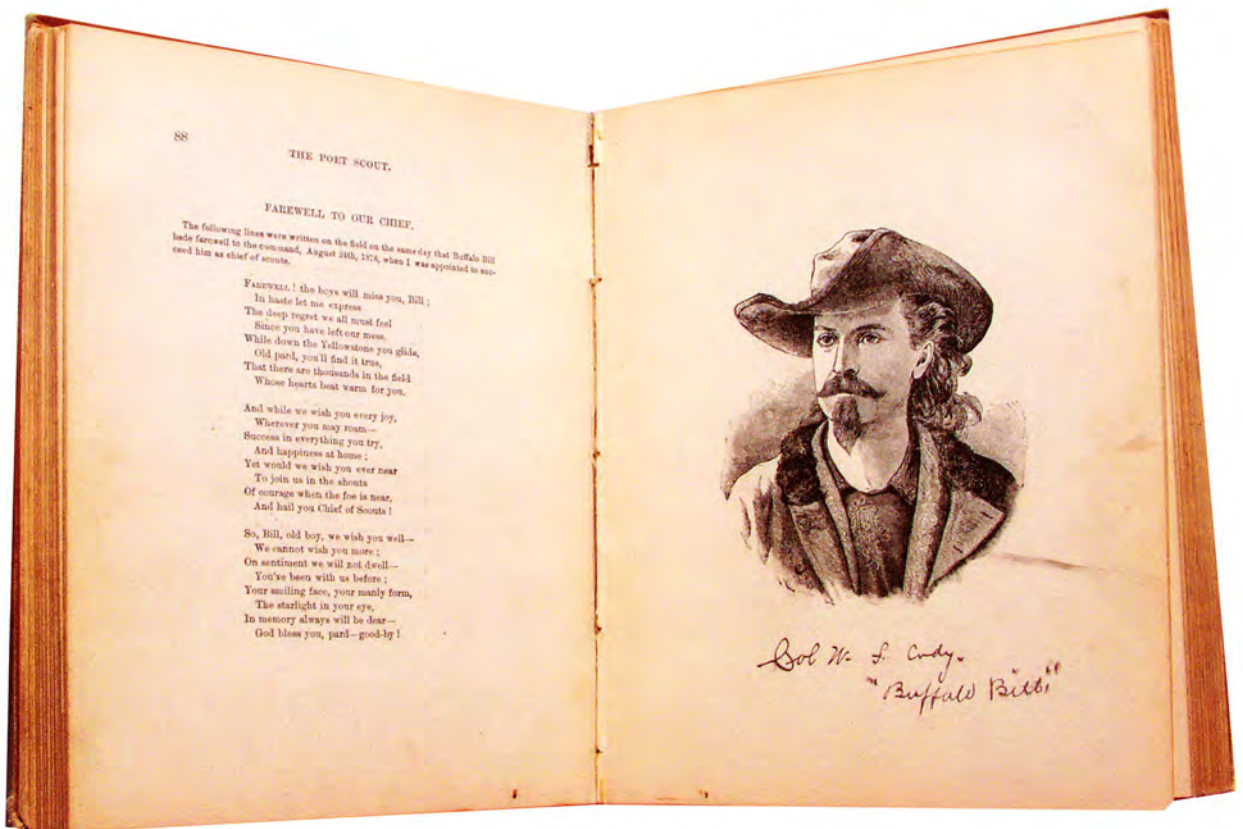
One notable and early western poet was John W. "Captain Jack" Crawford (1847–1917), who had scouted with William F. Cody for the 5th Cavalry in 1876, and then joined with Cody as a member of the 1876–77 Buffalo Bill Combination theatrical troupe. A native of Ireland, Crawford grew up in Pennsylvania, heading for the Black Hills in the early 1870s where he worked as newspaper reporter, gold miner and U.S. Army scout. A prolific poet and able showman, he published his first book of poetry in 1879 in San Francisco, entitled *The Poet Scout: Verses and Songs*. In 1886 in his second book, *The Poet Scout: A Book of Song and Story*, he included a poem about Buffalo Bill that he had written August 24, 1876, the day Cody left his position as Chief of Scouts for Gen. Crook's 5th Cavalry to return east. The first stanza of "Farewell to our Chief" reads:

Farewell! The boys will miss you, Bill;
In haste let me express
The deep regret we all must feel
Since you have left our mess.
While down the Yellowstone you glide,
Old Pard, you'll find it true,
That there are thousands in the field
Whose hearts beat warm for you.

