

Julia Cody Goodman's Memoirs of Buffalo Bill

Edited by DON RUSSELL

I. INTRODUCTION

JULIA Melvina Cody Goodman, elder sister of William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody, wrote this memoir, says a family tradition, to correct errors made by her sister Helen Cody Wetmore in the long-popular book *Last of the Great Scouts*. If so, Julia succeeded admirably, for she wrote mainly of what she knew at first hand; her memory for dates, many of which can be checked, is surprisingly accurate, and her story is free from the exaggerations that have caused many a suspicious eye to be turned on Helen's narrative.

Because Julia confined herself so largely to what she knew at first hand, her story covers in detail only the early life of her famous brother. After a few pages on their early life in Iowa, she devotes nearly four-fifths of her manuscript to the family's pioneering in Kansas. For the events that brought Buffalo Bill world-wide fame—the Pony Express, the buffalo hunting, the scouting, the Wild West show—she has only a few scattered paragraphs, not all of that free from error. At one later time their relations were again close, for she and her husband James Alvin Goodman managed Cody's Scout's Rest ranch at North Platte, Neb., for several years, but although she twice tells us that while there she "Entertained from Royalty to Cow Boys," she names not a one of her distinguished guests, nor does she tell anything about them, and very little about the ranch.

It is easy to see why several attempts to make a Buffalo Bill biography of this manuscript have proved failures.¹ It begins with genealogy (also correcting Helen); it ends with family history, and there is much in between about Julia that has little to do with Bill, although her meeting with Abraham Lincoln in Leavenworth is not without interest. It is, nevertheless, an important source for the early life of William F. Cody, and it sets the record straight on a number of episodes.

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1. *Buffalo Bill: King of the Old West*, by Elizabeth Jane Leonard and Julia Cody Goodman, edited by James Williams Hoffman (Liberty Publishers, New York, 1955), derives little from this manuscript, if it was used, although it contains much interesting material apparently obtained at some time or other from Mrs. Goodman.

More than that, and even if there were no mention of anyone as famous as Buffalo Bill, it is an invaluable record of the days of "Bleeding Kansas." The Cody family claimed to be among the first legitimate settlers in Kansas, for Isaac Cody had obtained a contract to put up hay for the quartermaster at Fort Leavenworth, with permission to erect a temporary dwelling place, and as soon as news came of passage of the Kansas-Nebraska act he moved his family in and staked his claim. Experienced as a surveyor, he helped many another to stake a claim. His friendly relations with the Kickapoo Indians are noteworthy.

No crusader, Isaac Cody soon became involved in the Free-State cause. Because of exaggerated stories in the Buffalo Bill literature, some Kansas historians have looked askance at Isaac Cody's services.² But he was stabbed while making a Free-State speech on September 18, 1854, a wound which, his family believed, contributed to his death on March 10, 1857. He was an elections officer and returns judge, a member of the Topeka legislature, and an associate of Mark Delahay. He was a founder of Grasshopper Falls, now Valley Falls, and Julia tells of his trip East to encourage emigration to Kansas.

His attitude is well expressed in a letter he wrote from Grasshopper Falls in April, 1855, to Mr. L. Summers, reporting on the election of March 30:

Sir, as I have spare time I would give you a short history of our election. The antislavers were run off of the track completely by the Pukes. They came for 200 miles from the interior, formed in Companies from 100 to 200, with their flags, their whiskey, and their music, and going there saw a famous work. Probably about one hundred and a sufficient number at every precinct in the territory to force their votes, and if the judges refused, they forced them off their seat, and put such men as they pleased on the seat, and men from the State of Missouri that were not citizens. The citizens of the territory did not vote; it was carried there by Missourians' votes. The candidates and judges went to the governor and demanded their papers, and many of them got theirs. They went with the determination to hang the governor or have them, and I suppose the governor thought peace was best, and refers the whole matter to the governor general for a decision.

If I should give you a correct statement of the course pursued by these outrageous fellows you would doubt, therefore you may imagine how bad a set of wild drunken fanatics could be in such a case, and even then I shall doubt whether you can make it as bad as it was. I have always despised the name of abolitionist, but if yourself was here you would say Abolitionist or anything that would stop such outrageous acts.

2. Notably William E. Connelley.

Now I would say to our popular governor, "Gentlemen, if you do not do something to protect these unprotected territories, I shall accuse them of disloyalty."

Yours respectfully,

I. Cody

I am building a saw mill at Grasshopper Falls some 30 miles from here. I have not seen my family for 2 weeks but heard that they are all well at Salt Creek. Give my respects to all enquiring friends, and if you please, read them this.

Nineteenth century warfare had its amenities that are rare in the 20th. While Isaac Cody, in fear for his life, avoided traveling between Salt creek and Grasshopper Falls without protection, Julia, 13, and Willie, 10, made a trip, stopping over night, over the same route, on their own, to fetch home the cows. A Border Ruffian, with knife in hand, threatening to kill Isaac Cody, offers no violence or insult to Isaac's wife or daughters. Willie boldly walks into the camp of the dread Kickapoo Rangers to claim his pony, Prince—and gets him.

The Buffalo Bill story is romance, but Julia invests it with realism as she tells of the battle with the skunks, Willie puking all over his horse as he rides to warn his father, and his return from his first trip across the Plains so covered with lice and filth that his clothes are burned and he is not allowed in the house until thoroughly scrubbed. But as Willie starts his adventures on the Plains after the death of their father, Julia's story becomes less definite and detailed. The Codys must have been a reticent family. One guesses that she would not have known so much about the trapping expedition had she not flirted with Dave Harrington, thus verifying an adventure that otherwise might seem to be out of one of Col. Prentiss Ingraham's dime novels.

The story virtually ends in 1860, when Willie leaves home to ride Pony Express. At that time Julia was 17, Helen was 10, so it can readily be understood that Helen's memory of the preceding six years was less reliable than that of Julia. Helen's book, *Last of the Great Scouts*, was published in 1899 after her marriage (her second) to Hugh A. Wetmore, in Duluth, Minn., where he edited a newspaper. A new edition (Duluth and Chicago) was illustrated by Frederic Remington, and ran through several printings, some of them sold on show day with a free ticket to Buffalo Bill's Wild West thrown in. After Cody's death, the book was taken over by Grosset & Dunlap, who added a foreword and after-piece by Zane Grey, then at the height of his popularity. It has been kept in print, and has been the most widely distributed of all books about Buffalo

Bill, unfortunately for it contains many exaggerations, and many errors beyond those corrected by Julia.

Before her death, Julia Goodman entrusted her original manuscript to Hiram S. Cody, a distant relative and honorary president of the Cody Family Association, requesting that he would see to its publication. He lent it to me for use in *The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill*. It consists of 166 (numbered 163 by Julia) pages, written in pencil on unruled, white paper. There was some editing in ink by another hand, most of which was ignored because it was little improvement on Julia's original locutions, and in some cases misinterpreted what she obviously intended to say.

In this editing her locutions and capitalization have been followed as exactly as possible. Punctuation, of which she has little or none, has been added for clarity—it is not entirely clear that her entire manuscript is not one sentence, connected by a multitude of "ands." Some of these connectives have been dropped to make new sentences and paragraphs, but enough have been retained to give the general idea.

Only enough of her misspellings are retained to give something of the flavor and originality of the original. An exception is "sayed," with which she introduces both direct and indirect discourse, and as it is not always clear which is intended, quotation marks have not been attempted. I have generally retained "cept" for "kept," "acrost" for "across," "disided" for "decided," and "seen" for "saw," as these are not apt to cause any confusion, but I have generally straightened her out on "their" and "there," "to" and "too," "made" for "maid," "married" for "marred," and "until" for "untill." In some cases after a misspelling has once been indicated, the word is thereafter spelled correctly, although she is not entirely consistent and sometimes does the same. Most proper names have been spelled correctly when identified; one cannot always be sure she has not spelled them correctly.

In keeping her manuscript in the way she wrote it, as much as seems practicable, of course there is no intent of ridicule. Considering her scant schooling under frontier conditions, she did remarkably well; many a high school or even college student of today does little better. Sometimes her errors indicate pronunciations current in her time, and occasional forgotten colloquialisms are of interest. Beyond this it seems to me that her sometimes original constructions give a conversational tone to the story that is all to the good. It is as if you were hearing her tell it, and it sounds convincing.

In studying the Buffalo Bill autobiographies I have found another

value in Julia's manuscript. As she says her education and Willie's were almost parallel, one might guess that his original manuscript might look much like this—and I happen to have seen one that does. There are several errors in his original autobiography that can only be attributed to the misinterpretation of bad handwriting—internal evidence that he did write it, however much it was added to and edited as might be done with Julia's manuscript.

II. THE MEMOIRS

THE ANCESTRY OF ISAAC AND MARY B. CODY

In or about the year of 1690 Philip Cody left England³ and came to Beverly, Mass., and settled there. The Cody Famely separated; some went West and some to Canida. As to my understanding it was our Branch that went to Canida. As far back as I have knowledge my grandparents Philip and Lydia lived there and had a large family. In the year of 1830 my Father Isaac was 18 years old at that time, as my aunt Sophia told me and I always remembered it. When they grew up they married and scatered all over the United States. Now as to my mother:

My mother's family was of the Bunting family. They came from Derby-shire, England, in the year 1690 and settled at Darby, Pennsylvania. They came with William Penn's Party and Josiah Bunting held the Parchment under the Big Elm Tree at the time the Treaty was signed by William Penn and the Indians. My mother, Mary B. (Laycock) Cody was the 4th Generation from Josiah Bunting and her Father was Samuel Laycock, a sea captain who owned his own boat.

Mother's Father and Brother Samuel were Both ship recked and Grand Father Samuel was buried at sea and her Brother Samuel was taken off of the Boat on an Island some place near New York State. Then Mary (Mother) felt so lonely that her Brother William came and took her to Cincinnati, Ohio, which was then consider

3. Research showing that Philip Le Candey and his wife Martha came from the Island of Jersey to Beverly, Mass., and purchased land there in 1698 is discussed in *The Piercing of the Veil*, a pamphlet by Ernest William Cody (The Cody Family Association, London, Ont., 1937). The name appears in records with numerous variant spellings eventually becoming Cody. The family genealogy, much of it originally based on Mrs. Goodman's recollections, has been set forth in the following publications of The Cody Family Association: *Our Cody Family Directory 1925*, Descendants of Philip & Martha Cody of Beverly, Mass., presented by Sherwin Cody, Hiram S. Cody, Luther M. Cody (West Somerville, Mass.), pp. 12; *The Cody Family Directory 1927* (same subtitle), prepared by Luther M. Cody, secretary (n. p.), pp. 32; *The Cody Family Directory 1938*, Descendants of Philip and Martha Le Cody of Beverly, Massachusetts, 1695, prepared by Luther Merrill Cody and Ernest William Cody (n. p.), pp. 48; *The Cody Family Handbook-Directory 1941*, Descendants of Philip and Martha at Beverly, Massachusetts, 1698 (London, Ont.), pp. 224; *The Cody Family Association Directory 1952* (same subtitle), the joint effort of Ernest William Cody and his wife Ella Jean Cody (London, Ont.), pp. 225; *The Cody Family in America 1698*, Descendants of Philip and Martha, Massachusetts, Biographical and Geneological (published by Lydia S. Cody, chairman, Historical Board, printed by Cody Publications, Inc., Kalamazoo, Fla., 1954), pp. 257.

the Far West at that time. She lived with her Brother William untill she met my Father in 1839 and in 1840 was married to him.⁴

Mother's Maiden name was Mary Bonsel Laycock. Her Mother's name was Hanah Taylor. She had 2 Brothers, one William Laycock, who went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and lived there untill his death in 1859. He only left one Daughter as far as I know. Her brother Samuel went with his Father to sea. Her Mother died early in 1830 and she had a stepmother and her sister Eliza was 6 years yunger than mother, and as their stepmother marrid a Mr. Guss of West Chester, Penn., and he had a son Henry Guss⁵ and when they grew up Henry Guss marrid Eliza Laycock and they stayed at West Chester, Penn., and my mother then left Philadelphia in 1836 and went to Cincinnati to live with her brother William after her Father and Brother's Death and it was in Cincinnati, Ohio, that she met my Father Isaac Cody and in 1840 they were married and moved out to the Territory of Iowa and settled in Davenport, Scott Co., and later they moved up to the small town of LeClaire and they pre-empted a Homestead 2 miles west of LeClaire.

My Brother Samuel was born in LeClaire Feb. 21, 1841 and lived untill he was 12 years old, then was killed by a Horse. And on March 28, 1843, I, Julia Cody Goodman was Born on the Homestead or farm 2 miles west of LeClaire and my Parents lived on this Farm when on Feb. 26, 1846, our Brother William Fredrik [sic] Cody was Born, and then the year of 1847 Father took the contract to open up a Big Farm on the Wapsie River⁶ some 10 to 14 miles from LeClaire and we moved there and sister Eliza was Born here March 20, 1848, and our Parents lived there untill 1850 then moved back to our Home in LeClaire and there our sister Helen Cody (Wetmore) was Born⁷ and then on Oct. 12, 1853, our sister Mary Cody (Decker) was born and then our Brother was killed by a Horse; that was the fall of 1853, and then our Parents desided to make a change and in the spring of 1854 Father sold all of his Property and started for the Kansas & Nebraska territory.

HISTORY OF MY FATHER ISAAC CODY

His father and mother were from the Codys that settled in Beverly, Mass., in about 1690 and my GrandFather Philip and

4. This partly repetitious paragraph was written on an attached sheet.

5. Henry Enhl Guss, who served as captain, 9th Pennsylvania infantry from April 24 to July 24, 1861, and as colonel, 97th Pennsylvania infantry from October 29, 1861, to June 22, 1864. He was commissioned brevet brigadier general of Volunteers for faithful and meritorious service on March 13, 1865. For William F. Cody's visit with General Guss and family, see Don Russell, *The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill* (Norman, Okla., 1960), pp. 182, 183.

6. Wapsipinicon river, locally called Wapsie.

7. June 27, 1850.

GrandMother Lydia Martin were married in Canada in about 1800. They had 11 children, 5 sons: Elichia, Eligah, Isaac, Philip, Joseph; the Daughters all I can remember is Martha, Nancy, Eley, Sophia, Lydia.⁸ I can't remember the other's name. Isaac was born in Canada in 1811. When Isaac was 18 years old GrandFather Philip Cody and GrandMother Lydia Cody took their Famely and moved to Cleveland, Ohio, to a farm on what is now Euclid avenue near 83d St.

When Isaac was 27-28 his Brother Eligah with his family were moving west to western Missaura [*sic*]. Isaac was with him and on their way they were on a Boat going down the Ohio River and that was 1839 and while on the Boat they stoped at Cincinnati. They met a party of young People and the young People all got acquainted. My mother Mary B. Laycock was one of the Party and she and father met and got acquainted and Father did not stay in the West with his Brother. He went back to Cleveland and he and Mother cept up a correspondence and in the spring of 1840 went to Cincinnati to visit my mother as my mother had come from Philadelphia 3 years before to live with her Brother William Laycock and when Father visited there they married in May, 1840.

They left for Iowa to make their home in the west. Iowa was a Territory then. They went down the Ohio River untill they got to St. Louis. There they got on the Mississippi River and went up to Davenport (where) they got off. Father went to Trading with the LeClaire Indians. Davenport only had about 50 houses there then and the next year they moved up to the small Town of LeClaire. Their first son Samuel was Born Feb. 21, 1841. He lived to be 12 years old; was killed by a Horse in 1842 [1853]. They had taken up a land grant of 160 acres.

