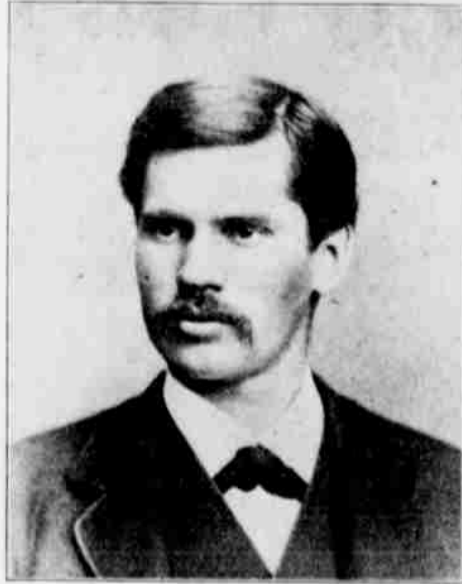


Recently Elected Mayors of Nebraska Cities



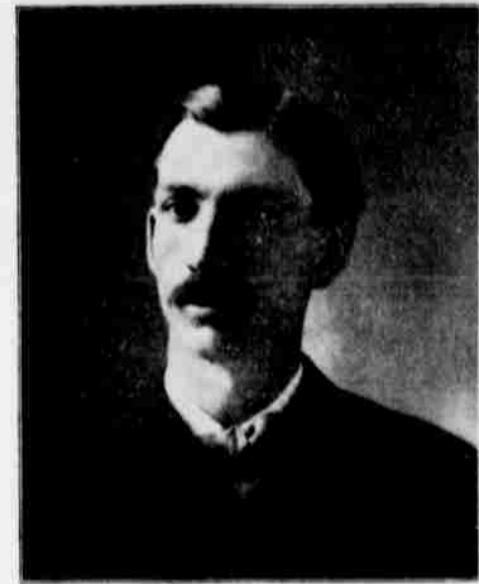
J. A. REULING, WYMORE.



J. C. RAILSBACK, ASHLAND.



R. A. HEATON, WAHOO.



THOMAS E. PARMELE, PLATTSMOUTH.

Colonel Cody of Nebraska

The most widely known Nebraskan of today is Colonel William F. Cody, otherwise known as Buffalo Bill. He has probably advertised Nebraska more than any other man who ever lived within its boundaries. He is known to all classes, not only in the North American continent, but in the continent of Europe. Wherever he has gone during the last quarter of a century he has always been proud of the fact that he hails from the state of Nebraska—a fact that he has never failed to make known whether in the company of the average plebeian or the crowned heads and nobility of Europe.

His hobby has been the possibilities and resources of the state and the transmissouri country generally. The result has been that Colonel Cody has attracted to this section of the country numerous settlers and has induced the investment of an immense amount of capital in various important enterprises, both by Americans and foreigners, especially Englishmen.

In the development of Nebraska and the west Colonel Cody has been an important factor. The part that he has played in the wars with the Indians is a matter of history. His deeds as scout and fighter make a brilliant record.

Colonel Cody is a native of Iowa, born in 1845 in Scott county. From the time he was 10 years old his life has been full of adventure—more like romance than reality. The thrilling incidents in his career would fill volumes—indeed they have filled volumes, for "Buffalo Bill" has been the hero of many a story of absorbing interest.

In 1855, his family having moved to Kansas, Cody entered the service of Russell, Majors & Waddell, the freight contractors, as wagon-master, driver and pony express rider. Continuing in their employment several years, he met with numerous adventures and gained much valuable experience on the trail across the plains through Nebraska to Denver and Salt Lake.

In the fall of 1861 Cody entered the government service. He was employed to carry important dispatches from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Larned, Kan., and the next spring he served as scout and guide in an expedition against the Indians by the Ninth Kansas volunteers. The following winter he became a member of the "Red-Legged Scouts," among whom were some of the most noted Kansas Rangers. It was at this time that Cody became an intimate friend of "Wild Bill" Hickok, who in 1866 secured employment for him at Fort Harker, from

which point he scouted between Forts Ellsworth and Fletcher.