Left: John W. "Captain Jack" Crawford, *The Poet Scout: A Book of Song and Story*, New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls, 1886. This is Buffalo Bill's family copy of the title, a gift of the author. Garlow Family Collection, MRL.

Crawford went on to write several more books of poetry, including some of the earliest known cowboy poems. It is interesting that he also used his verse to promote social causes, and his lifelong interest in mining led to his poem, "Only a Miner Killed," from his *The Poet Scout* (1886: p. 74–75). The last verse of this poem reads:

Only a miner killed!
 Bury him quick,
 Just write his name on
 a piece of a stick.
 No matter how humble
 Or plain the grave,
 Beyond all are equal –
 The master and slave.



"Farewell to Our Chief" from *The Poet Scout: A Book of Song and Story*, New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls, 1886. Garlow Family Collection, MRL.

Writing the West

FRANCES CLYMER

LIBRARIAN, MCCrackEN RESEARCH LIBRARY



Alfred Jacob Miller, 1810–1874. *Trappers Saluting the Rocky Mountains*, oil on canvas, 1864. During his travels with William Drummond Stewart, Miller sketched scenes of the daily life of trappers and Indians, and the surrounding landscape. Later, in his studio, he transformed the collected images into paintings which sought to evoke the mountain man life and the majesty of the Rocky Mountains. Gift of The Coe Foundation. 10.70.

Writing the West occurred in many forms, the same ledgers used to record the transactions of commercial establishments also served as canvases on which Native Americans depicted the stories of their lives and adventures. Artists, explorers, soldiers and pioneers all attempted to capture some essence of the American West, either in images, as did the ledger artists, or through their written descriptions of the land and the recounting of their experiences as they made their way through it. Today, examples of these efforts are preserved in the collections of the McCracken Research Library where they are sources of inspiration and information for students, scholars, artists, authors, and all those who are fascinated by the landscapes and history of this vast and varied region.



Capt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike (1779–1813), *Exploratory Travels through the Western Territories of North America* . . . Frontispiece "Map of the Interior of Louisiana, with a Part of New Mexico," (detail). London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, 1811. Pike led the first U.S. military exploratory expedition of the Mississippi River headwaters in 1805 and, in 1806–07, another expedition that led to the discovery of Pike's Peak in Colorado while exploring the headwaters of the Arkansas River and the Spanish southwest.

Exploration and Discovery

Long before the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803–1806, Europeans had penetrated the interior of the North American continent. Expeditions of discovery and conquest led by the Spanish occupiers of Mexico to the south and by the French from the north and south-east expanded knowledge of the topography and inhabitants of the unknown lands. The journals and published reports of these journeys contributed much to the growing body of knowledge developed from what the explorers saw in these seemingly remote and mysterious lands.

Among the first of the published accounts is an epic poem by Captain Gaspar Perez de Villagra entitled *La Historia de Nuevo Mexico* [Alcala, Spain: L. Martinez Grande, 1610.],

which records the exploits of Juan de Oñate, who in 1598 traveled north from Mexico into what are now Texas and New Mexico and claimed the lands for Spain. Oñate's expedition established the first permanent settlements in New Mexico. In *La Historia*, de Villagra gives his first impressions of the Pueblo Indians encountered. This translated excerpt from the work provides a vivid picture of late 16th century Pueblo life:

We visited a good many of these pueblos. They are all well built with straight, well-squared walls. Their towns have no defined streets. Their houses are three, five, six and even seven stories high, with many windows and terraces. The men spin and weave and the women cook, build houses and keep them in good repair. They dress in garments of cotton cloth, and the women wear beautiful shawls of many colors. They are quiet, peaceful people of good appearance and excellent physique, alert and intelligent. They are not known to drink, a good omen indeed. We saw no maimed or deformed people among them. The men and women alike are excellent swimmers. They are also expert in the art of painting, and are good fishermen. They live in complete equality, neither exercising authority nor demanding obedience.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, explorers continued to travel throughout the American West and record their impressions of the uncharted interior of the country. French Canadian Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de la Vérendrye, was one of these explorers. Though he never achieved his ultimate goal of locating a route to the Pacific Ocean, de la Vérendrye did make a number of trips from Montreal into the Canadian wilderness where he was successful in establishing trade relations with the Cree, Assiniboine and others who inhabited present-day south central Canada. His expedition of 1738–39 traveled west and south to the banks of the Missouri river where he stayed with the Mandan. His reports in journal form provide many details concerning the life styles and political maneuverings of the peoples encountered in his travels.

With the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the American government found itself in possession of a vast tract of land. Between 1804 and 1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, charged with locating a route to the Pacific Ocean, undertook the exploration of this new territory, leading an expedition up the Missouri river and across the continent. The published journals of the expedition of the Corps of Discovery led by Lewis and Clark continue to fascinate readers. Other expeditions soon followed and, in 1805, noted explorer Zebulon Montgomery Pike attempted to locate the headwaters of the Mississippi in northern Minnesota. The following year he set out to explore the "western parts of Louisiana." These journeys were well documented in his *Account of Expeditions to the Sources of the Mississippi and through the Western Parts of Louisiana, . . . And Tour through the Interior Parts of New Spain . . . The Plains and Rockies*, published in 1810, which contains an excellent map of the region. The Account and its map stirred the expansionist impulses of a growing nation.

The "Natural Bridge" is perhaps one of the greatest curiosities we saw in the whole of our interesting expedition. It is at the extremity of a valley formed of an immense chasm, with rocky sides — and a perpendicular height of 300 feet — through which flows a beautiful crystal stream, one of the tributaries of the Platte. The bridge itself stretches from one side of this chasm to the other — a distance of 140 feet — allowing the stream to sweep with a torrent fury under its beautiful arch — which is 45 feet at the center above the water. When we visited it upon the bridge — a huge pile of rocks — the situation — looking like immense boulders — which add much to the magnificence of its grandeur. J.R.T.

This loose note from Stedman R. Tilghman's botanical album contains his description of the natural bridge he and his companions saw on their way through present day Converse County, Wyoming. Gift of John and Kathryn Heminway.

Exploration and Illustration

When Captain Stephen H. Long set out on an expedition to survey the Rocky Mountains in 1819, his entourage included two artists — Titian Ramsay Peale and Samuel Seymour. Seymour's views of the Rocky Mountains were used to illustrate the report of this expedition which was published in 1822. Future expeditions would also include artists, whose talents with brush, pencil and pen captured the scenes encountered with an immediacy that could not be conveyed in words alone.

The Scottish nobleman William Drummond Stewart made several trips to the American West between 1833 and 1843. In 1833 he accompanied fur trader Robert Campbell on an expedition to deliver supplies to the mountain men who gathered every summer on the Green River in what is now Wyoming. Here Stewart saw colorful trappers, winsome Indian maidens and a lively celebration of the mountain man life. The artist Alfred Jacob Miller, who accompanied Stewart

on his 1837 trip, faithfully rendered depictions of the

scenes encountered both on site and later, at leisure in his studio. These vivid works provide a visual record of this soon to be lost moment in time. On his final trip into the Green River area, Stewart's traveling companions included several men of science. Among these was Stedman Tilghman, a young doctor from Baltimore. The collections of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center contain a botanical notebook which Tilghman brought back to the

east with him when the journey ended. Amateurs and scientists alike were avid collectors of botanical specimens; new plant species thus came to the attention of a public fascinated with all that was being discovered in the western regions.

Tilghman's notebook contains pressed plants, pencil sketches and some loose notes. In one of these notes he gives a description of what is now known as the Ayres Natural Bridge which soars over LaPrele Creek not far from the Oregon Trail in Converse County, Wyoming:

The "Natural Bridge" is perhaps one of the greatest curiosities we saw in the whole of our interesting expedition. It is at the extremity of a valley formed of an immense chasm, with rocky sides — and a perpendicular height of 300 feet — through which flows a beautiful crystal stream.