They Built a 4 room Log House on their Farm. Father got his Building Logs and done most of his own work. After he had their House Built they moved out on the farm. It was 2½ mile just west of LeClaire and on this Farm Julia Cody (Goodman) was Born March 28, 1843. William Fredrick Cody was Born Feb. 26, 1846, and when Brother was one year Old Father Rented his Farm, as Father took the contract to open a 600-acre Farm some few miles from our Farm. It was on the Wapsie River called the Brackenridge Farm. There was only one old Log House down by the River. We moved into it. The man that owned this Land was

8. In order of age: Elizabeth, Alice, Sophia, Nancy, Martha, Lydia.

Senator Brackenridge⁹ of Kentucky. He only came out once while we lived there. Father had rails cut and put on the ground. At the time they were building the Fence he had about 25 Plows with one yoke of oxen to the Plow and one man to hold the Plow. Father rode on a big bay Horse to help and see they were all doing their work and at this time he had men working in the Stone Quarry getting out stone for a big stone Farm House of 8-10 rooms.

While living in the Log House by the River Mother had some Lady Friends from LeClaire. She wanted to take a ride in a skiff on the stream. They were all dressed in white Dresses so Mother had one of the men to take them and Mother took me and Willie. He was a year old and I was 4. They put us on the seat with the man that Rowed the Boat. We got into the stream. It either hit a rock or something. It tipped over, so they all fell out in the water. The man grabed Willie and I. He carried us out, and I think that was my first remembering anything.

From that time I have remembered nearly everything that happened. I remember seeing wild Deer runing and jumping over that big high Rail Fence and seeing Father Riding his big Horse up and down those long furrows with all of those ox teams Plowing and when the stone house was finished I remember of moving into it and seeing the cow and little calves.

Brother Samuel and I had to watch Willie as he was on the go every place. I remember one day the Dr. came to make a call and Tied his Horse out by the house and Baby Willie started to go to the Horse. I ran after him and grabed and pulled him away just as the Horse kicked. He just touched me but they all sayed I saved Willie's life for the Horse was a mean Horse to kick. When the Dr. came out I told him about it. He called me a brave little girl.

That fall Father hired a Miss Helen Goodrige to Teach School and as Mother had so much work, so many men to cook for, so Father & Mother sayed they would send Martha and Sammie and Julia (myself) and we should take Baby Willie with us and was to take him outdoors when he wanted to go and when he got sleepy she had him layed on one of the benches. It was a log building and just bord benches. There was only 12-15 pupils and Father payed most of the Teachers wages. Willie was not 2 years old then and I was his nurse, so from that time I & him was closer

9. William F. Brackenridge, according to Scott county records. See Russell, *op. cit.*, p. 6. The stone house was identified as on the McCausland farm, two miles south of McCausland and west of Butler No. 5 school by James Colby in the Davenport (Ia.) *Democrat and Leader*, March 14, 1948.

together than the other Children, and Father would say, Daughter, where is your Baby Brother? I always knew where he was.¹⁰

We lived on that Big Farm until in 1848 when the California Fever Broke out and every body was talking of the Great gold strike in Calif. and Father among the others. He disided to give up Farming and move the Family down to LeClaire into their House they had built when they first [came] to LeClaire. There was 20 men getting ready to start and Father had his outfit all ready and when the Party were there in LeClaire ready to start Father took very sick and the Party waited several days for Father, but he seamed to get worse and had to abandon his plans and the Dr. advised him not to start, so the others went on.

Father was verry sick for several weeks and after he got up and around he took his Big Wagon and went to Davenport and Exchanged it for a Beautifull big Ambulanch [ambulance]. He took the contract to carry the mail and Passengers acrost the Country to Chicago, Ill. He maid one Trip every week and he done well and cept it up for several years and when he would leave Davenport he crossed over the Missisipia River at Rock Island, then went up the River Road and when he Passed LeClaire we would be watching for him. We would have long sticks with a white Flag on. We children would go down to the River Bank and he would stop for a Few Moments and wave his Flag in return. I remember seeing him coming. It was a half mile acrost the River but his Big 4 Horses and his Bright Collared [colored] ambulanch we could see very plain. Then we knew when he would be coming back as Mother would Tel us.

Now sister Eliza was the Baby; she was 2 years younger than Willie but Mother would say, Julia, your charge is to look after Willie, so I did not have the care of baby sister Eliza. So Willie and I would play all day only when we went in for meals. When school started in the Fall he cryed to go with me, but as it got cold Willie had to stay with Mother and baby sister. Father still made his Regular trips acrost to Chicago. He would always buy we Children nice things from Chicago. I can't remember just how long he kept going.

In the mean time the Family would hear from the Party on the way to Calif. They wrote they were having such a hard trip; they were sick, and that some of the Party had Died on the Desart country along the Platte River. That country was very Baren and

10. Nowhere else is it recorded that William F. Cody started his formal education at the age of two.

Infested with the wild Indians and they would beg or steal everything they got; and Camping with some Mormons, and they stopt at Salt Lake for the winter as they could not Travel across the Rocky Mountains. If I remember correctly, of hearing Father & Mother say once there was only 6 that landed in Calif. the April of 1850.

Father had got so strong and well there was some rich man wanted him to go out to Walnut Grove to open up another Big Farm and the spring of 1852 he took the contract. He sold out the business of staging and we moved about 15 miles from LeClaire. They still owned their two places, the House in LeClaire and the Farm out 2 miles west of LeClaire. Where we moved to was out the Dubuque Road, called Walnut Grove Farm and Father hired 15-20 raw German men to work on the Farm and a married man and his wife; the woman was to do the cooking. She could not speak a word of English and Father had a American-Born German; he was Father's interpreter, and he taught me so I could talk and tell her every thing. Theodore Blucka came to the House; he had to teach me something else to say so I got to be a good Duch girl and Father called me his Little Duch Girl.¹¹ Father got more married men and they brought their Familys, so Father let them cut small Logs and build small Houses. They built Grass Roofs on their Houses. I would take the small brother Will and sister Liza down there to the German Village, as they called it, and there I learned to talk very good.

Father was Elected to the Legislature while living there.¹² It was a nice place only the School was 3 miles away so we did not get to go to School the Fall of 1853. Brother Samuel always went after the cows as the Pasture was 2-3 miles from the House. Father had a high-spirited mare and she had thrown some of the men and Father told Brother Samie to be very careful when he rode her. He said he would. This evening he got out to the main Road when the School Teacher and the Pupils were coming along. Bettie was the name of this Horse. She began to prance and jump and the other Boy sayed to Samuel, you better patch hog.¹³ She rared up Trying to get him off. He did not have a saddle. He sayed,

11. In the 19th century "Dutch" meant German to many Americans, and despite the efforts of generations of school teachers to restrict it to citizens of the Netherlands, still does, as is shown by the familiarity of the term "Pennsylvania Dutch."

12. William J. Petersen, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, reported to me that thorough search failed to turn up any record of Isaac Cody's election to the general assembly. Three of his children say he was—See William F. Cody, *The Life of Hon. William F. Cody, Known as Buffalo Bill* (Hartford, 1879), hereafter cited as *Cody, Life*, p. 20; Helen Cody Wetmore, *Lost of the Great Scouts* (Chicago and Duluth, 1899), p. 16.

13. Possibly "pitch hog"; obviously it means to give up; quit.

ha, ha, Bettie, you thought you would Throw me but you can't do it. These was his last words. She rared and threw her self over and crushed him. She jumped up and ran, and Samuel layed on the ground. The School ran to him. He was barely breathing, but never came to consciousness. They took him to the Tenant House and sent for Father & Mother. They got Dr. and worked all night with him.

When they came to the House and told mother that Samie had been Thrown from Bettie, mother asked where he was. They told her at Mr. Burns House. She went into a histerie [hysteria]. She sayerd Julia look of the Babyes. Of course I did this and sister Martha ran with mother and I did not see them that night. I was 10 years old and I seen to putting Willie, Eliza & Nellie to bed, and then I went to bed and the next morning they brought Samie home and they watched him untill in the afternoon when his breath left him, and Oh how I did Pity my mother. It seemed to me she would surely die. Then she went to Prayn [praying] to gane [gain] her strength to bear up under this affull [awful] sorrow, and she did, and I took Nellie and we went off to the Big Swing and we set in that and talked and cryed about our dear and older Brother dieing. From that time Willie clung to me and we became as one. We talked over everything together and he kept that up untill his diing day, and God only knows how we 2 loved each other.¹⁴

That Fall after Brother was gone, Father & mother heard about the New Industry of Kansas & Nebraska Territory. Father wrote to his Brother Eligah Cody, who lived at Weston, Missouri, just acrost the Missouri River from Fort Leavenworth, and in time he got a letter from Uncle Eligah saying it was a Beautifull Country and come. Father wrote to the Representatives and Senators from Iowa and they told him the Bill was Pending and would surely come up that winter when Congress was in session, so Father & mother maid arrangements to go when Spring opened up. So by April the 1st, 1854, Father moved up into LeClaire and the Family stayed with one of our old neighbors Mr. Barns. Their son Joe Barns is my age; there is only 11 days difference in our age, and I have been corresponding with him for years, and a year ago (1924) he put a Beautiful Granette slab monument in LeClaire in memory of William Frederick Cody. They tell me it is a fine monument.

14. Cody, *Life*, p. 20, says he had gone with Samuel for the cows; that he rode to notify their father; and "when I arrived at Mr. Burns' house, where my brother was, I found my father, mother and sisters there," all of which is in disagreement with Julia. One suspects Bill's six-year-old memory was reinforced at this point.

It is under a Big Elm Tree that we Played under when we were children. We played under it the last time in April, 1854, just before we left Iowa. We left there and I have never been back. Brother went there often when he was traveling with his Theatre and his Wild West Show.¹⁵

Well in April we bade goodbye to the Barnes Family and started. Father had as nice an outfit as ever came acrost to Kansas Territory. We did not camp as most Emigrants did. Father had a Big 4 Horse wagon with our clothing in and 2 Horses for Extras, and a Big Family Carriage with 3 seats and with 2 Beautiful Horses. Father had his route all layed out. He aimed to Drive from one county seat to the next. That was a one days Drive.¹⁶ We stoped at the best Hotels for nights. There was Father, Mother, sister Martha, Julia, William, Eliza, Nellie, and baby Mary and the young man George Yancy who Drove the big 4 Horse wagon. We got along nicely until we got into Missouri. We seen our first Negrows there and we children were afraid of them but Mother told us about them. We stayed all night at this place. I remember how I shivered when the colored Maid was sent to help Mother with us children. I wore my hair in 2 long braids and when Mother told me to let the maid wash me and comb my hair I just trembled when she touched me. The other children, the 3 small sisters, cried when she touched them. But Willie asked Father if they were Indians or were like the Indians we would see in Kansas Territory. Father told us that the Indians were more Red than Black and Willie said he thought he would like the Indians better than those Black Folks.¹⁷

When we were nearing Weston, Missouri, where Uncle Eligah lived, Father decided it would be best to stay at some Big Farm House and stay over until he could go down to Weston to see his Brother as it had been about 15 years since he had seen him. So Father went in to this Big Brick House and a collared [colored] man met him and asked to know what he wanted to know. Father told him. He sayed, No, Sir, my missie never keep any one. She

15. Mrs. Goodman's narrative makes it clear that the Codys went to Kansas in anticipation of passage of the Kansas-Nebraska act in 1854. Cody, *Life*, p. 21, makes it "Spring of 1852." F. M. Fryxell, "The Codys in LeClaire," in *Annals of Iowa*, Des Moines, July, 1929, got much of his information from the J. D. Barnes mentioned by Mrs. Goodman. Barnes, accepting Cody's 1852 date, makes Samuel 10 instead of 12 when he was killed and implies that the date on his tombstone is wrong. Otherwise Mr. Barnes confirms many of the circumstances as told by Mrs. Goodman.

16. Federal surveys laid out standard counties 36 miles square on the theory that any resident of such a county could travel to the county seat and return home within one day. Thus the distance from one county seat to the next would be one day's journey. Few county boundaries followed survey lines exactly, but most of them approximated this size.

17. Willie apparently had never seen Indians in Iowa, although his father had been Indian trader there only a few years previously. Some books have assumed that Cody grew up with Indian boys in Iowa.

just live here with her 2 sons. But Father asked if he could just speak to the Lady. So the colored man went in and told his mistress. She came to the Door and Father told her what he wanted to do and told her who he was: Eligah Cody was his Brother. She said, why he is in the Big General Store; she said they all were Pardners in the store with him and her husband had been his Pardner before his death and she and her 2 sons were with him, and of course just come in and I will send a colored man to help you and the Family.

We were well treated and Father and Mother talked all evening with Mrs. Burns and when we got up in the morning Father told us children we were to stay there for the day as he was going to take Mother and Mrs. Burns and go down to Weston to see Uncle and Aunt Margrate [Margaret] Cody. So we all stayed there. Before night we had got well acquainted with the colored maid. Martha was 17 years old and she managed to take care of us. Brother Willie went out around the barns as the young man George Yancy was out there with the 6 horses, as Father took the Family Carriage. Willie had a great time with the colored boys and thought he was having great sport.

When Father, Mother and Mrs. Burns got into Weston they Drove first to the Store and had Uncle called out. He was surprised to find his Pardner Mrs. Burns with Father and Mother. He was more surprised to find where they had left the Family. Then Uncle took them up to his Home and Father had spoke about getting a house. Uncle told Father he had a Farm out 2 miles and a house on it and it was then Vacant and it was Furnished so he could move there so when evening came they came and the next day it rained all day and Mrs. Burns insisted on us to waite until it cleared up. The next day we left and Father took us all in to see our Uncle and Aunt. The man George went to the Home on the Farm. We had a nice time. We went to see our cousin Lucinda Cody Conyers. She was Martha's age only she had married John Conyers after his mother died. Aunt Margaret was Uncle's second wife. Cousin Lucinda had a little boy a year old and a lovely home. They all lived much Different from the good Neighbrs in LeClaire. Cousin Lucinda had a colored maid in the Kitchen and a colored girl to take care of Baby Eligah. We thought that was so funny to have so many colored People.

In the evening we went to the Farm and the man George was there and had everything ready for us, and there was a nice big

yard for us to play in and it had a nice lot of pretty Flowers just beginning to bloom, so we all seemed happy.

Father had been in ever day to Visit with Uncle and one evening he came home he told Mother that Uncle wanted him to take Mother and Aunt Mar and Willie and they would go out into Kansas to Marrynell[?] to the Patanny Indian Resavation as Uncle had Busnes out there.¹⁸ It was about 80 miles there. They started the next day and Father and Mother took Willie and went down to Weston and got Uncle Eligah and Aunt. They went down to the river to Ferry Boat and from there they went up through Fort Leavenworth and out west. When they got on top of the Government Hill looking down into Salt Creek Valley it was filled with Trains and cattle and mules running around. There must of been Hundreds of White covered wagons waiting there to make up their Trains to start West and Willie got just wild with Excitement and he said, Oh, my, that is what I am going to do as soon as we get moved over here in this beautifull place.¹⁹

He never forgot that first sight of the Trains. When they were driving through that lovely Salt Creek Valley Father and Mother both made the remark that if they could get their home in that beautiful valley, there would be their Home. They went on their way to Marysville and they thought the Country was lovely only Salt Creek Valley called them. When they got to the Indian Agency Uncle had a Trading store there. They stayed several days and Willie had an Indian pony to ride and he got acquainted with all the Indians and had the time of his life. Father promised to get him a Pony as soon as we got settled in Kansas. There was no settlers in Kansas then as the Bill had not been through the senet [Senate] yet, but had been brought up in the lower House. As Father and Uncle went over to the Fort and Uncle interduced him to the Quarter Master and Father asked Permission to take his 8 head of Horses to graze on the fine Grass in Salt Creek Valley and he got Permission.

