

# Brother Buffalo!!!

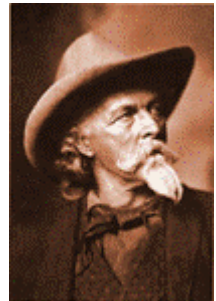
written by Brother Evan Wiskoff of Mariner Lodge #2



William Cody (Buffalo Bill Cody) was raised to the celestial temple on January 10<sup>th</sup> 1917. After a temporary internment he was put into a permanent Granite Tomb above Lookout Mountain in Colorado on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1917. The procession to his internment included over 3000 automobiles and many were seen in this procession in the Masonic White leather or Lamb Skin apron that marked their devotion to Brother Bill.

The turnout was no small surprise. Besides being a Master Mason, Brother Bill's name was synonymous with the world fascination with the American Wild West. He is considered in history to be one of its greatest tall tales. Such outlandish bravado was spoken about or on behalf of Brother Bill because he truly was larger than life. Is it really no surprise that he was a Mason. History is made up of Masons who walked in the light of our creator as Brother Bill did. It is unfortunate however, that upon his grave on Lookout Mountain, nothing is mentioned of his Masonic pedigree. This article will bring more light to Bills Masonic heritage, we all know about his exploits as a great American, but few you of his immersion and the level of it in our Craft.

Born in LaClare, Scott County, Iowa, February 26, 1846, Buffalo Bill was destined to become one of the most famous members of our ancient and honorable Fraternity. At the age of 23, he petitioned Platt Valley Lodge No. 32, A.F. & A.M. of North Platt, Nebraska. On his 24th birthday he was elected to membership. He was initiated an Entered Apprentice on March 5th, 1870, passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft on April 2nd, 1870, and "raised" to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on January 10, 1871.



At the age of 40 he petitioned Euphrates Chapter No. 15, Royal Arch Masons, of North Platt, Nebraska on September 1, 1887. He was advanced to the Degree of Mark Master, inducted into the oriental chair and received and acknowledged a Most Excellent Master on November 14th, 1888. He was exalted to the Royal Arch Degree on November 15th, 1888.

Within two months thereafter he petitioned Palestine Commandery No. 13, Order of Knights Templar, was duly elected and received the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross on April 1, 1889 and on the following day received the Order of Malta and was dubbed a Knight Templar. He petitioned Tangier Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of Omaha, Nebraska on March 22, 1892, and walked the "hot sands" three days later.

Buffalo Bill was made a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of America in the Valley of New York City on April 4th, 1894 having joined the Lodge of Perfection (4th-14th Degree), the

Council of Princes (15th & 16th Degrees), the Chapter of Rose Croix (17th & 18th Degrees), and the Consistory (19th - 32nd Degrees) all the same day.

It is plain to see that Wild Bills name goes hand in hand with Western expansion, and with it the expansion of our glorious brotherhood. Atop Lookout Mountain, one can see the paths that many took to discover, explore and conquer the American West. It is a fitting place for Brother Bill's mortal remains to overlook these trails that he blazed. I wonder, "What would it have been like to sit in Lodge with so powerful and flamboyant a presence as Buffalo Bill". I am sure it was both amazing and entertaining. I can think of no better two words to describe Brother Bill than these.

~Evan H. Wiskoff

Special Thanks to William Herbert "Skip" Boyer, 32° for his great article that inspired this one.

<http://www.srmason-sj.org/council/journal/aug99/Boyerbill.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo\\_Bill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo_Bill)