Other notable expeditions were undertaken by the naturalist/ethnographer Maximilian, Prince of Wied-Neuwied, accompanied by the artist Karl Bodmer. Maximilian's voluminous work, *Reise in das Innere Nord-America in den Jahren 1832 bis 1834*, is an ethnographic study of the peoples living along the upper Missouri river. In this work he records the minutiae of the lives of the people whom he studied, striving for a factual representation of all that he observed. His work is complemented by Bodmer's faithful rendering of his native subjects.

Like his more famous mentor and friend Alexander von Humboldt, Maximilian was inexhaustibly curious about the world around him. A trained zoologist, during his lifetime he identified and named a number of species of animals and plants. Some years after his return to Europe, Maximilian published an article entitled *Über die Selbstständigkeit der Species des Ursus Ferox*, a study of a species of bear. A copy of this article is preserved in the McCracken Research Library. Artists George Catlin and John James Audubon also traveled in the west and depicted the people and wildlife they observed. Catlin's accounts of his travels among the Indians of North America and Audubon's *Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* are to be found in the collections of the McCracken Research Library as well.

The Great Survey Reports

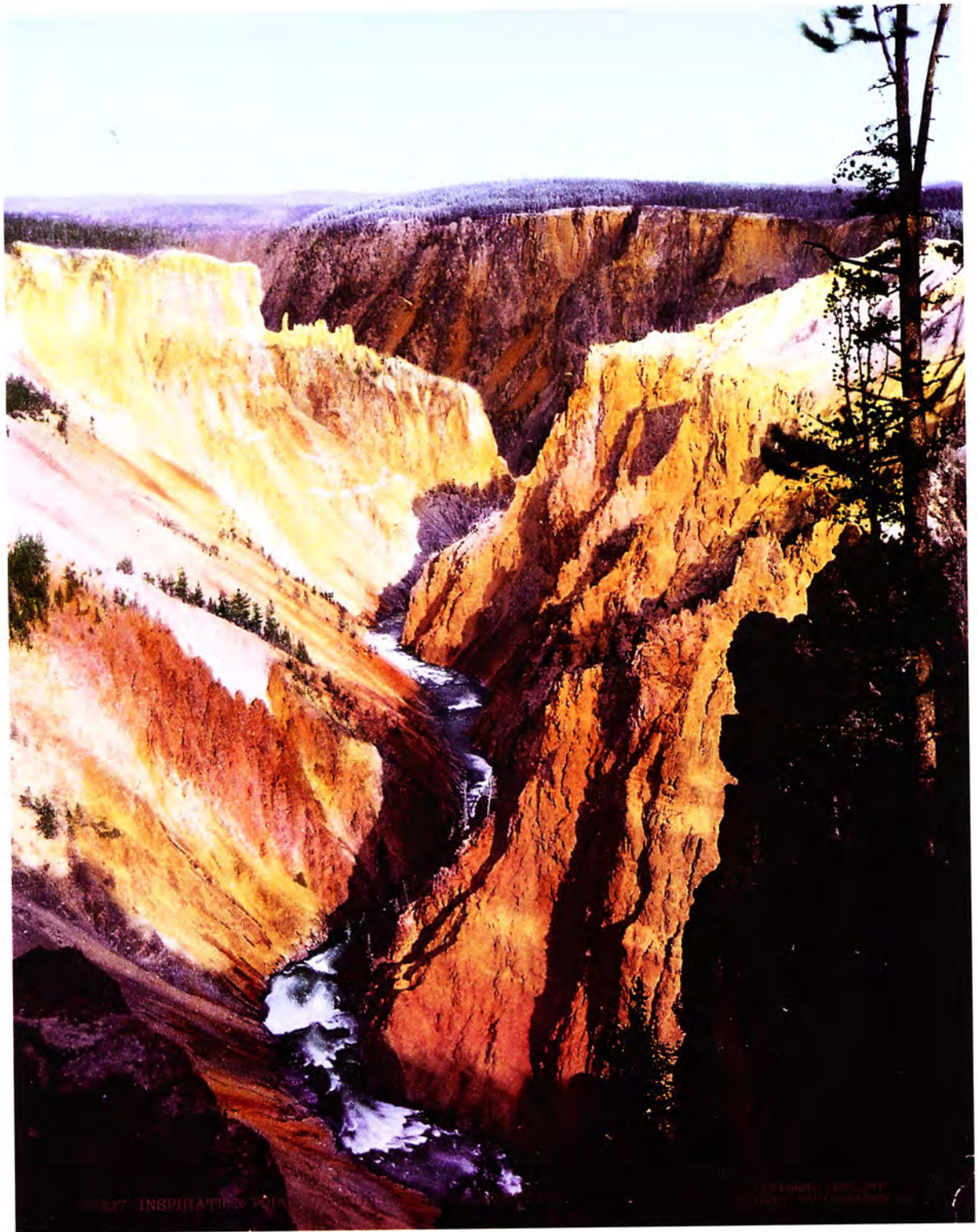
With the acquisition of California and the lands north of the Rio Grande River at the end of the Mexican-American war in 1848, and the discovery of gold in California, survey teams fanned out across the landscape looking for the most practical route for a transcontinental railroad. John C. Fremont was among the first to set out in search of a path for trains to follow to the Pacific Ocean. In 1853 Congress approved a series of surveys to be conducted by the army's topographic bureau. The results of these explorations were published in *Reports of Explorations and Surveys to Ascertain the Most Practicable and Economical Route for a Railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean Made Under the Direction of the Secretary of War in 1853-54*. Printed between 1855 and 1860, the reports provide an exhaustive examination of the land, plants, wildlife and peoples to be found in the areas surveyed.