Father was in correspondence with the congressmen and Representative from Iowa, so he knew what they were doing in Washington, D. C.

SETTLERS IN KANSAS

Father took his Big wagon with his Indian Trinkets and his Tent and his 8 head of horses and the hired man and himself, and he

18. Marysville, Marshall county, Kansas, as Julia makes clear in a subsequent reference. "Patanny" approximates her spelling; possibly "Pottawatomie." However, the Pottawatomies were centered around St. Marys, not Marysville.

19. The first germ of the idea leading toward Buffalo Bill's Wild West?

took Willie and they left mother and the rest of us on Uncle's farm. Willie then began to ask for his Pony, so he asked the Indians about their Ponies. They sayed, they Bring Pony, so one day they Brought some Ponies and one was a gentle Pony but one was a Beautifull sorrel Stalion not yet Broken and Willie Insisted on having the sorrel one. So Father got them both; he traded his Indian goods for them. He sayed the little Bay mair [mare] was to be Julia's. When they came home to see us Willie was so happy to say that he and I both had a Pony, but his was not broken yet, but he was riding mine and sayed she was a Dandy. He sayed his was Prince and mine was Dolly.

He was anxious to get back to camp, as they called it. When they got back they noticed near the main Millitary Road there was another Camp with several men and a band of Horses. While they were getting their supper one of the men walked up to camp. He was a Tall fine looking young man in his 30s. Father and he got to talking about the Country in general. Father asked him where they were going. He sayed they were going to sell their Horses and hides they had, and as he had been in and among the Indians and the wild Country, he thought for a change he would go on over to Weston, Missouri, to visit an Uncle as he had received a letter from his Mother that his Uncle lived there. Father asked him who his uncle was. He told Father it was Elijah Cody of Cleveland, Ohio. Father sayed, young man, if Elijah Cody is your uncle I am your uncle also. The young man sayed, what is your name? Father sayed, I am Isaac Cody of Cleveland. Father sayed, What is your name? He sayed Horas [Horace] Billings. Father sayed, a son of my sister Sophia Cody Billings. They clasped hands and embraced as an Uncle and Nephew would naturally meet. He stayed most of his Time with Father.

Father called Willie and sayed, here, Will, this is your cousin Horace Billings, and from what I heard of him from his mother, he has been a Great Horse Rider in Circuses, is that so? Horace sayed he had Traveled years with Big Circuses as the Horse Back Rider, and he sayed to Willie, I see you have a Pony. Willie sayed, yes, but this is not mine; this is sister Julia's. Mine is not Broken. I will show you mine when they bring them into camp. So Horace sayed, Well, Will, we will see to Breaking your Pony tomorrow so you can ride it. So Willie was happy to see and know this cousin, the wonderful Horseman.

It was only a few days until Willie could ride his own Pony and

Cousin Horace Taught Willie's Pony Prince to [k]neel down for him to get on, and Broke him so Willie could shoot off of him, and come to his call, and many other Tricks that came in good use in after years as you will hear.²⁰

Father Brought this cousin with him. They stoped in Weston so Horace could see his Uncle Elijah and Aunt Margaret and Cousin Lucinda Cody Conyers, and then they came out to the Farm where we were living. We girls were all delighted to see this handsome cousin, as he was tall and a fine form with dark Haire and eyes. He stayed a few days and then went back out into the Territory of Kansas and soon after they got back his Friends took their Horses back into Kansas. When Father heard from Horace Billings again he had gone out west to help hunt and catch wild horses as they were very numerous in the west then.

Willie stayed with Father as he had got permission to put up a cheep cabin as he wanted the Family with him as he had taken a contract to put up hay for the Government. When he got the cabin ready to move us in, he bought the wagons and Carriage over to get us. We were on our way from Weston nearing the Rialto Ferry Boat, and as he had word from Washington on every mail so he knew that the Bill had passed the lower House and now it only had to go through the upper House so Emegrants could go into Kansas Territory as settlers. This was on June 10, 1854, that the Bill Passed, and Father got the Dispatch that the Bill had passed [May 30] and he could now go, so we drove onto the Ferry Boat and was [among] the first white settlers to go into Kansas as Emigrants.

Father had been a Surveyor in Iowa, so as soon as we got to the cabin and onloded [unloaded] and settled, the next morning he took his men and went to work surveying off the Quarter second [section] lines, as the second [section] lines had been surveyed by the Government, so he found he was on the land he had picked out. He and mother picked out where they wanted to build their Home House on the East side of a big Hill near some large Hickory Trees. Then he put men to work getting out the Big logs for a Big Log House. It had 7 big rooms.²¹

Then Father went down to Fort Leavenworth and filed on the

20. Horace Billings may certainly be counted as among the founders of Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

21. Jesse A. Hall and LeRoy T. Hand, *History of Leavenworth County, Kansas* (Topeka, 1921), p. 410: "Cody's farm was on the south side of the Fort Riley Road and old Oregon Trail, now part of Weisinger and Seymour farm, north of the Hurd farm." The Fort Riley road was Julia Goodman's "Military Road."

First homestead [claim?] in that office. Then as Father was so well acquainted with the Kickapoos, Delawares, Cherokees²²; these 3 tribes of Indians lived near here and Father and Mr. Rively who cept [kept] the Trading Post, and Mr. Grover, the Missionary Family, were living near us, so they met at the Trading Post and maid [made] the motion they give the Indians a Barbecue on 4 of July, 1854. They all agreed and they made Father chairman to manage it all, and they were to hold it in a nice Hickory Grove that was near where our new House was to be.²³

They sent out word to all of the Indians and Father went over to Weston, Mo., and got the Provision to feed several hundred Indians, beside the Emigrants. Father got a big Beef and he looked after the Roasting that Beef. Then they had another; they let the Indians kill and Dress it and I remember it well. Willie and I watched everything that went on that day, and it was all new to us, and they had a Great time. The Indians did not throw away one thing from the Beef. They even Emptied the Inwards and washed them and put them on a Poker or Iron rod and cooked them over the Fire and Eat them. They gave their war dances, Horse or Pony races, played at their different Games, and it was the most wonderful Picnic I ever seen. The white people had a long Table and Boards for seats, and they had speaking. Uncle Elijah brung his force from his store, and many others. I never seen another as Big or Interesting a Picnic or Barbecue since in Kansas, of that kind where the Indians and whites mixed as they did that day.

Just after that Big affare the Missourians began to come into Kansas, and as they were determined to have Kansas a slave state, so from that day the Border War began. My father had been Talking very freely about Kansas being like Iowa was, not to have any slaves or to hold Negroes in Kansas. The Rich slave holders in Missouri hired the very bad class of white men to come over into Kansas Territory and take up claims. As Father had his surveying and engineering instruments, they all came to him to locate them on claims, so that 2 men would not be on the same quarter section of land. Of course Father was a plain spoken man, and these

²² Russell, *op. cit.*, p. 12. Nyle H. Miller and Robert W. Richmond of the Kansas State Historical Society, and Angie Debo questioned Cherokees being in this locality. Mr. Goodman is sufficiently definite about it that I would suggest that some families might have been employed about Fort Leavenworth, or come in with some expedition for which they had served as guides.

²³ M. Pierce Rively had operated a trading post here since 1852. He later was a member of the Proslavery Lecompton constitutional convention. The Rev. Joel Grover was the missionary.—See Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 12, 13.

Missourians soon found out how Father stood on that, so they would go back and tell about Elijah Cody's Brother being for Kansas to be a Free state, and they would come back and howl the slander about Father. But he would talk.

They held a big meeting at the settlers' store,²⁴ but Father at that time was Building our Big Log home and he also had the contract to put up 2,000 Ton of wild hay for the Government, and he hired a big gang of men which he had to look after. He was a very busy man.

At one time they were holding a meeting at the store Father came by From the Fort. They stopped him and wanted him to give them a speech. He tried to beg off, offering every excuse. As there were several of the Neighbors who were for Kansas to be a free state he seen, and then he got off of his Horse, and they grabbed him, and put him up on a big Dry goods box, and he seen no way out of it when they called out, Speech, Speech.²⁵

He began by saying that he hoped they could all live in this territory without having any trouble about any question. One of the men called out, You are the man that wants Kansas Territory to be a Free state, don't you? He went on talking on verrious questions and some one called out again, Say, Cody, you want to make Kansas a Free state. He sayed yes. With that a man jumped on the Box and called him a Damed Abolicetionist and grabed at him. Father had no chance for escape or no one to come to his rescue. He was staved in his side, just missing his heart. The man's name was Dunn. As Father went to fall the neighbor Dr. Hathaway got to him and they took him in to the store and he done what he could for him. They did not try to do anything with this man, Mr. Dunn. They broke up the meeting.

Dr. Hathaway sent a man, one of the Free state men, to our House to tell Mother what had happened, and he thought the Best thing would be for her to have him taken over to Weston. Mother ordered the Carriage and she took a Driver and she and Dr. Hathaway took him over to Weston, Missouri, to Uncle Elijah. They found his lung had been just hit. How terribull we all felt and Willie would cry and then he would say, Oh, I wish I was a man;

24. She may be referring to the meeting at Rively's store at which the "Salt Creek Valley Resolutions" were adopted, which recommended "that slaveholders introduce their property as soon as possible" and stated, "That we afford no protection to Abolitionists as settlers of Kansas Territory." That meeting was held on June 10, however, not after July 4.—See Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 12, 13.

25. *Ibid.*, pp. 13-15. The attack on Isaac Cody is dated September 18, 1854, by an item in the Democratic Platform, Liberty, Mo., September 28, 1854, in the files of the Kansas State Historical Society.

I would just love to kill all of those Bad men that want to kill my Father, and I will when I get big.²⁶

The man in charge kept the work going. Mother and Dr. Hathaway came back the next day saying that Father would have to stay for some time. Mother gave orders to the Hay men and the men working on the House. The man that Drove the Carriage took her back to Weston and she stayed several days there. The man went back to get Mother and Willie went back that time to see Father and he talked to Father and told Father what he was going to do when he got big. Father was not able to come home for 3 week. He was never strong from that day, just able to get around; had to ride as he could not walk any distance.

From that time the Border War began and they came into the Territory by the Hundreds. They stole our Horses. Father watched by night so they did not get them all.

Just as he was ready to Deliver his Hay to the Fort we looked over to the South where the Big stacks of Hay stood. We seen 2 men ride away from the stacks and the smoke was rising. In less than one hour the 3,000 Ton of Hay was in a Blaze. All we could do was to look at it. Poor dear Father was so weak he shed Tears to think of his Expense and money he had put into putting up that Hay, all gone.

Then a party of Eastern men came to our house and wanted Father to take them out in the Country to look for a New place. Father told them if they would stay until they went and got Furnatur and moved the Family into the New House they would go. So these men sayed they would all help. So they all went to work. They were Mr. Frazear, Mr. Whitney, Mr. Jolly, and when they went out west they came to a beautiful stream. It was about 50 feet wide and they had to follow an Indian Trail. When they crossed it they followed the Indian Trail. After awhile they came to a beautiful Falls. It was called by the Indians & Trappers Grasshopper Falls. So they decided to stop there and after looking around they found the Timber was fine for Lumber. They found it was a fine place for a saw & Grist mill, so they decided to pitch camp there and stay there. Mr. Frazear and Mr. Jolly staked out

26. Compare with the more sensational versions in Wetmore, *op. cit.*, pp. 16-18 (Grosset & Dunlap editions, pp. 18, 19; and William F. Cody, *An Autobiography of Buffalo Bill* (New York, 1920), pp. 10-12, both of which give Willie a heroic role on this occasion. In *The Life of Hon. William F. Cody, Known as Buffalo Bill*, the original autobiography, Cody does not mention being present. The 1920 autobiography contains material obviously edited into it from Mrs. Wetmore's book. For a discussion of the versions see Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 13-15. The assailant was Charles Dunn, said to be an employee of Elijah Cody. The *Democratic Platform* says the dispute between Dunn and Cody was over a land claim.

their claims.²⁷ They thought it would be to start a Town and put up their mill. So they decided that 2 of the men, Mr. Frazear, Jolly, should stay there and Father & Mr. Whitney would go back to our home in Salt Creek Valley. When they got back they had wonderful stories to tell of this Beautiful country that was not settled yet. Father soon started back with men and Tools & Provision and so he soon left for Grasshopper Falls, 30 miles from Salt Creek Valley.

When Father got home the second time he decided to have a well Dug near to the House as we had to carry or Draw our water on a sled in a Barrell with our Poneys. He thought that would never do, so he put men to Digging a well and they cept it up until they were down 40 or 50 foot and they stoped until spring of 1855.

Father had thought he would go down to the Fort and Preempt on our home there and pay \$125 [\$1.25] per acre, rather than make a homestead of it, and to live 5 years, for doubting that he would not be content to live constantly on it. And if they thought best they could move out to Grasshopper Falls.²⁸

But Times were getting so bad there and the Border Ruffians were making their Threats they would kill every Abolitionist there was in that country. So they would watch Father every time he came home and he had to have some one with him every place he went. Uncle Elijah would tell Father he was sorry he had spoken so Freely about making Kansas a Free state, as Uncle was a Pro-slavery man and owned slaves himself. But Father had always been a man that spoke his own mind, so he wrote many letters to Eastern people to come to Kansas. Whenever he was home some men came for Father to survey them a claim. He ran the quarter section lines as Far west as Grasshopper Falls, but he was suffering from his wound.

About this time of year, the Fall of 1854, they come to Father to go with them down 3 miles Below Fort Leavenworth to go with them to start the Town of Leavenworth [first sale of town lots was held on October 9]. He went and looked it over, and as he had gone in with the Town site company of Grasshopper Falls he thot that was enough, so he put most of his Time and money there.

27. James Frazier, A. J. Whitney, H. B. Jolley, Robert Riddle, and Isaac Cody were founders of Grasshopper Falls, now Valley Falls.—See A. T. Andreas-W. C. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago, 1883), p. 505; sketch of Isaac Cody, p. 508. They staked their claims on December 25, 1854.

28. Cody could not have acquired the land at this time under the homestead act, as Julia implies, as it did not become effective until some 8 years later. Apparently, Julia refers here to the payment of \$1.25 per acre as the final step in acquiring title under the pre-emption act of 1841.

They built cabins and started the sawmill, so they had their own lumber to built with. As fast as People came Father took them out and Located them around there.

One family came from Ohio. He was a Dr. Northrup with his wife & 3 children and as the winter was setting, they did not want to go out to Grasshopper Falls until spring so mother let them stay with us as our House was Big. They had 2 rooms and lived there until Father & Dr. Northrup went out to Grasshopper Falls and they had Dr.'s House built and he had bought out one of the men who had his land joining the Town, so Dr. had his Office Built in his House. The spring of 1855 Father moved them out and then there was 6-8 Families there. The town grew fast and Father had grist mill added to the saw mill so when the farmers had the wheat harvested they could get it ground into Flour, and their corn.

In the spring of 1855 Dr. Northrup moved his family out of our home. In May we had a Baby Brother Born and they called him Charles Whitney, one of the men that went to Grasshopper Falls with Father.²⁹

As soon as it was noised out among the two Tribes of Indians that a young Pappoose boy came to the White Folks, first the Kickapoo Chief came to see the White Pappoose [saying] Kickapoo Pappoose come. He brought Beads, mogasins and Indian play-things. Mother gave the Indian Chief sugar after he made so much over the Baby. Then several days after that the Delaware chief came to say, Delaware Pappoose come, and he brought Trinkets. Mother asked him why he came. She told him of the Kickapoo Chief coming. He sayed, Delawares own this Land. Kickapoo fight long ago, take this Land, so Delaware go away, but Delaware call it Delaware Land. So mother treated him the same.

