

Buffalo Bill Cody

- Billy the Kid**
- Jesse James**
- Wild Bill Hickok**
- Wyatt Earp**
- Bat Masterson**
- Doc Holliday**
- Buffalo Bill Cody**
- Butch Cassidy**
- Sundance Kid**
- John Wesley Hardin**
- Virgil Earp**
- Morgan Earp**



Born William Frederick Cody in LeClaire, Iowa in 1846, by age 22 he was rechristened "Buffalo Bill" by winning an eight-hour shooting match with hunter William Constock. He'd been a trapper, bullwhacker, Colorado 'fifty-niner,' Pony Express rider, wagonmaster, stagecoach driver, Civil War soldier and even hotel manager.

He earned his nickname for his skill in supplying railroad workers with buffalo meat. He was then about to embark on a career as one of the most illustrious prairie scouts of the Indian Wars.

From 1868-1872 he was employed by the Army, a record in that hazardous and uncertain scouting profession. He won the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1872 and was thereafter the favorite scout of the Fifth Calvary.

1873 was a pivotal year for Cody the legend. That was the year Ned Buntline persuaded Buffalo Bill to appear in a dramatized version of one his novels, one whose hero had been inspired by Cody. From this point, Cody's reputation grew faster than his exploits. He continued on stage for eleven seasons, spending many of his summers scouting or guiding hunting parties.

The Wild West Show was inaugurated in Omaha in 1883 with real cowboys and Indians portraying the 'real West.' The show spent 10 of its 30 years in Europe. In 1887 Buffalo Bill was a featured attraction at Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. At the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, only Little Egypt's gyrations rivaled the Wild West as the talk of Chicago.

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from computer with address jimstevenson@hotmail.com

e-mail me at jimstevenson@hotmail.com

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