John C. Fremont and fellow explorers, Ferdinand V. Hayden and John Wesley Powell, expanded the country's understanding of the west, bringing its wonders to the attention of the public. Fremont's *Report of the exploring expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the year 1842* (1845) and *Memoirs of my Life* (1887), copies of which are in the McCracken Research Library collections, provide a firsthand record of his travels. Hayden, who is perhaps best remembered for his role in creation of Yellowstone National Park, had a long and distinguished career exploring the West. His reports of the surveys conducted by him and members of his expeditions provided valuable information on the geography, geology, flora and fauna of the Yellowstone region. The artist Thomas Moran accompanied him on the expedition of 1871, as did frontier photographer William Henry Jackson.

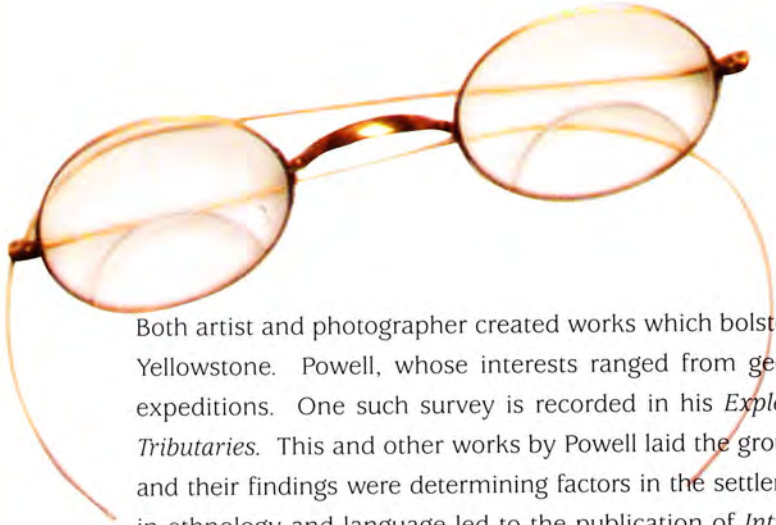


Samuel Seymour, active 1796–1823, *Distant View of the Rocky Mountains*. Hand-colored engraving. From: *Account of an Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains Performed in the Years 1819, 1820 by Order of the Hon. J. C. Calhoun, Under the Command of Maj. S.H. Long. Compiled from the Notes of Maj. Long . . . by Edwin James.* London: Longman, Hurst, Reese, Orme and Brown, 1823. The painting from which this engraving was made brought the Rocky Mountains to the eyes of the American public. It is thought to be the first depiction of these mountains by a trained artist.