That spring when we wanted to put in a little Field, Willie and I got a small Plow and took our Ponies, as Father had taken his Horses with him, the ones they had not stolen from us. So Willie and I started out to Plow. Willie Drove the Ponies and I held the Plow. So all that seen it sayed we was doing a good job. One of the men that was building the Fence showed us how and we got along just fine, and one of them layed out the furrows for us to plant the corn. Willie Dropped the corn and I covered it with a hoe. We put in about 10 acres, as sod corn did not need cultivating.

29. Charles Whitney Cody, apparently named for A. J. Whitney, was born May 10, 1855; died October 10, 1864. The Doctor Northrup mentioned is identifiable as Dr. Lorenzo Northrup.

The men was working on the well, but when they were Down about 60 feet, Father gave it up. He was at home then and he wanted the Pick that was down in the well. He sayed to Willie, Come here and let me put you in this Bucket, which was a half Barrell that they brought up the Dirt and sand when they were digging. Willie sayed, No, sir, not me. I am never going down. I am always going up. I would rather climb that big tree. He [Father] sayed, Well, Julia, you will, I know. I sayed, Yes I will. So he helped me into this big Bucket. He told me not to get out of the Bucket, but reach and get the pick and put it into the Bucket. He sayed to Willie and the little sister to stay out there and not to go in and tell Mother. I called when I had it in, and he pulled me up, and then Mother happened to come up just as I landed up on and out of the well, but Mother was afraid to think of my going down there; the well was 60 feet deep. But the men came back; he told them they need not dig any farther. He payed them off and brought the Tools out and Took off the windlass and Rope. So we had to still haul or carry our water from the spring.

I remember one time when Father was home and he had failed to go to the spring before supper, so Father sayed to Willie, we will go and get some water. They started to the spring. They got within a few feet of the spring and the wild skunks made a raid on them and covered them with their fumes. They fought them with their pails and then they came back to the house and called for mother to send out their Guns and a lantern so they could see to load their guns. They went back to the spring in the Dark and they could see the Bright, Sparkling Eyes of them, and they both took aim at their eyes and then brought the Lantern to see to load their guns. They could see them all around. The fumes was terrible. They shot as long as they could stand it, then they got their pails of water and came back to the House. We could not use the water and Father & Willie had to take their clothes off and I took clean clothes out to them. The next morning Father went over to the spring to get more water and he Burred [buried] dozens of dead Polecats or skunks, and we all decided to get water during the daytime.

Another time I went to get something out of the Barrel for mother, a big skunk jumped out. The country was full of them. Our Turk Dog would bark at them, but he would not go after one. He was too wise. He would go with Willie and I to get the Cotton Tail Rabbits and pleaded to help us find them and get them out of

their holes for us to shoot. Then we would take home 6-10 nice fat Rabbits. They were fine eating.

Father and mother harked so much about we Children not having any school to go to, so they Disided to higher [hire] a Teacher and fix up the Cabin That Father first built. So then we had benches made and they got the Daughter of one of them, Miss Jennie Lyons, to teach school. We started with 10 Pupils and then 2 of the Kickapoo Indian Boys came. That was 12 and we had a nice little school. Willie and those 2 Indian Boys became great friends, learning each other's Language and trading. It was 6 miles from the Indian Agency, so no more came, but more Familys came in, so there was 15-18 all told. But the Proslavery Familys would not send their children. They was still on the look out to catch Father and sending messages what they intended to do when they got hold of him. When the school had been going on for 3 months, the Border Ruffians, or Pro Slavery, rode up to the school and told the Teacher that they did not Intend to let that Damded Abolitionist have a school; if they came back again they would set fire to the House and burn them all in it, as Cody had the most of the Brats in the school. So Miss Jennie came home and told Mother, as Father was out to Grasshopper Falls.

In the summer of 1855 the Town of Leavenworth was Growing fast with both Free State & ProSlavery, so there was a Mr. Mark Delahay came and Brought a newspaper Press and started the first Free State Paper in that part of Kansas and that Inraged the Border Ruffians. They were shurly [surely] on the War Path and a short time after that they threw the Press in to the Missouri River and made Threats what they would do if they started another Free State Paper there.³⁰

But Mr. Delahay and Father were great friends and his Family, they had 3 children. Their oldest Daughter, Mollie Delahay, was just a year younger than I and we became fast friends and must say now that she is still alive and I Visited her in San Antonio, Texas, the Fall the year of 1926 (corrected to 1925). Her Family are all gone but one Brother and my Family are all gone but my youngest sister Mary Cody Decker where my Brother passed away at 2932 Lafayette at Denver City. The winter of 1855 Father and Mother took me down to Leavenworth to go to school and so Mollie Delahay and I became fast friends and Father and Mr.

30. The Kickapoo Rangers, Cody's neighbors, destroyed Delahay's press on December 22, 1855, and Delahay abandoned his newspaper. The best summary of Delahay's career is John G. Clark, "Mark W. Delahay: Peripatetic Politician," in *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, v. 25 (Autumn, 1959), pp. 301-312. For other citations see Russell, *op. cit.*, p. 19, Footnote 14.

Delahay were the best of friends. Mr. Delahay was very anxious for Father to become one of the Free State Delegates to the Topeka convention on September 19th. The convention was to meet on the 4th Tuesday of Nov. This convention was held for 16 days and adopted the Topeka Constitution.³¹

Father came home, but he had to live in hiding for fear of being shot down like they were doing around Lawrence, Kansas Territory. At that time the Governor was a Proslavery man and he would not help the Free state men at all, so they were in constant dread, and whenever Father came home he had to come in after Dusk and leave before it was light.

I recall one time he came in and went to bed sick. He left his Horse with a Neighbor that lived up the creek from our home a half a mile away. They had a secret stable in the woods where Father kept him. The next day he was not able to get up and was in bed up stairs and as mother and sister Martha were sitting there a man rode up to the Door and threw the reins [reins] off of his Horses neck and he walked in and asked mother to fix him some Dinner. So Sister Martha went to fixing it for him. He asked mother where that Damd Abolitionist Husband was and that he had the Knife, and he took out of the scabbt [scabbard] and sharpened on his whet stone and sayed that was to take his heart's blood wherever he could find him.

Mother spoke up; she sayed, Julia, you and Willie take the children up stairs. We went up, took the 3 sisters up stairs. Mother told this man that she last hear from Father he was either at Grasshopper Falls or gone to Topeka. She told it in a way that the man could not deny her, but when we got up stairs Father had heard all that had been sayed. He sayed, Now you will have to protect me as I am too sick. Willie, you get your gun—it always stood behind the closet door—and Julia you get that ax, and Father sayed, Now if that man starts to come up stairs, Willie you shoot, and Julia, if Willie misses him, you hit him with the ax, for he might deside to search the House.

But mother talked to him while he was Eating and after he got through he looked around and sayed, I see something I can make use of. That was Father's Leather saddle bags. He took them down and sayed, When ever that Damd Abolitionist comes in we will be on the Look out for him and we will fix him as we are gone to

31. Isaac Cody was elections officer and returns judge at the election that ratified the Topeka constitution on December 15, 1855, and he was a member of the Topeka legislature, recorded as voting on 47 of its 50 roll calls during its sessions March 4-15, 1856.—*Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society*, v. 13, pp. 166-235. It does not appear that Cody was a member of the Topeka constitutional convention.

kill ever one of these Abolitionists until we clear this Territory of them; and then he left. Mother had not told him only what was so; that was the only thing that kept Willie and I from having a little war with that Border Ruffian; otherwise some of us might have been killed. We had to be on the watch all the time when ever he was home.³²

That fall of 1855 Father and Mother took me down to Leavenworth to stay with the General Manager of the Big stores. I stayed with them and worked for my Board and went to School. Mollie Delahay and I seen each other every day. I would go after work, stay all night with her. They lived just out of Leavenworth. We always had a good time. Our Teacher was a Mr. McAppie [J. B. McAfee?] He was a Preacher; he taught school and Preached on Sunday in part of his House. The winter sooned passed. I would go out home every month for one Saturday. Willie would bring my Pony in to ride Home. The Border Ruffians were not so bad in the winter as summer, so Father could come home oftener, so we were all glad of that.

When spring opened up Father had our little Farm put in corn so we had the corn Field very close to the House. He was going with New Homesteaders and getting them Located on Farms, and he took sister Martha out and she filed on a homestead near Grass-hopper Falls. In March I had to leave school and go home to help with the work as there was so much to do. I had to do the milking and help Willie with the chores & &. Willie and I had good times going after the Cows and then shooting at a mark, and taking the Pony team we would go down to the Timbers and get wood. Often we would meet those Border Ruffians and they would ask us questions where our Father was & &, and we would meet the Friendly Indians, especially the 2 Indian boys that went to school. They were always Friendly with Brother until they were grown to men; then the Kickapoos were moved out in to what is Decotas

That winter Father stayed out to his mill and had taken our cows out there, all but 2 cows. As the spring came of 1856 Father Ventured in, bringing several men with him, and always well armed in case of an attack by the Border Ruffians, as they were beginning to come in from Missouri by Bands, so they were determined to drive us out if possible. But as mother would say, We will stay until they kill us. The spring of 1856 brought our war and there we had plenty of it. Father was home and he

32. Slightly variant accounts of this episode appear in Cody, *Life*, pp. 51, 52; Cody, *Autobiography*, pp. 14, 15; Wetmore, *op. cit.*, pp. 23, 24. They name the assailant as Sharpe, a justice of the peace.

thought as long as he had a good pasture near, we better bring our 6-8 cows home. He told Brother and I to get on our Ponies and go out and bring them in, so we got started and got out in the afternoon. That was the longest ride I had ever taken, and Willie would ride so fast, when we got to Dr. Northrup's home I was worn out. Mrs. Northrup put me to bed. I could not get up. But by the time they got the cows and calves in, in a few days, we started back.

We only went half way and stoped at Mr. Lellie's,³³ as they had corrals, and when we stoped Willie went to speak to Mr Lellie—we knew them all. Mr. Lellie sayed it was all right to stay, but they would be a little noisy as their Daughter Daissy was to be married that night. They took me into the house. Mrs. Lellie and their Daughter Anna, my age, took me where I could change my riding habit for my dress. We carried my things in a war bag tied on back of my saddle. Soon after we eat supper the crowd began to come to the wedding and Daissy went up into the Loft up stairs, as they called up a ladder on to the Kitchen then on to a Loft room.

Mrs Lellie told me to stay with Anna, and Willie with the Boys. The Boys did not get into the house to see the wedding. They looked in the Window. I was with Anna; we seen all that was going on. They only had one Big Main room, the shed or Lean to Kitchen, and the attic room, but every thing but Chairs and benches was in the Big room. They cooked and Eat in the Kitchen, but that was the way most of the homesteaders lived in those days. This was a good big house to what some of them had. When the crowd got there, the missionary Preacher and the Groomsmen came.

They went up the Lader to this attic room to see Miss Daisy and pretty soon we seen them come down. Poor girl, she did not know how to be helped down that Lader, as she was so accustomed to runing up and down it alone. I can't begin to describe her Wedding Dress. As near as I can remember it was of Lawn with large Flowers in the goods, a [w]reath of artificial Flowers on her head, with her Beautiful, long, black curls down to her wa[i]st. I thought she looked pretty gay. He was Dressed with a pla[i]n white shirt, dark pance [pants], no Vest. He looked pretty plain to me. They went into this room through the Kitchen, and Mrs. Lellie took us 2 girls with her. We thought it was a big fine wedding.

33. It might be Lillie; one wonders if in any way related to Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie.

After the service 2 Fidlers came in, and the Preacher; there must of been 50 there, all the homesteaders around the country, and they began to dance. We girls watched until Mrs. Lellie told us we would have to go to the Barn Loft to sleep as she had made our bed in the hay. We were in one end of the Loft and the Boys in the other end, and we slept as sound there as if we were in a bed in the House. In the morning we went into Breakfast. The House was all fixed up, and Anna asked where Daisy was. Their Mother sayed she had gone with Guy to his place. Anna sayed, Why did she do that? Her mother told her she was his wife now. Anna sayed, I am not going to leave home when I get married. They all laughed at her.

After breakfast Willie came in and asked them for his Bill for staying all night. He payed the Bill and we started off with our cattle, 7 head of cows & calves. We got home before dark and Father was looking for us. Some of the Cows knew they were coming home. Father & Mother sayed what good Children we were to help them so much.³⁴

They told us of how the Border Ruffians had been sending word to the House what all they were going to do. Father had several Familys that were waiting for him to take them out and Locate them on Homesteads, so Father did not stay long after we got home. When he left we had a man & his wife to do the work and so he had a good garden and got the water, and the woman took the housework off of my hands, so Willie and I had more time to ride and look after the stock. That suited us. We went down to Leavenworth for the mail, and shopping for mother.

As the wild Burrys began to ripen we would go pick strawburries first, then to the Timber for Goosburries, then rasburries & Blackburries; then in the fall wild plumbs, crabapples, grapes. So all summer we could get plenty of wild fruit and everything was nice. The corn got 6-8 feet tall, and all kinds of Vegetables we had plenty, and thought Kansas was beautiful if it was not infested with those Pro-slavery men. But they seemed to want it. One can see why.

Well, that summer our Neighbor Mr. Harney(?) was Putting up hay for the Government, and he had about 25 men working in the hayfields, and mother had spoken to some of the men that came

34. And well they might! It is an amazing commentary on the Boeder War that at its height, a girl 13 and a boy 10 should make a 30-mile trip unaccompanied, with an overnight stop coming back to fetch a few cows. Apparently it was taken for granted that the Border Ruffians did not make war on women and children, as, of course, the incident of the knife-wielding Sharpe also shows. Few parents nowadays would send children of these ages a half mile away after dark.

from their camp to get milk. She told them how many Threats the Border Ruffians had maid so they sayed, In case they molest you just hollow to us; as their camp was not far from our House. So one night we heard a wagon coming towards the House and they were all Drunk and hollering what they would do. Mother lit the Candle and was at the Door as soon as the men were. They asked for the Damd old Abolitionist; that they were there to take him. By that time we children were calling for the men in the Haycamp. Mother called to the men and told them that her Husband was not there, though he would be there soon, as Jim Lane's band were on the way. The camp men hollowed, We are coming strong, and fired off their Guns. So the Border Ruffians threw something out of their wagons with a bump. and they started off faster than they came, and the men went back to camp, and we children and the man & wife, down stairs. We took the Lantern and went out where the wagon was. We found a 25 pound keg of powder which we found out later that they had bought it at the settlers store to put under our House to Blow us all up, but we were too quick for them.³⁵ They told it at the store that Gen. Jim Lane's company was there, so they waited for another time.

They heard later that Cody would be at home soon and they put men on Guard around of a short distance to catch him when he came in, and one of the Free State Neighbors came in and told Mother she must get word to Mr. Cody not to come now, as they intended to kill him as soon as they could get Eyes on him. Brother Willie was sick with the ague, and had just had a hard chill. He heard this Neighbor say to get word to Father. He got up and sayed, I am going to warn Father. Mother sayed, Why, son, you are sick and can't go. He sayed, I am going. Julia, get Prince and saddle him, and, Mother, you write a letter to Father, for I can go better than anyone else. And Mother sayed, Willie, where will you put the letter? He sayed, Give it to me and I will put it inside of my stocken before I put on my Boots.

So Mother wrote the letter to Father, telling him of the men a few nights before, and not to come home now as they were watching the House all the time. By this time Willie was ready to start. I had his Pony ready for him to get on, so he sayed good by and he was off. He did not start off fast as he was too sick, but as he went he felt better. He got out 8 miles to Stranger Creek, a stream he crossed. As he was crossing in the stream, he glanced

35. See, also, Cody, *Life*, pp. 50, 51; Wetmore, *op. cit.*, p. 25, for slightly variant versions.

up stream and seen a camp and he heard one man say, Oh, Boys, that is the Dambd Abolitionist Boy. Let's go for him. Willie heard that and as the men in camp had to go get their Horses and saddle them, Willie thought that will give me time to get up the Hill and I will give them a chase.