A Mighty Buffalo Hunter.
About the year 1868, when the Kansas Pacific track had reached the heart of the buffalo country, Cody, who had already made a reputation as a buffalo hunter, was engaged by the railroad contractors to kill twelve buffaloes a day for them. They paid him \$500 a month to keep them supplied with fresh meat. During his engagement as hunter for the contractors—a period of less than eighteen months—he killed 4,280 buffaloes and had many exciting adventures with the Indians and had several narrow escapes.

It was while hunting for the Kansas Pacific contractors that he earned the sobriquet of "Buffalo Bill"—a name of which he is very proud. In a buffalo hunting match with the famous Billy Comstock for \$500 a side he was the victor and was declared the champion killer of the plains. Cody killed sixty-nine and Comstock forty-six.

Cody now resumed scouting for the government and served under all the commanders who sooner or later became famous as Indian campaigners. General Sheridan appointed him chief of scouts and guide of the fighting Fifth cavalry, and from that time he was constantly in the field for a long period. He came with the Fifth cavalry to Nebraska, with headquarters at Fort McPherson, near North Platte. This regiment, after arriving at Fort McPherson, was engaged in Indian campaigning for several seasons and fought many a hard battle.

While stationed at Fort McPherson Buffalo Bill conducted many a notable party to the hunting fields, and in this way formed a lasting acquaintance with numerous distinguished men. When the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia visited the United States in the winter of 1871-72 one of his greatest pleasures was a buffalo hunt on the plains of Nebraska under the guidance of Buffalo Bill.

Buntline "Discovers" Cody.
It was Colonel Judson, better known as Ned Buntline, the sensational story writer, who, in 1872, "discovered" Buffalo Bill and soon after started him on his career as a showman. Buntline wrote a thrilling story of Cody's exploits and published it in the New York Weekly. It created a genuine sensation. "Buffalo Bill" literature at once became the fad. Buntline, who was a shrewd man, appreciating the great interest that had been created by his story, at once had it dramatized and brought out in New

York under the title of "Buffalo Bill, the King of Border Men." It met with instantaneous success.

Cody, upon invitation, went to New York to witness the play, and while there received a generous offer to appear in the leading role, which was being acted by J. B. Studley. He refused the offer, but upon returning to the west resolved to enter upon a stage career.

In the fall of 1872 he was elected to the Nebraska legislature from the Twenty-sixth district, much to his surprise, as the district was republican. However, he resigned in order to accept a contract with Buntline, and a few weeks later the Honorable William F. Cody blossomed forth as the star in "The Scouts of the Plains," written by Buntline in forty-eight hours, and produced first in Chicago. The season proved successful. For several years Cody continued to produce border dramas, with himself as the central figure, he having parted company with Buntline after the first season.

Duel with Chief Yellow Hand.
In the spring of 1876 Cody was engaged with General Crook in the Indian campaign of that year. In this campaign Cody, who at the time was with the Fifth cavalry, under General Merritt, rode out in front of the command and challenged Yellow Hand, one of the leading chiefs of the Cheyennes, to fight him a duel in full view of the two armies. Yellow Hand accepted.

The duel began on horseback. At the first shot Cody killed Yellow Hand's horse. Cody's horse stepped into a hole and fell. The duel was then continued on foot. They fired simultaneously. Cody's bullet struck the chief in the vicinity of the heart. He fell dead, and the next moment Cody was upon him and quickly scalped him. Mounting his horse, and waving the bloody trophy, with its long feather head-dress, he rode back into the lines of the Fifth and shouted: "The first scalp for Custer!"

The thrilling episode created the wildest enthusiasm among the cavalrymen, who pursued the now retreating Indians for a long distance, finally rounding them up at their agency. This adventure added new lustre to the reputation of Buffalo Bill, who a few weeks later resumed his theatrical career under the most favorable auspices.