William Henry Jackson (1843–1942), *Inspiration Point, Canyon of the Yellowstone*. From *Yellowstone National Park*. Detroit: Detroit Photographic Company, 1902. Jackson was employed by the Detroit Photographic Company from 1897 to 1924. During this time he revisited and photographed many of the scenes he had first observed when traveling with the 1871 Hayden Expedition.



Both artist and photographer created works which bolstered Hayden's arguments for the preservation of Yellowstone. Powell, whose interests ranged from geology to ethnology, led a number of surveying expeditions. One such survey is recorded in his *Exploration of the Colorado River of the West and Its Tributaries*. This and other works by Powell laid the groundwork for the study of resource management, and their findings were determining factors in the settlement of some parts of the West. Powell's interest in ethnology and language led to the publication of *Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages* which is an important contribution to the study of Native American linguistics. In addition to serving as director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Powell was the first director of the Bureau of American Ethnology, where he was employed from 1879 until his death in 1902.



Thomas Moran, (1837–1926) *Great Blue Spring of the Lower Geyser Basin, Firehole River, Yellowstone*. Watercolor on paper, 1872. Moran's watercolors of the natural wonders of the Yellowstone region were instrumental in having the area "dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" by the U.S. Congress in 1872. Purchased with funds from the William E. Weiss Fund, Mrs. J. Maxwell Moran, Wiley Buchanan, III, Nancy-Carroll Draper, Nancy and Nick Petry, Steve and Sue Ellen Klein, William C. Foxley, John F. Eulich, Mary Lou and Willis McDonald, IV, and D. Harold Byrd, Jr. 24.91

Stories and Diaries

Handwritten biographical accounts of life in the pioneer west bring the writing of the West to life in a way that is fresh and immediate, despite the years separating the reader from the events described. A fragment of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's tale of the Grand Duke Alexis hunt, which took place in 1872, written in his own hand some years after the event, is a delight to read. He begins:

Probably if I have been asked once I have been asked twenty thousand times. What kind of time did the Grand Duke have on the plains hunting Buffalo. Was he a good rider. Was he a nice fellow socialy. could he speak good english. how many buffalo did he kill. did you have to hold the buffalo for him.

In another manuscript fragment, Cody describes an encounter he had as a very young man with some men he thought to be trappers:

The man I was talking to asked me if I ever looked in to a damp bottle. I told him I would not mind getting a little tanglefoot if he would parade a small vile. Then he produced a bottle what had once contained Log cabbin bitters. But now contained some of the worst tirantular I ever floped my lip over.

It is not hard to imagine the scene. Movies and television have perpetuated images of this kind, but here we have a telling of the event as experienced by the writer.

A more humble form of writing the West took place during the cross-country voyages undertaken by pioneers seeking a new life west of the Mississippi. Diaries, often kept by women, contain the commonplaces of everyday life on the trail. Hopes, misgivings and tragedies are outlined in simple, yet frequently eloquent entries. The contrast between the hardships of the road and the natural wonders observed is common to many pioneer diaries. In one such diary, the newly wed Lucena Parsons detailed the events of each day as she and her husband traveled from northwest Illinois to California. The tragic and the sublime often traveled in tandem, as in this entry dated June 20, 1850:

... Did not get started till late. Travelled over a beautifull country. Passt six graves all made within 5 days and all died of the cholera.

The American West left an indelible impression on those who sought to discover, conquer and settle its remote regions. The writings which flowed from their observations and experiences continue to enchant readers and nourish the imaginations of writers. The Buffalo Bill Historical Center is privileged to be able to share that history. ■



William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Vincent Mercaldo Collection. P.71.102.