So when Willie got up on the Praree he looked back and seen several men riding for dear life. He started out and they would gain on him, then he would start faster. He thought of Mr. Hewette's³⁶ big gate at his Farm. He thought if I can only keep ahead of them until I can get there, I will be all right. That was 9 miles from Stranger Creek and the wind was blowing and he was so sick he wondered if he could make it. His hat had blown off but he dare not stop as they were only a few hundred yards of him. When he got to the gate, and as Luck was on his side, he rode in and up to the House. He seen the Border Ruffians going back so he was safe. The men were just coming out from Dinner. Mr. Hewette came to him. He sayed, Why, what is this, Billie?³⁷ He told him about the Border Ruffians watching our House and Road for Father, and he was going to tell Father he must not come home now. Mr. Hewette went to take him off of his Horse. He sayed he must go on, but Mr. Hewette told him he had seen Father that morning and sayed he would not go home until the last of the week, and he told Willie he must rest his Pony or he would kill it, as it was about ready to drop now. Willie was so sick he had thrown up all over his Pony and the Pony was white with Fome.³⁸ He put a man to walk the Pony around until it was cool enough to clean it and take care of it, and he took Willie in to the House and told Mrs. Hewette to take care of Billie and she washed and bathed him and layed him down, gave him a Drink and he was asleep in a few minutes and then when he woke up his Headach had gone and she gave him something to Eat. Mr. Hewette came in to see how he was and told him that Prince his Pony was all right now and that he could go all right to see Father as it was only 8 miles from Grasshopper Falls. This happened in the summer of 1856 and in 1876 Mr. & Mrs. Hewette Told me of it just as I have wrote you.

They gave him one of their Boys hats and he thanked them and

36. In the several times this name appears it seems to be Hughit, Hughet, Hewitte, or Hewette. Possibly this was Harvey J. Hewitt, listed as a farmer in Grasshopper township, Jefferson county, in the 1880 federal census.

37. Mrs. Goodman does not miss the point that while her famous brother was always Willie or Will at home, he was always Billie or Bill to everyone else.

38. This nauseating detail seems to take all the press agency out of this story, about which some doubts have been expressed. Mrs. Goodman strips it of all false heroics, leaving it nevertheless a pretty heroic act for a sick little boy.

he rode along the rest of the way. Father seen him coming. He went to meet him. He feared the worst, but when he gave Father the letter and after he read it, they said they would not go home but would go over to Lawrence and see Gen. Jim Lane.³⁹ So they started next day, and we at Home were all wondering why we did not see Willie coming back, or some word from Father. The time went 10 days before we got word. Mother was worrying for fear they had both been killed. One night 2 men rode up and asked to stay all night and told they had just come from Jim Lane's Camp, and Mother told them of Willie going 10 days before that to notify Mr. Cody not to come home, and she had not one word from them. The 2 men told her that her Husband and son was with Gen. Jim Lane Company when they left that morning, and Little Billie, as they called him, was having the time of his life shooting at the marks with the men; he seemed to be the winner of them all and wonderful Boy he was, and that Mr. Cody was making speeches all the time, and he was a big man among them, and for Mother not to worry as they were all rite there, so Mother felt relieved to know both Father and Willie were safe with Friends.

So one morning I went to milk the cows, and as I cept my Pony in the same carrel with the cows, to my surprise my Pony was not there, had been stolen out, so I was left without anything to ride for the cows, or go to the store, or anything. We felt all broke up, but nothing to do about it, so we had to do the best we could, for that was the way we had been treated. They had stolen several of Father's best Horses, and they stole all of Father's machinery, such as mowing machine, rakes, and everything; took our small wagon and Plow. That left us without anything, and now there was a company of the Border Ruffians that had organized and called themselves the Kickapoo Rangers,⁴⁰ and they were a bad company to steal everything. It had become 2 weeks since Willie had left Home and we all thought something had happened to him until these 2 men came and told us about them being with Gen. Jim Lane and we were relieved.

It was not long until Father and Willie came in, along in the Night. We were all glad to see them, but was afraid to have Father

39. James H. Lane, former Democratic lieutenant governor of Indiana and political opportunist, marched his "Army of the North" through Iowa to Kansas in the interests of the Free-State cause, and was in and around Lawrence from August 1 to September 14, 1856. His fight with a Proslavery band at Hickory Point on September 14 apparently took place after the Codys had returned home.

40. The Kickapoo Rangers, named presumably for the Proslavery town of Kickapoo and the former Kickapoo Indian lands where the Codys lived, was a Proslavery militia charged with the destruction of Delahay's press, and with the brutal murder of Capt. Reese P. Brown of the Free-State militia.—See Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 19, 20.

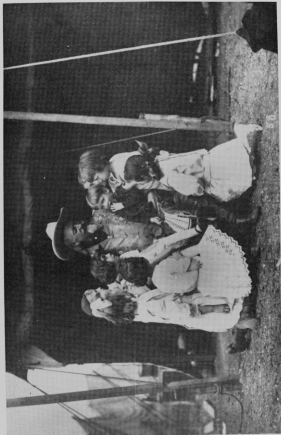
at home as they were watching. The House was long watched, as there was a hight just west of the House and any time we looked up there we could see men and horses with saddles on. The men would get off of their horses and lay down. We had a wonderful pair of Field Glasses that Father had brought with him from Iowa and they came in good use to watch these Border Ruffians.

Soon after Father and Brother got home Father had been so exposed by laying out in camp he took the quinsy (?) and was so sick, and did not dare lay in bed in the House so we took things out in to the Corn Field and made him a bed. Mother maid a skirt and put a big cape and a pastbord sun Bonnet on him so he looked like a woman from this hill where those men watched. He was sick for 2 week, and Neighbor Dr. Hathaway came after Night to see him and give him medisen.

While he was in that condition he desided to go down to the Fort. So, when he was just barely able to walk, by going around he could keep in the Corn Fields, and Willie and I would go down the main Road. Father carried his stick for a cain with a white Flag on it, so when he wanted to let us know, he would raise that up, and then we would look up and down the road to see if we seen anyone coming; then one of us go into him and take him water or something to Eat. It took him 3 days to go 4 miles to the Fort: 2 nights he layed down on the Ground to sleep. We would carry his quilts and blankets from one place to the next, and the third day he got within one mile to one of our good Free State Neighbor. The Border Ruffians let some of them [alone] as they were not so outspoken as Father was. That was why he had to suffer as he did.

When I went down to Leavenworth Mr. Delahay told me that my Father and he had talked it over, and Father had told him he might go East. So he gave me some letters for Father to take with. One letter was to Abraham Lincoln, if he got into Chicago.

When Father got to Mr. Lawrence's (?) we knew he would be all right, and we went back and took the Bedding home. We felt relieved to think he was safe. In a few days Mr. Lawrence came over to see Mother and tell her about Father. When they got down to the Fort they went to see the Quarter master and Father asked him what the Government intended to do about Protection the Free state Homesteaders. He sayed they did not intend to do anything; for Him to go home and attend to their own business. After Father heard that he told Mr. Lawrence that there was a



William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody with children on the show lot.
Photo courtesy Fred B. Hockett and Don Russell.



"My Father Stabbed," was the title of this sketch depicting the Proslavery assault on Isaac Cody, father of Buffalo Bill, in Leavenworth county, September 18, 1854. From *The Life of Hon. William F. Cody* . . . (Hartford, 1879).



William F. Cody
(age 4)

Photo courtesy
Ed Bartholomew.



Julia Cody Goodman
(1926)

Photo courtesy
H. S. Cody.

Steam Boat down at the landing, and he would go down and get on it and go to Cleveland, Ohio, and Visit his Brother Joseph and get more Emigrants to come and settle in Kansas. So he went and Mr. Curen (?) came to tell Mother where he had gone. He was very Poorly all the way on the boat until he got to Cleveland. Uncle Joe met him and took him to his home and got a Dr. and he was sick for several days.

Uncle Joe and Aunt Elvira were so good to him and, his mind relieved, he got real well, for him, but his wound would never be well; the stab he got from this man Dunn the first Fall we went there, 1854. But he got able to go around and see where he had lived in his younger days, and he seen sevrul of his sisters that was living around the old Cody Homestead on Euclid ave. I was shown the old Home in 1919 when I visited cousin Lindus Cody, my dear cousins, and I was glad to of seen where my Father had lived in his young days.

While he was there, the National Convention was to be held in Chicago, and Father and Uncle Joe went to it, and there Father met Abraham Lincoln and gave him the letter from Mr. Mark Delahay from Leavenworth, and Mr. Lincoln was glad to hear from his friend Mark Delahay; they had been Law Partners in Illinois. They had several talks together and he had Father to tell them at the Convention how the Free State settlers were treated in Kansas Territory. That was at the time of the organization of the Republican Party and after it was over and they Nominated Fremont & Dayton for the Presidency, but they were not elected, but Father went out speaking in behalf of Kansas, getting emigrants to go to Kansas.⁴¹

So he was gone 2 months, but he had Interested Hundreds to go to Kansas, and they began to flood into Kansas. The Border Rufians were getting more quitte [quiet] as they did not watch our House, but the Last thing they done was to steal Willie's Pony Prince. One of the Kickapoo Rangers stole it so we were without a Pony, but this Mr. Lawrence let Willie Take one of his, so he could go after our cows and for use. Mother would go with some of the Neighbors to Leavenworth when she had to.

When Father got home we were all glad to see him. He was not well, but much better than he had been. When Willie told him about them stealing Prince with Tears in his eyes he told Willie

41. Mrs. Goodman makes several blunders here. Lincoln and Delahay were never law partners. The Republican national convention that nominated Fremont and Dayton was held in Philadelphia in June, 1856, before Isaac Cody went East. That he met Lincoln in Chicago at a political meeting, however, seems probable.

he should have another. But as it was getting in the Fall, these Border Ruffians bands wanted to disband, so the Kickapoo Rangers put up Notices on the Fences and Trees that anyone who had Horses in their Camps could have the same by coming on such a day and claim them and get them. Willie seen the man putting these up. He ran to the House with one of these circulars and told Mother he was going after Prince. Father had gone out to locate several Familys, but Willie told Mother he would go. Mother asked him how he was going. He sayed walk of course; he sayed he would ride home. So he started acrost the Fields. By going that way it was about 6 miles to the Kickapoo camp.

He got there and began to look in the stalls for Prince. When he came to where he was the Door was closed and locked, but he whistled and spoke to Prince, and he answered back. He was Tied in his stall, so he walked down to where the captin of the Company was. He sayed. Good morning, Capt., and took out of his hand one of these circulars. He sayed, When I read this I came to get my Pony. Young man, can you Prove you have a Horse here? he sayed. Yes, sir, if you will send a man up to stall 10 and open the Door and take that rope from around his neck, I will show you.

The man opened the Door of the stall, and Willie began to whistle and Prince heard him. The Horse he whinered and Willie whistled again. Prince kicked up and maid a jump and started for Willie and got to him and began to fondel around him as much as a person could. The Capt. seen this. He sayed, That must be your Horse. How will you take him home? Willie sayed Just give me my Lariyette they took with him, and they handed him a rope. He put it around his neck, then a noos around his nose, and he bent his knees so Willie could jump on him. He turned to the Capt. and thanked him for letting him have his Pony. The Capt. sayed to his secretary, Take this young man's name and address down, and when he gave his name, William F. Cody, Salt Creek, looked at it and maid the Remark that he was a Bright Boy of 10 years old and they wished him success through his life. In after years Willie met this captain and they became very good Friends.⁴²

Well, Father got these men settled on fine Homesteads, and they cept coming all winter and by spring 1857 he had Hundreds of Familys from Ohio & Illinois settled on these Homesteads, and in April we had our House full and tents put up in the yard and this Family had come up the Missouri River and the Children had con-

42. Another example of the amenities of "Bleeding Kansas." John W. Martin, who had been a member of the Leecompton constitutional convention, was captain of the Kickapoo Rangers at about this time, and possibly may be the one meant.

tracted scarlet fever & measles, so there were 4 that died, and it cept the men bussy digging Graves and making Coffins to put these little ones away.

It was a rainy time, and my Father worked out in the Rain, and one day after they had layed away a beautiful little girl of 6 years old, Father came home with a chill, and Mother put him to bed and called Dr. Hathaway, and he told mother his lungs had contracted, and to send to Weston, Missouri, for another Dr. and mother sent for Uncle Elijah to come and bring a Dr. He came, but the Drs. held a consultation but sayed there was nothing to be done as he could not live long. He passed away on the night of the 4th day, so we were left without a Father, and an invalid Mother, and sister Martha was out to her claim, but mother sent for her. She got home the night Father Died, so when Uncle Elijah attended to the Burial, and looked after every thing it took lots of the responsibility off of mother. Father was layed at the Cemetery near Leavenworth City. It was called Pilot Knob, a beautiful place, and when we went home and the Funeral was over, Mother would say to William and I that she was glad his God has taken our Father rather than to have him shot down as he had been threatened by the Border Ruffians. He was at rest now.⁴³

Now Brother Willie and I would get out together and plan what he must do to help take care of Mother and the 3 sisters and little Brother Charlie, as Father had so often told us that in case they should kill him what we must do, but of course mother did not know that we had both Promised Father what we must do for the Family when he was gone. So we were prepared for the worst, and we went to work to do as we had Promised Father.

As Mother sold Father's Big Team so then we only had one Pony. Mother sayed she would sell one of the Cows and he could buy a Pony to Drive with Prince, so she did. Then we had our team and mother rented the Farm Land that was fenced and gave up 2 rooms for the Family to live in, and then Martha went back to her claim, and Willie and I cept things going. Mother got these renters to fence the rest of the Farm Land, and in that way, when the lines were straightened, our House was half way acrost the Farm and so the Military Road was too far from the House. They had to open a gate to get into it, so we did not get the traders to stop with us, and Willie sayed he was going to get work.⁴⁴ I of course

43. Isaac Coffy died on March 10, 1857.

44. She seems to imply here that there had been some profit in keeping open house for passing travelers, and that they had been running a sort of hotel until they fenced themselves off from the Military road.

done all the House work, as Mother felt she could not afford to hire help, and so all of the House work fell on me. The Girls would go bring the cows, but I done most of the milking, and got the water; in fact all of the heavy work. That summer all the Family had sore Eyes but me, and they had to stay in a Dark room, but every thing went along as well as could be expected.

After Willie's Eyes got well he went and hired to one of the Neighbors to Drive one of his ox teams with Hay. He was hauling his hay to Leavenworth to sell it, so Willie stayed with him several weeks at 50 cents pr. day. Then when he was through with that job he came home and brought his money and gave it to mother.

Then he told mother he wanted to go down and work for Russell, Majors & Waddell,⁴⁵ so he and mother took the Pony team and went down to Leavenworth, and as Mother done her bying in the Company store and Mr. Majors was waiting on Mother, he cept pulling on to mother and Mr. Majors sayed to Mother, What does the Boy want? Mother sayed, He has been saying he wanted to come down and go to work for your Company. Mr. Majors sayed, What can you do? Can you ride a horse? Willie spoke up and sayed that he and Mr. Russell had run Races when Mr. Russell came out in the Valley, so Mr. Majors sayed, Mrs. Cody, if you want him to go to work we will go in and talk to Mr. Russell, so they went into the office and Mr. Majors told Mr. Russell what young Billie Cody wanted.