"The Wild West" Show.
Cody's long cherished idea of a "Wild West" show—to delineate the wild life of the frontier—was carried out in the spring of 1883. The first performance was given at the driving park in the northern outskirts of Omaha. For three years the show successfully toured the country and was then taken to London on the steamer State of

Nebraska. In the English metropolis the "Wild West" became the rage for a long season. Cody, who prior to his departure had been given a commission as colonel of cavalry by Governor Thayer, of whose staff he was made a member, became a social lion in London and hobnobbed with all sorts of royalty. His show was visited by the queen, the prince and princess of Wales and the royal household generally, together with numerous members of the nobility. Special performances were given for the queen at her command. Upon one of these occasions the kings of Denmark, Greece, Saxony and Austria took a ride in the "Wild West" coach and when it was ended the prince of Wales, who sat with Colonel Cody on the box and who knows a thing or two about the American game of poker, said:

"Colonel, you never held four kings like that before."
"I have held four kings more than once," replied the colonel, "but, your highness, I never before held four kings and the royal joker."
The prince laughed heartily, but the colonel sympathized with him when he heard him explaining the joke to his guests in four different languages.

Social Lion in Europe.
During his stay in London Colonel Cody was presented with many costly and beautiful souvenirs. In 1888 he was in Paris with his show and was as much lionized there as he had been in London. Rosa Bonheur painted him on horseback and presented him with the picture.

Following the Parisian engagement he toured southern France, Spain, Italy and Germany. In Rome he was invited by the pope to visit the Vatican, and the pope blessed the gallant colonel, together with a lot of the cowboys and Indians. At Verona Colonel Cody gave his exhibition in the amphitheater which was built by Diocletian A. D. 290. It is the largest building in the world. In 1891, just after the Sioux war, Colonel Cody employed a new lot of Indian chiefs who had distinguished themselves in battle and with them he made another European tour.

"The Wild West" was one of the big attractions in Chicago during the World's fair. "Cody day" at the Transmississippi Exposition was one of the leading events of that exposition season.
Colonel Cody's home is at North Platte, Neb., where he has a fine ranch. Recently he has become extensively interested in the Big Horn basin in Wyoming, where he has secured control of 200,000 acres of land, which he proposes to irrigate. His town of Cody is soon to have a railroad, and when

he retires in a few years he will be able to ship his cattle direct from his herds to South Omaha.

Colonel Cody is a crack shot, a superb horseman, a strikingly handsome man, a brilliant raconteur, possessed of plenty of ready wit, a generous entertainer, and it is no wonder that he has a host of friends wherever he goes. A. S.

Transformed by Women

Dissatisfied with the progress of the town under masculine rule, the women of Healdsburg, Cal., gently but firmly took possession of the reins and are now driving the municipal coach their own way. Their organization is called the Ladies' Improvement Club of Healdsburg and it was formed in August of last year. Since that time—in the short space of seven months—this is what the club has accomplished:

A municipal water system.
A municipal electric light plant.
Comfortable seats placed in the plaza.
Names given to the streets.
Sign boards with street names placed at street corners.

A drinking fountain for the plaza costing \$500.

All these improvements had been discussed for years by the men. It remained for the women to make them realities. And, with the exception of the electric light plant and the water system, the city taxes have not been increased by as much as a farthing to pay for these things.

One evening last August a party of women were listening to the music of a band playing on the plaza. Several hundred persons were in and about the plaza, all standing or walking. "What a pity," said one, the wife of Mayor W. H. Barnes, "what a pity it is that there are no seats in the park."

"Why not go to work and raise money enough to buy seats?" suggested one of a practical turn of mind. And that started a discussion that resulted in the organization of the club.

The drinking fountain, which they have planned, will be a beautiful creation in marble and granite and bronze, fifteen feet high, surmounted by a cluster of electric lamps. On the foundation stone will be hewn this legend: "Erected, 1900, by the Ladies of Healdsburg."

What next? Well, the streets are to be lined with shade trees, the houses numbered, the streets regularly swept and sprinkled and the fire department given a new apparatus, and then—they will see what else is needed.

Omaha's New Board of Police Commissioners



M. H. COLLINS.



FRANK A. KENNEDY.



R. V. MISKOVSKI.



P. C. HEAFEY.