Patrons Ball
Memories 2001

The Patrons Ball—September 2001

KATHY MCCLANE

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP



The 2001 Patrons Ball last September had an almost full-house. This was pretty amazing in light of the events of September 11. We had only a few cancellations. One of the cancellations was the entire band and we were lucky to be able to contract with the band *Cody!* for the evening. These four talented guys had everybody dancing till the wee hours. They rocked! The food was wonderful, the wine flowed, and we raised a lot of money for the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

For the holidays or for any occasion, consider giving a Gift Membership and share the excitement with friends and family. We're ready to help with a specialized membership package. Call Kathy during business hours at 307.578.4032. For information about the 2002 Firearms Discount Letter offer, call Waddy at 307.578.4031.

On the next few pages, enjoy the photos of the Patrons Ball celebrants. It was a great party! Please plan to attend next year.

“It was quite a party!”



Top: Left to right: Laura and Kurt Bucholz, Mary Ellen and Robert Zakoff, Sonja and Jerry Wenger, Marcy and George Mongon.

Left: Patrons Ball Chairperson Debbie Oakley Simpson and Al Simpson.

Below: Joan and Bob Donner of Colorado Springs, CO.





Above: Mort and Donna
Fleischer of Scottsdale, AZ.



Left: CODY! The Band.

Below: Al and Ann Simpson,
Byron and Jeannie Price.





Above: From Top left: Sharon and Scott Polley, Mary Kay and Vince Kalkowski, Cindy and Kelly Rankin, Karen Riley.

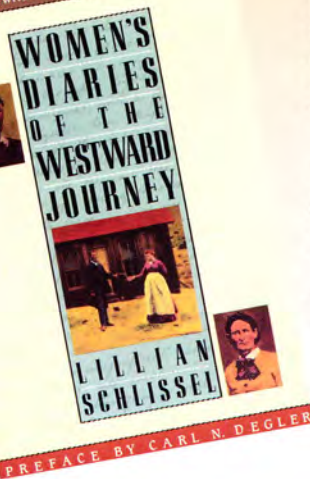
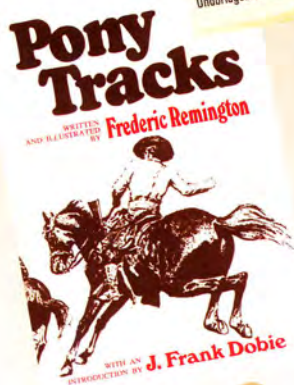
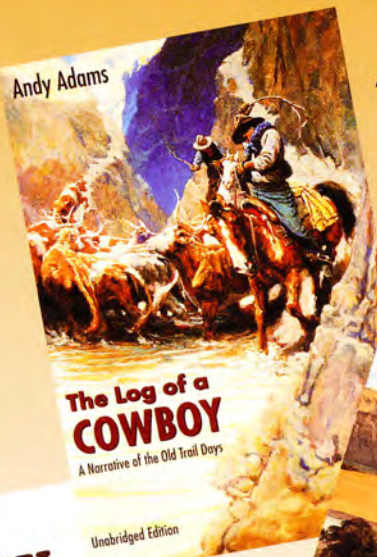
Right: BBHC employee Jessie Jackson presenting a 2002 Ford T-Bird raffled off at the Ball.

Below: Former U. S. Ambassador Mike and Jane Sullivan.



*Put "yourself"
in the
picture . . .
see you
next year!*

THE WAY IT WAS . . .



1. *Pony Tracks*, Written and Illustrated by Frederic Remington. Introduction by J. Frank Dobie. First published in 1895. "These are first hand accounts of the Old West as seen through Remington's eyes, and he tells them with humor and restraint" — *Colorado Magazine*. Patrons Price \$10.50

2. *Log of a Cowboy* by Andy Adams. Reproduced from an edition first published in 1905. Adams spent 12 years in Texas as a wrangler. He depicts a realistic image of the cattle trail era. Patrons Price \$7.75

3. *The Journals of Lewis and Clark* edited by Bernard DeVoto, forward by Stephen Ambrose. The writing of Lewis and Clark as they explored and recorded intelligence of the expanse known then as the Louisiana Purchase, from 1804-1806. Patrons Price \$9.80

4. *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey* by Lillian Schlissel. More than 250,000 Americans crossed the continental US between 1840 and 1870. This collection of diary excerpts detail exactly what life was like on the frontier. Patrons Price \$10.50.

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