Mr. Russell turned to Willie and asked him if he could ride as Express boy from there up to the Fort as they were talking of putting one on to take their Telegraph messages to and from the Office to the Telegraph Office at the Fort, which was 3 miles, as there was no Telegraph office in Leavenworth yet. Willie sayed he thought he could do that so they maid a deal, and Mr. Russell told Billie where to go and stay, and where to get a good mule, and to report at 8 the next morning. So he was there. Mr. Russell asked him if he knew where the Quartermaster's Office was. He sayed he did. Well, now, here is the message to take there, and bring back any answers, and go and come as quickly as you can. Billie sayed, Yes, sir, and went out, got on his mule and off. Went up and done his business and got the answers, walked into Mr. Russell's office, and as Mr. Russell turned around and seen Billie, he sayed, Why, Billie, have you not gone yet? He sayed, Yes, sir,

45. The Leavenworth partnership was organized as Majors & Russell, one of several affiliates of the company made famous by the Pony Express.

here are your answers. He took them and said, Why, Billie, you must not ride all my mules to death. Billie said, No, sir, I will not. He stayed there, his first job, for 2 months and was too confining for a Country Boy.

He had seen John Willis,⁴⁶ one of the wagon bosses that just got in from a trip. When he seen Willie he found out what he was doing. John said to him to ask Mr. Majors and Russell if he could not go out with him and heard the cattle. So Willie asked them and told them he was tired of Town and wanted to go out with John Willis and herd cattle. They said he could go. So he went, and they were only about 8 miles from home and he would ride over often. He came home with a revolver strapped around him and felt big. John Willis had given it to him. He stayed with John until they wanted to take the Oxen across into Missouri for the winter, so he came home.

Soon after Father died our Uncle Joe Cody came out from Ohio and came out to our House. He had brought several men with him and they went out to Grasshopper Falls and bought up lots of Farms. Uncle Joe bought 200 acres, a family Farm, maid his Residence, then built a house, and the next winter he went to the Legislature and [eventually] got the name of Grasshopper Falls changed to Valley Falls, and the Grasshopper stream changed to the Delaware and he maid himself very popular and was well liked.⁴⁷ He Built a good farm House and the spring of 1858 he brought out our aunt, his sister, Mrs. Sophia Cody Billings to keep House and cousin Lydia Billings. We were glad to have some relatives in Kansas.

Sister Martha was married the spring of 1858 and Willie did not approve of the wedding. She married a Mr. John Crain.⁴⁸ He was a carpenter. They went to Leavenworth. Our cousin Lucinda Cody Conyers, and Uncle Elijah Cody and Family, his wife, Aunt Margaret, and Daughter Doris, a little girl of 4 years [were there].

The fall of 1857 cousin Lucinda had Mother to let me come into Leavenworth and go to school. I went and stayed with her and worked for my board and she had 2 little boys, one 4, Elijah Cody Conyers, and the baby 1½. His name was Allie Conyers⁴⁹ and they

46. John R. Willis.—See Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 29-32, 41.

47. Joseph Cody was also editor of *The Grasshopper*, a short-lived newspaper published at Grasshopper Falls, beginning June 5, 1858.

48. Crane in Lydia S. Cody, *The Cody Family in America*, p. 35, where the wedding date is given as February 7, 1858.

49. Albert R. Conyers, *ibid.*, p. 69, where his birth date is given as January 22, 1857, but Julia seems more likely to be right and the date should be 1856.

were good to me, but Cousin Lucinda was no worker so the work fell on me, as she was a young woman that had always cept maids and she did not have any mercy on others that could work. So I found it pretty hard to go to school and keep at the house work, and take care of the 2 little Boys. So when Martha was married I went out to the wedding, and Poor Mother was so poorly I sayed I was not going back to school as I knew Mother needed me more than Cousin Lucinda did. I had brought my clothes home with me and I did not go back, and Poor Mother cryed, and I asked her what she was crying about. She sayed she did want me to get schooling so much, but she knew she needed me too. I sayed to Mother, I am not going to leave you again if I never get any schooling. So I went to work and insisted on Mother resting and she would say, My dear, you are my treasure for you do the work so good and never make a complaint about anything. She would say, If it was not for you and Willie I could not live and keep you children together.

Willie and I would talk it over what we had Promised to Father to take good care of Mother and the other children and we sayed we would do it if we never went to School and we cept our word. Willie would say, As we are Mother's 2 oldest and sister Martha gone, now we will show Mother that we can do it, and we never faltered in trying to do what we had promised Father. We went on with the work. I would tell Willie of how nice it was to go to School the few months I had been, but thought my Duty was to stay and take care of mother. So I never spoke of school.

When the spring days came, Mother rented the Farmland and they put in Carden for us all, and I took care of the cows and told Mother I would let Mrs. Bucher have milk and butter for the vegetables. So in that way we got along, and Mother found a young man that had come to take up a claim. He was staying with us. He told Mother he had been a School Teacher in Illinois, so mother sent Willie & I around the Neighborhood to see if they wanted a School. As there was a man who had left his claim with a cabbinn on, so Mother found they could get this cabbinn, and she got 15-18 pupils at 2 dollars per month for him. He sayed he would teach and Mother boarded him, and we sent Willie and Eliza and Helen. Of course I had too much work to go, for I would have to have Dinner ready for the 3 children and the Teacher and do all the work. I was cept busy for a 15 year old girl. The school went on nicely for several months and Willie learned fast, and he would tell me all he learned, the same way as I had told him when I was in

Leavenworth the few months before. So we cept even as to going to school.⁵⁰

I don't think there ever was 2 children that had more Responsibility than we did. We never complained of it. The School was started and Mother started Willie, Eliza, Helen. Mary was 5 year and Mother sayed if she wanted to go. She sayed she would always want to go. So I of course could not go, as there was no one to do the chores and House work. I done all of the work and washing, ironing; in fact all that was done. As the children took their lunch, so I only had to get Dinner for Mother & myself, so I got along very well for a girl. So several months the school went along nicely, and Willie was making nicely learning for his age, and not any more advantages than he had had. He was 12 years old that February.

In August he was having a fine time helping the girls build their Play Houses out of sticks and stones. There was one of the girls, Mary Hiatte [Hyatt], who Willie was verry fond of and he was helping her build her Play House and one of the Boys that was 14 year old, Steve Gobel, and he thought it would be fun to get Willie mad. He would tear down the Play House as fast as Mary & Willie could fix it, until Willie could not stand it. He sayed, Now, Steve, I want you to let the girl's Play House alone. Steve spoke to Willie, saying, Who are you and what can you do about it? Willie sayed, Now I just warn you that if you tear this play House down again, Tomorrow I will show you what I will do. So no one at home knew anything about what he was doing, but the next day he put his sharp Boie [Bowie] knife down into his Boot leg and at Recess they all went out to Play, Willie Helping Mary with her Play House. Steve came around and began to Kick it down.

Willie sayed, Now Steve, you know what I told you yesterday. Now I will tell you again that if you tear it down again it will be dear for you. Steve sayed, You Little Big Brag, you can't do anything. Willie sayed, I will show you if you try it again. So Steve ran up and gave it a kick and just as he was kicking it, Willie pulled out his Boie Knife and stabbed him in the calf of his leg, and Steve hollowed. Blood was runing pretty freely.

The School Children all began to scream and cry. Some one ran into the School House to the Teacher. He came out and called to

50. From this statement it might be deduced that Billie was quite as capable of writing an autobiography as Julia and that his original manuscript might look much like hers, including its grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Comparison with one surviving manuscript by him, and with many of his letters, bears this out. It is my opinion that he did write his first autobiography, and that much that is characteristic of him can be read through the extensive editing it obviously had.

Willie to come to him, but instead of Willie going to the Teacher, Willie went up over the Hill to where he knew that John Willis was camped with his ox Train ready to start out for old Fort Laramie. Willie told John about the Trouble he had with Steve Gobel. John sayed to Willie, Come get on here behind me and we will take those other Boys and go down and clean out that hole school, but Willie begged him not to. They looked down toward the School House. They seen 3 men riding towards the camp. John hustled Willie into a wagon and he was ready for the 3 men when they rode up and asked for that Bad Will Cody.

John Willis wanted to know who they wanted and every thing about it. It was Mr. Gobel, Steve's Father, and the constable, and another man. They sayed they wanted to get Will Cody as he had started up that way. John asked all kinds of questions; how and what his son Steve had done to Will that Will should stab Steve. The Father only knew one side, just what Steve told. John Willis told them that he had been in the West and knew there was always 2 sides, and he asked to show him the Papers that showed what right they had to arrest a Boy of 12 for just playing. They could not show any Lawfull Papers, so John Willis told the constable that he better get his Lawfull Papers before he tried to arrest a Boy of 12 years old for just play, and John Willis told them that if they did find Willie that he would give them a chance to find out that Will Cody was in the Right whatever he done, and if they wanted any trouble, to just try to arrest Billie as they would all fight for him.⁵¹

So the men rode down to our House to Find from mother where Will was, but she sayed she had not seen Willie since he started to School in the morning. The School children and Teacher only sayed he went down and crost the creek was the last they seen him. Mr. Gobel told mother of their going up to where one of the Big Ox Trains was camped up on the Military Road, and all the Wagon Boss had to say, so they did not dare to search the wagons. But Mother knew that John Willis was camped up on the Road, as he had been to our house a few nights before.

So after the 3 men left, saying they would be back in the morning, Mother and I decided that Willie was with John Willis, so after supr I looked out and seen John Willis and Willie riding in. They came and talked to Mother, and John sayed, Now, Mrs. Cody,

51. Years later, in 1897, John Willis wrote to Colonel Cody of Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and no one will be surprised to discover that Willis had become county judge of Faintness county, Arkansas.—See Stella Adelyne Footr, *Letters From Buffalo Bill* (Billings, Mont., 1954), p. 46; Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 30, 31. Mrs. Goodman spells Steve's name as Goble, but Cody, *Life*, pp. 53-55, makes it Gobel, which seems more likely.

to save any trouble for you or for Will, you just let him go with me, as I need one Extra man, and I will take good care of him, and he shall sleep with me. After a long talk Mother gave up for him to go with John Willis. That was in August and they were to be gone until the last of Dec. and I got Willie's clothes and bedding, and he bade us all good by and went away with John, and How Mother did grieve for Willie. I said, Oh, Mother, this is all for the best for Mr. Gobel would make lots of Trouble & Expense for her. After he was gone we all felt relieved to think our Neighbor Mr. Gobel would soon forget it all, and Steve soon got over his stabled leg, and every thing was all right and we all forgot it.

So the time went on, and Emigrants came into Kansas, so we had lots of people at our House all the time. In the Fall Mother had our Farm all fenced and that left our big Log House a Quarter of mile away from the Military Road and Mother thought of 40 acres of our Land laying acrost the Military Road. She Disided to sell that, and Build a House on the Military Road, and she did sell it to the man whose Land did not come to the Road. It helped him out, and gave Mother the means to build our new House. About this time Uncle Elijah was living in Leavenworth. They had a store there, and Uncle Joe was living at Valley Falls. We seen them both quite often. In November we got letters from Sister Martha. They had moved to Johnson Co., Kansas. Martha told us she was sick, and it was not long until a messenger came ahead on Horseback to tell us that Mr. Crain was coming with her remains. Brother Willie had not got home yet. This was in November, 1858, and it was a great shock to us all. She was layed beside Father at Pilot Knob near Leavenworth, and after the Funeral her Husband went back to Johnson Co. and in December we had word that Brother would be home soon as the mule Trains Came faster than the ox.⁵²

When Willie was getting near home he got so restless he told the Wagon Boss that he could not wait, for the wagons were going too slow, so the last day but one, he told John he was going to start out on foot, and he walked 25 miles, and when he got on top of the Hill just above the House he began to whistle and call our Turk Dog. I happened to be out and I heard him call, and Turk started to meet him, and they were both so happy to see each other, and then I got to him, and then the 3 sisters were all coming to meet him.

We got to the House and Mother was so happy to have him back

⁵² Mrs. Goodman is specific in denying the story told by her sister Helen Cody Wetmore, *Last of the Great Scouts*, pp. 55, 56 (G. & D., pp. 57-60), that Will denounced Crain over Martha's grave at the burial.

as he had been gone since August, and Oh, how Dirty he was. The first thing Mother done was to have him strip, and cut off his long hair, as he was covered with the Bugs of the Plains, the worst you ever seen.⁵³ We had to burn all his clothes, but in a few hours Mother had him changed into our Beautiful Brother, only he had grown several inches in 4 months, and he sayed he was so hungry for something good to Eat, as they only had hard Tack, Bacon and black Coffee for weeks, and I fixed him a good supper. He sayed, Oh, Julia, that is so good. Mother sayed, Willie, you must not Eat so much; it will make you sick. He laughed and sayed that good things would not make him sick. It was what you did not have made you sick.

Mother told him of sister Martha's Death; he only sayed, I am glad she don't have to live with that man Crain, and he never grieved for her as he had a terrible dislike for the man, and it proved as Willie sayed. He was a bad man. He was a Bigamist. He had come to Kansas from Penn. and had left a wife and Family, so after we heard this, Willie would say, I told you he was a bad man. Will asked about Steve Gobel. Mother told him all about that there was; that Steve was all right.

Was no school this winter. Willie and I would take the Pony Team and go to the Timber and get wood. That saved Mother from highering [hiring] it. Mother and Willie took the team and Willie went in to get his money. He gave it all to Mother and he had several Dollars in his Pocket that the men had given him. The winter soon passed, as Willie and I spent lots of our time in Hunting, and with our Turk dog we would bring in lots of Rabbits, squarls and Prairie chickens, and had Traps to catch Quail, as there was lots of them and we enjoyed getting them.

Now Mother was making arrangements to put up the New House over on the Military Road. Since the Fence was built everyone that came into our House had to come through the Gate, but they came just the same, so we had our House full at night. I had plenty to do. Willie would help me with the Choers, all but the milking. He sayed he was not going to ever learn to milk, and he cept his word. Mother had let the Contract to have our 17 room House Built, and Mother had to Board the men, and of course that work fell on me. There were from 12 to 18 men for a while working on it, and besides the Travelers we had, I had something to do. How I ever done it I can't begin to say.

Brother had a chance to go out again, and he told Mother he could

53. Details omitted in more romantic versions of the West.

do more for her to go out with Mr. McCarthy as he was just ready to start and they wanted an Extra man. They Traveled until they got out near the South Platte River, and they were in among the savage Indians, and they could see the Indians off a Distance. Mr. McCarthy told the man to see their guns were all loded and to keep near the Bank of the Platte River, and the men were scattered along, and Willie was behind them. The moon began to shine. He could hear the tramping of the Indians up on the Bank, and he heard shots and grones as if some one was hit, and Willie happened to look up and could see the war Bonnet of an Indian, and Willie could see he was coming towards him, as he was behind the Party, so he took aim and then he heard him come tumbling down the Bank.

The men heard his gun and they turned and went back and they sayed to Willie, What have you done? He sayed he heard a Noise up on the Bank and could just see the Feathers, and he sayed then he shot. He ran and some thing fell down. They sayed, Why, Billie has killed his first Indian, and they took his gun and war Bonnett and went on down stream until they reached Fort Kearny, and there the Government sent out soldiers to find as many of their cattle and any of their men they could, and the rest of our Party was sent back, and Willie came home for a few days to see how the New House was coming.

Then he seen Lue Sampson [Lew Simpson], who was getting ready to start again. He told Lew Simpson he was ready to go. They left for Salt Lake City with a Load of Provisions for the Trading Posts. They had lots of Trouble with the Mormons and they had their hole Train taken from them. They only gave Lou Simpson [sic.] one wagon with some little Provisions & their Blankets, and they Burned all the Wagons after Taking every thing out of them. They had to start back to Leavenworth afoot, but a Government mule Train came along from the West, and they got in with them and came back home.⁵⁴

We were glad to see him as we were getting ready to move into the Big House, and Willie sayed to Mother, How many of the Wagon Bosses do you want to Board there this winter? Mother

54. Lewis Simpson's wagon train was burned by Mormon militia under Maj. Let Smith on October 4, 1857, the year of the "Mormon War." Here Mrs. Goodman's usually accurate memory for dates played her false, as her dating places it in 1859. However, Billie did return home with a wagon train captured by Lew Simpson early in 1859. He had gone out in July, he says (Cody, *Life*, p. 95) with Buck Bomer's wagon train to Fort Laramie, and then took supplies to a new post, Fort Wallace, obviously Camp Wallace. As Camp Wallace was occupied only from September, 1858, to April, 1859, this trip can be dated definitely. Cody's dating also is confusing. My tentative solution is: the runaway trip with Willis in August, 1857; the trip with Simpson in the Mormon War definitely was ended with the burning of the train on October 4, 1857; they went to Fort Bridger for the winter, and Billy Cody was remembered there by Pvt. Robert Morris Peck, 1st U. S. cavalry. The trip with McCarthy and killing of the first Indian then was early 1858; and the trip with Bomer later that same year.—See Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 30-39.

sayed to me, Julia, how many do you think you can cook for and take care of? I figured up the bed rooms and sayed, I think 6 regular. Willie began to name the ones he wanted, John Willis, Bill Hickok⁵⁵ or Wild Bill as he was called afterwards, George Rose, Lew Simpson, and he sayed others he thought he could get, and so after we were moved and all settled he and a Friend had talked it over and decided they would go into the Trapping Business for the winter.

So his Friend, Dave Harrington, bought a yoke of oxen, wagon, and their Provisions and started. They got out about 200 miles. They struck a stream. They camped and decided that would be a good place, as there seemed to be plenty of Beavers, so they built a dug out and covered it with Grass and bush and Dirt. By building a dug out on the side of a hill, it made it easy. They put up a fire place and there was plenty of wood and they had their Traps all set, their oxen in a corral, and they were ready for Business and Their Prospects looked good, and right after they had gone to bed, they heard a commotion and they got up and Dressed and went out to see. There was a Big Bear in the corral Killing one of their oxen, and Dave shot at the Bear, and the Bear left the ox and was turning to Dave, and Willie with his Gun in his hand shot at the Bear in the Dark the best he could, but he hit the Bear and he fell to the ground Dead. Then they went to the ox, and found he was so badly hurt by the Bear they had to finish him, so they were left without a Team, but they decided they would bleed the ox and leave it until morning, then they would skin the ox and put it up for meat, and they would also skin the Bear, as he made them a big Bear robe. The next morning they found they had some as fine Fur animals as there was in the country, and while they cept their Traps bussy, and they were getting a great many, and they were beginning to count what they were making on the skins the time they had been there.

One morning while going the rounds of the Traps they spied a big herd of Elk Grazing around, and both were anxious to get a shot at the Elk, and aimed at the Biggest ones as Willie Sayed, Now, Dave, we will have some fine meat, and they were crossing the creek, Willie slipped on a stone and a stone slipped and came down on his Leg, and as he went to step his foot just dangled around. He called to Dave his leg was broke and it hurt so bad. When Dave got to him he sayed to Dave, I am no good now, you just shoot me

55. Mrs. Goodman's first mention of James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok. Cody says he first met Hickok with the Simpson (Meemon War) train.

now. But Dave laughed and sayed he would not do that, but would carry him to the hut. He sayed, You know you saved my life from that big Bear, so I will take care of you, and Dave sayed, I think I can fix your leg, as I learned a little about surgery. So he went to work setting and binding up his leg, and then putting him into the Bed.

They talked over what they thought would be for the best as long as they only had their wagon and one ox. They knew they could not get away, and they now had a big load of Pelts and Furs in their Dugout.

So the next morning they knew that Willie could not move for several weeks, so Dave and Willie had decided that Dave would make Willie as comfortable as Possible and Dave would go to the nearest Ranch which was over 100 miles, but Dave set to work getting plenty of wood chopped and brought in, so Willie could have it handy, and then he fixed a string with a stick; on the end he had a tin can so he could put it through the window and reach the snow. In that way he had plenty of water, and then he left Willie to go 100 miles to the first Ranch to get a pair of oxen, and Dave started after he gave Willie orders to not try to use his foot until he got back, and he left Willie there. In a few days he hoboed to the fire to fix him something to eat, and he had a stick, and every morning he would cut a notch in the stick, and he read what few Books he had.⁵⁶

Mother had given him a little Bible and he told us he read that all through and some other Books, and it was a long time, but nothing else could be done, and on the Twelveth day I was asleep I felt my shoulder touched, as my first thought was Dave, but on looking instead of Dave it was a Sioux Indian in war paint. His first thought was, now this is my last, and the Indians in their war paint, as they were on Warpath, and they cept coming in until the Dugout was Packed, and there was one stately old Brave came in. He worked his way to my Bunk. He was the main chief, and he came clost. As one of the Chiefs asked him in Sioux language what was the trouble, he answered, his leg, and showed it to them. He looked up and Reconized one Chief Rain-in-the-Face, who I had often seen,⁵⁷ and I talked with him and he Reconized me. I had almost lived with him and his boys. They had taught me the Sioux Language. I Showed Rain-in-the-Face and told him my Trouble, and asked him to let his war men spare my life. After while he told

56. One of a very few references to Cody's reading books.

57. At Fort Laramie the previous winter. This was not the Rain-in-the-Face of the Custer fight, but presumably his father.

me my life would be spared but the Indians would take my Provisions and guns, and in fact most everything I had to Eat, but the old Chief Rain-in-the-Face pointed to the remainder of a Deer hanging up. They took most everything in the Dugout, even to all of my matches. I was glad when they finely left.

I managed to keep the fire burning so I got along without matches, and now was to manage to spread out what rashons that was left. I was getting in Despar as the days was numbering up to 20, and the snow still coming down, which I knew that would Delay Dave Traveling, so I feared my time was coming, but cept up courage. It was now in the twenty-ninth day. I had about given up hope. I heard a cheerfull Shouting, Whoa, Billie. Now soon I reconized the Voice of Harrington. He then Holler, Billie, are you all right? I assured him I was, but the snow had Drifted up against the Door so hard that it took Dave some time to get it so he could get the Door opened.

Dave was happy to find him all right. Now for to arrange to Pack up their Pelts and Furs, and in a few days they were ready to start. It was a slow progress, as the snow was deep, and oxen are such sloe Travelers, but with Dave a big strong man they made their Trip of a Hundred miles, and Willie was now where he could give his Leg proper attention. He had it Dressed, and Dave got him a pair of crutches, so his Leg Improved fast, and when they sold their Hides and pelts, they payed for their Team, and then they Decided to come on home to Salt Creek Valley.

We were all happy to hear his Voice, but all so sorry to see him walking with crutches, and to hear of him having a Broken Leg, and we heard about Mr. Harrington; Mother and I could not thank him enough, and Mother invited him to make his home with us, so he did. They sold their oxen and wagon, and it was not long until Willie could lay by his crutches, with Mother for his Nurse, and we sisters all to wait on him, as we always did. And with Dave Harrington we 3 had a good time until spring opened up, and Dave decided to Rent our Farm and stay and farm it, so you can imagine a fine young man of 23 and like I of 16, but it only Proved to be a little Flirtation. Before the sumer was over I found so many that looked nicer than Dave did, and that winter we had 6 to 8 of the Bosses of big outfits, so young men were so plentiful. I liked them all the same, and I treated them all alike, for our Poor Mother was so Poorly that I could not see how she could get along without me, for the 3 sisters would rather play than work and stay in with Mother.

So I made up my mind I must do as our Dear Father had sayed to Willie to take care of Mother and the Family after he was gone, so that was in Willie's and my thoughts, and how often we would talk it over, and tell each other what we must do. Willie would say he would go out on the Planes and do the work and be with them.

Soon after Willie's Leg was well we stayed at home as long as he could, and this was the year that the Pony Express started, and he hired to go out and Ride the Pony Express, and he made the longest Ride of any of the others.⁵⁸ They sayed he was the youngest one and the Lightest and swiftest rider, and seemed to understand the Country, and the Rouffians, and how to handle them. He stayed several months.

This was about the Time that Abraham Lincoln was campaigning the west, and he visited our Friends Col. Mark Delahay; he and Mr. Lincoln had been Law pardners in Ill., and that day I happened to go Down to Leavenworth on Horseback to get the mail and do some shopping. When I rode up to Mr. Delahay's their daughter Mollie came out to meet me and to take me into the House. She and her mother both sayed, Oh, Julia, we are so glad you came in today, for we are going to have Mr. Lincoln here for Dinner. I sayed, Oh, I just can't stay for Dinner in this costum, for I had just put my riding habit over a gingham Dress. Mrs. Delahay sayed to Mollie, You run acrost and get Julia one of Maria's Dresses, as Maria and I were the same size, and Mollie was tall and thin; I was short and stout, but Mollie got a pretty white Dress for me, and I stayed and Eate Dinnr with Abraham Lincoln, which I have always been proud to tell. I was late getting home, and Mother was beginning to worry about what was keeping me, but when I told her she was so glad, for she sayed he was to be our next President, and as we all thought he was, and I was so glad I got to see him and to tell I had Dined with; and that was 1860.⁵⁹

When Willie got home Mother coaxed him to go to school, as we had a good Teacher that Fall, and the Neighbors had Built a New school House. We only had a Missionary Preacher about every 2-3 months, and Mother had services at our House whenever he

⁵⁸ Cody himself did not claim the longest Pony Express ride.—See Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 49, 50.

⁵⁹ On December 7, 1859, Lincoln wrote in the autograph album of Mary (Mollie?) Delahay: "Dear Mary, With pleasure I write my name in your Album.— Ere long some younger man will be more happy to confer his name upon you.— Don't allow it, Mary, until fully assured that he is worthy of the happiness.— Dec. 7, 1859. Your friend, A. Lincoln."—Carl Sandburg, *Lincoln Collector: The Story of Oliver A. Barrett's Great Private Collection* (New York, 1950), p. 154. This probably was the date of the dinner in the Delahay home.

came, and when Willie got home and found that the Preacher was there; while he was out on the Planes they called any Preacher the sky pilot, and he would liked to of made fun but for the Risk it for Mother. He would only tell me the funny things the Planes men would say about them. But he finely Desided to go to school and the Teacher, Mr. Valentin Divinny was a good teacher and Willie learned, but as Mother was so poorly I could not leave her as I had all the work to do. That meant no Education and several times Mother's Friends wanted to take me and send me off to school.

I remember the sumer after Father Died there was a cousin, Darwin Cody from Cleveland, Ohio; Uncle Joe Cody had brought him out to House and he did not want to stay in Kansas, and he wanted Mother to let him take me back to Ohio, and he sayed he would put me in Oberlin school. Darwin was 21 and I was 14. But Mother sayed she could not spare me. Then another time a Friend of Mother's Family from Philadelphia, an old gentleman and a retired Coln., Lyons; he had never married and he took a Notion, he told Mother, he would adopt me, and would Educate me and make me his heir, but the same reason; Mother could not spare me.

Then after Abraham Lincoln was President, he made his Friend Mr. Mark Delahay U. S. Judge, and Judge Delahay & Mrs. Delahay was going to send their Daughter Mollie to Monticello, Ill., and they came out to ask Mother to let me go with Mollie. They told Mother if she would let me go, they would hire a girl to do my work. But Mother had the same Excuse. As you see, it was not for me to have an Education; only to work and take care of the House and Family.⁶⁰

Time went on and Spring was coming, and Brother Willie was getting restless. During the sumer of 1861 a company was being formed. They were known as The Red Legged Scouts. They all wore Red Legged Boots, and so Willie told Mother that he had promised he would not go to war, and as this company was to co-operate with the Regular Army along the Borders of Kansas and Missouri and to protect the Kansas People against such as the Quantrill and James Band & Younger Brothers who were doing many Deperdating, Robing & Burning the Farmers out, and so they were the ones that Burned the Town of Lawrence, and the Red Legged Scouts were just as busy as they could be in trying to keep the Gurrellias from Disturbing the Kansas Emigrants, and they Traveled all along the Kansas line, and down as far as New Mexico,

60. Mother deserves a word here. In a letter to friends in Iowa on August 28, 1859, Mary B. Cody wrote: "Willie is one of the smartest and best of boys. . . . he is disidedly the brightest of the family. Julia is good some times I think she could do better." The last sentence is unpunctuated, but probably she intended a semicolon before, not after, "some times."

to the Old Santa Fee Trail, where the Indians was getting pretty bad."⁶¹

So when ever he left home we did not know whether we would ever see him again. When he was as far as Santa Fee, they stoped there to rest for a few days, and there brother met Kit Carson, and he asked Willie to go to California with him, but Willie told him of Mother's Poor Health and he promised her he would not go far away as they might call him back.

The Red Leg Scouts stayed out all sumer, and in the Fall he came home, only making short trips away from Home as our Mother was still getting weaker, and with the money that Willie Brought Home and gave to Mother was a great help. He stayed home that winter and went to school most of the time, only when the Scouts sent for him to go out on a Scouting Tour. Then he would be gone for several days.

Uncle Joe and his wife had gone back to Cleveland, and Uncle Elijah had taken his wife and Daughter Paris had gone to Pikes Peak, or Denver as it was called afterwards. That was the last time we seen Uncle Elijah as he Died a few years later, and as his oldest Daughter Lucinda Cody Conyers still lived in Leavenworth, we saw them often. They had 2 sons, Elijah Cody Conyers and Allie Conyers.

The spring of 1862. In the spring Willie found that the Red Leg Scouts were going out in western Kansas to keep the Indians from killing all of the white homesteaders, so they were cept bussy all sumer.

In the Fall he came home to see mother as she was growing weaker, and I sayed to Willie, You know you won't stay Home here with me. What do you think I better do, as we both know that Mother can't live long, and have you thought of my living here in this Big House without a man to protect me and these 3 young girls? He had not thought of that, and he began to think, and he sayed, It seems like you better get married and have some one to help you, as I can't think of staying at home. As I began to mention the names of Diffrent young men he would say, No, you do not want him; and I spoke of several and he found something about him that he did not like. Al Goodman was then living just acrost the Road; he rented the place, and was a Industrious young man,

61. Billy's commander in the Red Legged Scouts was Capt. William S. Tough (also Tuft, Tuft, and Tuft in some records) who was pretty much guerrilla himself, although the organization was originally sponsored by Gen. Thomas Ewing and James G. Blunt. It was entirely home guard, with no federal recognition. However, Billy's trip to Santa Fe was as guide for the 9th Kansas cavalry under Lt. Col. Charles S. Clark.—See Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 58-60.

and one that did not Drink or use Tobacco, a good steady young man, and Willie sayed, Julia, he is the one for you to take.

But Willie left on one of his Trips, and Al came to our House every day, and when he began to talk to me, I sayed, Now, Al, whenever I get married it will be to a man that will be willing to help me to care for Mother and these 3 sisters and 2 Brothers, and I would tell him to lets Talk Business, not love, for my marrying was a Business Proposition, and so he promised he would do just as I sayed, and then we told Mother, and Mother sayed she was glad that Julia was marrying a young man that would stay and help her, and then she began to talk over just what she wanted done when she was gone. So on Dec. the 22, 1862, we were married.

Brother did not get home until after we had been married. I had wrote him and so he was prepared to meet us. He took hold of Al and I together and sayed, Well, Al, I am glad you are my Brother, for little Charley is too small to be a Brother. You are just rite, and they were True Brothers as long as they both lived.

That winter we stayed with Mother, and it did seame so nice for me not to have to go out and get wood and do the milking & &, and when Willie was home they worked together in such love and unity, and Mother seemed to get some better, but we knew she could never be well, and in the spring we hired a girl to do the work for Mother, and Al and I went to live in the old log house.

The spring of 1863 Al worked the Farm, and was with Mother most of the time, and Mother had Al to take her down to Leavenworth when ever she wanted to attend to Business. Willie had gone out with his Scouting Co., and he was there when I seen Mother was getting so bad. Al and I was with her most of the time. I happened to see a man going out to the Company. I wrote Willie to come home at once. He got home about a week before the day Mother passed away. That day she called the 3 sisters, Willie, little Brother Charlie, Al and I, and she told us just what she wanted each one of us to do. She told them she wanted I & Al to be the Gardians for the 5 younger, and to be cept together as long as they could. She had made all her arangments with John C. Douglass of Leavenworth. He was her Lawyer. So every thing was signed up, as she had her Business all aranged, and on November 23, 1863, Mother left us. Lord bless her dear soul; one of the most loving and Devoted Mothers that ever lived.⁶²

That winter we were all living in Mother's Big House, and Willie

⁶². Cody says he "engaged to conduct a small train to Denver for some merchants," and was in Denver when he received Julia's letter.—See Cody, *Life*, p. 135.

said to Al a few days after Mother was layed away, he sayed, Well, Pap, now I must ask you when I want anything. Well, he says, now I want your Permission to go and Inlist in the Army. In January, 1864, the seventh Kansas Volunteers came to Leavenworth from the south. Al and Brother went down and Willie told Al he wanted to Inlist in that Reg., so Al signed his Papers as his Gardian, and he was to go get his uniform, and he came out all Dressed in his new Blue suit, and he did look handsome. We were all so Devoted to him. We all grieved to see him go, but he was very happy.⁶³

Then Al took him back to his Company, and he was put in as one of the Scouts or Spys, and he Traveled all through the South. Would love to tell all he done, but would take too much time.

Now as to my 3 sisters, I and Al desided that they must be in school, so the Fall of 1864, we took them to Leavenworth and got in, and on Feb. 6 our first son, William Alvin Goodman, was Born. We had the 3 girls in School, onely little Brother Charlie at home with me, and the Fall of 1864 all the militia were called out, so Al had to go, and Price's army was starting for Fort Leavenworth, and as Al was leaving to go with the militia we thought best the 3 girls were home with me, so he brought them home, and as the Union army did not let the Rebel army get there, so Al was only away 6 weeks, and the girls all went back to school, and things went on as usual.⁶⁴

When Brother had been gone a year he got a Ferlo to come home, and was a pleasure that was for us all. But the time was too short, and the sisters all came out for a Reunion. and soon they were all gone, onely sister May, the youngest, did not want to stay away from home. She would not stay long at a time.

The summer of 1865 Brother Charley took very sick, and Al wired to Willie, and he got a Furlow and he came home, and Brother Charley Died in Oct. 1865, and he had never been a strong boy. We were sorry to give him up, but everything went along until sister Eliza found a man she wanted to marry, so in Sept. 1865 she married Mr. George Myers. He had a home to take her to, and then sister May went to live with her.

63. Cody tells a quite different story of his enlistment: "I had no idea of doing anything of the kind; but one day, after having been under the influence of bad whisky, I awoke to find myself a soldier in the Seventh Kansas. I did not remember how or when I had enlisted."—See *Cody, Life*, p. 135. One wonders sometimes if Cody did not build up his drinking reputation with tall tales. He enlisted on February 19, 1864, and was assigned as a recruit to Co. H, 7th Kansas cavalry, Capt. Charles L. Wall, and served until September 29, 1865. For his campaigns and services see Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 61-72.

64. William F. Cody and the 7th Kansas cavalry were active in the repulse of Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's 1864 raid into Missouri and Kansas.

Then in the Fall of 1865 Willie was Discharged, and he came home from the army, so things were getting quieter, only the Indians were bad in the west, and Willie went out with a Government Scouting Party, and he stayed out west until March, 1866, and then he came in, and told Al and I he was going to St. Louis to marry his Missouri Girl, and he went. On March 6, 1866, he married Louisa Frederici, and brought her to Leavenworth. He tried to content himself, but could not, so when the cool days came he was determined to go west. He left his wife and sister Hellen or Nellie as we called her. They were living in Leavenworth, and he went west.

Then he went to killing Buffalo for the Kansas Pacific R. R. in western Kansas, and he was out in western Kansas and he led the commands across the Planes, and he became Chief of the Scouts, and he Led commands into the Indian country, and he got to Fort McPherson, Neb., and he was stationed there in 1867 and his wife and little Daughter Arta was in St. Louis, Mo., with her Parents when he was stationed there. He sent for them to come out to Fort McPherson. There was where he was made a Justice of the Peace, and they elected him to go to the Legislatur to Lincoln, Neb., and while he was there he won his Title of Honorable W. F. Cody and also Buffalo Bill.⁶⁵

While he was living there and in 1867-8 he done scouting around in Nebraska and western Kansas. They had their home in the Fort McPherson, and he wrote for Sister Nellie or Helen to come up there to make them a Visit. While she was there she met Mr. Alec Jester, and so she stayed there 6 months. While she was there he wrote for Sister May to come, and she also met her Future Husband, Mr. Edward Bradford. He was working on the Union Pacific R. R. as it was being built through that country then.

The sumer of 1868 [winter, 1872] the Grand Duke Alexis made his Visit to America, and Brother showed him how to kill Buffalo, and that was when E. Z. C. Judson or Ned Buntin [Buntline], a Play writer, advised Brother to leave the Planes and go on the Stage, and he went and made a big success of it, but he was still in the Government service, and the year of 1868 [1872] he went to

65. Julia's summary of her brother's career is hasty and superficial. He was Democratic candidate for representative from the 26th district in 1872, and early returns showed him victor. However, one county's returns had gone astray; his opponent filed a contest, and Cody failed to go to Lincoln to claim his seat, so was declared loser. By that time Cody was busy on the melodrama stage in Chicago.—Louis A. Holmes, former president of the Nebraska Historical Society, dug out the details; see his article in *The Westerners Brand Book*, Chicago, Ill., v. 14 (February, 1955), pp. 90, 91, summarized in Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 190, 191.

Chicago and sent his wife and their 2 children to St. Louis and sister Nellie & May both came back to Leavenworth.⁶⁶

Soon after that Sister Nellie was married to Mr. A. Jester and a year later May married Mr. Edd Bradford, so my mother's Family was all settled, and we had 3 children, our 2 boys and one girl, Elizabeth, born 1871. And now Brother was with his Theatre and making Big money, and we living where we started, Salt Creek Valley, Kansas. In 1874 Uncle Joe Cody and Aunt Elvira came to visit us, and they wanted Al and I to go out to Valley Falls and open up his Big Farm. So the spring of 1875 we moved out, and Al took charge of it, and they stayed with us. Their daughter was Josephine, now Josephine Cody Bentley (Mrs. Fred W. Bentley of Chicago). They all 3 stayed with us. We had our 4 children, another boy, George Cody Goodman, Born April 14, 1874, and I was glad to go where we had good schools & Churches for our Family. It was 2 years after we moved there Uncle Joe had went back with his Family to Cleveland, and the year of 1878 Uncle came back and spent a short time there. He was very Poorly when he left to go back, and that winter he Died, the winter of 1878-9, and Aunt Elvie & his Daughter Josephine Cody lived in Cleveland. Aunt Elvie Died in '94 or 5.

The year of 1885 Brother wanted us to go to North Platte, Nebraska. I had a daughter, Josephine Goodman, Born March, 1876, and Henry J. Goodman, Born 1878, and Finley A. Goodman, Born Sept. 1880, in Valley Falls, Kansas, and the year 1885 we moved to North Platte, Neb., and Al opened Brother's 3,000 acre Ranch. He called it Scouts Rest Ranch, and while living there Brother had started the Wild West Show the year of 1883, and was doing big Business in 1885, and he had the big 15 room Ranch House Built, and the Big Barn had the name of Scouts Rest Painted on the Roof. They could Read it a mile acrost the Ranch to the U. P. R. R., and while living there I Entertained from Royalty to Cow Boys, and there was old Scouts there all the time

We lived there until in 1892 we were called back to Kansas.⁶⁷ Our Daughter Elizabeth was married to John Williamson and went

66. Ned Buntline met Cody in 1869 and wrote a Buffalo Bill serial story that started in Street & Smith's New York Weekly on December 23, 1869. After Buffalo Bill gained national attention on the hunt of the Grand Duke Alexis in January, 1872, Ned Buntline wrote two more dime novels, converted one of them into a melodrama, and persuaded Cody to take the part of Buffalo Bill on the stage in Chicago in December, 1872. While Cody spent two summers as army scout between stage tours, he was not "still in the government service" during his stage tours.

67. Julia is silent on her brother's domestic difficulties. During this period Cody and his wife Louisa or "Lulu" were estranged and Julia and Lulu were not on speaking terms. Lulu wanted as ranch manager Horton Boal, husband of their daughter Arta, and he took over when Al Goodman quit because of poor health and returned to Kansas. Cody persuaded Al and Julia to return in 1895 but Al quit again in 1899 and died in 1901.

back to Oskaloosa, Kansas. She lived there until in 1898 she Died and left 2 children, Julia Mae Williamson and Alvin Goodman Williamson. While I was in Kansas in Cowley Co., our son Walter Frank was Born Sept. 1892, and in 1893 our 2 sons were in Denver. Our son William was married in 1888 to Anna Howard and in 1889 his wife Anna Died and left a baby Daughter 16 months old, and we had went back to North Platte the year of 1895, and when Willie's wife Anna H. Goodman Died, I took little Latolia G. home with me from Denver, Colo., and our Willie went to North Platte with me. He stayed there. Our sons Eddie and George both went to Denver in 1890. They were both in a carpet and curtain Store there. We cept Latolia until Willie married Lola Byrkit in 1893 and they took Latolia. Willie and Lola had 3 children, Josephine, Archibald, & Alice.

We left Scouts Rest Ranch and moved to North Platte as Al's Health was very bad the year of 1899 and he grew worse and Oct. 1901 Alvin Goodman Died.

Brother had now started the Town of Cody, Wyoming. Our Eddie was with us, George was in Denver. Willie had moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Josephine was teaching school there. Henry & Finley were there working, and our Walter was 7 years old.

Brother was in the East with his Wild West Show, and that Fall when he got to North Platte, after he stayed a few days he went out to look after his Corral he was building near the Town of Cody. When he came back from Cody he came to me and sayed, Now, Julia, I am Building a Big Stone Hotel, and next sumer when it is finished you must take little Walter and go out there and take charge of it, for when you can run a Big Ranch House with 20 of my Guests and that many Ranch Hands, you can run a Hotel. So the year of 1902 he sent me word to go to Cody, but I was to go by Denver, as he was to be there with his Wild West Show then. He was on the Road from April until November of every year. He traveled all over the United States, showed in every City over Ten Thousand Inhabitants.

The year of 1887 he made his first acrost the ocean to London. There he was received by King Edward who was Prince of Wales at that time. He was taken by Prince of Wales to see Queen Victoria, and the Prince of Wales took his Family to see the Wild West Show, as Brother had Royal seats built and trimmed in their Collors.

Our son Eddie, he was 18 when he went with his Uncle, and he had charge of the Grandstand seats, and a few days after the Prince and his Family were there and they all sat in the Royal seats, and

on this day the Princess of Wales⁶⁸ came to the show with her Escorts, and they bought their Tickets and went in with the crowd, and the Party of 6. As Eddie was passing Programs he Noticed them setting in the Grand stand. He went back and told his Uncle where they were setting. When he Rode out he went just in front of them and lifted his hat and Bowed Direct to them, and then he sent Eddie to ask them if he could not Escort them to the Royal seats. The Princess thanked him, and she told Eddie to thank the Col. and tell him that they were there to see and not to be seen, and when Eddie told his Uncle what she sayed, then he told Eddie to go ask her if she and her Party would not like to go to his Tent after the performance. She told Eddie she would be delighted, so his Uncle sent him to tell the manager of the Dining Tent to have his Table be trimed with the Royal Collors, and gave his orders that there should be no loud talk, and for everyone to stand until after she came in, and they were all seated at his Table, and Eddie sayed it was wonderfull to see 600 People of all classes and Race of the world to Obey his orders to a dot.

After that he was invited to the West minster Abbee to meet the Queen, and she asked him if he could bring a Representation up in her Court to show her what the Wild West was. The Prince of Wales and Brother aranged it, and one morning Brother took his Band and some of Every part and gave Queen Victoria a miniature Wild West Show.⁶⁹

After that he Dined and went to all of their Entertaining he could. He was admitted to Court, and was never an American that was treated by the Royalty as he was, and after he came home there were doz. of the Royalty that Visited Scouts Rest Ranch while I lived there. As I have often sayed, I Entertained at Scouts Rest Ranch from Royalty to Indians and Cow Boys. It was a wonderful Ranch of 4,000 acres.

We lived there until Al Goodman's health gone, and then in 1901, as I told before, he died and I went to Cody in 1902 and ran the Irma Hotel for several years, and then I built myself a Boarding and Rooming House, and my Daughter Josephine Goodman Thurston was with me. In 1907 my Daughter Josephine Goodman was married to Harry Wheaton Thurston, and in 1908 George Cody Goodman was married to Anna Bond in Monmouth, Ill., and I took

68. Later Queen Alexandra.

69. Queen Victoria attended a command performance of Buffalo Bill's Wild West at its regular arena in Earl's Court on May 11, 1887, and again at a performance for the Queen's Jubilee guests on June 20. It was in 1892 that a special performance, such as is described, was given for Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle.

my son, Walter Frank Goodman, to Lincoln, Nebraska, put him in School. In 1907 my son Eddie Robert Goodman married in North Platte, Neb., to Grace Sheldon Bratt, and Henry Joseph Goodman married Ella Janette, and in 1909 I sent my son Walter F. Goodman to Kearney, Neb., to the Military Academy for one year. In 1910 I went and met him in Lincoln. He took a trip through Iowa, Kansas, and back to Lincoln. He stayed there until 1917 when he graduated, the same spring, 1917, that my Brother passed away, Jan. 10, 1917, in Denver.

I was with him for six weeks before he died. Our sister Mary Cody Bradford had married Louis Decker in Cody, Wyoming, a few years before. Louis Decker is a Grandson of Sophia Cody Billings. His mother was Sophia Billings Decker— his grandmother was our father's sister, and Mr. Decker's uncle Horace Billings was the circus horseman who taught Brother Willie to ride.

Sister Mary Cody Bradford Decker has one son William Cody Bradford. Sister Nellie, or Helen Cody Jester Wetmore, had one Daughter, Mary Jester Allen.⁷⁰ She has one daughter Helen Cody Allen. My son Walter Frank Goodman married Clarice Breece in Lincoln Dec. 8, 1917, as he was ordered to war, and when he left for overseas his wife went back to Lincoln. He left March, 1918, and came back June, 1919, ordered to Fort Russell, Wyoming. He enlisted in the regular army as a cavalry officer. In 1921 on Sept. 26, Walter's 29th Birthday, their first Child was Born, Walter Frank, Jr., and Walter is now living in Honolulu.

This is as far as I need to go, and there may be some part of this History may have to be Rectified some, but this is as near as I can remember, and remember my mother telling me.

Signed this April, 1926, Julia Cody Goodman, at 121 East Beacon St., Alhambra, Calif.⁷¹

70. For many years in charge of the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody. She died in 1960.

71. Julia Cody Goodman died on October 26, 1928, in Honolulu, while visiting her son there.